



Why study Revelation?

There is a promise of blessing to those who read this book.

1. God, the Holy Spirit, who guided John, the Apostle to write down all that He saw and was told invites you!

Revelation 1:3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

mentioned in the phrase “take to heart.” “Take to heart,” is the Greek Word “terountes.” This word calls the reader to a decision of response. The response is to trust the reality that is being presented in God’s Word above the perceived reality around you. When you do that it results in aligning your life actions with that reality!

This is the definition of faith! You could also use the word, trust, obedience or heeding, But it is faith.

Faith is the biblical response to the truth, and believing the truth is a choice. When someone says, “I want to believe God, but I just can’t,” that person is being deceived. *You can believe God because faith is something you decide to do, not something you feel like doing.* We do not feel our way into believing, we believe our way into feeling.

Believing the truth does not make it true; it is true therefore it can be believed.

Today, we live in an era of heightened spiritual awareness. All around us each day new age beliefs, meditative counseling strategies, prosperity gospel teaching, and many other false teachers distort the truth by communicating **reality can be changed** through what we believe.

Faith does not create reality; faith responds to reality! This is why Jesus said, “you shall know the truth and truth shall set you free.” This is why the Word of God is so powerful, it cuts through the fog of distorted reality and presents what really is!

Are you ready to be blessed? Are you ready to have the fear and the horror of this present fallen world fade away by the light rays of God’s truth? Then let’s begin the Book of Revelation!

1. The Great Unveiling!

Introduction:

Caution! “You will be blessed...”

I find myself too easily dismissing claims such as this because of the marketing bombardment of our era.

So I caution you, reader, to stop and realize that “God does not lie.”

Just like the beatitudes, the Greek word “Blessed” is “Makarios.” The word means characterized by “happiness and God’s favor, fortunate.” We would say, “You are blessed!”

The blessing is promised to those who read the prophecy, the word literally means, “read out loud.” The reading of God’s Word out loud was the practice of that day, so it makes common sense that those hearing the reading would also be blessed. But God does not bring His full blessing upon those who just hear the Word of God. Information is good. But throughout the Bible God calls the reader to do something beyond just hearing or understanding what God is saying. That action is

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place;...” Revelation 1:1a

Have you ever waited for something to be unveiled? (i.e. a new car, phone, product?)

A familiar English language expression is “pulling the curtain back.” This phrase describes seeing reality. We get to view something that is already there but hidden.

The Apostle Paul alluded to this when he wrote,

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen. But what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18

What does this book unveil?

The word “Revelation” is a translation of the Greek word “apokalypsis.” It literally means, an “unveiling”, or a “disclosure.”

The Holy Spirit pulls back the curtain allowing the reader to see a hidden but present reality.

The Holy Spirit is pulling back the curtain for us to see Jesus Christ.

This world slanders Jesus! *His name is taken in vain everyday all around us! Jesus is mocked and mischaracterized. He is just the baby in Bethlehem, or the idea of the church. Jesus is just a good man, a good example or just a prophet. He is the one who was humiliated by being crucified!*

But that is not reality!

The subject of the book is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Do not miss that!

The primary subject of the book of Revelation is not prophecy. Yes, it is prophetic, hundreds of OT prophecies are referenced. But Revelation brings our focus to see Jesus Christ. That’s the blessing!

2. A Gift to Jesus from God the Father

1:1b “...which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants,”

This is a puzzling phrase. Why is God the Father gifting this revelation to God the Son?

Scripture gives clarity. [Read Philippians 2:5-11] The gift of exalting Jesus is described. God the Father stated that He would exalt God the Son for His humble work of redeeming the world!

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth and those under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

This book describes in detail, the coming return and exaltation of Jesus Christ. He is worthy!

“[This book describes] His ultimate reward from the Father for His faithfulness during His humiliation. The first token of the Father’s pleasure with the obedient Son was His resurrection; the second was His ascension; the third was the sending of the Holy Spirit; and the last was the gift of the book of Revelation, which promises and reveals the glory that will be Christ’s at His second coming.”¹

Do you know this short chorus? *He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!*

¹ Dr John MacArthur, Jr., Revelation 1-11, (NT Commentary, Moody Press, 1999) pp 17,18

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!” – Abraham Kuyper



3. A gift to Jesus for His Servants!

This book is a gift for those who are followers of Jesus Christ. The Greek word, *doulos*, translated *slave, servant, or bond-servant*, refers to those who proclaimed and lived - following Jesus as Lord.

In the extreme times when this book was written, this book redirected the thoughts of those who followed Jesus from the earthly king, to the King of Kings.

How did it bless those who knew and followed Jesus as Lord in the time when it was first read?

This book brought tenacious faith and courage to those who lived in a fearful treacherous time under Roman Emperor Titus Domitian, A.D. 81/96, and Emperor Trajan, 98-117 A.D.

One of the demands these Emperor’s placed upon their citizens was that they be worshipped as “Lord and God.” Can you imagine the struggle this brought to followers of Jesus Christ who would have refused to obey this edict? It led to severe persecution and martyrdom. But this book, read aloud to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, [chapters 2 & 3), brought hope and boldness to these believers.

They were blessed even though their circumstances under extreme government overreach did not change!

The study of Revelation and taking it to heart will bring a multitude of blessings! We are just dipping our toe in the water.

I encourage you to read this book, meditate on it. See Jesus for who He really is! Jesus is the victor and by the way so are you if you are in Christ!

Conclusion:

Are you grappling with who Jesus is?

- *These Bible passages testify. Read them.*

- *Gospel of John, chapter one.*
- *Colossians, chapter one*
- *Book of Hebrews*
- *Revelation*

The Bible declares Jesus is God the Son.

- *The Gospel of John, chapter one, describes Jesus as God who took on flesh. John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
- *Jesus is “the Word” who was with God and was God.*
- *Jesus is the creator of everything that was created, John 1:3, Colossians 1.*

Jesus came into this world to redeem the world from the curse of sin.

- *John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world.”*
- *Jesus paid that debt in full on the cross. (Gospel of John 19)*
- *Jesus came to pay a debt you and I could never pay, the debt of our sin. He came to provide for us something we could never gain, the righteousness of God.*
- *Jesus came out of love for you and me.*
- *Jesus Christ is the only Savior that can provide reconciliation with God. John 14:6*
- *The NT book of Ephesians chapter 2:1-10 gives a great overview of our condition and need for this work of Jesus.*
- *God’s work may be received as a gift by faith. (Ephesians 2:8,9).*

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I would be honored to answer your question(s). It is my prayer that you would come to know Jesus for who He really is and respond to His invitation to be reconciled to God by putting your trust in His person and work!

Have you come to that place in your spiritual life where you know for certain you will spend eternity in heaven with God?

The curtain is beginning to be pulled back.

 ~~~~~ Revelation 1:1a. WBH

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