

Revelation 1 *In the Last Days*

Matt 24:21,22 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. 22“And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

World chaos looking for leadership--global confusion anticipation next calamity—money fail, food fail, business fail, pandemics. Book revelation reveals God’s plan in last days for last generation on earth before Lords return. No fear for believers—

1Thes 5:4,5,9 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Peril & terror for unbelievers—Revelation a book of warning, judgment & hope for sinners to repent before all these things come to pass.

Lk 21:25,26,36 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 36“But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Bible is unfinished if Rev excluded & it’s prophecies of future events—

Genesis-book of beginnings. Revelation-book of endings

Genesis-paradise lost. Revelation-paradise regained

Genesis-tree of life barred. Revelation-tree of life restored

Genesis-creation of heaven/earth. Revelation-creation new heaven/earth

Genesis-devil appears. Revelation-devil destroyed

Genesis-sin, suffering, death begin. Revelation-sin, suffering, death ends

Genesis-tears are shed. Revelation-all tears wiped away

Genesis-government of sinful man. Revelation-government of God

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First persecution of church under C Nero 64 AD—burns Rome blames Christians—Paul, Peter 1000's martyred

Second persecution under Emperor Domitian—1st living C demanding worship as a living god. Before only dead C—40,000 martyred others persecution, boycott, prison, confiscate property/goods, Exile (John).

John to Patmos (boil) 95 AD penal colony for criminals, political dissidents. Volcanic island in Aegean Sea, 10 mi X 6 mi (ancient Alcatraz)

After Domitian's assassination Sept 18, 96 AD John returned to Ephesus and died in his 90's. Wrote to encourage persecuted church, rebuke compromisers & backsliders & declare judgment on Christ rejecting world.

Four methods of interpretation—from Liberal to Literalist—who believe inerrancy of scriptures or bible w/o error.

1-Preterist—Lat. *praeter* or past—all fulfilled in John's day—written for 1st C persecuted church to give hope & comfort.—all end time prophecies fulfilled w/ destruction of Temple 70 AD & ruin of Jerusalem. Liberal scholars today deny Revelation as prophecy which tells of future events—These kinds of churches do not teach the book of Revelation.

2-Allegorical—non literal—Spiritualizing--mystical battle between good & evil—all symbolic relating to ageless spiritual truths btwn 1st & 2nd coming--Conflict of early church w/ pagan Rome & apostate Judaism--No future significance to book. No 1000 yr mil reign of Christ—mill is church age

3-Historical—the symbolic struggle of church throughout the ages from 1st to 2nd coming of Christ.

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50 different ways to interpret depending upon the generation you live in. They wrongly apply promises of Israel to the church leading to replacement theology.

4-Futurist or Literalist—Arno Gabelien “Only satisfying one & in full harmony w/ the entire prophetic word of God’ Predictive of future events. Chapter 4-22 is prophecy prior to Christ return & afterward establishing 1000 yr reign on earth and finally New heaven & earth. Pre-mill=Christ returns before 1000 yr. Pre-trib=Church raptured before 7 yr tribulation

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Apocalypsis-unveiling, to make visible—uncover a statue or 2023 model car. Here is a lifting of the covering of Christ last days dealings on planet earth. Chain of command—God the Father to Jesus Christ to Angel (Gab) to John to bond servants (us).

To show – not sealed but revealed, have knowledge of 22:10 ‘don’t seal up the book’. Must-lit urgent necessity w/ absolute certainty. Shortly-en taxes Tachometer measures velocity or once it begins proceeds rapidly-dominos ‘in a brief period of time’ Like play ready to begin, props, scenery, furniture, lighting all in place curtain ready to be drawn.

Sent and communicated-signified by symbols and word pictures which are signs pointing to the reality of a thing’—(to confuse Rome) 300 references to OT in book.

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Bond servants-doulos slaves by choice-yielded ones

2 Bore witness – to testify 3 x's in Ch 1 as in court setting, a complete record of all he saw and heard. 'To word of God' Jesus is living word Jn 1:1
1Jn 1:1 come down from heaven & now back in heaven giving complete revelation of Himself and things to come.

3 Only book w/ Built in blessing 'oh how happy' Those who read out loud in local meetings—papyrus/parchment scarce and expensive, hear, heed—
Prophecy-future events and local conditions. Heed present tense, continual action, pay attention and observe all that is written. Why? 'Time is short'

So how much more for us. 'Knowing the time that it is already the hur for you to awaken from sleep for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed Rom 13:11