

# REVELATION

## Every Knee Shall Bow

Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. - Rev. 22:7

### Revelation 1:1-3 The Stage Is Set

#### An Introduction

- A. God's final word to man by the complete revelation of His Son Jesus Christ that will bring to fruition all that God has promised and declared.
  - 1. There are many great themes in this book including the sovereignty of God, the worship of God by all of His creation as every knee bends...the arrival of the kingdom of God upon the earth and beyond, and the complete fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
- B. Who wrote the book and when?
  - 1. John the aged apostle who often referred to himself as the "one whom Jesus loved" wrote this as well as his Gospel and 3 epistles.
  - 2. The first wave of Roman persecution under Nero lasted until 68AD and claimed the lives of many, including Peter and Paul. The second wave under Domitian (81-96AD) left John the apostle exiled in Patmos (Rev.1:9) off the coast of Ephesus.
  - 3. The emperor Nerva replaced Domitian and brought John back from exile to Ephesus where he died at nearly 100 years old, buried near the church he had pastored for so long.
- C. How can I understand it?
  - 1. The dangers of interpretation that is both subjective and misleading. God seeks to reveal Himself and so we need only come to this book as we do the 65 others.
  - 2. The difficulty reflects more upon our spiritual well-being than God's intention. He began the use of parables in Mt.13 to both highlight spiritual truths for the hungry while hiding it from the hard hearted (Mt.13:11-15; Mt.13:34).
  - 3. From (1Co.2:14) to (Jer.29:13) the issue is to seek God with a hungry, willing heart. All study requires faith (Heb.11:3,6); prayer for wisdom (Ps. 119:18,169); a holy life (Ps.66:18); a heart of obedience (Ps.119:100) and a willingness to study (Acts 17:11, 2Ti. 2:15).
  - 4. This book focuses on Jesus the author and its subject (Rev.19:10).
- D. Some models of study put forth for this book by men are:
  - 1. Preterist view
  - 2. Historical view
  - 3. Symbolic or idealistic view
  - 4. Futuristic model
- E. The golden rule of interpretation
- F. God desires we know Him and as such this final book brings finality to all things: as Genesis began the account, Revelation finishes it and they are bookends to God's Word.
  - 1. Of the 404 verses found in Revelation there are over 300 Old Testament quotes and references. Without the book of Revelation, those verses would lose most of their significance.
  - 2. So the book of Revelation brings to an end all things: the end of sin, the world system, false religion, the devil and his lying angels, heaven and earth...resulting in glory or damnation for all of eternity for every man.
- G. The outline for the book is found in (Rev. 1:19) with (ch. 1:1-19) being that which John "had seen"; (ch. 2-3) the church age being those "things that are" and (ch. 4-22) those "things that shall be"

hereafter.

### Verse 1

- A. Revelation means unveiling; quite the contrary to those who believe this book is shrouded in mystery and hidden from view. It is the unveiling of Jesus that is shortly to come.
  - 1. (Dan. 12:4,8-9) What Daniel was told and what John was told tell us of the urgency of our day (Rev. 22:10). In (Heb. 1:1-2) Paul declared God has spoken in these last days through Jesus Christ.
  - 2. There are various revelations of Jesus found in the Bible. In the Old Testament prophecies and the appearance of the “angel of the Lord” we meet a Lord who is said to both suffer and yet will come to rule. Though in His 1<sup>st</sup> coming Jesus’ full glory was hidden (Php. 2:8), that will not be so in His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
  - 3. Soon the King of Kings will return, the Lord of Lords! The bridegroom for the bride!
  - 4. One key to understanding this book well is to remember this verse: The book of Revelation focuses on revealing Jesus Christ! True of the entire Bible (Jn. 5:39, Heb. 10:7) but particularly this prophesy!
  - 5. We’ll see Jesus as Priest and King (Ch. 1-3); Lamb of God ruling (Ch. 4-5); Judge (Ch. 6-19) and Bridegroom (Ch.20-21).
- B. Not just the revelation of Jesus but the one given to Jesus who gives it to us. In His humanity Jesus willingly limited Himself (Mk. 13:32, Acts 1:6-7); yet now in glory Jesus is given this revelation for us (Rev. 22:16).
- C. Shortly take place: The Greek suggests this means that once it begins it will quickly move to its fruition. Additionally, all of those words speaking of soon and very soon, quickly, shortly etc. speak of God’s point of view, even used when we are asked to wait a long time (Rev.22:7).
- D. Signified to John: The word signify is to give as a sign and John gets many in this Book. Sign-ify is a clear definition.
- E. Why signs?
  - 1. To reveal to the hungry and hide from the hard hearted.
  - 2. Because signs convey a greater thought and feeling than simple words.
  - 3. Because signs do not change as quickly as words in their usage and meaning.
- F. And as with all prophesy, it proves God is God! (Isa. 48:5, Isa. 41:23, Jn. 14:29) Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus came the 1<sup>st</sup> time and an equal amount await their fulfillment as He comes again.

### Verses 2-3

- A. The Word of God and the testimony of Jesus are one and the same thing for Jesus is God!
- B. John will faithfully report what he saw using words like “I heard” or “I saw” some 60 times to describe 44 separate visions from God.
- C. The blessings of reading, hearing and keeping the words of this Book are available to us all! Let’s look up for our redemption is drawing near.