

The Book Of Revelation

Revelation

- It was written by John around 90 A.D. from the Island of Patmos an ancient Alcatraz for criminals of the Roman emperor Nero
- "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John..."-Rev 1:1
- Revelation "*apocalypsis*" literally unveiling (note: singular "Revelation" not "Revelations")

- Revelation of whom? "Of Jesus Christ"
- Not a revelation of Jesus who he was but who he is, today, right now
- The Book of Revelation is an unveiling of Jesus as the judge of the world, it is the book of the world's destiny. [Rev.6:12-17]
- Genesis is the miracle of our origin
- Revelation is the unveiling of the mystery of our destiny.

It is interesting as we sit on the cusp of World History that the wars that we are waging today are not the wars fought on the grounds of ideology, economics, or land but are once again the wars of religious fanaticism.

Believers Are Victorious

The Book of Revelation is a lens that puts the entire Bible into focus. The lens is focused on the person of Jesus Christ, and His destiny is sure. This is a book of victory: We are over comers! We are the ultimate winners in the game of life. **We win!!**



Redemption Is The Key

- Revelation helps us to know that in the end we not only win but justice reigns, this world is judged, the sick are healed, the starving are fed. Revelation is a book of redemption.
- **Redemption is the key issue in the Book of Revelation, not salvation. Romans 8:18-25**

Revealing And Redemption

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be **revealed** in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for **the revealing** of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the **redemption** of our body. 24 **For we were saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

We Have Hope

- Hope not in this world
- Hope not in the government
- Hope not in the economy
- But, hope in the Savior Jesus Christ
- We can keep our hearts secure knowing that God is in control of this world. It is not chaotic, but planned by the hand of a loving father.

This World Is Similar To The Back And Front Of A Tapestry



Luke 21:28

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Scoffers

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?-- 2 Peter 3:1-4

What Is A Scoffer?

- "One who has an expression of scorn or contempt; to ridicule" Webster's Dictionary
- "No one can know the dates and hour so why try"
- "It will happen when it happens"
- Lack of Biblical understanding about prophecy produces skepticism
- "It's a waste of time trying to figure it out, so why try"
- Viewing Scripture as not inspired by God

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia"



Charles Schultz

The Book of Revelation is the only book in the whole Bible that comes with a blessing

- "3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."--Rev 1:3
- Reads; anaginosko; ana (again) ginosko (learn to know)
- Literally: Study until you learn the words of prophecy written in the Book of Revelation and throughout the Bible

God's Prophetic Word

- 66% of the Bible is prophecy, and only 50% of those prophecies have been fulfilled
- There are 1,845 references to Christ's rule on earth in the Old Testament. A total of 17 Old Testament books give prominence to the event.
- Of the 216 chapters in the New Testament, there are 318 references to His Second Coming. It is mentioned in 23 of the 27 New Testament books (apart from three singular letters to private individuals, and Galatians).
- For every prophecy (300) relating to His first coming there are 8 more relating to His second coming.

The Inspiration of the Prophets

"....we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."--- 2 Peter 1:19-21

The Role Of The Prophets

- The prophet's job was to call the people back to God and to the truth of God. It involved warning them of the consequences of their actions and a call to repentance. At times it was a message of God's plan for the future of His Kingdom. They were men through whom God spoke His message of love for sinners, and warned them of the consequences of their sins. The heart of their message was God's promise of eternal redemption through the coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

The Uniqueness of the Prophets

- They were sent from God. These men claimed to be speaking from God and for God. "Thus says the Lord" (occurs more than 3800 times in the Old Testament) was a clear emphasis of their preaching
- Their message was related to history. It grew out of some historical situation in which they lived. The prophets were messengers of their times.
- The prophet is called by God and God alone and only the false prophet takes the office upon himself, and was punishable by death— Deut. 18:15-22

- Prophecy is not always predictive. There were times when the prophet spoke only to his own generation without any special reference to the future. They warned the nation and its leaders of wrongs that needed to be corrected.
- Prophets did predict the future. These predictions reveal God's purposes of His grace to men and His ultimate fulfillment in Christ and His kingdom reign.
- There were conditional predictions, which directly bear upon men's responsibility to action. A good example is Jonah's prediction that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days if they didn't repent. Nineveh repented and was spared by God.

- All prophecy is centered in Christ. It is a testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:10). He is at the center of prophecy because He is the central theme of all the Scriptures.
- When reading prophecy in scripture also keep in mind the restoration of the Jewish people and the promises made directly to them.
- The interpretation of prophecy needs to seek the literal and natural meaning of the words. Seek the plain teaching of the passage in light of its contextual and historical setting.