



"Grasping the Book of Revelation"

Revelation 1:3 *Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and who keep the things which are written in it [heeding them and taking them to heart]; for the time [of fulfillment] is near.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament. It is the only book in the divine library that especially promises a blessing to those who read and hear. God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

Revelation says itself, but after reading the first chapters about the churches, and the last chapters describing heaven, not many of its read much of this book.

Does "revelation" mean a riddle? Most people, when speaking of this book, seem to think it does. No, it means just the opposite - **unveiling.**"

- Revelation is written in symbols / It was sent and signified by the angel to John
- The hard of hearing have a sign language. Each gesture is filled with meaning. So every sign in Revelation.
- There are 300 symbols in this book and each has a definite meaning.
- Symbols are wonderful and speak great truths
- The content of the book seems to indicate that most of its events are yet to be fulfilled.
- This book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not the revelation of John
- It is not a revelation of the growth of the church

The book of Revelation is an exciting yet often misunderstood book of the Bible. Theologians have said that this book was written between 35 to 65 years after Jesus' resurrection. This book has become the source of hope and encouragement for Christians facing persecution.

Depending on how Christians throughout the centuries have understood Revelation or had various approaches to Revelation given through this book, we can still see the **points of unity:**

1. **The message inn this book is relevant for Christians** (believers) **today, as it was for Christians in the times of apostles.** *Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
2. **The main purpose of the book is to provide hope and encouragement for believers of all times, especially in times of persecution or suffering.** *Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

3. The message of this book is clear on at least three points:

- (i) **Christ is coming back and will judge humanity:** Not all Christians have agreed that Revelation is all about the second coming. It doesn't matter who or how we are trying to interpret this book, at least the spirit of the last chapter calling on Jesus to come quickly is something all Christians can agree upon - **Revelation 22: 20** - *He that testifies these things says, Yea, I come quickly. Amen; come, Lord Jesus. "Lord come soon - Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"*. **Christ coming doesn't depend on you believing Him or believing His word.**
- (ii) **The powers of evil are doomed before Christ** - Satan's Part in God's Perfect Plan
- (iii) **God promises a wonderful future for all who believe in Christ.**

How Revelation is viewed - Seeing the truth in different perspectives

1. **The Historicist:** The book of revelation is prophecy about church history from the time of John and the end of the world. **Look at the revelation as a symbolic descriptions of historical events** throughout the church history. **Revelation 22: 6** - Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon."
2. **The Preterist:** The book of revelation is prophecy that was fulfilled primarily in the first century AD. Preterism, a Christian eschatological view, interprets some or all prophecies of the Bible as events which have already happened. The near, soon, and quickly are taken literally. The prophecy began to be fulfilled close to the author's lifetime. **Revelation 22: 7** - Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.
3. **The Futurist:** The book of revelation is prophecy primarily about the future end of the world. In Futurist View, all or nearly all of Revelation is yet to occur. Most prophesied events have not yet occurred. These words refer to the whole of the "last days" or to the quickness with which Jesus will return. **Revelation 22: 7** - "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.
4. **The Idealist:** The book of revelation is a non-historical and non-prophetic drama about spiritual realities. As for them, prophecy is symbolic, or "it's just a metaphor" approach, although some Idealists still think that the Second Coming is literally going to happen. Christ is always at hand, near and quick to save his people. **Revelation 22:20** - He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

	1-3	4-19	20-22
Preterist	Historic churches	Symbolic of contemporary conditions	Symbolic of heaven and victory
Idealist	Historic churches	Symbolic of conflict of good and evil	Victory of good
Historicist	Historic churches	Symbolic of events of history: fall of rome, Mohammedanism, papacy, Reformation	Final judgment, millennium (?), eternal state
Futurist	Historic churches and/or seven stages of church history	Future tribulation; concentrated judgments on apostate church and on antichrist; coming of Christ	Millennial kingdom; judgment of wicked dead; eternal state

What we should know

1. **What will take place is a future tribulation;** concentrated judgements on apostate Church and on antichrist; coming of Christ

2. **Suffering is unavoidable for faithful Christians.** This concluding book of Scripture, written to believers experiencing persecution, is intensely realistic about the fact that **Christians will experience suffering—there is no escapism in Revelation. The crucified and resurrected Lamb (Jesus Christ) rules the universe and will preserve the people of God through suffering.**

3. **Reality is more than our daily physical experiences.** John's vision gives us a powerful view of what is happening and will happen in the heavenly realm. **The invisible realities that impact and shape our lives tell us that Satan is real. But he has already been defeated**

4. **God will triumph over suffering.** In fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about redemption, we are given a picture of judgment that fully and finally enacts justice: God wipes away all tears and ushers us into a purified, personal relationship with himself. This victory is intended to ground our hope and sustain us through suffering in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- The God of all is the God of Israel and the God of The Church.
- This Book is written for believes to have hope and encouragement as we are facing the second coming of Christ and the judgement of human kind (Innocence, grace & judgement
- Pray that God opens your eyes about your His church and where to be positioned as you are waiting for his return.