

The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ The Future As Decided and Declared By God

The Bible is unlike any other book as it repeatedly declares the future by prophecy and fulfills it exactly as declared.

No other book could declare the future and stake its' credibility on its' accuracy because no one can predict or decide the future but the true God, Psalm 46:8-11.

Revelation declares the future God has decided from the time written (about 95 AD) until the everlasting kingdom of God in righteousness is established.

God wants His people to know the future as He regards the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ as friends, Amos 3:7, Revelation 1:1-4.

God wants all to know the decided future so that they may humble themselves and order their lives according to the truth revealed, Revelation 1:1-4.

The Bible has one over-arching theme, the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ over sin, Satan, and death and His establishing an everlasting kingdom of people in righteousness who have been redeemed as they embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The Bible is the revelation of Jesus; the promise of Him, the need of Him, the accomplishment of Him in His first coming, the triumph of Him in His second coming, Revelation 19:10.

The future was declared by God in Genesis 3:15 and its' fulfillment declared by God in the book of Revelation.

The Lord Jesus declared that the Old Testament was the revelation of Him and how God would give people who trusted in His promise yet to be fulfilled the gift of eternal life, John 5:37-47, Luke 24:27.

Revelation gives the big picture that shows how all the other Scriptures of prophecy fit into God's overall plan (like a jigsaw all of the pieces need the big picture of Revelation to be able to fit together properly), Revelation 1:1-4.

Revelation is the "Apocalypse", the unveiling of the crowning of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings, Lord of Lords and the establishment of everlasting righteousness (Daniel 9:24), Revelation 1:1-4.

Apocalypse means to unveil, reveal so what is hidden may be seen.

There are two questions that must be answered correctly for the proper understanding of Revelation:

Is there a future in God's plans for Israel as the nation of Jewish people or has Israel been replaced by the church?

Is the description of the future meant to be taken literally or is "Apocalyptic" literature different more the use of vivid images to describe the ultimate triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ?

While the Bible uses vivid images in communicating Revelation it is to be interpreted like the rest of the Bible, God says what He means and does what He says.

John says he has written the words God said, and the visions that God gave him and promises blessings to all who hear and live by the words given, Revelation 1:3-4.

The Lord Jesus commanded John to write what He has seen and what will soon take place, Revelation 1:19.

While Revelation uses symbolic language the symbols are always defined and consistently used, Revelation 1:20.

Symbolic language communicates with emotion.

Symbolic language brings description to the unseen spiritual world.

Symbolic language helps obscure the truth from those who don't have the enabling of the Holy Spirit (John is a political prisoner of Rome, 1:9).

Revelation demands a literal acceptance of the words written with the severest warning for those who would add to them or take away from them, 22:18-19.

The so called "Apocalyptic" writings of the Old Testament are endorsed by the Lord Jesus not only to the words but to the smallest parts of letters of words, Matthew 5:17-20.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit enables a person to have a spiritual discernment to understand what God has written, 1 John 2:20, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

All of the prophecies fulfilled to this point have been fulfilled literally and exactly as prophesied.

Examples with the Lord Jesus; Isaiah 53:9-Matthew 38:57-60, Zechariah 11:12-13-Matthew 27:3-10.

Once God has accomplished His purpose of bringing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations He will turn to the Jewish nation of Israel and accomplish His purpose of bringing salvation as a nation represented by 144,000 who have embraced Jesus as Messiah, Savior, Lord, and the Son of God.

Revelation is divided into two time periods, the things that are and the things that will take place after this, Revelation 1:19.

Key to the 'after this' is a seven year period of time divided into two three and a half year periods, Revelation 11:3,12:6.

The faithful church of Philadelphia is promised that she will escape the hour of trial coming to the whole world, Revelation 3:10.

The 'after' this begins with John invited to come up here and he will be shown what takes place 'after' this, Revelation 4:1.

The first three chapters of Revelation are focused on the church, after chapter 3 the church is only described as being in heaven until the end of the seven years when it returns with Jesus, Revelation 7:9-17, 19:8-10.

The martyrs of the seven year Great Tribulation are under the throne, while the church is before the throne, Revelation 6:9-11.

The two witnesses of Jesus during the seven year period are two special witnesses, not the church, Revelation 11:1-3.

There will be 144,000 Jewish people saved during the first three and a half years, protected as a group the second three and a half years, Revelation 7:1-8, 12:13-17.

Gentiles are saved during the seven years of the Great Tribulation but they are distinctly called 'saints', and are given no protection and specific instruction, Revelation 13:9-10, 14:12-13.

In the second half of the seven years the Gospel is proclaimed to the world by an angel, not the church, Revelation 14:6-7.

The church is a mystery hidden from the Old Testament prophets and fully revealed through the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul, Matthew 16:13-20, Ephesians 3:1-13, Colossians 1:24-29.

There is a time when the fulness of the Gentiles have come and God turns back to Israel and saves them, Romans 11:25-32, Luke 21:24.

The establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish nation of Israel is the key sign of the last days.

The redeeming of Israel will be in two parts, first establishing them as a Jewish nation and then saving them and establishing them as a spiritual nation, Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Introduction

The Author: Revelation is written by the Apostle John. This is the internal witness of John identifying himself as the author, 1:1,4,9. Early writings of the church affirm the Apostle John as the author. John had an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus, but seeing Him glorified was overwhelming, 1:17.

The Date: The timing in history matches the reign of Domitian as Caesar. He took emperor worship to new levels calling himself "Master and god". Domitian ruled from 81-96 AD. Early church writings matched with Domitian's reign put the date between 90-95 AD. It is likely that was a teenager when called by Jesus with his brother James to become a disciple and then appointed as an Apostle.

The Occasion: John was a political prisoner of Rome on the island of Patmos. Patmos had a quarry that prisoners worked in preparing the building blocks of the Roman Empire. John was imprisoned for his confession of Jesus as Lord and his proclamation of the Word of God as truth, 1:1-2,9. The revelation came to John on a Sunday. The revelation came through visions John saw, a scroll read and through words that were spoken to him, 1:1-2,9. None of this came from John's own thoughts, imagination, or other sources.

The Theme: Revelation is the unveiling of God's plans to bring the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth, to bring final judgment and reward, and to the creation of a new heaven and earth which will never be threatened by sin, Satan, or death, Revelation 1:1-3; 22:1-5.

The purpose:

Revelation was written to encourage and inform the church of the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ given in absolute certainty, 1:1-3.

Revelation was written to change the behavior of all who read it, 1:3.

Revelation was written with urgency as the plans of God are certain and soon to come to pass, 1:3.

Revelation was written to bring blessings to those who read and affirm it, 1:3.

Revelation was written to instruct the church on the issues it will face as it seeks to be in the world but not of it. While it was written to seven real and historical churches its truth is for the church throughout the age, as indicated by the phrase "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.", 2:7,2:11,2:17,2:29,3:6,3:13,3:22.

Revelation is a book that reveals why God the Father, and Jesus, the Son are worthy to be given in worship the blessing, honor, glory, and might deserved now and forever, 5:13.

Revelation was written as a survival manual for those who turn by faith to the Lord Jesus during the seven years of the Great Tribulation, 13:9-10,14:12-13.

Revelation was written to focus the church on her mission and message of proclaiming the Gospel to the world in partnership with the Holy Spirit inviting all to come to the Lord Jesus for salvation and life as a gift, Revelation 22:16-17.

The Division of Time in Revelation:

Revelation is divided into two divisions of time, “the things ... that are and those that take place after this”, 1:19.

The things that are is the present age of the church, chapters 2:1-4:1. This is an age of grace when the Lord Jesus uses His church to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This an age of grace when God’s purpose of making disciples from every nation, tribe, peoples(people groups, and language, Romans 1:1-6, Matthew 24:14, Revelation 7:9-12.

The things that take place after this the Day of the Lord which begins with a seven years of the Great Tribulation followed by the thousand year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth, Revelation 4:2-20:6. This will be followed by the Great White throne judgment, then the creation of a new heaven and earth, 20:12-22:5.

The Day of the Lord marks a decided change from an Age of Grace to a time of judgment of the nations for their rebellion and rejection of the Lord Jesus, Isaiah 2, 13:1-14:2; Joel 3:1-2, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2.

The Day of the Lord begins with seven year period of time in which the Lord Jesus calls to salvation 144,000 Jewish people to become a redeemed Israel, Romans 11:25-32, Daniel 9:20-27.

Who's Who and What's What in Revelation

Seven Spirits – Seven is used with the Holy Spirit in the sense of 'seven fold' describing how the Holy Spirit can be ever present and before the Throne of God, 1:4,4:5,5:6. It demonstrates the limit of language in describing the magnificence of God.

Seven golden lampstands -represents the church, 1:13,20.

Seven stars – represents either angels assigned to a church or the pastor responsible to communicate to the church, 1:16,20.

Son of Man – Jesus' title for Himself, Daniel 7:13-14, 1:13.

Two edged sword – the Bible, the Word of God, 1:16, Hebrews 4:12.

The scroll – a sealed scroll of the judgments of God in the seven years of the Great Tribulation, 5:1. It is in seven sealed sections, the seventh section divided into seven trumpets announcing seven judgments, the seventh trumpet divided into 7 bowls of wrath.

Horns – horns represent kings, leaders in authority, 5:6. The Lord Jesus has a seven fold horn as the ultimate King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

The Beast – A confederacy of nations paralleling the old Roman Empire out of which arises the Anti-Christ, Daniel 7:23-25, Revelation 13:1, 17:7-18.

The Anti-Christ(Beast):

A man who arises to power out of the revived Roman Empire confederacy, Daniel 7:20-26, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:3.

He appears to have a fatal head wound from he seems to make a miraculous recovery by the power of Satan, Revelation 13:2-4.

He starts as a man of peace who brings as he makes a covenant with Israel and the surrounding nations, Daniel 9:27.

In the middle of the tribulation he declares himself to be a god who must be worshipped, Revelation 14:14-18.

The Dragon - Satan who with the demons are the powers behind the Anti-Christ and the Prostitute, Revelation 12:1-9,20:2-3.

The Woman - the nation of Israel and the believing Jews of the tribulation led by the Lord Jesus Christ, Revelation 12:1-6,7:1-8.

The Prostitute – the false religious system out of the church in Rome which gives power to the Anti-Christ. The prostitute is led by a false prophet, Revelation 13:11-18.

Armageddon – A series of battles which take place in Israel which culminates in the Lord Jesus coming to earth as victor, Revelation 16:16.

The kings of the East – An army of two hundred million led by China which comes from the East against the Anti-Christ, Revelation 9:16, 16:12.

Babylon – symbolic of man organizing himself against God. In Revelation there is political Babylon, religious Babylon, and economic Babylon, Revelation 13,17,18.

The prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Sabbath and the Feasts

The Sabbath, Leviticus 23:3

The last day of the week is to be a day of rest, worship, trust in God.

Jesus is the Sabbath, the rest of salvation, Hebrews 4:9-16.

Passover, Leviticus 23:4-5

The blood of the Passover Lamb on the doorposts caused the Angel bringing death to every home to see the blood and Passover.

Jesus is the Passover Lamb who took judgment so that by faith those might stand before God in His blood and have judgment Passover them, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 1 Peter 1:19.

Feast of the Unleavened Bread, Leviticus 23:6-8

All leaven(representing sin) was to be removed from the house and nothing cooked was to be used for the week. It started the day after Passover.

Jesus is our Bread of Life who makes us holy before God and able to live in fellowship with Him, John 6:32-35, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.

Feast of First Fruits, Leviticus 23:9-14.

On the Sunday after Passover the first fruits of the harvest were to be brought as an offering to God.

Jesus rose the Sunday after Passover, the first fruit of the Resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:20.

Feast of Weeks(Pentecost), Leviticus 23:15-22.

On the Sunday following seven Sabbaths after the Passover offerings were to be brought along with offerings for sin and waved in celebration before God.

On the Feast of Weeks after Jesus' offering for sin and resurrection the Holy Spirit came to indwell and empower believers and gather them into the new creation of the church, Acts 2:1.

Feast of Trumpets(Rosh Hashana), Leviticus 23:23-25.

In the seventh month after the harvest, a day of rest marked by the blowing of trumpets. Each day ended with one long last trumpet. It was a two day feast as the High Priest had to see the new moon before it was officially announced with a day to spread the news throughout the land.

At the last trumpet Jesus will rapture His church giving them their resurrection bodies and meeting them in the air, 1 Corinthians 15:50-52, Matthew 24:36-44, Matthew 25:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

The Day of Atonement(Yom Kippur), Leviticus 23:26-32.

A day of repentance and offering offerings to atone for sin.

It is the day God turns back to Israel with the two witnesses bringing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and 144,000 are saved and represent Israel on earth, Isaiah 40:1-2, Romans 11:25-32, Revelation 7:1-9, 12:13-17.

Feast of Booths, Leviticus 23:33-36.

A seven day feast remembering when the Lord Jesus dwelt with Israel in the wilderness for 40 years.

Jesus will bring His kingdom and rule to earth for a thousand years and during this Feast the nations will bring their offerings to Him at the gates of Jerusalem, Revelation 20:1-6, Zechariah 14:16-19.