

Revelation: The Time is Near

The Time Is Near

Revelation 1:1-3

A lot of people are afraid of this book

Both because of content and the perception that it is cryptic

But it does explain itself. Scripture is very helpful in explaining scripture

But also, because it is an important briefing, a complicated yet simple future it foretells, there is a level of decoding needed.

Almost to say, if you're serious about your faith, read this.

Readme.txt

Instruction manuals. Jokes about not reading them.

New power tools, reading all the warnings as I'm more familiar with mechanic work than woodwork. I like my fingers. Old coworker's fiance's fingers.

But in programming, in repositories of code like github. Readme
Read me first.

We should know the Bible a little before getting into revelation, it will help.

But you don't have to!

My personal connection with Revelation

8th grade

September 11, vanity of world, reading Revelation again

College of getting me the left behind books

All over the place, trying to share it with my friends, ranting

But do you know what it did? Do you know what the Holy Spirit did through it?

He used it to bring me back to him.

I was convicted. I knew it was truth. I knew it was coming, and soon by the way the world was going (almost 20 years ago). I saw everything lining up geopolitically. Technologically. Spiritually.

I even tried to warn others of hell coming and was rebuked, "You and I just did that together. You'll go to hell just as much as I will."

That was the slap in the face I needed. I gave my life to Jesus a few days later in my small bedroom at my mom's house in a place I then hated and felt isolated and alone in.

And everything changed. *Brief "my testimony"*

I want that for you. If you don't know God. I want you to come face-to-face with Jesus Christ in this book.

After all, it isn't Revelation...it is The Revelation of Jesus Christ

There will be hard things in this book

Both to understand and to accept

- About God
- About the Church
- About the World
- About the Time we live in
- About the End
- About Heaven
- About What's Next
- About Christianity
- About Your Own Responsibility and Destiny

I believe I have a decent grasp on this book, on the truth of God within, on perhaps some of how things might play out, on some of his heart in it and who He reveals himself to be in it and what is revealed in it.

And Like unto Job

Job 38:1-4 NKJV - 1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 "Who [is] this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell [Me], if you have understanding.

Those of us who would claim full authority over the exact happening of the end times he might say the same thing

Where are you when all of this happens? Time, eternity outside of time, time contained, perhaps even in the "crystal sea"

I don't believe I'm an expert. And even if I was the foremost teacher of Revelation, I still wouldn't be God. I can't wait to have my faith and knowledge increase and strengthened my resolve more sure.

I am excited because I actually get to teach through this book now...revisited. A deep love for the book, the truth and revelation of Jesus in it. I think the timing is perfect. Personally, spiritually, and practically.

I wouldn't be surprised if we see Jesus return before the end of our study through it. And even if we don't with our physical eyes, I pray we will with our spiritual eyes.

[pray]

We're going to look a few scriptures here. I'm not going to go in depth in them and it's quite possible we'll revisit a lot of them along the way, but I think they do a good job setting the stage for us - scripturally, personally, mentally, spiritually, practically

"The dark side clouds everything. Impossible to see the future is."

– Yoda

1Co 13:9-13 NKJV - 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these [is] love.

We are given the essentials in scripture. Need to know basis.

Some things are clouded to us because of sin, because of just living in a fallen world (a dimension disconnected from heaven by sin), and just because our understanding and capability is limited in this life. We are not God.

But when we get to heaven. It will all make sense.

And when we read Revelation, we're given a window into heaven, into the future, and into the spiritual battle that rages behind the scenes of our physical reality.

And Revelation is a revelation unlike any other.

And we're unable to get a better look than anywhere but right here.

The Apostle Paul says this

2Co 12:1-6 NKJV - 1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a one I will

boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me [to be] or hears from me.

I don't know what Paul saw and couldn't write.

Yet the Apostle John, the one who loved Jesus, rested on him, wrote epistles about love and the love of God, gets to write down what he sees. Is in fact, is expressly told to. Many prophetic chapters, books. The Bible is full of revelatory information and many will help us get a picture of what is going on in this last book.

Daniel 11
Matthew 24
Ezekial 38-39
etc.

In fact, Revelation might have been penned by John before the Gospel of John

The End is Nigh - people with signboards looking like John the Baptist

I'm not sure these people existed very far in the past. In fact Revelation was largely ignored from what I understand until the past century or so.

So it is interesting that these people are cropping up now.

God told Noah to build the ark how many years before the flood? 120 years

Mat 24:36-44 NKJV - 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 "But as the days of Noah [were], so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "Then two [men] will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 "Two [women will be] grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The days of Noah

We won't know the exact second, but we'll know the season

Act 1:6-8 NKJV - 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **8** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1Th 5:1-11 NKJV - 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but let us watch and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

And also the coming of the Son of Man I believe is a set of events, several happenings, and I think more describes the series of events than one moment. His appearing will be a definite happening and moment, but there are a lot of events surrounding it.

Rom 8:18-22 NKJV - 18 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.

Dan 12:1-4 NKJV - 1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands [watch] over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, [Even] to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. **2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. **3** Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. **4** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

**Time of the end:
Knowledge will increase
To and fro**

We live in the "information age"
Travel on earth, above out, outside of it

I'm not even going to get into another possible connotation of it that seems to be happening as well...I might later though

Pour out his spirit

Joe 2:28-32 NKJV - 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward (acts 2:17 quotes as the last days) That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on [My] menservants and on [My] maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 32 And it shall come to pass [That] whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

The point of ALL of this. Even all the judgments we might have heard about, imagined, correctly or incorrectly...is that people would be saved.

A final wake up call.

"Wake up juice"

For all humanity to stop being drunk with sin and willful ignorance of God.

Three major views: Pre/Mid/Post Tribulation

Futurist Interpretation: The futurist view, which seems to me to be the most satisfactory, accepts the book of Revelation as prophecy that primarily is yet to be fulfilled, particularly from Revelation chapter 4 on. This was the interpretation of the early church during its most evangelistic history, from the apostles until the fourth century. Today it is the accepted position by most **pre-millennial** Bible teachers. A safe rule to follow in the study of the book of Revelation is to accept the book as literal unless the facts are obviously to the contrary.

Historical Interpretation: The historical view suggest that John was describing the major events that would take place during the history of the Church. It therefore suggests that we can see these events as we look back at history. This of course, calls for the juggling of historical

events to fit the prophecy. This is historically unsound and tends to distort the plain or literal meaning.

Spiritualizing Interpretation: There are those who believe everything in the book should be taken figuratively or metaphorically, that John was talking about a spiritual conflict and not a physical experience. This view is held by most **Amillennialists and post-millennialists**. Until the turn of the century, post-millennialism gained many followers with the idea that the world was getting better and better and we were about to usher in the kingdom. The perpetual degeneracy of communist dictators has rendered this a most untenable position.

Allegory Interpretation: A symbolic system in a narrative that allows it to generate a second level of meaning, which develops in tandem with the primary narrative. The symbolic system may refer to myth, a historic figure, an earlier narrative, or an abstract idea. The reader understands early on that interpretive possibilities are limited by this structure. Example: A story in which the characters, settings, and events stand for abstract or moral concepts. Another example: An object or scene that is associated with a certain event or time of year. (i.e. Grapes are allegorical of autumn for that is when they are harvested). **This is method used by Catholicism.**

Preterist Interpretation: The preterist view holds that John wrote the book prior to the destruction of the temple (in 70 A.D.), and was referring to events of his own day. This requires mental gymnastics that are unnecessary if one would apply the Golden Rule of Interpretation. The Roman emperors Nero or Domitian could scarcely fulfill the requirements of this book for the Antichrist, much less the desecration of the temple for 42 months or for the worldwide cataclysms that are yet future.

However, what some of these fail to take into account is the entire scripture as a whole And that all prophecy generally has three levels to it:

1. **Personal application**
2. **Immediate Future fulfillment**
3. **End times fulfillment**

As we'll see soon, with the church ages

Actual church in John's day

History has shown "ages" of churches

But also can easily be applied to ourselves as Christians. Which "church" do we belong to despite the name on the denomination or building we identify with.

- 1 - Some sense, a word prophecy (speaking forth the things of God)
- 2 - The gift of prophecy - someone who's specific gift from God is prophecy (not necessarily future things but direct speaking the truth of God to individuals or the church for edification)
- 3 - The calling of a Prophet - like Elijah, John here, Jesus

As we start Revelation, please ask yourself and consider these things honestly:

1. Do I really believe the Bible. And if I do, how does my life show it? Internally, spiritually, externally, to those around me
2. What do YOU believe. And WHY do YOU believe it. Is it just because you were told it by a pastor, parent, book, etc? Or do you believe because you believe it for yourself, so to speak. Because God REVEALED it to you personally?
3. Do you believe ALL of the Bible? It's one thing to accept the teachings of Jesus or the story of King David. But as with Genesis, do you take what the Bible says literally? If not, why not? Why accept any of it? And if so, be ready to digest what is about to be eaten.

Jer 15:16 NKJV - 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Eze 3:1-3 NKJV - 1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

Rev 10:8-11 NKJV - 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Know, that God intends even the bitter things contained to be sweet to us...because ultimately this book is a warning to those who don't know god to come to know him, to be safe from judgment. To see the Lord for who He really is.

And to those of us who already have that assurance, to be excited for his return

Luk 21:25-28 NKJV - 25 "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."

Revelation 1:1-3

Again, this book is the **Revelation of Jesus Christ**

It is a prophecy of Jesus by Jesus

Apokalypsis:

1. laying bare, making naked
2. a disclosure of truth, instruction
3. concerning things before unknown
4. used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all
5. manifestation, appearance

If God wanted us all judged, all dead. He never would have sent Jesus. And the same goes for those who have rejected Him, he still wants to give them every last chance, to their dying breath, to the earth's final moments, to turn to their savior, the Lover of their souls

God gave him to show his servants

The Father gave this to Jesus to show US. That if we are his servants, more than servants as Jesus said, we'd know what he was doing. A servant doesn't know what his master is doing.

We know what God is doing. We know what he will do.

We think the future is hidden from us, it is not. But we have to look.

The world certainly has its head in the sand. We as believers should not.

Things which MUST shortly take place

- it is necessary, there is need of, it behooves, is right and proper
- necessity lying in the nature of the case
- necessity brought on by circumstances or by the conduct of others toward us.
- necessity in reference to what is required to attain some end
- a necessity of law and command, of duty, equity
- necessity established by the counsel and decree of God, especially by that purpose of his which relates to the salvation of men by the intervention of Christ and which is disclosed in the Old Testament prophecies
- concerning what Christ was destined finally to undergo, his sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension

Judgment is coming because judgment is due.

Sodom & Gomorrah, Ninevah...woa to you Bethsaida, Corazin

But because God is righteous, there is a righteousness of the judgment that is meant to lead to repentance. But as we'll see, even then, in full revelation, people would rather die than bow their confess that Jesus, the one who was crucified for them, is Lord.

Make no mistake, the days we live in are the most evil they've ever been.

And it's only getting worse. Not better.

Isa 5:18-24 NKJV - 18 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; 19 That say, "Let Him make speed [and] hasten His work, That we may see [it]; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know [it]." 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to [those who are] wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! 22 Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! 24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, [So] their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

The letter and revelation was given to the apostle John

While on the island of patmos, prison island, church history/legend says that they couldn't kill him so he was exiled

Signed by an angel

Angels are messengers, ministers to us

We'll see the angel describe things on earth in this book

And we'll see the elders describe things in heaven in this book

(Chuck missler series)

These are the things he saw "witness"

This is the testimony of Jesus.

Jesus kept his mouth shut on trial before the cross.

But before our hour of trial he speaks loud and clear

Blessed are those who

- Read - to distinguish between, to recognise, to know accurately, to acknowledge
- Hear - to attend to, consider what is or has been said to understand, perceive the sense of what is said
- Keep - to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, to observe, to reserve

We have a duty and a responsibility for what we're about to read. To read it. To understand it. To know it. To hang on to it. To keep it fresh in our minds and hearts and at the forefront of our faith. And the reward is blessing.

And that word blessed means happy.

In a world gone mad.

In a world that is willfully dark.

In a world that celebrates evil.

It's no wonder that suicide rates are high. That people are depressed on drugs - both prescription by a doctor and prescribed by a society making them legal.

We, believer, can be happy.

That is a blessing the world can't touch, manufacture, copy or steal.

Time -

- due measure
- a measure of time, a larger or smaller portion of time, hence:
- a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch waited for
- opportune or seasonable time
- the right time
- a limited period of time
- to what time brings, the state of the times, the things and events of time

Is near (is at hand)

- near, of place and position
- those who are near access to God
- Jews, as opposed to those who are alien from God and his blessings
- The Rabbis used the term "to make nigh" as equivalent to "to make a proselyte"
- of time, of times imminent and soon to come pass

Phi 4:5 NKJV - 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord [is] at hand.

As we go through this, please, feel free to read ahead. Do your own research. Read it for yourself. Be blessed as you do.

I guarantee you will begin to see the world differently. Your eyes will be opened and you will see even the smallest news headlines begin to fall into place and make sense when otherwise it would be another vain tragedy.