

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF REVELATION THROUGH BIBLE PROPHECY

1 Understanding Revelation

Of all the books of the Bible, which shed light on the last days, the Bible's last book, Revelation, is the most complete. In Revelation God unfolds amazing last-day events that will dramatically affect us all. Revelation's incredible predictions guide us through the maze of false prophecies so common today.

Note how the Book of Revelation opens in **chapter 1, verse 1**. It's called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show His servants— things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His servant John." Did you notice the divinely appointed chain of communication? Look:

Where did Jesus get it? From God!

Who did Jesus give it to? His angel.

What did the angel do with it? Brought it to John.

Then John wrote it in his book called Revelation to "show God's people what must shortly come to pass."-**Revelation 1:1-2**.

Thus the Book of Revelation is not mere personal opinion or human guesswork. It's not some psychic's view of the future. Its prophecies come directly from God. It bears the signature of heaven and reveals God's final message for this world. The Lord Himself offers a triple blessing for those who study His book: **Revelation 1:3** promises, "Blessed is he who *reads, and hears, and keeps* the things which are written in it."

The central theme and major focus of Revelation is Jesus—the One "who *is* and who *was* and who *is to come*." **Revelation 1:4**. We can trust Him who conquered death and is coming to take us home. All history is moving to one grand climax. All creation is standing on tiptoe awaiting the coming of the King. That's the theme of the Bible's last book.

This planet has a date with destiny. **Revelation 1:7** tells us: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye shall see Him." Those lacking this end-time hope need to be reminded we are not cosmic orphans. Earth won't be reduced to some spinning globe of ash from a nuclear holocaust. Famines and earthquakes won't dash our hopes of a happy tomorrow. Revelation can lift our spirits and gladden our hearts, *giving* us hope to hold onto in a hopeless world.

Revelation is prophecy. That means that rather than interpreting it literally, we need to see it as written in symbols or in a prophetic code. It was sent and "signified" or given in symbols to the Apostle John.

There are four essentials to understanding Bible prophecy.

1. To set the God of the Bible, apart from other gods, as the one true God. **Isaiah 46:9-10**.
2. To accurately reveal the future and thus create faith in the heart of the hearers. **John 14:29**.
3. To reveal to the hearer the thoughts and priorities of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**.
4. To introduce the hearer to Jesus Christ and his heart's need of him. **2 Peter 1:16**

There are two keys that will unlock the prophetic code of Revelation.

1. The book of Revelation rests upon the broad foundation of Old Testament history, imagery, and prophecy. Of the 404 verses in Revelation, 270 are direct allusions, quotes or references to the Old Testament.
2. Jesus Christ is the focus of end-time prophecy.

Several examples can be given. Revelation has numerous references to the Old Testament sanctuary such as a lamb, seven candlesticks, an altar of incense and the ark of the covenant. Revelation 13 which deals with the antichrist, is taken from two Old Testament chapters: Daniel 7 and In Daniel 3. But, mostly, Revelation is about Jesus and how he gives the victory. Each of the chapters is about the glorious King Jesus. In the final battle God wins and comes to live with us forever! After all the heartache, pain and suffering, Jesus will be the Lamb who is also the Shepherd, wiping away all our tears.



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| Isaiah 46:9-10 | God alone knows the future. His foreknowledge is a mark of His divinity. |
| Habakkuk 2:3 | A prophetic fulfillment may seem delayed, but it will surely come. |
| Isaiah 14:24 | Almighty God not only knows future events, He also brings them to pass. |
| Revelation 1:1 | It's not the revelation of John, but of Jesus Christ Himself. |
| Revelation 1:3 | God pronounces a three-fold blessing on the reader of this book. |
| Revelation 1:4 | Grace and peace from Christ: who is, and was, and is to come. |
| Revelation 5:13 | Every creature will sing the praises of Christ, the Lamb of God. |
| Revelation 7:14-15 | The time of great tribulation ends in triumph for God's people. |
| Revelation 11:15 | The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord. |
| Revelation 13:1-18 | The Antichrist/Beast arises and imposes his mark by coercion and force. |
| Revelation 16:1-21 | The Seven Last Plagues are poured out on those with the Beast's mark. |
| Revelation 14:14 | But Jesus returns to rescue His faithful followers. |
| Revelation 22:12 | When Jesus comes; He brings His rewards with Him. |
| Revelation 21:4 | God shall wipe away all our tears, with no more pain or death. |
| Revelation 21:5 | God will make all things new—a New Earth with Paradise restored! |
| Revelation 22:6 | The Book of Revelation is not to be a closed, <i>sealed</i> book, but rather a divine <i>revelation</i> of inspired truth to all who read it. |