
The Book of Revelation: Session 1

Revelation 1:1-3

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Intro to the book of Revelation | Gary Hamrick” (47 minutes)

Notes:

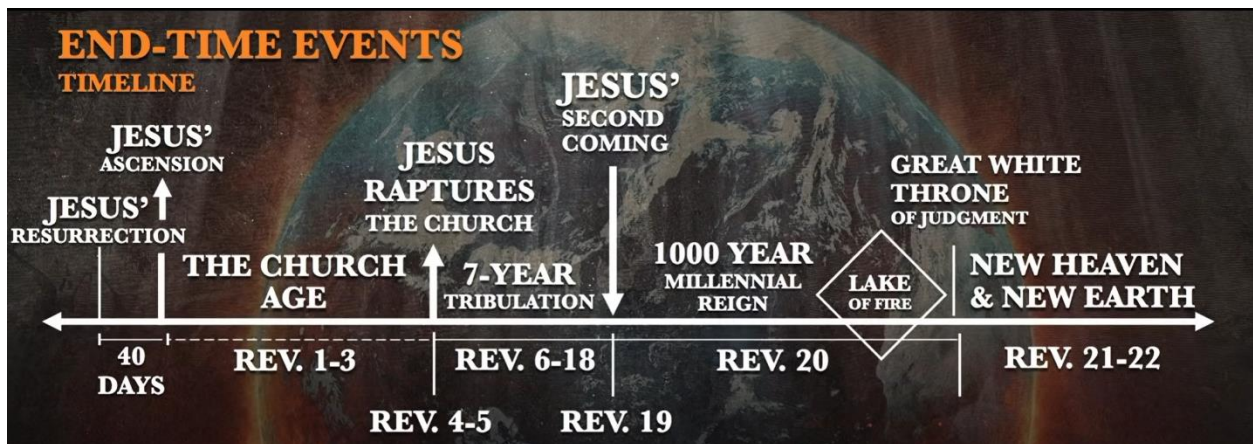
“God has given us some answers, in advance, about things to come ... so that we can be ready.”

“Jesus is coming again, so with great expectancy we should read the book of Revelation.”

Author: John the Apostle, while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos (~95 AD).

“This is the revelation, not of John, but of Jesus Christ.” (“Revelation”: Greek “apokalupsis,” meaning “unveiling, revealing”)

Three ways of interpreting Revelation: (1) Allegorical (Symbolic) (2) Historical (Preterist) (3) *Literal (Futuristic)*



Cautions when reading the book of Revelation:

1. Everything does not necessarily mean something.
2. John uses limited (current) language to describe distant (future) events.
3. John writes “with a circular view of events” (Westerners tend to think in a more linear fashion).

“Jesus is Lord of all, He’s in charge of all, and He’s coming again. And we need to be ready with joyful anticipation of His imminent return.”

Questions:

1. When you hear the phrase, “the book of Revelation,” what immediately comes to mind for you? How are you feeling about this study, as we begin?

2. Read Revelation 1:1-2:
 - a. “Revelation” means “unveiling.” Jesus is pulling back the curtain for us to see “what will soon take place” (v. 1). Jesus wants us to understand what happened, is happening, and will happen. How does this impact you?

 - b. Jesus reveals His truth to His “servants” (Greek “doulos”), better translated as “bondservants,” even “slaves.” Martin Culy asserts, “Revelation reminds readers, right from the beginning, that those who wear the name “Christian” belong to God. Jesus did not just purchase their salvation; He purchased them.” What are the implications of being Jesus’ bondservant?

3. Read Revelation 1:3. Some might ask, “Why read and study Revelation?” What reason does Jesus give us in verse 3? It is not enough to merely read, talk about, and study the book of Revelation. What does it mean to “hear it and take it to heart” (v. 3)? Culy once again asserts, “While the book of Revelation clearly supplies us with valuable information about the end times (eschatology), shedding light on the future is only a fringe benefit of Revelation’s overall purpose. It is a means to an end, and that end is to exhort believers in the first century Asia Minor, and throughout the world today, to live in light of the reality that Revelation describes. It is a forceful plea from the King of kings and Lord of lords for those who call themselves His followers to live as citizens of His kingdom, living lives that are shaped by His kingdom’s values, not by the values of this world. Plain and simple, Revelation is Jesus’ call to radical discipleship.” Jesus spoke to a church being pressured to compromise, a church enduring hardship and persecution. Yet, if we take His words to heart, we too can be “overcomers.” Read Luke 14:25-35. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these 2 sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1991:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-1/back-to-the-future-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-2/back-to-the-future-part-2>