

Revelation 1:1-3: “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.”

This book is the revelation of Jesus, not John. Jesus is telling his followers what is to come and the signs to look for in order to be prepared. Have you ever thought of what this book of the Bible is about?

Revelation – apokalupsis which is where we get our word apocalypse. It means to unveil or to unwrap. “The unveiling of Jesus Christ”. Have you ever thought of this book in this way?

Revelation was written 90A.D. Why does it say it will “soon” take place? The “soon” translated is “whenever it begins, it will occur with great rapidity”. In 70A.D. Israel was destroyed by the Romans. Revelation says a lot about Israel. Now that Israel became a nation again in the 20th century, 1948, Revelation is easier to understand. How different, and yet the same, is the world today than when Revelation was written?

When reading Revelation, be aware of symbolism and reality. Many of the symbols are explained as in 12:9 “The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” How can we decipher symbolism?

The Three Parts of Revelation – Jesus told John to write this vision in 3 parts. In Rev. 1:19

1. Write what you have seen.
2. Write what is happening now to the church.
3. Write what will occur.

Chapter 1 is the only physical description of Jesus’ appearance found in the Bible. John saw him.

Chapters 2 and 3 discuss what is happening now with the 7 churches which represent the churches of today. John wrote what is happening now.

Chapters 4 to the end discuss the future. John wrote what will occur in the future.

Five events that have yet to happen as described in Revelation:

1. The Rapture – the taking of the church before Christ’s return
2. The Tribulation – a 7 year period of time on earth when man hates God and the world is ruled by the Antichrist
3. The Final Battle – Jesus returns as a warrior with His church for the final battle
4. The Millennium – Jesus establishes an earthly kingdom for a thousand years
5. Paradise for Eternity – “No longer will there be any curse” Rev. 22:3.

Look for these 5 events as we read through the book.

The End of Revelation

Adding to the book –

Jesus says in Rev 22:18 – “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.”

Taking away from the book –

Rev. 22:19 – “And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book”.

What does Jesus tell us about reading the book of Revelation?