

Evidence that the Book of Revelation has been Fulfilled

Part 1

This two-part study will present Biblical and historical evidence which will clearly illustrate that the Book of Revelation has been completely fulfilled.

We will be using the concept of audience relevance throughout this study. Audience relevance always answers two important questions: To **whom** was the Book of Revelation written and **what** did it mean to that original audience?

First, let's take a look at the word "**revelation**" and how it is used throughout the Scriptures. The word "revelation" used in **Revelation 1:1** in the Greek is "[apokalupsis](#)".

In the Greek, "**apokalupsis**" means to disclose, appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, to be revealed, revelation. The Greek word for "**appearing**" is "[epiphaneia](#)" which means manifestation, the advent of Christ, brightness. (**2 Thessalonians 2:8**) The following verses use this Greek word "[epiphaneia](#)":

1 Timothy 6:14 - *".... until the **appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

2 Timothy 1:10 - *"But is now made manifest by the **appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

2 Timothy 4:8 - *"....at that day.....unto all them also that love his **appearing**."*

Titus 2:13 - *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious **appearing** of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ."*

1 Peter 1:7 - "...might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the *appearing* of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1:13 - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the *revelation* of Jesus Christ."

It is very clear that the Bible speaks of a definite appearing of Jesus Christ in their very near future.

The message of the Book of Revelation is securely trapped at both ends by time statements like the bookends on a shelf. These bookends hold the contents of the Book of Revelation a prisoner of first century historical events. **(Revelation 1:1,3 ,22:6,10)**

The internal evidence proves that the Book of Revelation was written around AD 66 and completely fulfilled by late AD 70. The Book of Revelation was written in Apocalyptic language and was **NEVER** intended to be taken literally.

The Book of Revelation is not about any future prophecy unrelated to what had been spoken by previous prophets, but it is the complete unveiling of what Moses, Daniel, and all the prophets had predicted in regards to the consummation of redemption.

The Book of Revelation is the story of the destruction of Jerusalem, not our planet. It deals with the persecution of the early church and their deliverance into the wilderness during the 3 1/2-year (42 months) destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army. **(Revelation 12:14)** It is written using Biblical imagery already used in the Old Testament.

The expectation of the Book of Revelation is that the events written within are **"at hand"** and **"near"** proving the early date of its writing is certain.

Revelation is the Biblical imagery describing God's judgment of Jerusalem and His removal of the Old Covenant system from earth. It also records His establishment of the New Covenant Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The Judgment recorded in Revelation is based upon the four seven-fold judgments written in **Leviticus 26:14-33** against those who break God's Covenant.

In **Matthew 23:29-38**, Jesus discussed this judgment. He made it clear why it would happen, when it would happen, and to whom it would happen. (**Matthew 24:34**)

Here are the parallels between Leviticus and Revelation:

7 Seals	Leviticus 26:18	Revelation 5-6
7 Trumpets	Leviticus 26:21	Revelation 8-9
7 Thunders	Leviticus 26:24	Revelation 10
7 Vials	Leviticus 26:28	Revelation 16

First century Christians understood that these prophecies were to them and were going to happen in their future, to their generation. ***"Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand."*** (Revelation 1:3)

This verse says to read, hear and keep, **for the time is at hand**.

".....things which must shortly come to pass...." (Revelation 1:1)

The fact that the whole Book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches that existed back in the first century is undeniable evidence that the events of the Book of Revelation were coming very soon upon them.

Let's read some of the urgent phrases used by Jesus directed to the seven churches who existed back in the first century.

...."Repent....or else I will come unto thee quickly...."
(Revelation 2:5, 16)

".....hold fast till I come." (Revelation 2:25) This was written to a church in Thyatira, which is a city that has been extinct for almost 2,000 years.

"....I will come as a thief and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (Revelation 3:3, 11)

"Behold I come as a thief." (Revelation 16:15, 2 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10)

"....things which must shortly be done." (Revelation 22:6)

"Behold, I come quickly...." (Revelation 22:7)

"....the time is at hand." (Revelation 22:10)

"....Behold I come quickly: and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12)

"....Surely I come quickly...." (Revelation 22:20)

Over and over Jesus warned the seven churches that existed back in the first century that He would come quickly and catch them unaware if they did not repent.

To apply these time elements to thousands of years in the future does great damage to the inspiration of the Scriptures.

Jesus said to the Apostles that they would not reach all the cities of Judea before He would return. **(Matthew 10:23)**

In **Matthew 16:27-28**, Jesus said that some of the Apostles would still be alive when He returned. Jesus said that all the things He told the Apostles would come upon their generation. **(Matthew 23:36, 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32)**

Remember, Jesus prayed for the people who would believe on Him through the Apostles' word. **(John 17:20)**

Conclusion to Part 1

We can clearly see from the many scriptural references that we read, that the Apostles all taught that the return or the appearing of Jesus was in their very near future.

Jesus also spoke of the nearness of his return specifying that some of them would still be alive when he returned.

In **Revelation 1:1**, we can read that the purpose of the Book of Revelation was to show unto the servants of God things that were **SHORTLY** to come to pass.

The time was at hand as we read in **verse 3**. Another audience relevance point is made in **Revelation 1:4** – “.....*to the seven churches which are in Asia...*” Again, these seven churches existed in the first century not in the 21st century.

Just as the Book of Revelation begins with imminency, it also ends with the same imminency. Jesus said in **chapter 22:20**, **“Surely I come quickly.”**

From these points alone, we can come to the conclusion that all of the events recorded between the first chapter of the Book of Revelation through the last chapter all have taken place.

In part 2 of our study, we will explore further Biblical and historical evidence that prove undeniably that the Book of Revelation has been fulfilled.

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