

Introducing THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Revelation 1:1-6 – Nov. 15, 2020

1. Many people are interested in the future. They read:

Horoscopes, Tarot cards, palm readers, feed on science fiction, call psychic hot lines, delve into the occult, seek mediums, call up the spirits of the dead etc.

But I think most recently, the moving of the US embassy on May 14, 2018 and then the onset of CoVid19, along with and the signing of the Abrahamic Accord on August 13, 2020 by **United Arab Emirates**, joining Jordan 1994, and Egypt 1979.

Coupled with the US Congress proposing a number of bills discussing the invocation of a digital dollar this year along with the creation of the Digital Dollar Foundation.

I'm quoting from the Forbes article posted on 7/1/20: **US Moves Closer to Digital Dollar** reports:

"On June 30th, the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing on the future of the digital dollar. The pressures to create a digital USD are mounting as China recently began testing its own digital currency - the DCEP, which will be included in popular applications like WeChat and AliPay. Of particular concern is widespread adoption of a digital yuan in emerging markets and in international trade."

2. As much as we would like to know the future, there is only One who knows and declares the future and that is God.

Is. 45:21 Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? **who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD?** and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me.

3. Only in the Bible can truth be found about the future. The Old Testament prophets such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel and Zechariah provide glimpses of the future.

Jesus opened up some more when He gave the Olivet Discourse.

4. But the book of Revelations gives the most detailed look into the future of all the books in the Bible.

Revelation unveils the future history of the world, all the way to history's climax in the return of Jesus Christ and the glorious setting up of His glorious earthly kingdom and eternal kingdom.

IN THE INTRODUCTION JOHN LISTS SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS BOOK. LET'S TAKE THIS HOUR TO EXAMINE THEM.

(1) IT IS A REVELATION

The Revelation v. 1a

The book of Revelation confuses many. As a result, many allegorize it. They often see this book as an indecipherable mystery.

But God is not hiding the truth from us. He is revealing it to His children.

It is the last chapter in God's story of redemption. The Book of Revelation tells us how it all ends.

As the book of Genesis tells us the beginning of all things so the book of Revelation tells us the end of all things.

1. Revelation (*apokalupsis*) appears 18x in the NT.

It means "**to become visible.**"

2. In Luke 2:32 the term "Revelation" is translated as "**light.**"

"**A light to lighten** (*for Revelation to*) the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

A light ***to reveal*** to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

3. In Rom. 8:19 the term "Revelation" is translated, "**manifestation.**"

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the **manifestation** (*the Revelation*) of the sons of God.

Or "The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the sons of God to become visible."

4. In the book of 1Cor. 1:7 the term "Revelation" is translated as "**coming.**"

“So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the **coming** (revelation) of our Lord Jesus Christ

Or,

“So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to become visible.**”

THE BOOK OF REVELATION CONTAINS TRUTHS THAT HAD BEEN CONCEALED, BUT NOW IT HAS BEEN REVEALED, OR MADE VISIBLE.

1. Though it does not directly quote the OT, 278 of its 404 verses refer or allude to the OT.
2. The Apocalypse reveals a great many divine truths.
 - a. It warns the church of the danger of sin and instructs it about the need for holiness.
 - b. Warns us to hold fast and overcome Satan
 - c. Reveals worship and majesty
 - d. Reveals the end of human history
 - e. It speaks about the Antichrist, Armageddon, the Millennial reign, the White throne judgment, eternal bliss, the judgment of Satan and the end of sin.

(2) ITS CENTRAL THEME IS “JESUS CHRIST.”

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ” – v. 1b

1. It is a revelation **FROM** Jesus Christ – Rev. 22:16

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”
2. It is also a revelation **ABOUT** Jesus Christ
 - a. This passage is about the first coming:

Gal. 1:12 “For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.”

b. This passage is about the second coming 2 Th. 1:7

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels.”

c. Rev. 2-3 He is revealed as “Lord of the Church.”

d. Rev. 4-22 – “He is revealed as the true Ruler of this world where we have a detailed look at His second coming.”

e. Rev. 1:5a He is revealed as the faithful witness

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness”

f. Rev. 1:5b He is revealed as the first begotten (born) of the dead

“the first begotten of the dead,”

g. Rev. 1:5c – He is revealed as

“the prince of the kings of the earth”

h. Rev. 1:8a – He is revealed as the “Alpha and Omega”

i. Rev. 1:8b – He is revealed as that “which is, and which was, and which is to come”

j. Rev. 1:8c – “the Almighty”

k. Rev. 1:17 – the first and the last

l. Rev. 1:18 – the living One

m. Rev. 2:1 – he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand

n. Rev. 2:12 – he which hath the sharp sword with two edges

o. Rev. 2:18 – The Son of God

p. Rev. 2:18b - who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass

q. Rev. 3:1 - he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars

r. Rev. 3:7 - he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth

- s. Rev. 3:14 - the Amen, the faithful and true witness
- t. Rev. 5:5 - the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David,
- u. Rev. 5:6 – The lamb of God 12 x
- v. Rev. 6:10 - O Lord, holy and true
- w. Rev. 19:11 - Faithful and True,
- x. Rev. 19:13 - The Word of God
- y. Rev. 19:16 - KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
- z. Rev. 20:6 – The Messiah
- aa. Rev. 22:16 - the bright and morning star.

(1) THE REVELATION

(2) ITS CENTRAL THEME IS “JESUS CHRIST.” V. 1B

(3) ITS DIVINE SOURCE

The book of revelation is the Father’s gift to the Son for His perfect, humble, faithful, holy service the Father promised to exalt the Son. – Phil 2:5-11

Its Divine Source

“which God gave unto him” Rev. 1:1c

(4) ITS HUMAN RECIPIENTS

“to shew unto his servants” – Rev. 1:1d

(5) ITS PROPHETIC CHARACTER

“things which must shortly come to pass” – Rev. 1:1e

(7) ITS SUPERNATURAL DELIVERY

“sent and signified *it* by his angel” – Rev. 1:1f

(8) ITS HUMAN AUTHOR

“unto his servant John. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.”– Rev. 1:1g-2

(9) ITS PROMISED BLESSING – Rev. 1:3

“**Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written therein:”

- a. Blessings – Rev. 1:3 – **Reads, Hears and Keeps**
- b. Rev. 14:13 – Blessed are those that die in the Lord
- c. Rev. 16:15 – Blessed is he who **watches and keeps** his garments
- d. Rev. 19:9 – Blessed are they which are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- e. Rev. 20:6 - Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:
- f. Rev. 22:7 - Blessed is he that **keepeth** the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
- g. Rev. 22:14 – “Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

The Greek word for “keep” is **tereo**. It means to watch over, protect, or guard.”

In Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them **to observe** all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

and John 14:21-24

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth** them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ²² Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, **he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ²⁴ **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have **kept the faith:**

James 1:27

²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and **to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

THE SIGN OF AN AUTHENTIC FAITH IS KEEPING HOLD OF THE TRUTH

1 John 2:3-5

³ And hereby we do know that we know him, **if we keep his commandments.** ⁴ He that saith, I know him, **and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoso **keepeth his word,** in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 3:22 & 24

²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, **because we keep his commandments,** and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. . . .
²⁴ And he that **keepeth his commandments** dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 5:2-3, 18

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and **keep his commandments.** ³ For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.

¹⁸ We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself,** and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Jude 21

²¹ **Keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Revelation 2:26

“And **he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations:”

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ Because **thou hast kept the word of my patience**, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

(10) ITS COMPELLING URGENCY

“for the time *is* at hand.” – Rev. 1:3

- a. Time (kairos) season, era
- b. The next great era is near

(11) ITS BENEDICTION – Rev. 1:4-5a

- a. To the seven churches in Asia (modern Turkey)
- b. Seven Spirits depicts the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Is. 11:2; Zech 4:1-10)
- c. Three titles of Jesus (Faithful, First-begotten and Prince of the kings of Earth)
- d. With Its Exalted Doxology – Rev. 1:5b-6

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Rev. 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.