

REVELATION SERIES (INTRO)

I'm going to read the first 3 verses and have a rather lengthy Introduction.

Revelation 1:1-3

I want to start by going back to Acts 1.

Acts 1:1-6

(Vs 6) Even his own apostles are wondering about future events and when the kingdom of God will be manifest on earth.

(Vs 7 - 11) So this is the foundation of Revelation is to give us hope and a joyful expectation concerning his return.

First we must understand his ascension and that he has gone back into heaven before you can appreciate the events of Revelation telling us about the events preceding his second coming.

Acts reminds us He came, crucified, 3 days later He arose from dead and appeared to people and walked among people in His resurrected state for 40 days.

So when you read Revelation, we are reading about events that have been given to us prophetically, future events, what things will look like just prior too and including the return of Christ.

Now nobody knows when! Anyone that says they do, is a false prophet. However, we should know the seasons, some of the signs and indicators some birth pains, if you will.

Matthew 16:1-3

So we should not and I will not be trying to set a date as to when Jesus is coming. We should at least be acquainted with the signs of the times.

Now before we start into this verse by verse there are some foundations to be laid.

Background - For an understanding of who, where, why

Writer - John the Apostle

When - 95 A D

Where - He is writing from a little island in the Aegean Sea called Potmos.

Revelation 1:9

So it's 1st century A D and he is being persecuted like 1000's of other Christians in that time.

Why? Because of (1) Word of God & (2) Testimony.

So he is in his 90's

God can use us at any and every stage of life. God isn't done with John.

This is a Revelation of Jesus not John.

(Vs 1) "Revelation" = "Aporalupsis"

It means an "unveiling or "revealing"

32 titles given to Jesus in this book. 9 of them in first chapter.

- 1 - Faithful witness (vs 5)
- 2 - First born from dead (vs 5)
- 3 - Ruler over the kings of the earth (vs 5)
- 4 - Alpha and Omega (vs 8) first and last letters of alphabet
- 5 - Who is, who was, who is to come (vs 8)
- 6 - The Almighty (vs 8)
- 7 - Son of Man (vs 13)
- 8 - First and Last (vs 17)
- 9 - The Living One (vs 18)

3 different methods, not to confuse you, but to let you see how people interpret this differently.

1) Allegorical

2) Historical

3) Literal (prophetic) futuristic

Allegorical - Everything is symbolism.

Historical - Method.

A - Preterist View - deals with church history that includes only church history as it pertains to the churches struggle against Imperial Rome in the 1st century.

B - Symbolic - A panoramic interpretation of the churches historical struggle against the world system from the 1st Century through modern times.

C - Literal - the events beginning in chapter 4 are futuristic related to the time directly preceding and including Christ return.

A lot of people look at this and think it's all just symbolic. But I see it as a literal book.

Now if you look at verse 1:19, it's actually an outline given of the entire book of Revelation.

(Vs 19) Jesus speaking

1 - "Have seen" - Chapter 1 - the appearance of Jesus

2 - "Which are" - John was living and in a time which is the "Church age" - Chapters 2 -3

3 - Which will take place after this - Chapters 4 - 22

Church Age = God has gone back into heaven and handed us the baton of ministry to us!

We are now living in the church age!

We don't know when church age will end.

Now when we talk about the second coming of Christ there is lots of confusion. It's actually in 2 phases.

1 - First phase He only comes in clouds in the air.
I Thess 4:13 - 18

Paul says in Corinthians "that we shall not all sleep but will be changed in the moment of twinkling of an eye."

So the Greek word to be "taken up" is the word
"Harpadzo" - Latin = Raptus = where we get rapture.

So first phase is Jesus coming to take His "Bride".

So Jesus Rapture is Chapters 4 - 5

But in (Revelation 6 - 18) let me tell you what's going to be going on earth - Tribulation.

Why would a loving God allow all that to happen? Cause by the time we get there, the people that have refused Christ need a greater wake up call.

Tribulation period follows rapture.

There is 7 years of it!

When that 7 years is over, then there is part 2 of second coming.

Part 2 - His coming to the earth (Rev 19)

Then a 1000 millennial reign (Rev 20)

Rev 21 - 22 - New Heaven and a New Earth and old will pass away.

Couple of Cautions

- (1) Everything doesn't mean something.
- (2) John is going to use limited language to describe distant Events.
- (3) He writes with circular views of events.

Here is the take away

The world is bad, it's gonna get worse, and then worse and then worse than that.

Then Jesus gonna take us home and He is Lord of All and we need to be watching and waiting and ready.