

A 21st Century Guide
Through the Book of Revelation

REVELATION

and the Age of
the Antichrist

STEVE MAGILL

Contents

Introduction	7
1. Blessed!	11
Revelation 1	
2. The Great Apostasy	17
Revelation 2-3	
3. Wrath of the Antichrist	27
Revelation 4-6	
4. Wrath of Christ	35
Revelation 7-11	
5. Historical Reference	47
Revelation 12	
6. The Beast and False Prophets	53
Revelation 13	
7. Wrath of God	77
Revelation 14-16	
8. Judgment of Babylon	83
Revelation 17-18	

9. The Great Battle	91
Revelation 19-20	
10. A New Heaven and New Earth	97
Revelation 21:1–22:6	
11. Six Encouragements	103
Revelation 22:7-21	
12. In Summary	107
13. Preparing for the Days Ahead	113
Appendix A	123
The Great Take-Over of Christianity	
Appendix B	129
The Antichrist	
Appendix C	135
Transitions to the 3 Wraths	
Appendix D	141
Where Does Antichrist Come From?	
Appendix E	145
Two Witnesses	
Appendix F	151
Timeline of Nations	
Appendix G	161
Where Are the Fallen Angels Today?	
Appendix H	167
Babylon Is the Earth	
Appendix I	171
Chart of the Book of Revelation	
Resources	173
End Notes	175

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

THE BOOK OF REVELATION outlines the age of the Antichrist and the last seven years of earth's history. Its message is to inform the church of the horrors to come and to encourage the church to focus on the inheritance that will be theirs and not on the horrors it will experience. Its message also is a warning to everyone else to prepare by repenting of their sins and having faith in Jesus Christ.

Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist is a brief commentary on the Book of Revelation. It focuses on the ordering of the revelation given to the Apostle John, following the revelation's natural sequence of events. This sequence is seen first when the Apostle

Introduction

John is told to "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" (Rev. 1:19). What John saw was the vision of the glorified Christ in Revelation 1. The things which are presently taking place were recorded in Revelation 2 and 3. The things that shall occur in the future are recorded in Revelation 4-22, which outlines the coming of the Antichrist, the last seven years of earth's history, and the coming of God's eternal kingdom. From our perspective the same ordering still applies, except for the things which John saw in Revelation 1. The apostasy (things which are) of Revelation 2 and 3 continue to increase and the things future are still future since they begin when the Antichrist appears, as will be outlined throughout this book.

The ordering of events also is seen with the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vial judgments. The seven seals are opened first before any of the other judgments take place. Out of the seventh seal, the seven trumpets of Christ's judgment are released, and out of the seventh trumpet, the seven vials of God's judgment are released. When this natural ordering of Revelation is followed, the events of the Revelation fall into their proper ordering: apostasy, the Antichrist, Great Tribulation, release of Christ's judgments, return of Christ, rapture, and the release of God's judgments.

REVELATION

This book is not intended to be an exhaustive commentary. It is meant to be a guide focusing on the ordering of events and the main emphasis of each chapter in the Book of Revelation.

As you journey through this book, find a nice quiet place where you can meditate prayerfully on John's Revelation, beginning a journey that will both astound and shock. Begin first by studying the chart of Revelation in Appendix I. This will give you a bird's-eye view of the order of the Book of Revelation, which is key to understanding how the recorded events fall into place.

May God bless you in your journey.

Steve Magill

Mark 1:15

CHAPTER 1

Blessed!

Revelation 1

“Blessed is he that reads, 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

ONE OF THE UNSETTLING facts we face when reading the Book of Revelation is that it is not a pleasant book and may be considered the horror story of all horror stories. Though at first we may enjoy studying it, at some point, most of us will be like the Apostle John, who found what he was shown to be pleasant at first, but then extremely disturbing when he understood the reality of what was going to take place (Rev. 10:9). This is why it is important to

Blessed!

know from where the Revelation originates. If it is just a tale told by a first-century man, then I can ignore it—but if it is truly a revelation sent by God, then I need to pay close, very close attention to it.

So where did this Revelation come from?

It originated with God, and not just *any* God, but from the One who has already come to the earth and will return to the earth again (Rev. 1:1, 7). The revelation was then given to Jesus (1:2, 5). This is the same Jesus with whom John walked and talked when Jesus was upon the earth and who now was in His glorified body. Jesus then gave this revelation to His angel to reveal to His church what is going to happen in the future (1:1).

What makes Jesus worthy to receive and fulfill this revelation? Because He is the first begotten of those who will die and receive God's eternal inheritance. He also is the king above all kings of the earth. He is the only One who can make us clean to inherit God's inheritance and make us kings and priests in God's kingdom because He is the One who died on the cross to defeat sin and death (1:5).

When the revelation was given to John, it did not come to him as a writer inspired, striving for clever ways of interpreting his own thoughts. In this case, he merely recorded the events as he saw and heard them. Too many times, we hear John was a first-century man trying to explain twenty-first century

REVELATION

technology. However, he was a first-century man who merely recorded the images as he saw them. In our twenty-first century, we now understand how literal John's record truly is. John was told to write what he saw, not to interpret what he saw into images he could understand.

Though John may have been perplexed by much of what he saw, we who live in John's future are not mystified, as we find the revelation relevant to our present age with little that is not understood. Regardless of all its horrors, above everything else, the Book of Revelation is a book of hope. It is meant to encourage and to let us see the light at the end of the tunnel. In this case, it allows us to see the eternal reward at the end of all the hard times that are coming.

We also find that John was not the one to determine which churches would first receive the revelation. It was God who told John to distribute it to the churches that were in Asia Minor. It would be the character of these churches that would characterize all churches in all future generations. We know they represent all generations of Christians because they represent the *"things which are"* (1:19), referring to the condition of the church from the time of John to the appearing of the Antichrist. Through understanding the Book of Revelation, the church is

Blessed!

given strength and hope during the time when the very foundation of the earth will be shaken.

Perhaps the most interesting contrast to our view on the Book of Revelation today is 1:3. I hear many talk of how confusing Revelation is or how they don't like reading such a depressing book, yet the angel told John, "Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy" (1:3a). *The New Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon*¹ defines blessed as "fortunate, happy." Now let that sink in for a moment. The Revelation is given to bring happiness to us. How does it do that? It fills us with hope and comfort when it is read and embraced.

Comfort and hope do not come through warm fuzzy pats on the head with words of assurance that "it's all going to be okay." On the contrary, comfort and hope comes from knowing what is going to happen, what the outcome will be, and who is in control of the situation—and that is what the Book of Revelation gives to us concerning the final seven years of earth's history.

The Revelation was given to Jesus by God to let Him know what is going to happen, when it would happen, and when He would return to the earth. When Jesus was upon the earth, He told His disciples that no one knew when the end would take place or when He would return—and that not even He knew until His Father reveals it to Him (Mark 13:32).

REVELATION

Through this revelation, Jesus is given this knowledge. He has told us so we might also know and be prepared for what is to come. Having received the revelation, Jesus also received the authority to follow its game plan and to bring it to fulfillment.

The revelation outlines specific events that can be observed to know where we are throughout the earth's last seven years. Though we may not know the specific day that Christ will appear, it looks as if we will know when that day comes. It will be the day that three angels are seen flying in the sky, preaching final messages to those on the earth (Rev. 14:6, 8, 9). When this day comes, though we may know this day has arrived, we are without understanding as to which hour of this day Christ will appear and we are raptured out (14:14-16).

We can have confidence in this revelation given by Jesus because He is God's "faithful witness," the "first begotten of the dead," and "the prince of the kings of the earth." He is the One who loved us and demonstrated His love by dying upon the cross to remove the penalty of our sins, enabling us to become "kings and priests" in God's eternal kingdom and to share as "joint-heirs" the inheritance that Jesus Christ received (Rev. 1:5-6).

The Revelation was given to John while he was on the prison island of Patmos for believing and speaking God's Word and for testifying about Jesus

Blessed!

Christ. Here, on this particular day, he heard a powerful voice that sounded like a trumpet. When he turned to see who was speaking, he saw an astonishing vision of Jesus in His glorified body. So overpowering was this sight that John fell at His feet as if he were dead, which probably indicates that he had fainted. Then, Jesus laid His right hand upon John, saying, "Fear not; I am the first and the last" (Rev. 1:17), then proceeded to tell John, "Write the things which you have seen (Rev. 1), and the things which are, (Rev. 2 and 3), and the things which shall be hereafter (Rev. 4-22)" (1:19).

John is an eyewitness to the resurrected, glorified Christ. Though he had seen Him after the resurrection several times before, never had he seen Him in the glory he now sees. So different and frightening was this encounter that John records, "I fell at his feet as dead." John had seen Him before He was crucified, after He was resurrected, and now here in all His splendor. John is certainly qualified to verify that Jesus is alive—He gave the revelation—God has given Him authority and He can be trusted.