

A Journey Into the Heavens
The Prologue
September 9, 2015

Every book of the Bible is important, but the book of Revelation is of unique significance because it is about... the things which must shortly come to pass... (1:1). It deals with the _____ of the age, and therefore it is the only New Testament book that is primarily prophetic.

The first five words of the first verse are really the title of the book! The word Revelation is a translation of the Greek word (APOKALUPSIS) from which we get our English word _____ which means “an uncovering” or “an unveiling.” The idea of the word is that something not apparent or made known before is now disclosed. Many believers do not study the book of Revelation because they consider it a dark, mysterious book that cannot be understood. However, the very title of this book indicates it is not intended to be a _____ book that cannot be understood, but rather an illuminating and revealing book!

I. The _____

The subject of this book is _____, not future events. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not the “revelation of the future.” We must not divorce the _____ from the _____, for without the PERSON the PROPHECY could not be fulfilled! Jesus Christ is not just an incidental character or a spectator in this book; He is the Chief Subject (5:11-14; 14:14-15; 19:11-16; 21:22-26).

The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to communicate... “unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass (1:1). The word shortly means that when the action begins, it will take place in rapid succession. The message of this book was communicated ... “by his angel unto his servant John (1:1d). _____ play a large role in this book as is seen in the judgements of trumpets and bowls, the angel and the little book in chapter 10, the messages of the angels in chapter 14, as well as many other instances!

The angel referred to in Revelation 1:1 was probably _____, since God usually sent Gabriel to earth with special messages. In Daniel 8:15-19 we see Gabriel assisting Daniel in the interpretation of a dream; in Luke 1:11-19 it was Gabriel who brought Zacharias news of the birth of John the Baptist etc. Based on these Scriptures and others it would seem it was Gabriel who brought the message to John, but no definite identity of the angel is given in the book of Revelation. Based on these Scriptures and others it would seem it was Gabriel who brought the message to John, but no definite identity of the angel is given in the book of Revelation.

Therefore, this is a book filled with signs and symbols, many of which are _____ in the book itself. When the symbols are not explained, other parts of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, must be studied for insight and clarification. Verse 2 of Chapter 1 reveals this book is simply the written record of what John saw and heard, which was a communication from and about the subject of this book - Jesus Christ!

II. The _____ Blessing

Revelation is the only book in the Bible that promises a special blessing to those who _____ it. Revelation 1:3 is the first of seven “beatitudes” in this book. This special blessing is promised, first of all to those who read this book. Many Christians have bypassed Revelation because it is full of signs and symbols they do not understand, and what they do not understand frightens them. However the promise is that we will be blessed even if we just _____ the book! Also the special blessing is promised to those... “that hear the words of this prophecy...” This would refer to those who listen as it is read and taught. However this special blessing is predicated upon keeping...”those things which are written therein...” In other words, the spiritual truths revealed in this book must be _____ into our own experiences if we are to receive the promised special blessing!

The phrase...”for the time is at hand (1:3d) translates a Greek word which means “due proportion” or “a fixed or definite period, a _____.” So this phrase does not imply the Second Advent was about to occur, but in God’s view the final segment of time was in sight. The second coming of Christ is not pictured in this book as something immediate, but something imminent, meaning that it can happen at anytime. Thus this book deals with a special period, the time of the consummation of the age, which may begin at any time.

III. The _____

The book of Revelation is written in the form of a _____, with the salutation beginning in 1:4. The recipients of the letter were the seven churches which are in Asia, which are individually named in verse 11. In addition to his personal salutation, John says to the readers of this letter, “Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come (1:4). This of course is speaking of God the Father, so this greeting is from God the Father!

Though this book deals primarily with the coming judgements of wicked people getting what they deserve, it begins with a wish for _____ for its readers! The result of experiencing God’s grace is peace. Though this is a book of bloodshed, conflict, war, earthquakes, famine, death, and terror, those who know Jesus as Savior can read it and experience the peace of God!

The phrase, “the seven spirits which are before His throne” in Revelation 1:4 refers to the _____. John is apparently describing the Holy Spirit in all His plentitude and power. The Seven Spirits remind us of the seven titles given to the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2.

All three persons of the Trinity are involved in the Salutation as mentioned in Revelation 1:5. Christ was not the first person raised from the dead, for the Bible records several resurrections, the first being in I Kings 17:17-22. Christ Himself raised at least three people fro the dead during His earthly ministry, however all of these mentioned later died again!

Christ's resurrection was different from all others mentioned in the Bible because He is still _____! The phrase "first begotten" is translated from the Greek and implies priority and sovereignty. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead and live forever!

There is much controversy today about exactly how Christ will _____. Some believe His return is being accomplished as He lives through the lives of believers. However the Scriptures say differently. (Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7). Jesus Christ has not gone to Heaven to stay! More than 300 times in the New Testament we are told Jesus is coming again! The Bible teaches that some will see Him while He is yet unseen to others, and He will be seen by some in one time and place and by others at other times and places. However, Somewhere, at Sometime, in Some Way every eye shall see Him (1:7). Not only the living but the dead, and even those that crucified Him! (Matthew 26:64)

In Revelation 1:8 Jesus describes Himself as the Alpha and the Omega. These are the _____ and _____ letters of the Greek Alphabet, so we see Jesus is the origin and the end of all things! Be encouraged today that we serve a God who is in control and not only in control, but literally is the beginning and the end of all things!!