

Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

[Introduction]

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to Christians who were living in Rome, the centre of rulership in the most powerful empire of his day.

In this letter Paul gives a vivid portrait of human character and rulership that was very true in his day and just as true throughout all of human history, including today.

Romans 3:10-18 [NIV] *“As it is written: “There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no-one who understands, no-one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no-one who does good, not even one.” “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practise deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

The central point that Paul brings out is *“the way of peace they do not know”* very true in the world today.

Paul then gives the reason for this *“there is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

No human leader has been able to bring world peace, they all lack the wisdom, power and authority to accomplish it.

Only a supernatural, all-powerful Sovereign Being can bring world peace.

The good news is that such a Being will enter into human history and bring about world peace and many other blessings that most of humanity do **not** experience.

This supernatural Being has already entered human history, not as a ruler or judge but as One who has shown how humanity can be saved from their own violent, unrighteous character.

This same supernatural Being has already revealed how he is going to bring about world peace and harmony.

We find the revelation in the final book of the Christian Bible.

The revelation of Jesus Christ to the apostle John.

Revelation 1:1 [NIV] *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,”*

Although Revelation presents a complex message it was written for ordinary people like you and I.

Revelation raises questions that none of us can answer.

There are many details in God’s Plan for the end of the present corrupt and violent world that we do not know.

In this series of articles on Revelation there are certain things I will not do and will do.

1. I will **not** attempt to interpret or explain all of the symbols and figures of speech as they appear.
2. I will **not** force every passage to fit some prophetic pattern or idea.
3. I **will** freely admit that there are symbols, personalities and figures that I cannot understand or explain.
4. I **will** identify the main points to discover the underlying spiritual lessons.
5. I **will** emphasise the great central truth that dominates the Revelation.

This central truth is that when the Great Creator God in heaven gets enough of this world's sin, rejection, violence and rebellion, He will intervene, waiting no longer to do something about it.

We may ask the question, *'Why has the Creator God waited so long to intervene in human history to put an end to all this misery?'*

To understand what is revealed in the final book of the Christian Bible we have to study what is revealed in the first few chapters of the same God-inspired collection of books known as The Bible.

Genesis 1:1 [NIV] *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

Before this act of God, nothing physical existed.

Why did God create this vast and intricate world and universe?

Genesis 1:26-27 [NIV] *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

God created this world and universe for humans to learn to rule, just as God is a Sovereign Ruler over all things.

Note this initial physical creation was **not** complete, only the *"image"* [Hebrew meaning shadow of the real] was created, **not** the *"likeness"* [Hebrew means character].

Character **cannot** be created instantly, it has to have time, choice and an example to follow.

Throughout the history of humanity God has given each generation time and the ability to choose one of two examples.

These two examples are:-

1. **2 Corinthians 4:4** [NIV] *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Who is this *"God of this world."*?

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *"The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."*

Satan who was there at the very time of the beginning of all humanity and still rules and deceives this world as to why humans exist.

Genesis 3:1-5 [NIV] *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God*

did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'“ *“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Eve and Adam chose to believe Satan and to follow his example, not that of their Creator God.

Genesis 3:6 [NIV] *“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

Humanity as a whole has continued to follow the example of Satan, who only desires to destroy humans, physically and spiritually.

2. **John 14:8-11** [NIV] *“Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’” **Jesus answered:** “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”*

Jesus Christ is the other example we can choose to follow and believe.

God the Father wants us to choose and take on Christ’s righteous character not that of Satan.

1 Peter 5:6-8 [NIV] *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

Here is contrasted our loving Creator God and our enemy Satan who only wishes to destroy us.

Who should we follow?

Human history shows that the vast majority have followed Satan as their example of character building, and the outcome has been the evil world we have to live in.

Only by God allowing this to happen in each generation, can all humans learn, by bitter experience, what following Satan can lead to.

Every human has to learn this, then choose to follow the Creator God’s personal example Jesus Christ who is both God and human.

Colossians 1:3, 12-16 [NIV] *“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,” ... “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”*

Only by following and reflecting the character of Jesus Christ, can we be rescued from Satan’s deceptive influence, “dominion of darkness” to become part of the “kingdom” that is created family of God with His “likeness”, that is His character.

The main theme of Revelation reveals to us just how God is going to bring about this transformation of every generation of human beings.

Revelation 1:1-3 [NIV] *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to*

everything he saw, that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

Revelation is for every generation of human beings.

First – all who have existed since Jesus Christ gave this revelation to the apostle John.

Lastly – all who have lived and died before that time in human history, through a physical resurrection which we find as part of this revelation given to the apostle John.

Many people who read the Christian Bible stop short of Revelation, the final chapter.

This is difficult to imagine why.

Would you do this to any other biography, or story book?

This final book in the Christian Bible announces itself as:-

1. The revelation of our **only** Saviour Jesus Christ.
2. It forecasts the consummation of all that has gone before.
3. It introduces a new world.

How can anyone form a balanced understanding of the Creator God, sin, unbelief and divine judgement if they ignore this most important final book of the Christian Bible?

2 Timothy 3:15-17 [NIV] *“and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

All scripture includes the book of Revelation.

In these crisis days of world governments, no Christian can afford to ignore the climactic revelation that is given in this final book of the Christian Bible.