

The Revealing Of The Church's Future

Part 1

The goal of this series of studies is found in one simple scripture.

Revelation 19:7 [Amplified Bible] *“Let us rejoice and shout for joy, exultant and triumphant! Let us celebrate and ascribe to Him glory and honour, for the marriage of the Lamb at last has come and His bride has prepared herself.”*

The book of Revelation is a great book for one reason, it is a revelation of Jesus Christ as He is now.

The Church has revealed to it the victorious Being who is to be her future husband and the events that will surround this future glorious union are revealed in advance.

We can sense in this revelation the joy of the Father experiencing the consummation of His plan for humanity, the eternal union of love between His Only Son and a church who has been prepared to be His perfected bride.

Although the book of Revelation presents a complex message, it is written for ordinary people like you and I.

Within this revelation it is possible to find a great source of light and blessing.

Revelation raises questions that none of us can answer.

There are many details in God's plan for the end of this age that we do not know, and I leave these for God to reveal clearly in His own time.

I **am not** going to attempt to interpret or explain all of the symbols or figures of speech as they appear.

I **will not** try to force every passage to fit some prophetic pattern or idea.

I **will** freely admit there are symbols, personalities and figures that I cannot understand or explain.

I **will** identify the main points to discover the underlying spiritual lessons.

I **will** constantly emphasise the great central truth that dominates the revelation.

When God in heaven experienced enough of this world's sin, rejection, violence and rebellion, He will wait no longer. He will do something about it!

The theme throughout revelation is that Jesus the Son of Man is victor will be the theme of these studies.

The bridegroom the Church is to marry is One who is victorious over death and all evil.

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 22:18-21 [NIV] *“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.”*

The last chapter of God’s Word, the Holy Bible, ties together the threads of the whole narrative, it summarises the arguments, it climaxes the actions throughout the rest of the book.

You must agree that to close any book without reading the final chapter would be to read without purpose and satisfaction.

Revelation is both the last book of the Holy Christian Bible, and contains the final words of revelation to humanity from their Creator God.

How can we have a balanced understanding of God, sin, unbelief and divine judgement if we ignore these final words of our Creator God?

In these crisis days of world mis-government, no Christian can afford to ignore the truth revealed in this final book of the Christian Bible.

We have to take one of two stances.

- 1 We embrace the revelation found within this book and rejoice in the promised victory of the Righteous Ruler, the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ.
- 2 We ignore the revelation, as many do, and take the humanistic view of life. The defiant attitude. *“We will not have this Man to rule over us.”*

The tragedy of society today is that they have lost any sense of the sovereignty of God.

What is revealed in Revelation is that no human, no world government or any other power will have any control or any say in the day of judgement that is to come on humanity.

Revelation 11:15 [NIV] *“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”*

The vision given to John of things to come tells clearly and openly that at the appropriate time, the direction and administration of this world will be taken away from humans and placed in the hands of the only One who has the wisdom and power to rightly govern.

That Being is the eternal Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is also the Son of Man.

In society today we find a growing tendency to make man large and to make God small.

Human society is now taking it for granted that if God does exist, He has become our servant, meekly waiting upon us for our will.

Matthew 20:28 [NIV] *“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Christ did come as a humble servant the first time, to do something that humanity could **not** do for itself. To be a substitute sacrifice for our sin to enable us to receive eternal life.

Revelation 19:16 [NIV] *“On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”*

The second coming of the Son of Man will be to rule as King of Kings in the total sovereignty of the Creator God.

Committed Christians are the true realists in this world.

We confess that we do not hold the powers of life and death in our hands.

While others may wonder and speculate concerning God's place in the universe, we are assured that He has never and will never yield His divine right to be Sovereign over humanity and all of nature.

It is for this reason a Christian believer, through their faith in God, is assured of final victory over the evil they see in this world.

The unbeliever, deep within them, have doubts and fears that multiply daily, and no peace of mind.

God does have a plan, an eternal plan, for all humanity, but He will never allow any human to utter the first or last word.

There is vastly more in Revelation that you or I will ever know until it is revealed in God's own chosen time.

But God urges us to be ready for the announced coming events and this should be sufficient to keep us expectant, interested and praying.

Revelation has to do with relationships.

- a) Christ's relationship with the Father.
- b) Christ's relationship to the human race.
- c) Christ's relationship to the Church.
- d) Christ's relationship with our enemy, the devil.
- e) Christ's relationship with our coming judgement.

Part of the peace of mind a Christian is blessed with is the fact we are in the hands of a loving God who has already existed throughout all of the future.

God does not exist in time, it is something He created.

God sees the end of time just as easily as He does the beginning of time.

This is how John was able to be caught up by the Holy Spirit and shown the outline of future events.

These events were future to John and to us but **not** to the Holy Spirit, for there is no past or future to God, He is **not** within the stream of time.

Without such revelation, this life wrapped up totally in time, is on the whole one of uncertainty and lacks any peace of mind.

2 Peter 1:19-21 [NIV] *“And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

As Christian believers we are assured that no matter how dark it becomes around us, God will faithfully provide the illumination of His Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament offers in its account of the release of Israel from Egyptian bondage a fitting illustration.

At the time of the final release the darkness of night covered Egypt except where the Israelites were.

We also can live within the light of God's revelation in this final chapter of His Word, the Holy Christian Bible.

A final note of encouragement as we end this first study.

God can do something special in our life now in conjunction with our study of this final chapter of God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Revelation 1:3 [NIV] *“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.”*

A special blessing if we read, accept and live in the light of what is revealed to us.

Let us all devour and make a part of ourselves these final words of our Creator God and receive this additional blessing.