

## **Rev01 – Approaching Revelation 2 Peter 1:19**

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Open your Bibles. Yes, finally, we are starting the Book of Revelation. Title of the message “Approaching Revelation.” It’s so big. It’s like hunting a wild animal, a big game animal. I talked to my cousin who said he sat in a little blind, like a little tent, with a bow trying to do some bow hunting in Africa. He sat there for eight hours a day for a week, approaching the prey. That’s how I feel about Revelation. We’ve got to approach it very, very carefully. The key verse for us today is 2 Peter 1:19.

I have taught Revelation twice in my twenty-five years of teaching career, and both times it has been in small groups. I have never taught Revelation on a Sunday morning, though I have on a Wednesday night. I will tell you why. It’s because Revelation draws people. And if you know anything about me you know that I am against using anything that might artificially draw people to church, which sounds weird. But I have never wanted to feel like “I’m just going to teach Revelation so people will come to church.”

I want you to come to church because you want to know Jesus, because you want to get saved, because you want to walk with the Lord for eternity. There is no “ear tickling” allowed here. It’s a standard thing.

But I’m over it. It’s time. It’s time to teach Revelation and it’s time to teach it for the right purpose. So, let’s approach Revelation.

*Let’s pray. Heavenly Father we thank you so much for this book. We thank you so much Lord for the incredible wealth of prophecy in your Word. We thank you Father that you have a purpose and a place for prophecy, such a huge purpose and a huge place for our good. We pray today that you would give us the reason to study Revelation, that we would not be fooled by our own desires, by our own interests. But that we would look to your desire and your interest in this book. We pray that you would show us how you would have us approach Revelation. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

So the subject matter of Revelation draws our interest. I know it does because as I’ve been throwing out that we are going to do Revelation, you have responded that way. It’s true. It’s not just in Christians, but end of the world type things draw our attention. We want to know something about the future. *We want to know something about the future.* And what we want to know most of all is are we going to be “okay” there. Right? Are we going to be okay in the future?

Now listen, this is true. Four days ago, May 09, 2012 on the Channel 4, 11:00 p.m. news there was a guy who was building underground bunkers that you can purchase the right to live in that he says are built to survive an “end of the world” event. Did anybody see this? It was Channel 4 and it was a pretty big piece, you can find it on their website. So, in this

interview this guy calls his underground bunkers – listen carefully – he calls them “The Next Genesis.” As in Genesis from the Bible. Here is his quote.

***“My gut told me that something's coming that's going to be an extinction-level event on this earth and I believe it stronger today than ever”***

He is sitting in his mansion on a hilltop in Del Mar saying this. And so that led me to kind of read between the lines and think maybe what he really believes is that he can sell the six thousand guaranteed spots he has in these underground bunkers. How much is he selling them for? Fifty-thousand dollars apiece for an adult and only thirty-five thousand apiece for your kids. Six thousand, if you kind of use some average numbers there, that means he stands to make three hundred million dollars. Three hundred million dollars. He's got one bunker built in Indiana and he has already sold over three thousand spots. *He has already sold over three thousand spots*, at fifty thousand a head for adults with only one bunker built.

Here's why. Because people sense something is coming in the world and it doesn't look that good. So you don't have to really even know your Bible to know that something is happening on this earth and it looks pretty rough.

So here's what I need to tell you right up front. If you belong to Jesus Christ today, if Jesus is your Lord, if you've put your full faith and trust in Jesus Christ then I have an absolute guarantee for you today – YOU WIN! You win! *You win!* The victory is already done. The true enemy has already been defeated. Your victory is assured and it is guaranteed. And your inheritance is reserved already in heaven for you while you are being kept by the Spirit of God here. And that inheritance is undefiled and does not fade away. You've already won. *You've already won.*

And let me tell you something. It doesn't cost you fifty thousand dollars and it is way more secure than some concrete box in Indiana where some three thousand people think they are going to live. And he showed the inside of it – it looks like it's good for about twenty people. So, I'm thinking there might be some trouble when three thousand people show up there, at fifty thousand a head. So maybe what he is thinking is the strongest twenty will end up in his box. I don't know. But don't do that. Do go pay somebody that kind of money.

Instead, just make Jesus your Lord and you're good to go. You can have a guaranteed, end of the world victory by making sure that you know Jesus Christ personally.

Here's the problem. If we approach Revelation, that's the thing today, with a desire to know the future we will walk on very, very shaky ground. Before we go to our key scripture in 2 Peter, turn to 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2. Let's see something very interesting. What if I told you that believers being concerned about when Jesus was coming back is dated all the way back to before the Bible was written? That's incredible!

*It's incredible.* In 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2, Paul is reassuring the believers that the rumors that they had heard that Jesus had already come weren't true. This is 50 A.D. This is twenty years after Christ was resurrected, and there are already rumors that Jesus had returned.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (esv)**

*I Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,*

*2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.*

Isn't that interesting? That the believers twenty years after Jesus Christ were already saying, "Has he come yet? Has he come yet? Is he coming today?" And Paul is already having to write to tell them, "Relax. Jesus hasn't come back, no matter what you've heard."

That was 50 A.D. Jump ahead a hundred years, the middle of the second century around 150 A.D. A guy named Montanus predicted that the New Jerusalem would show up any day in Phrygia, which is the area where the seven churches of Revelation were all located. So the first church leader to predict the return of the Lord and the New Jerusalem was Montanus around 150 A.D. where he said the New Jerusalem was coming into the area of Phrygia where the seven churches of Revelation are.

I want to thank Rose Publishing for this list. It was really tough for me to find a list because I could have done a hundred of these. I had to really shorten it down.

Two hundred years later, about 350 A.D. in the fourth century, a church leader named Martin of Tours declared "The Antichrist has already been born and will soon rise to power." That was in the fourth century. If that is true, then that guy is really old now.

In 1000 A.D., the middle ages, a very popular monk started categorizing signs of the end times focusing on the very certain signs of Christ's return that occurred in the year of his 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. So 1033 A.D. the church in the middle ages knew these were the signs that Jesus was about to come back at any time.

In the mid 1500's a Dutch baker had a vision that notified him that the New Jerusalem was absolutely coming to Muenster, Germany. So he put together some followers, they formed an army and they went and they took over that entire town. And they set one of themselves up as the heir to throne of King David, in Muenster Germany. It worked great until a bigger army came and took them out.

300 years later a man named Joseph Smith, in this country, claimed that for sure the New Jerusalem would be established without a doubt in Jackson County, Missouri.

Guaranteed. Later he wrote that Jesus Christ absolutely would be returning to earth somewhere around Kansas City. That came direct from God.

Do you see why it's dangerous, right, to start saying what does the Bible say about today? Is it today? Is it today? Is it today? They've been saying it since 50 A.D. In 1987 (some of you were alive in 1987) a popular book in the Bible book stores and sold a lot of books was titled "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will B In 1988." You can still get a copy of that book today.

That same year, in 1987, a young cult leader changed his name to David Koresh. He started gathering followers that he called "The Followers of the Seven Seals" and he told them, direct from God, that the end time's prophecies were going to be fulfilled on his own compound in Waco, Texas.

I am trying to convey to you how dangerous it is to say this is what the Bible says, and this is what it means. Right? Last year, a Christian radio ministry, a long time Christian radio ministry that owned Christian radio stations that covered two hundred million people in this country, the leader of that ministry stood up and he spent millions of dollars on billboards and media advertising campaigns that said Jesus was absolutely going to return on May 21, 2011 without a doubt. The problem is he had already made that prediction two other times. You didn't know about that. But he already said Jesus was coming back in 1988 and again in 1994. He then said it was really going to be October 21, 2011. After October 21, 2011 that leader wisely resigned. In March of this year he apologized and said, "You know what, I've decided it's not such a good idea to make predictions about when Jesus is coming back." Ninety years old, and he was just figuring that out. That's one of us. That's a guy who has been teaching the Bible all his life.

And we haven't even mentioned those crazy Mayans, how about those guys? Their calendar is so popular it has inspired a huge blockbuster movie. Listen, do you know – this is the truth – two days ago USA Today reported that a new Mayan calendar has been discovered that goes all the way to the year 7000.

Does all that mean we should not study Revelation? No. We absolutely should study the Book of Revelation. We absolutely should study Bible prophecy. We absolutely should. Do you know that the Bible says more about the end times and the second coming than any other period of time in history? Period. There is more written in the Bible about the end times than any other period of time in history including more than the time of the Gospels when Jesus was on earth. More. There is more written in the Bible about the end times than when Jesus Christ was physically walking on the earth, combining all the Gospels together.

There are nine hundred plus prophecies in the Bible regarding the end times. Well, nine hundred, how does that relate? Well there were only three hundred prophecies about

Christ's first coming. Three hundred prophecies about Christ's first coming, they were all fulfilled. There are nine hundred prophecies about Christ's second coming. Three times more prophecies about his next coming than about his first.

Tim LaHaye in his book "The Rapture" says since there are three times as many prophecies about his second coming, and if all of the prophecies about his first coming were confirmed, then it is three times more sure that Jesus is coming back the second time than it was that he was coming the first time.

Nine hundred prophecies about the second coming of Jesus Christ. We should absolutely study prophecy. We just need to study them for the right reason.

Turn to 2 Peter Chapter 1. I want you to mark the verses we cover. This is really, really big stuff. I am teaching you Revelation right now, I promise you. At the end of this chapter Peter is giving the believers confidence that he himself had seen the glory of Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. He is saying, "Listen, I know it is true because I saw his glory myself."

And then he says in 2Peter 1:19

**2Peter 1:19 (esv)**

***19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns (the Lord's return) and the morning star (Christ) rises in your hearts,***

Scholars are a little bit in debate about what Peter is inferring there, so I am just going to read it and leave it.

But where does 2 Peter 1:19 say that Jesus Christ should rise as a study of the prophetic word? In your hearts. Peter says, "Listen we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed" and he is comparing it to seeing the glory of Christ. He says you have the prophetic word to which you will do well to pay attention – pay attention to God's prophecies. Why? Because it is a lamp shining in a dark place. And pay attention to the prophetic word until the day of the Lord, until the day dawns and until the morning star rises in your heart. That is the reason to pay attention to prophecy. It's not so you can make predictions or guesses or craziness. It's so that Jesus Christ will rise more and more and more in your hearts.

That's why we are going to study Revelation. It's not to tickle our ears. It's not to be current. It is so Jesus Christ will become larger, and larger and larger in your heart. The purpose to study prophecy is like the quote from one of the characters in the Chronicles of Narnia where it is said, "The more I know him the bigger he gets." That's the purpose to study prophecy. It's so that Jesus will get bigger, and bigger in your heart.

We can't skip over Chapter 3. 2 Peter Chapter 3 is a massive chapter about the coming of the Lord and how it should affect you. And I can't go through all the details, but I can give you two points.

#1) If you would ask why hasn't Jesus come back yet? I mean the world certainly is bad enough. The answer is 2 Peter 3:9.

**2 Peter 3:9 (esv)**

***9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.***

Peter is promising the Lord is not slack. He is not slow to fulfill his promise as you would consider slowness, but he is patient toward you, personally. ***Not wishing that ANY should Perish - but that YOU would come to Repentance - before He Returns.*** So if you were to say why hasn't Jesus come back yet? The Lord might say "Because I am waiting for you to surrender your life to me."

What if you were the last person in God's timeline to receive Christ before he could return? That would be a cool kind of badge. "Yeah I was the last person to receive Christ before the rapture." Here's a good idea – try it and see if you're that person. Go ahead, receive Christ. Listen, if you know someone who hasn't received Christ, then thank God he hasn't wrapped things up yet. That's the only reason. That is the only reason he is waiting, I promise. Same reason God gave Abraham so much grace regarding Sodom and Gomorrah, because God wanted everyone saved that could be saved. It's the same for you. Don't wait.

#2) If you are saved, and if verse 9 is about those who aren't saved and why Jesus hasn't come back, if you would say I am saved so how does the end times affect me? Your answer is in the next two verses. Here is how studying the end times should affect you, should impact you.

**2 Peter 3:10–12(a) (esv)**

***10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.***

(YEAH, that's what we want to learn about . . . **BUT**, vs11-12 says . . .)

***11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,***

***12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God . . .***

Do you get it? Why should we be studying prophecy? Well, number one, if we're not saved it's to get us saved so we will know Jesus Christ. Number two, it's to have an

impact on our lives. It's not by mere knowledge. It's not for mere knowledge. You know knowledge in and of itself just puffs up. It just makes you prideful. Even knowing who Jesus is alone doesn't get you anywhere. If you look in the Gospels you can see the demons know exactly who Jesus Christ is. They have that knowledge and they are not going to heaven. Knowledge alone doesn't do it. What do you do with the knowledge? Peter tells you right here. Since the end of the world *is coming*, how should it impact your life? What should you personally be doing about it? That is why we should study Revelation. If this is true, what should I do tonight? Right? What if you read a book in the Bible that said this is what is coming and what if you saw the signs that said it's coming soon? Shouldn't it impact your life? Shouldn't it affect how you live? Shouldn't it change the decisions you make? That's the reason we are going to study Revelation and that is what Peter says about it. How ought you to be living since these things are true?

We've got to want to know Jesus more than we want to know the future. This is why I'm not that thrilled when the study of end times draws so many people. Because we want to know Jesus more than we want to know the future. I promise you, you want to know Jesus more than you want to know the future. You may not think that, but in the end, when the future comes, you will say either "I'm glad I knew Jesus more than the future" or "I wish I would have known Jesus more than I knew the future" because knowing the future doesn't help but knowing Jesus wins.

Turn to Matthew 24. We have to be careful. *We have to be careful*. I'm going to paint a picture for you right now which is critical. We have to be very careful to say do I desire to know Jesus or do I desire to know the future? Who were the first group of disciples that had a struggle with whether it was better to know Jesus or know the future? It was the twelve. Matthew 24 occurs during Passion Week. It is a famous chapter called the Olivet Discourse and it is all about the end times. It's an incredible chapter we will be going back to, but I need you to see one thing. You are the same as the disciples that were physically with Jesus Christ.

Jesus had left the Temple area, which we assume he did every night and he left Jerusalem and he went down into the Kidron Valley, across the Kidron Valley and up the Mount of Olives. And as they are walking up the Mount of Olives the disciples turn back and point back to the Temple which is just beautiful at that time. And they say to Jesus, "Man, that Temple is incredible, isn't it?" They just point out the beauty of the Temple. And in Matthew 24:2 Jesus says to them,

**Mat 24:2 - (esv)**

***2 . . . "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."***

That stirred up a little curiosity for the disciples because they still didn't get it. This is during the last week, the Passion Week, of the life of Christ and the disciples still don't

get it. And so it stirs up their curiosity. And so the disciples in Matthew 24:3 join a long list of people who struggle with do I want to know Jesus or do I want to know the future. Look at the disciples' choice. Jesus is sitting down and he looks back over the Temple. And his disciples say,

**Mathew 24:3 (esv)**

***3 . . . “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”***

Now this isn't the point, it's leading up to the point. Jesus tells them. And he goes through this litany of prophecies about the end times that would just boggle your mind. So much of what you've heard about the things that will usher in the coming of the Lord comes from the Olivet Discourse here in Matthew 24. Jesus just lays it out for them.

Now skip ahead about forty five days. Forty five days, give or take a day or two, after the resurrection and go over to Acts Chapter 1. This is about forty five days or so later. Now, forty five days previous, Jesus had laid out so many prophecies about his second coming. There's a famous verse in Acts 1 that we quote all the time, it is verse 8. But look at verse six. This is what we like to call “context,” where you actually start before the key verse. This is when they had come together, Jesus and the disciples and we assume it is on the Mount of Ascension, which is the top of the Mount of Olives.

**Acts 1:6 (esv)**

***6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”***

***Is it Now Lord? Is it NOW?? - Are you going to do it NOW?***

“It was just forty five days ago that you were told everything that had to happen before I return.” Jesus would say. “I just died and have been resurrected. I've been with you for forty days.”

The disciples kind of sense Jesus is going to leave and they ask “Lord are you going to do all that now? It's been like a month and a half.” Do you see them asking him that? That is verse 6. How does Jesus respond in verse 7? *He gives them a priority setting response that we must take into Revelation with us.*

**Acts 1:7–8 (esv)**

***7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.***

***8 But (what IS for you to know) you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***

Did you ever wonder why the “but” was at the beginning of verse 8? What he is saying is it’s not for you to know the specific times that are only for the Father to know, but here is what is for you to know. You can’t know that, but you can know this.

***You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you to by My Witnesses to the END of the Earth.***

What was that a response to? It was a response to the disciples asking Jesus if he was going to restore the kingdom now. And Jesus says, “Listen. Forget about that. Here’s your job. Receive power from the Holy Spirit and be my witnesses and be my witnesses to the end of the earth. That’s what you focus on. You let the Father deal with the details about when it’s all going to happen and you worry about becoming my witnesses to the end of the earth, in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I know there’s a part of you that says, “I know but I kinda wanted to know the when and the where and the who. I already know that I am supposed to be a witness.”

Yeah but listen, if you know more about the when and the where, not in specific but in general, what should it cause you to do? Be more of a witness. Right? Be more of a witness. If you know that Jesus really is coming back, if you know that every prophecy in the Bible that needs to be fulfilled before his return has already been fulfilled, should that not change how you interact with people? That is the reason we are going to study Revelation. It’s to say, Lord, what does this mean to me, right now? What does this mean to me? How does this impact my life? How then should I live since these things are true?

The priority is not knowing the details of the future; the priority is becoming a witness empowered by the Holy Spirit for Jesus Christ because of what the Bible says in prophecy. That’s the point. It’s a priority setting point. Get your priorities straight and it will work.

So, here are our goals for studying Revelation.

- #1) To know Jesus better
- #2) To worship Jesus more.
- #3) To proclaim his name and his imminent return to the end of the earth (or to our neighbor.)

Because we are going to grasp this truth and it is going to make us say, “You know, I’ve got to tell you, he really is coming back” and the Bible will give you the confidence of that. Now that is a good approach to Revelation.

So we are not looking into Revelation to find out if Bono is the Antichrist or if it really is Oprah. (Maybe they are the same person?)

We are not studying to find out if whether that tracking device the vet wants to put in your dog is really the mark of the Beast or not. Right?

We are not studying to find out if paying my bills online is really ushering in the One World financial system.

I promise you we will make little comments about that kind of stuff, we will. And we will talk about some really interesting things but please hear me when I say the reason to study revelation is to know Jesus more! To know who he really is and his glory! The real reason to study is to worship Jesus more! The real reason to study Revelation is to be able to proclaim his name more and to proclaim his soon and imminent return. It's all about Jesus. *It's all about Jesus!*

I will talk about Iran and nukes and the European Common Market, I will talk about it all. But that is not why we are studying Revelation. We are studying Revelation because we love Jesus and we want to know him better. And we want to worship him more and we want to be able to proclaim his name more. That's why we are studying it.

In Acts Chapter 1, the disciples ask Jesus, "Hey Jesus it's been six weeks. Are you going to restore the kingdom?"

He says, "What is important for you is receive the Holy Spirit and become my witnesses to the end of the earth."

And then he just ascends into heaven after he says that. And then there are these two guys in white standing there and the disciples are wondering who they are. They are angels. The angels come up next to them; they are standing on the top of the Mount of Olives, which is where Jesus will physically return. He is going to put his foot down on the Mount of Olives and it is going to split in half.

We are back in Acts 1. Jesus has ascended. The angels show up. Look in verse 11.

**Acts 1:11 (esv)**

***11 and (they) said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come (return) in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."***

Now listen, I believe these angels are trying to make a very critical point to both the disciples that were there physically and those that are there spiritually (that's us.) And here is, I believe, their point.

Have you ever seen that bumper sticker that says "Jesus is coming, Look busy." This bumper sticker I believe the disciples are saying something similar in Acts 1:11. I don't believe they are saying "look busy" I believe they are saying "*get busy.*"

"Why are you still standing here? You know he's coming back, right? He promised he's coming back. Why are you still standing here?"

Now, if they said that to the disciples in 33 A.D. what would they say today? Jesus is coming back, get busy! Doesn't it make you say, "Let's go, let's go, let's go!" That's what revelation is supposed to do. It's to make us say, "Lord you're coming back. How should I respond? We've been given our marching orders. We have been given the power of the Holy Spirit. We've been given the promises, the guarantees of prophecy. It's time to get busy with it!"

It doesn't mean you have to go to Indonesia to help them start a Christian college. But it might mean the next time your neighbor opens the door to conversation, you might say to him, "You know, have you ever considered Jesus Christ? Have you ever considered the claims of Jesus Christ?" What if that is how you should be responding to Revelation? That's a good reason to read and study Revelation.

So, let's read a few verses of Revelation. When Revelation is all summed up, it's not about an event. It's not about a series of events, it's about Jesus. It's all about Jesus. It's the Revelation. Singular. Please just try to not say "Revelations" with an "s" on the end. There is one Revelation, it's about one King of Kings and Lord of Lords, it's about Jesus. It's a singular Revelation, it's not a Revelation of events, it's a Revelation of a Person, Jesus. Jesus is not only the Revelation, he is the revealing. But he is the vortex of all of Revelation. A vortex is where everything spins around the vortex and is drawn into the vortex. That's what Jesus is, and that's my prayer as we study Revelation that we would just circle Jesus and circle Jesus and we would be drawn into him and drawn into him. He is the *vortex* of Revelation.

I'm excited to teach Revelation. It revolves around Jesus. And if we are drawn into Jesus then we will have done well. And if not then we will have not done well.

### **Revelation 1:1–2 (esv)**

***1 The revelation (singular) of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place . . .***

Wait a minute, it was written in 90 A.D. and you're going to tell us "soon?" Well that is not what the word means. Here is what the word "soon" means. The Greek word is the word we get our word "tachometer" from. It means that once that engine starts, it's going to "rev." It is going to 8,000 r.p.m.'s and it's going to spin quickly. It doesn't mean soon after this writing. It means once it is fired up it is going to go fast. It's going to happen quickly once the switch is thrown.

Continuing in verse 1.

***1 . . . He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,  
2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.***

We have to let John be the eyewitness, but we can join him. *We can join him.* Not as mere purveyors of interesting information. We can join John as witnesses to Jesus Christ. We have the same Holy Spirit that revealed these things to John. We've been given the same commission as John had – go and make disciples; proclaim the name of Jesus to the end of the earth. We can be a living testimony that Jesus Christ is real, that his prophecies are sure and that he is coming back again.

We can be part of this. It just makes me glad to get up in the morning. We can be part of bringing in Revelation to pass. How? By being a witness for who Jesus Christ is. For being part of the testimony. By God's grace and by his power may we because the end of verse 3 says “. . . *the time is near.*” The time is near. Jesus is coming, let's get busy.

So I would just say, if you have not received Jesus Christ as your Savior, Revelation will reveal him to you. Maybe not by a casual reading, but by study. And I promise you I will do everything I can to keep it focused on revealing who Jesus Christ is to you. But here's a thought. Why wait? Why not now, receive him into your life? Why not ask him to come in and reveal himself to you from the inside? Why not turn over those worthless plans of your own and take hold of *his* plan, and *his* purpose for your life? Why not join him in what he is doing?

You can do that today. And as you do the Holy Spirit will reveal the incredible, incredible mysteries of the Book of Revelation to you.

Let's pray. *Heavenly Father, we just thank you for Revelation. We pray that we would be anxious in a good way and that we would lean in to see what you have for us in Revelation, Lord. We just pray that it would just begin already to open up to us. But Lord we pray infinitely more for anyone who doesn't know you. We pray Lord, that you would save them by your power, by you drawing them to yourself and we pray you would do it now.*

And if that is you today, if you would say, “Yeah, I don't think I can wait, because tomorrow is not promised to any man or woman. I need Jesus today.” If that is you today, receive him today. Receive him right where you're at, right where you sit. Make a commitment to him. Turn away from the sin in your life. Turn away from your rebellion and receive Christ. Make him your Lord. If you want me to lead you in how to do that, you can say something like this.

*Dear Lord Jesus, my own plan is a wreck. I recognize my sin. I recognize I am separated from you and I pray you would save me. Please forgive me of my sin. Come into my life and be my Lord. I pray you would reveal yourself to me from the inside, and give me your Holy Spirit that I would be drawn to you. Make me a disciple. It's in your own name I pray, amen.*