

Revelation 1 – 27 September 2026

“Understanding The Unveiling”

Introduction

*Let's look at 3 keys to understanding Eschatology

***1st key: The sequence of end times events** - This book only portrays one part of end times

1. We're in the Church Age – not just Israel
 - a. Read Luke 21:24 & Rom 11:25
2. But the Bible talks much of God's attention turning back to Israel for 7 more years
 - a. Daniel's 70 Weeks (Dan 9:24-27)
3. This is b/c of the Rapture of the Church
 - a. Read I Cor 15:51-52 & I Thes 4:16-17
 - b. Even Rev 1:19 shows the rapture
4. The 7 yr Trib is God's wrath (Rev 6:16)
 - i. The Church is not appointed to God's wrath (Read I Thes 5:9)
 - ii. Matt 16:18 says gates of hell won't prevail against the church but Dan 7:21 shows Anti-

Christ prevailing against someone (It's the world & Israel)

5. So the church isn't in the bulk of Revelation

***2nd key: God uses symbols and types to portray a greater meaning**

1. Don't get hung up on not knowing all parts of all the symbols and imagery
 - a. Read Rev 1:1 – 'Indicate' or 'signify' means *to code*
 - b. "When the plain sense makes common-sense, seek no other sense"
 - c. Since the beginning God has designed to use symbols to tell a greater story
 - i. A lamb for sacrifices; points to Christ
 - ii. Sometimes symbols are explicitly revealed, allowing us to know what they mean
 1. Like Sower & the Seed Parable
 - d. There's a consistency to symbols thru the Bible so we can learn them

- i. What does “many waters” represent?
 - 1. Rev 17:15 & Isa 17:12 – Nations
- ii. What do “stars” represent?
 - 1. Gen 37:9-10 & Rev 1:20 – leaders
- d. Don’t focus on the symbol; learn the item’s characteristics based on the symbol

***3rd key: God has appointed a day to judge evil, it’s not unending**

- 1. We must understand & accept the nature of God’s justice
- 2. God is the center of the universe, not us
 - a. The heavens show God’s glory (Psm 19)
 - b. Israel was called to God’s glory (Isa 43:1-7)
 - c. All things are for God’s pleasure (Rev 4:11)
- 3. God is so loving & patience, why does He allow all the evil to go on?
 - a. He doesn’t want any to perish
- 4. If you reject the love of God, there’s nothing left but God’s judgment

- a. He will not always strive w/ man (Gen 6:3)
- b. We need to appeal to God based on His mercy, we don't want His justice on us
- 5. For God to be just, He must punish sin
 - a. He did punish sin in Christ on the cross (Rom 8:3-4 & Read John 3:36)
 - b. If we haven't received that gift, then God's wrath is still there & He'll have His justice

With these keys to understanding Eschatology, now in Chapter 1, **John will give us 3 things to specifically understand the book of Revelation!**

#1 – The Motivation: You're blessed if you read it (1:1-3)

Read 1:1

- 1. Revelation = The unveiling of Jesus
 - a. God wants these things revealed (see vs 11)
 - b. It's not a sealed book
- 2. Basic format is an angel (messenger) relaying Jesus' message to John

3. “Shortly come to pass” – When they begin to happen, it will rev up quickly.

Read 1:2

1. Most of what John records is from visions
 - a. Visions = insight into the spiritual world
 - b. Spiritual world isn't within time, so John sees things as if they're happening now

Read 1:3

1. Blessed like someone pushing thru a hard part of a large project b/c it's worth it
 - a. Vacations: the drive is hard, but worth it!
 - b. Revelation gives us the blessing of hope, b/c we know the end of the story!
2. Time is short...so get to learning
 - a. With limited time in a day, this is worth knowing
 - b. If we could say when we're going to die, then we can stop saying, “the time is short”

#2 – The Center Focus: Worship of Jesus (1:4-18)

Read 1:4

1. Seven churches
 - a. 7 is # of completion (Notes on scale, Days)
 - i. Should we forgive seven times
 - b. There are other churches, but this is written to the *complete* church
2. “Which is and was and is to come”
 - a. God is timeless, outside of time
 - b. I AM THAT I AM
 - c. From everlasting to everlasting – from the vanishing point to the vanishing point

Read 1:5-6

1. The Trinity’s focus is Jesus
 - i. All 3 are mentioned but lots about Jesus
 - ii. Read John 15:26
2. Jesus is “the Faithful witness”
 - a. Want to know what God is like...Jesus role-modeled God, now we follow His lead

3. Jesus is “the first begotten of the dead”
 - a. He’s the 1st one resurrected into eternal life
4. Jesus is “Prince of the kings of the earth”
 - a. Chief of the leaders of the earth
 - b. Jesus has had more leadership influence on people down thru time than anyone!
5. “He loved us & washed us”
 - a. He gave us the ability to follow after Him!

Read 1:7

1. This verse previews the book’s end
2. “Clouds” = Redeemed believers
 - a. Read Heb 12:1 & Jude 14
3. “Every eye shall see Him”
 - a. In Acts 1 it says, ‘As He left; He’ll return’
 - b. Won’t be a private showing, it will be clear
4. “***They*** that pierced Him”
 - a. Psm 22:16 – Prophesied the cross’s piercing
 - b. Zec 12:10 & 13:6 tells that it’s Israel the Lord is talking about here

Read 1:8

1. Much of Revelation won't teach us directly about how to view *ourselves*, but the focus is on how to view *Jesus* our Lord!

Read 1:9

1. This is the year 96 AD
2. Eusebius writes that many apostles martyred by now & John himself was boiled in oil
 - a. Get *Ecclesiastical History* Book 3
3. God isn't done with John & wants him to write

Read 1:10

1. "In the spirit"
 - a. Not being controlled by the flesh
 - b. ***Or*** in the spiritual realm
2. "The Lord's Day"
 - a. No reason to think this means Sunday, the day believers met together, but could Sunday
 - b. Could be that the vision took him unto the Day of the Lord

Read 1:11

1. Remember you'll be blessed to learn what God *wants* to reveal unto you
2. We'll look extensively at these 7 churches in Chapters 2 & 3

Read 1:12-16

1. There are 4 Gospels & yet not one attempt to describe Him physically
 - a. Isa 52:14 says His visage was so marred that He no longer looked like a man
2. We don't need a veiled picture of a man in our heads; we need the picture of our eternally awesome King showing all his glory in our heads...worship *that One*!
3. This must be Jesus b/c we're forbidden to worship any but God
 - a. In Rev 19:10 John falls to worship the angel, "Don't do that, worship Him!"
4. Want homework? Go study out these attributes of God described here

- a. Much like that of Jesus in Dan 7 & 10
- b. Each attribute will be used in Chap 2 & 3

Read 1:17a

- 1. What was John thinking of this vision of God?
 - a. John: ‘God is so awesome & I’m such a wretched sinner’
 - b. Then John hears Him say, ‘Fear not’ (read on)

Read 1:17b-18

- 1. What comfort to know you’re accepted
- 2. Jesus is God Himself
 - a. Read Isa 44:6 & Isa 48:12
 - b. Next time you meet a Jehovah’s Witness, show them this one

#3 – The Book’s Outline: Past, present & future (1:19-20)

Read 1:19-20

- 1. This is Table of Contents of the whole book!

- a. “Things you’ve seen” – Jesus - Chapter 1
- b. “Things which are” - Church Age - Chapter 2&3
- c. “Things that shall be hereafter” – Chapter 4-22 – Can only be things after the Church Age
 - 1. ‘Meta tauta’ & in chapter 4:1 twice

Conclusion

Chap 1 gives what we need to understand Revelation

1. The motivation to understand it

- a. You’ll be blessed for treasuring this hope

2. The center of learning & worship

- a. Knowing Christ for eternity

3. The outline of the book of Revelation

- a. The center of Christ (past)
- b. The time period of the church (present)
- c. The Trib, Millennium & eternity to come

Let’s be motivated to worship Jesus for the time is short!