

Revelation 1:1-3
“Unveiling The Future”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Rev. 1:1-3).

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Unveiling The Future”**

HOW MANY HERE...

- Have studied this book before?

~ OVERVIEW ~

TONIGHT...

- I'm just going to set the framework of the study...
 - But I need to give a **Disclaimer** first.

DISCLAIMER:

My aim in teaching Revelation is NOT to get trapped in the interpretive framework of battling scholars. But, rather to teach the Bible plainly so we can see the unveiling of Jesus Christ from beginning to end.

PEOPLE ARE TURNED OFF...

- Over religious battles!

NONETHELESS...

- We study the Book of Revelation...
 - Because we live in an age anxiety...
 - And people need hope!

SO...

- When we know the central theme of Revelation...
 - Is the Unveiling of Jesus Christ...
 - He brings joy/hope to those that will accept it...
 - To those that will read it / hear it / & keep it (v.3).

Revelation 1:1-3
“Unveiling The Future”

REVELATION IS A PROPHECY... (it makes specific predicts of the future);

- And when God talks about the future...

➤ He speaks with certainty & He's NOT guessing!

(Isa. 46:8-10) NLT

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS:

(Chp. #1-3) Jesus as King & Priest over the church.

(Chp. #4-5) Jesus in heaven as the glorified Lamb of God.

(Chp. #6-18) Jesus is seen as the judge of the earth – The Tribulation Period.

(Chp. #19) The second coming of Jesus

(Chp. #20) The Millennial reign of Jesus.

(Chp. #21-22) Jesus makes all things new again... both heaven & earth.

- And the book closes with (Rev. 22:20-21)

THERE IS ALSO...

- A self appointed outline at (Rev. 1:19) past / present / future.

DISCOVERIES WITHIN THESE CHAPTERS:

- a) The rapture of the church
- b) The 2nd coming of Christ
- c) World ruler who imposes a global economic system
- d) Severe distress on planet earth – judgment
- e) Meet a group of 144,000 (who are they?)
- f) And see the battle of Armageddon

POINT #1 – HELPFUL BACKGROUND INFO:

THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE JOHN...

- Around (95 AD) from the Roman Penal Colony on the island of Patmos.

➤ Which was about 25-miles off the coast of Asia Minor.

Revelation 1:1-3
“Unveiling The Future”

AND HERE’S WHAT’S BIBLICALLY FASCINATING...

- In the 6th Century BC the **angel** told Daniel (Dan. 12:4) NLT
 - *To seal the prophecy until the end.*

NEXT...

- Somewhere around (30 AD) +/-...
 - Jesus said (Matt. 4:17) NKJV
 - *“Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand”*

AND FINALLY...

- Here at (95 AD) in (Rev. 22:10) NKJV
 - The **angel** told John...

“Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.”

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW...

- Is

POINT #2 – WHAT IT SAYS : (Interpret)

(v.1)

THE WORD **REVELATION** COMES FROM...

- The Greek word *apokalupis*...
 - Where we get our English word (apocalypse).
 - It simply means: **Revealing or unveiling.**

THIS BOOK IS...

- The **unveiling** of Jesus Christ **during** future events.

(v.1) FLOW...

- From the Father to Him (Jesus) to show His servants.
 - Sent by an angel (possible Gabriel) to John.
 - (Daniel/Mary/Zacharias)

WE NEED TO MAKE...

- An **important note** here because of the term **“shortly”**...
 - Is relative in English.

THIS TERM...

- **“Shortly”** speaks of events...

Revelation 1:1-3
“Unveiling The Future”

- That when it begins... happens very rapidly!

{ LET ME ILLUSTRATE IT THIS WAY }

WHO HAS A CAR...

- With a **tachometer** on the dashboard?

THE GREEK WORD USED HERE...

- For **shortly** ... Is *en tachos / en tachei* ...
 - And it's similar to our word for measuring RPM's...
 - The tachometer!

SO...

- The idea is that for 2,000 years we've been on the BRINK...
 - Of events for eternity...
 - We've been running parallel **to the edge**... of the end!
- We are NOT running towards a **distant finish line**.

WHICH IS WHY...

- These events can literally happen at any moment!

LET'S DO A QUICK STUDY HERE...

- And watch the impact in this very room:
 - If the rapture had happened in 1980?
 - Who here would have missed out?
 - Who was not saved then???
 - What if the rapture happened in 1990?
 - What if the rapture happened in 2010?

SO WE SEE...

- In a very **tangible way** how the mystery...
 - Of God's grace extends to the very end!

POINT #3 – IMMINENCE INSPIRES: (How to put this to use)

(v.2)

Revelation 1:1-3
“Unveiling The Future”

John wrote down what he saw in the vision for the churches.

(v.3)

THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK WITH A BLESSING...

- Attached to it...
 - For the one who reads it...
 - For the one who hears it...
 - And for the one who keeps it.

(v.3)

“for the time is near”

- Time = *ki-ros (kairos)*...
 - This deals with the season at hand.
 - Jesus said in (Matt 24:42-44) NLT

THE TAKE AWAY...

- Is Revelation points us to the reality...
 - Of being ready & holy living!
- We're told not to be ignorant concerning the rapture...
 - In (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

~ IN CLOSING ~

LET'S TAKE A MOMENT...

- And offer God's grace here this evening.

IS THERE ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO GET RIGHT?

~ LET'S PRAY ~