



REFUEL BIBLE STUDY

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**STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS
DEALING WITH “LAST THINGS”
The Rapture, Second Coming and Millennium**

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Overview

Since we will be studying Revelation, it is important to understand what a revelation is. The word revelation comes from the Greek word “apokalupis”. It means, the uncovering, the unveiling, or the disclosing. Revelation is the disclosing of Jesus Christ. It can be taken in two ways: as the revealing of the person of Jesus Christ, or as the revealing of what He intends to do starting with the Church Age through the end of time. The Church Age started fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the Jewish holy day, Pentecost and will end when the Church is raptured. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Matthew 24:40-41, John 14:3

The Book of Revelation was written by Jesus’ disciple, John the Apostle, and tells of a vision he was given from the Lord. The Book addressed seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey today), encouraging believers who were experiencing persecution. Revelation illustrates that God is in control and that all people were created to love and worship God, the Creator. Revelation is Apocalyptic Literature that uses extravagant, symbolic imagery to describe God’s ultimate triumph over evil. Such Apocalyptic passages appear in Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah and Revelation.

Eschatology

The study of the Bible’s teaching about the events leading up to the second coming of Jesus. Greek word eschatos (final) and logos (word), a word about the final things.

Millennium

The 1000-year reign of Jesus on earth, described in Revelation 20-4-6. The only direct reference in the Bible to a reign of Christ that last 1000 years.

Three basic views of the End Times (helps to categorize the different interpretations)

Dispensational Premillennialism

This is the belief that Jesus will come back to earth after a seven-year tribulation and will rule during a 1000 year millennium of peace on earth. Most believe that Revelation 4:1-2 refer to the rapture. Rapture, the event when Christ removes Christians from the earth before the great tribulation begins. Dispensational Premillennialist believe that God’s promises to Abraham and his offspring were unconditional, therefore, the Jews will still receive the land described in Genesis 15:18. The establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948 fulfilled a key end-times prophecy. Supportive scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Revelation 3:10. The Church is not specifically mentioned between Revelation 4-19. (future event, Jesus will return before the millennium)

Postmillennialism

Postmillennialism is the belief that the second coming of Christ will occur after the millennium. The belief teaches that the teaching of the Gospel will eventually spread in such a way that nearly everyone in the world will turn to Jesus Christ. Mark 3:27 During this time, Satan will have no power over the earth and evil regimes will collapse. Revelation 19:19-20:3 Jesus will return after the thousand years of peace to take his followers to heaven. (Jesus will return after the millennium)

Amillennialism

The belief that Jesus will come again someday. There is no literal 1000-year rule by Jesus on earth, the millennium symbolizes Christ's reign in the lives of His people from the beginning of the church until His second coming. Christ's triumph over Satan through His death and resurrection in AD 30 restrained the power of Satan on earth. Revelation 20:1-3. Persecution of Christians (tribulation) will occur until Jesus comes again, as will the expansion of God's kingdom (the millennium). They believe that we are living in the thousand years now. Through the Church, Jesus is bringing peace to the world. (the millennium is a symbol of Christ's present reign among His people)

Great Tribulation

Time when disasters happen on the earth and people who are faithful to Jesus suffer intense persecution, lasting seven years (Rev. 7:14) Seven years of God's wrath.

Past, Present and Future

The events in Revelation must be kept in their proper time periods. John's vision is chapter 1 is of past events. They will not be repeated. The events in chapters 2-3 are present events. They do not have anything to do with future events found in chapters 4-22. The stage is being set for future events, which will not be fulfilled until after the Church Age is over.

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