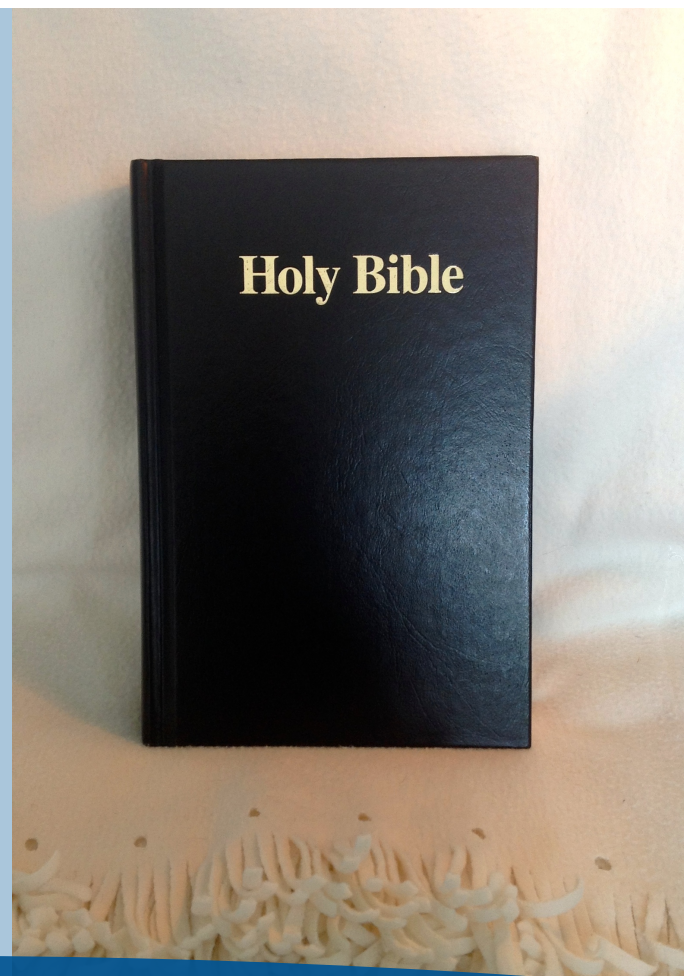


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EXPLORING
THE
BOOK
OF
REVELATION



Page 1

Revelation 1:3

Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand."

So the book of Revelation is prophetic, it tells the future from John's day (AD96) to the return of Christ-and beyond. It does not speak of earlier events. All these quotes from Revelation were communicated through the Apostle John about AD96 long after Christ had ascended to heaven.

Revelation 4:1After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which **must be hereafter**.

From the 1st chapter to the last chapter of revelation it is stated to be a prophecy of events foretelling the future from AD96 to Christ's return and beyond.

We find Christ's promise to return repeated several times in the book of Revelation ("come quickly" in the original Greek signifies 'suddenly'.)

Revelation 22

6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

All the way through Revelation it is foretelling what "shall" happen from the days of the apostle John till the return of Christ and beyond.

We get both periods spoken of in the letter to the Smyrna ecclesia

Revelation 2

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. *[10 years persecution under Trajan till AD 117]*

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." (7 letters speak of decline)

The devil-diabolos which means 'false accuser' which used the power of imprisonment and execution against believers was the pagan Roman authority. We will come across this same personification of Pagan Rome in sign and symbol later. The book of revelation is a prophecy given in sign and symbols as:-

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly **come to pass**; and he sent and **signified [it]** by his angel unto his servant John:"

"sign-ified" as:-

Revelation 12:1

"And there appeared a great **wonder** [the greek means **"sign"**] in heaven; **a woman** clothed with **the sun**, and **the moon under her feet**, and upon her head a **crown of twelve stars**:"

A prophetic political pageant (like the political cartoons in news papers)

1. a sign "in heaven" (*political ruling heavens*)
2. "woman clothed with the sun" (*an ecclesiastical body invested with imperial political power*)
3. "the moon under her feet" (*a vanquished religious system whose glory was from a political 'sun'*)
4. "upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (*a specific number of rulers*)

This speaks of the merging of Christianity with a political champion (Constantine) to expel the Pagan Roman rulers and banish the state religion of Paganism, replacing it with Catholicism. The Catholic Church recognises this prophecy as applying to the Church, as:



Revelation 12

1 And there appeared a great wonder [the greek means “sign”] in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads

Not good (a falling away) as the original good “woman” has to flee from this politicising of the church, as:

Revelation 12

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

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The “devil” (Pagan authorities) of 2:10 that imprisoned and executed the believers, is here cast out of the political heavens:

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

And of “the woman fled into the wilderness”(v6)

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (*after the Nicene creed 325 AD*)

Deceiveth the whole world- Pagan religion imposed upon entire civilised habitable angels- messengers/ officials of caesar

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder [the greek means “sign”] in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

1. “in heaven”= Political heaven of the Roman empire ruling over the earth
2. “a woman” = The Church
3. “clothed with the sun”=championed by Constantine, the rising “sun” of Rome
4. “under her feet”= (Paganism) displaced and trampled under Christianity
5. “crown of twelve stars”= the 12 Emperors from Augustus to Domitian (AD96)

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

6. “seven heads”= 7 forms of government spanning Rome’s history
7. “ten horns”= 10 principle European kingdoms to be crowned later (13:1)

The woman invested with the sun of chapter 12, is identified with a city in chapter 17:

Revelation 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:

9 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; [Gothic] and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

(Tribunal to Imperial)

At the end of the third century there were 3 provincial emperors assisting the one in Rome. The pro-christian military declared Constantine Emperor of the West. Galerius the Emperor in Rome was not pleased. So Constantine raised an army of Christian and pro-christian soldiers (investing the Church with his imperial power -“sun”) and marched on Rome. After taking Rome (AD 312), displacing Paganism and exalting Christianity he fought against Licinius the Pagan emperor of the east (the Dragon) and won. (At a later date Christianity was officially declared the state religion of the Roman empire.)

But “what has the Emperor to do with the Church? what have Christians to do with kings? and what have bishops to do at Court?”

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

The believers must “take up” the cross and follow Jesus submissive suffering example- in our pilgrimage. But when Christ returns in power and great glory, with his immortalised believers after the day of the resurrection, then they will fight and be the religious and political force in the earth. He will deliver and restore Israel as the kingdom of God on earth, subdue the nations; rule them with his resurrected and immortalised faithful followers.

REVELATION 2:

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

PSALM 2:

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

So we see that both Old and New Testaments show that Christ must return to the earth, otherwise there is no hope for anyone.

The hope is to share in this kingdom and worldwide empire at Christ's return as he promises the believer in Rev 2

Revelation 3

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 11

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

So Christ must return to deliver and restore Israel as the kingdom of God on earth to subdue the nations; rule them with his resurrected and immortalised faithful followers

Revelation 11

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

The book of Revelation is a prophecy, which also speaks of the end times

So we see Christ has to return to raise the responsible dead and judge them and reward the faithful and to rebuke the nations.

Revelation 5

8 And when he had taken the book, the **four beasts** and **four [and] twenty elders** fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast **redeemed us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast **made us unto our God kings and priests:** and we **shall reign on the earth.**”

“Four” & “four [and] twenty” *literal figures regarding:*

The four standards of Israel’s encampment in the wilderness

&

The 24 priestly orders in the Temple

But still figurative of the multitude of believers when glorified as king/priests

The Temple type is used Israelitish types of spiritual israel (as 12 tribes, 12,000 etc chat 7)

Revelation 16

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

So here we have a prophecy of our times

Revelation 17

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

NICENE CREED AD 325

R1) **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.**

R2) **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father** the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

By whom all things were made both in heaven and on earth;

Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;

R4,5,6) **He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;**

R8) **From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

R9) **And in the Holy Ghost.**

But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable' — they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.