

Revelation 1:1-3
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There are three main views or interpretations of the book of Revelation:

1. Allegorical View

This view contends that Revelation a book of symbols and types. Little, if anything, is real or has to have happened at all.

2. Historical View

In this view, it's believed that the prophesies in Revelation are fulfilled. Revelation is not a futuristic book. What it speaks of are things that already happened in the past.

3. Literal View

This view suggests that the events profiled are ones which will happen in the future. It contends that chapter one to chapter four deal with the revelation of Jesus Christ and His church on Earth; and that chapter four verse one through the end of the book deals with futuristic events.

I believe the Holy Bible reveals that:

- Jesus literally lived
- He died and rose again from the dead, and
- He will literally return to meet us in the air to be with Him

Let's look at my perspective of Scripture's message more closely.

1. The Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ to the world

Revelation 22:10 - God wants you and I to know and understand the things He's communicating

Daniel 12:4, 9 - This is the time that we are living in right now

1a. It's the will of the Father that Jesus be known.

1 Chronicles 22 - Just as David revealed to his son Solomon all his plans in connection with the building of the future temple, so this revelation was given to Jesus Christ by God the Father.

1b. The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Greek word translated “Revelation” is *apokalapsis* (i.e. apocalypse). The word simply means a revealing or an unveiling.

1c. What does the book of Revelation reveal?

Let’s look again at the word “revelation.” It is a well-known fact that the first use of any Greek word in the New Testament is almost sure to have in its context that which explains the sense of the word and gives its meaning in all further uses. Let’s look at **Luke 2:29-32**.

Verse 32 - This is the first time the word is used. Thus the meaning is given:

- It is a revealing of a Person
- It is an unveiling of God

1d. The word “the” is not found in the original Greek scriptures; it’s the word “a”.

“A Revelation of Jesus Christ”

This book, called “A Revelation,” will show us:

- The antichrist
- God’s judgment
- Mystery Babylon, and
- Calamity on Earth

Yet if we catch all of these things but miss Jesus in the book, we have missed the book of Revelation. This is the final act; it’s the grand revelation of all of Scripture (**Psalm 40:7-8**).

Hebrews 10:7 – How can a person read the Bible and miss Jesus as the source and God of it?

2. **Revelation 1** – The revelation which God the Father gave to show His servants.

2a. It’s the Father’s desire that the world be introduced to Jesus Christ His Son.

John 5:20-25 – Now that we know that Jesus is the theme of this book, what is next?

Please keep in mind that the book of Revelation illustrates a time of trouble:

2b. Things which must soon take place.

- John Walvord says “shortly” is the Greek phrase *en tachei*, which means “quickly” or “suddenly coming to pass”; indicating rapidity of execution after the beginning takes place. The idea is not that the event may not occur soon, but that when it does, it will be sudden like a big storm approaching. Think about this: in the start of chapter 6 the storm has arrived, and it’s coming out in full force (**Revelation 6:1, 2-4**).
 - Verse 1 – Thunder, the storm is here
 - Verse 2 – Conquering and conquer
 - Verse 3, 4 – Take peace from the earth, kill one another, great sword given to him

Revelation 6:14-15 – Everyone who thought they were important did not see this coming upon them and will miss the warning sounds. You might say, “What warning sounds?” See **Revelation 4:1**.

They miss the rapture of the Church. How can millions of people vanish and others refuse to see God in it? **Revelation 6:17** - For the great day of His wrath has come.

When it starts it moves fast:

- First we shift into the tribulation period, and then the Great Tribulation phase.
- Next thing you know, Satan is locked up for a thousand years.
- Then we’re in the millennial age with Christ.
- Next thing that happens is Satan is set free, but then he is taken out forever.
- Finally, there is a New Heaven and a New Earth. And we have yet to address the judgment of the righteous and unrighteous.

Revelation 22:12 – Behold, I’m coming quickly.

Think about this: on one hand God tells us that when things start to happen they're going to gain speed; they'll happen rapidly. On the other hand, He says "behold I'm coming quickly." The Greek word for "quickly" is *tachu*, which does not mean speed or velocity, but rather the nearness of His return. In verse 20 He says the same thing, "I am coming quickly."

Romans 13:11 – When God says back in **Revelation 1:1** that these things will take place shortly, He is saying the next event on His schedule is the coming of Christ.

Luke 12:35, 40; Revelation 12:12 – Believers will rejoice, but who will mourn?

2c. He sent and communicated it by an angel to His bondservant John.

- He communicated by way of signs and symbols. H. I. Ironside says that every symbol used in Revelation is explained or alluded to somewhere else in the Bible. We do not have to use our ingenuity to ascertain the meaning of the symbols. We just have to look them up in the scriptures.
- He communicated through an angel. This is the only book in the New Testament delivered and transmitted by angels (**Revelation 22:8-9, 16**). This indeed is a supernatural delivery.
- He communicated to His servant John. Why would John be given the opportunity to pen the grandest book of the Bible? Note this: I think John was surprised that he was the one writing these things. Three times in Revelation John uses the term "I John," and on two of the three occasions, he says, "I John saw." It's like John was saying, "I can't believe it's me seeing these things ... someone pinch me!" Think about this, in the gospel of John, he never uses his own name. But here, he uses it four times.

Why John? Well, besides the fact that all the other disciples were dead, John was a faithful witness (**1 John 1:1**). This one verse could be the reason why John was on Patmos. He had seen too much to deny his Lord; he was a faithful witness. He bore witness given to him by angels concerning the testimony from Jesus Christ.

See **John 21:22**

3. John knew this book was Holy Scripture.

- He knew it was Holy Scripture because he calls it a revelation from God. He knew it came from the Father through Jesus, and not from any mere human.
- He knew it was the Holy Scripture because he calls it a revelation from God: as the Old Testament prophets would say, "Thus saith the Lord."

- He also calls it the testimony of Jesus Christ as seen in **Revelation 1:2**.

John 14:24 – Jesus testifies about the character and nature of God, thus revealing God’s final plan for His creation.

What do you call it when you have received something that you know is true, and that has changed your life? You call it a testimony.

3A. Blessed (happy, well off) is he:

- who reads **2 Timothy 2:15**
- who hears **Ecclesiastes 5:1**, and
- who keeps the things which are written in it

“He who reads” is in the singular. It speaks of one person who reads. “Those who hear” is in the plural. It speaks of many people hearing.

In our modern way of speaking John might say: “Blessed is the pastor who teaches Revelation. Blessed is the congregation who hears Revelation. Most of all, pastor or congregation, blessed are those who keep those things which are written in it.” **James 1:22-24**

It’s the will of the Father that Jesus be known. It’s the will of Jesus Christ that He be known. It’s the will of heaven that Jesus be known.

“For the time is near.” The word "time" here is not *chromos*, which is clock time or calendar time. The word is *kairos*, which is epochal time, eras, epochs, seasons. The word "near," *engus*, simply means the next great epoch of God's redemptive history is near. It's on the horizon; it's imminent.

James 5:8 uses the same word, *engus*, for the word “near.”

Romans 16:20. The word “soon” is the same word found in **Revelation 1** as “shortly.” Quickly, suddenly coming to pass, or next in the line of events. Some of you might say it’s been two thousand years. Yes, but it’s still “next.”

Lastly, **Luke 18:7-8.** The word “speedily” is the same word found in **Revelation 1:1** and **Romans 16:20:** next, quickly, soon, next in the line of events.

Question: Because this delay seems long, will you start to believe He is not coming back? Will you become one of the scoffers in **2 Peter 3:3-4**? I pray not.