

Why the Book of Revelation Matters

The Book introduces itself:

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:

What follows is an introduction in the first chapter, two chapters of exhortations and warnings, and then a very structured presentation of visions using precise symbols, but to those who are unfamiliar with Biblical and prophetic language little of it makes sense, and is subject to widescale outlandish interpretations, whereby apostate preachers invent meanings to the book to shore up their own false teachings.

Because of the resulting arguments and debates about the meanings of this book, many struggle to uncover the truth from falsehood, and the often-random false interpretations add to the already apparent mysterious aura of the book. Matthew 24: 24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

This leads many to give up before they even start to try and understand the book, and as a result, it becomes ignored and deemed somehow less important than the rest of scripture.

However, this is very dangerous for contained within the book are warnings, blessings and reasons why the book should be given diligent attention.

For starters, as we are often reminded, it is the only book that has been written by someone who has come back from the dead.

Understanding the message therefore is vital to enforcing faith and

belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Moreover, after his resurrection, scripture informs us that he *Jesus Christ*:

... is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him (1 Peter 3:21,22)

The book of Revelation when understood proves, and testifies that Christ is indeed risen, and that authorities and powers are indeed subject to him, as the book of Revelation prophecies of world events long before they occur.

If the book is ignored, then the evidence Divinely presented for the resurrection and ascension and authority of Christ is lost. Faith and Understanding is also lost.

The Book of Revelation is a gift. It is a gift from Jesus Christ, given to him by His Father, to be then given to those he loves. As when a Lover goes away on a long journey or to fight a war, he or she leaves a memento, a reminder of the love between the two soulmates.

It is the Same with the Bridegroom who has to go on that long journey, - Jesus often used this allegory. It is the same with the Lord Jesus who is described in Isaiah 9:6 as the Mighty Warrior, who has gone away, expecting until his enemies be made his footstool (Hebrews 10:13) leaving his Bride behind, (as the Song of Solomon describes in detail) In her loneliness she has some comfort, a connection, to help her maintain her love, and overcome the pain of the long hours waiting through the night for his return.

Jesus, himself promised that he would give a memento, something to remind his friends, his servants, those who loved him, of his personality, and teachings, his care for them would never subside, his love for them would never decrease, but the absence would only make the heart grow fonder.

John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

As Jesus prophesied, this came to pass in part with the giving of the Holy Spirit gifts as we can read in Acts 2. However, the Lord Jesus was not just referring to this, as he says the world cannot see or know this Comforter. In fact, many unbelievers saw and witnessed the effects of the Holy Spirit gifts. What they did not see or know was the Gift of Revelation, they would not see or understand. That Jesus had in mind Prophecy as being the Comforter is revealed in the same chapter verse 29: *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.* Again, he repeated this in John 13: 19 *Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.*

That the emphasis of the Comforter is upon a Revelation of things to come, is shown again in John 16:13 -15: *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

This “showing unto you”, is mentioned here three times. Of course there are those who claim that the Comforter was the Holy Spirit which was poured out upon all, and has continued to do so, and that the Holy Spirit gifts are readily available for all so-called believers to indulge in self-glorification. Refuting this is of course another subject, but Paul does say in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10: *charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when*

that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. [emphasis added]

Clearly Paul under Divine inspiration reveals the temporary nature of the Holy Spirit gifts and how they were given as part of a growing process of the gospel, to assist with the transition from the passing of the Mosaic Covenant to the New Covenant ...*11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

So what was it that Jesus promised that he would show to his disciples? What was it described as *perfect*, that would come to guide in *all truth*? What would come that would complete the knowledge needed, in order to recognise events coming to pass *that when they come to pass, ye may believe that I am he*?

Peter speaking directly to the generation of believers which witnessed the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, and who were living through the end of the Judean Commonwealth, he hints at this coming Gift, this Revelation of Jesus Christ. He compares the prophets of old and their witness: *1 Peter 1: 11-13 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.* Much information had been retained and not made available to even the angels in heaven who are ministering spirits, vehicles of the Will of God. Then Peter adds *13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; What Revelation was he speaking of to that*

generation? What was revealed? Just a few years later after his epistle was written, John his fellow Apostle was exiled to Patmos, and there he received the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

We have endeavoured to show that this Revelation was prophesied of, was anticipated, and had, and has, an important role to play, that it is none other than that which is perfect is come, that it is All truth. That is therefore completed the Holy Canon of Scripture. That it is the Comforter which *abides for ever* (John 16:14) The role of the Revelation as we shall see is exhortational, and inspirational, and faith affirming. that when prophesied events, *they come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.*

2 Timothy 3:16,17: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

This passage is a bulwark against those who seek to demote the importance of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

This book is profitable for doctrine, for reproof and for instruction in righteousness. Ignore it at our peril.

Throughout the twenty-two chapters of the book of Revelation, there are doctrinal themes of the Omniscience of God, the Sonship of Jesus Christ, of Jesus as Saviour and Sacrifice, of the enemy of Sin and Death, the work of Redemption, of Christ as being the Word made flesh, the promises made to the Fathers, the election of Israel, the hope given to all nations, the triumph over sin by Christ, his death, resurrection and ascension, his pending Return, the establishment of the Kingdom on the ruins of the Kingdoms of men, the final unity of Yahweh with his chosen. Not one aspect of the gospel is left untouched in this golden book.

It is profitable for reproof. In the book, it has warnings, that if the teachings are not heeded, then the lampstand will be removed, we will be hurt of the second death, Christ will fight against us directly with the sword of his mouth, and there will be great tribulation, name blotted out of the book of life, and will be spued out of his mouth.

It is profitable for instruction in righteousness. Practical advice is given to each of the seven Ecclesias in chapters 2 and 3, of conduct, with associated benefits described. The advice is open to all Ecclesias of all subsequent eras to follow *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Revelation in the Greek is apokalupsis which means a disclosure, a revealing, a coming, a manifestation. Jesus had promised that he would come again. He did not say in what form. He came in one sense, with legions of angels, the legions of the Roman army to consume away the enemies of God, those who had crucified His Holy Child. But he promised he would come to his disciples. Thus this Manifestation, this Revealing is presented in this wonderful book.

This is the special Memento that Jesus has sent back to his Love from the frontline. This is the special gift between soulmates, a language of love, only understood between the Bride and Groom, as the Groom has work to do in a far country. Would you just toss this away of little importance? What a slight, how hurtful, what a betrayal, not exactly a chaste bride then?

The book is designed to be given to his Servants. It is not intended for those who have not volunteered to be slaves to righteousness. Those who make no effort to understand are clearly then not the Servants of Christ.

Jesus sent this Revealing of all Truth, this Comforter, this which is Perfect, as Paul said *That the man of God may be perfect!* This revelation of knowledge is an insight into the mind of the Father, and gives an understanding of His Will. It helps the servants to see things

from an Heavenly perspective, a grand overview of the histories of teeming millions which amount to very little, but that God is very interested in the history of His Ecclesia. The Book of Revelation enables each Servant to see his part, and place in this History, and where he is, and therefore to clearly see where he is going, and what part he has been promised to play in the Future.

Things which must shortly come to pass... this small phrase explains the relevance of this final book of the Divine Library. It was designed for the time then present, for things which would follow, and also things which shall be, a book designed for all generations. It would not go out of date. This book comes with blessings attached.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:

It is true God sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45) But do not people who trot out with sayings such as “Oh God bless you”, “Blessings be upon you” *ad nauseum* not realise that Blessings of hope, of life eternal which are all the blessings that really matter, are contingent upon obedience, contingent upon understanding and faith? The Blessings held out in the book of Revelation, are fulsome, meaningful, uplifting, and utterly Inspiring to newness of life. How foolish to ignore them, to turn away and say oh its just too hard.

The blessings are attached to those who hear and keep. To holdfast, and treasure. Just as if a loved one in a far away country has sent a locket, or a photo, how often it would be glanced at. So likewise, the various visions and pictures portrayed in the book would be stared at, wondered at, researched, pondered and meditated upon, held close to the heart, until the message is fully understood. That is what love does.

The book of Revelation being that which is perfect, is the book which completes the themes of the rest of scripture. It is the grand finale of the book of Daniel, it enlarges and expands the book of Zechariah,

it picks up the themes of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and all the prophets from Moses to John, and entwines them into a tapestry displaying the outworking of God's will in a continual historic moving living picture of the times of the Gentiles through to the consummation of the Kingdom of God. If this is not realised, then the servant is left floundering and exposed vulnerable to the wolves in sheep's clothing hungry to pick off the straying sheep, who remain ignorant and therefore unimpressed with the daily working of Christ on the right hand of power in the lives, kingdoms and empires of men.

When it is realised that Christ Jesus has ensured that every jot and tittle of the proclamation of God's will in the Revelation has been fulfilled, and that it matters to Jesus to make sure that the Kingdoms of men have been fashioned in such a way, and that it matters to Jesus to ensure the purity of the doctrine within the remnant, the elect, then it will be realised that it matters to Jesus about the little things as well, our lives, our prayers, our concerns and anxieties. As he oversees the nations, so the same power ensures he hears our prayers. We therefore matter to Jesus Christ if we read his words.

That is why the book must matter to us. Our lives depend on it.

Brother Terry