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Bible Study Series on the Revelation
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



“Blessed is he that reads, and they that hears the words of this prophesy, and keeps those things, which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”
(Revelation Rv1:3)

The ‘**Revelation**’ is one of the strangest and most difficult books. I tried to study this book of the coming of Jesus Christ, after listening a number of times to inspiring prophetic sermons from our spiritual leaders. When I embarked upon the study, I found myself in a world of images/symbols and visions. I also found the ‘**Apocalypse**’ very difficult to crack its riddles; until I tried to understand it along with other prophetic books in the scripture.

I thank God Almighty, for revealing it little by little through the Holy Spirit. This has happened when I prayerfully submitted to God, and asked for his wisdom for understanding the ‘**Apocalypse**’. I am therefore able to enjoy the great divine plan of redemption that our God is executing for the Church through Jesus Christ.

I am also now sure, that the New Testament would have been incomplete without Revelation. I also believe that, I would not have received the blessing promised in this prophetic book, if I had not studied the words of prophecy of the resurrected Jesus Christ. I want you also to be blessed along with me by reading these **Series of Bible Studies on the Revelation**.

(Revelation or ‘**Apocalypse**’. It is taken from Greek word *apokalupsis*, which has two parts **Apo** means *away from*, and **kalupsis** means *unhiding or a taking away of a veil, a revealing / disclosure of that which is hidden and secret.*)

Introduction

The book of Revelation was written, when Caesar-worship was one religion in Roman Empire. People then were asked to say, “Caesar is Lord”. The refusal to conform to emperor demands, made Christians persecuted and killed. (Persecution and death because of the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ rather than the emperor Caesar).

Roman Empire had special prison for such “enemies” on the rock Island-Patmos. Apostle John the author of the book on ‘Revelation’ was one among them who was punished and sent to Patmos. The author John’s main concern was how to sustain the believers in faith and hope in Jesus Christ. Therefore Apostle John encouraged believers to be faithful in their tribulations. During this difficult moment of suffering and when he was all alone at Patmos, God in his mercy enlightened him with the power of Jesus Christ and the vision of all the things to come.

Some Biblical scholars cite another reason for writing the book of Revelation. John wrote 60 years after Jesus Christ left the earth. The Christians were anxious about their future and what will take place in the future. There were many questions troubling Church.

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. If Jesus has gone to Heaven, then to do what?
3. Why didn’t he return immediately?
4. Will Jesus come back as promised?

In the above contexts, the believers were going away from the true faith and therefore the Spirit of God made John write letters to seven Churches. The believers were admonished to overcome the problems and keep up their faith till the end. *The Risen Christ promised them as follows -*

- *he that keeps my words unto the end will get to eat the fruit of the tree of life, in the Paradise of God (Rv 2:7)*
- *he shall not be hurt of the second death (Rv 2:11)*
- *I give of the hidden manna, and white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows but he that receives it (Rv.2:17).*
- *I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to shivers; as I also have received of my Father: and I will give him the morning star (Rv2:26-28).*
- *He shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels (Rv.3:5).*
- *I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out thence no more; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and mine own new name (Rv. 3:12).*
- *I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne (Rv.3:21).*

Oh! What a blessed future we the believers have.

So, believers; the book of 'Revelation' promises us eternal blessing too. Therefore, he who studies it will come to know about the following prophecies -

- Jesus Christ in glory as Ruler.
- Jesus Christ honored as the Saviour and Master of the Church.
- How the Lord God destroys enemies including Satan eternally.
- After destroying or punishing enemies, Lord will bless his Church (His people) with new Heaven and Earth.
- How He will establish the Kingdom and rule the earth as the king of Kings.

The best way to study Revelation and its prophecies is by meditating upon one Vision at a time. The seven main visions give a view of events as follow:

1. The church on earth (Rv.1-3)
2. The Lamb and the seven seals (Rv.4-7)
3. Seven angels with trumpets (Rv.8-11)
4. The church persecuted by Satan and the beast (Rv.12-14)
5. The seven bowls of God's wrath (Rv.15-16)
6. Judgment of Babylon (Rv.17-19:10)
7. Final Judgment and final victory (Rv.19:11 to end)

Readers, there is not an iota of doubt that the world will come to an end. Lord Jesus Christ is coming very soon in his glory and power to punish Satan and his followers. He will judge the people righteously (both dead and living). All those who believe on Jesus Christ will be taken up in mid air to live with Him. But those who do not believe (unbelievers) will have to pass through tribulations. The "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (MT 24:21). Today, He is waiting for the souls to believe on him, who had been chosen by Him before the foundation of the world. He may be perhaps waiting for you, if you have not yet believed on the great work of redemption done on the Cross of Calvary. Believe on Him and accept him as your personal Saviour and Lord. No matter how big your sins are. He will cleans all your sins and make you a child of God. The door of salvation is still open wide but it will be closed very soon.

Although Revelation does not remove all the mysteries surrounding Jesus' return and end of the world, it does throw light on those events. The events unfolding today in the world speak about its truths.

Believers, let us hold our faith till the end. Keep the Word of God written in this book of prophesy 'Revelation' for the time of the coming of the Lord is at hand.

References

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3. The Revelation, John Darby' Synopsis
4. Mathew Henry's Commentary
5. Wesley's Explanatory Notes

