

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ"

(Rev 1:1-3)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Opening Comments



- ❧ We spent 4 months to lay foundation for our study
 - ❧ Be sure you are caught up or will catch up with our studies, or else you'll get even more lost
- ❧ Eschatology (study of end times) is not essential for faith, to be saved
- ❧ We may not all agree or understand eschatology and that's ok
- ❧ Nonetheless, eschatology is **VITALLY IMPORTANT TO GROW IN FAITH!**
- ❧ Here is a quick example of why eschatology is important to grow in our understanding and faith...

Opening Comments



Matthew 12:38-42 (the scribes and Pharisees were seeking for a sign)

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; 40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Opening Comments



- ❧ Without an landing point of end times prophecy and judgments, we will be short-sighted in our faith (the elect can even be deceived if possible - Mt 24:24)
 - ❧ It like reading a movie with no ending; a book or novel with no ending
- ❧ As Peter says, “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord” -1Pt 2:2
 - ❧ The fact that you want to grow and learn more about your faith is an indication that you have been born again and are a child of God!
- ❧ So although eschatology is not essential to be saved, it’s essential to grow in faith!
- ❧ So we will nonetheless seek the treasures and blessings it promises using the ROEs!

Our approach to studying Revelation



We will be reading and interpreting Revelation:

❧ With an OT foundation

❧ We will uphold The Abrahamic Covenant

❧ We will uphold The Mosaic Covenant

❧ Biblical Feasts as markers

❧ We will uphold The Davidic Covenant

❧ David was promised an everlasting kingdom

❧ We will uphold OT prophecies (NT prophecies is a continuation)

❧ Daniels visions as the cornerstone, John fills in the blanks and takes us to the end

Our approach to studying Revelation



- ❧ We will read Revelation in its Middle East setting
 - ❧ The people of Israel, Jerusalem is the epicenter of all end times prophecy
 - ❧ Jesus came to the Jews 1st, then Gentiles (Mt 15:24, Rm 1:16)
 - ❧ Christianity began and will conclude in Israel
- ❧ We will read and accept it chronologically and sequentially (chapters 1-22)
 - ❧ “after these things I looked...”
- ❧ We will read it with a literal fulfillment (we will not over spiritualize text)
 - ❧ All prophecies are literally fulfilled, Revelation is not an exception
- ❧ And last but not least, we will read Revelation as prophecy
 - ❧ John and Jesus call this entire book “the prophecy”
 - ❧ Chapters 1-22 will be fulfilled after 95/96AD-the final eternal state

Scripture Reading



Revelation 1:1-3 (NASB)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Exposit Rev 1:1



1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

- ❧ 'Revelation' is 'apokalupsis' which means to unveil, uncover, reveal
 - ❧ English work apocalypse
- ❧ Thus, the book of Revelation is about what events will occur leading up to the Revelation (unveiling) of Jesus to elect saints and the world in the end times!
- ❧ "which God gave Him" [more on this]
- ❧ "His bond-servants" [more on this]
- ❧ "must soon take place" [more on this]

“which God gave Him”



- ❧ This phrase is often overlooked but packed with biblical truth and treasures
- ❧ As we did in our 1John study, it is helpful to enter the person(s) in view:

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1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [the Father] gave Him [God the Son] to show to His [Jesus's] bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He [Jesus] sent and communicated it by His [Jesus's] angel to His [Jesus's] bond-servant John,

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



- ✧ TRUTH: God the Father gave Jesus the entire prophecy contained in this book!
- ✧ The Father and Jesus are Co-Authors of Revelation 1-22!
- ✧ The Father gave the details to Jesus
- ✧ Jesus in turn sent His angel to deliver the prophecy to His bond-servant, John!
 - ✧ Just like how Gabriel delivered the visions and interpretation of the visions to Daniel!
- ✧ So what's the significance of this?

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



- ❧ Since Jesus is the giver of this prophecy, Jesus knows the times and epochs set by His Father!
- ❧ Which means... Jesus knows exactly the events that will occur before/after His glorious return!
- ❧ Which also means... Jesus knows the day and hour of His return!
 - ❧ He's not spiritually blindfolded - lol
- ❧ But wait a minute... didn't Jesus tell His disciples that that no one knows the day and hour, not the angels, not the Son, but only the Father?

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



Matthew 24:36-41 (Context is surrounding Jesus's glorious return)

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

- ❧ “of that day and hour” is referring to the coming (parousia) of the Son of Man
- ❧ CATCH THIS: The coming of Jesus is all encompassed in the book of Revelation!
- ❧ MOST MISUNDERSTOOD: “the day and hour” is not limited to a single day, a single hour, as we’ll see in this study His parousia spans over days/months/years!
- ❧ IN FACT: Jesus is very busy during the end times! He will make multiple visitations!

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



- ❧ Ok that still doesn't quite answer the question, Jesus did say “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”
- ❧ Why am I contradicting that?
- ❧ For one, I'm not contradicting, I'm call calling out what Scripture tells us in very 1st verse of Revelation!
 - ❧ Remember ROE #1: Must use Scripture with Scripture!
- ❧ The Father gave the Son the entire prophecy of the book of Revelation!
- ❧ The Son is the Co-Author of Revelation!
- ❧ As Co-Author, He wrote the times and epochs, events up to His coming!

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



- ❧ So how can we harmonize Jesus's statement in Mt 24 about Him not knowing?
- ❧ “But of that day and hour no one knows”
 - ❧ “that day and hour” as I mentioned spans over multiple days, months, years
 - ❧ “that day” encompasses what transpires after the Great Tribulation (the Sign of the Son of Man in the sky) – heaven & earth passing away
- ❧ So for one: that day and hour is not referring to a single day (we got to get this!)
- ❧ Technically Jesus did NOT know any details concerning His return at the time He made the statement in Mt 24 (BEFORE His death and resurrection)
- ❧ So to harmonize Mt 24 & Rev 1, we'll consider this, Jesus was further glorified AFTER His resurrection and ascension! And received further “Revelation”!

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



Acts 2:33 (Peter's great sermon to the Jews at Pentecost, speaking of Jesus)

33Therefore **having been exalted** to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Jesus] has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

- ❧ TRUTH: Jesus did not send the promised Holy Spirit until AFTER His exaltation!
- ❧ Point I'm making is Jesus received further glory AFTER His death and resurrection! Jesus could NOT have sent the Holy Spirit BEFORE His death and resurrection!
 - ❧ John 16:7 (Jesus Speaking) 7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- ❧ In other words in Mt 24 it was not time for Jesus to know the details of His coming yet!
- ❧ Let's continue on the point that Jesus was further glorified after His resurrection...

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



Ephesians 4:7-10

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says,

“WHEN HE [JESUS] **ASCENDED** ON HIGH,
HE [JESUS] LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”

9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also **He who ascended** far above all the heavens, **so that He might fill all things.**)

☞ “so that He might fill all things” is an indication that Christ received further glory AFTER His ascension!

☞ In Mt 24 Jesus did not fill all things yet! Jesus filled all things AFTER His ascension!

☞ Again Jesus was further glorified after Mt 24! Let's look at one more...

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He [Jesus] existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, **God [the Father] highly exalted Him [Jesus], and bestowed on Him [Jesus] the name which is above every name,** 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

☞ Christ's exaltation is also tied to His ascension AFTER Mt 24!

☞ Jesus was not bestowed the authority and title of Lord BEFORE Mt 24, but AFTER!

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



- ❧ Why did I go through all that? What's the point in all this?
- ❧ For starters, because of lack of diligence in handling the text, “no one knows the day or hour”, or “to be alert” statement Jesus made in the gospels has introduced other teachings not intended by Scripture (for example, to be ready for a secret Rapture that can occur at any moment)
- ❧ Unfortunately, what is often missed is the fact that Jesus was NOT glorified when He made the Mt 24 statements
- ❧ What is also often missed is the fact that Jesus had not been raised nor ascended nor exalted by His Father, nor was given the details of Revelation yet!
- ❧ End times details was not revealed during Jesus's earthly ministry, but AFTER!
- ❧ Hence why Revelation is called the prophecy with BLESSINGS!

“which God gave Him = “which God the Father gave God the Son”



☞ CASE IN POINT SUMMARY:

- ☞ Technically Jesus did NOT know at the time He made the statement in Mt 24 of the times and epochs set by His Father, including the day and hour of the coming of the Son of Man (spanning over days/months/years).
- ☞ After His death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus was further glorified by His Father!
 - ☞ It included the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father & Son
 - ☞ His Father highly exalted Him
 - ☞ The Father gave Jesus the authority and title of Lord
 - ☞ And as we see in Revelation found Him worthy to break the book with 7 seals!
- ☞ In Jesus' exaltation, His Father found Him worthy to receive all honor and authority!
- ☞ It also pleased the Father to reveal to His Son the times and epochs set by the Father, including the day and hour of His Son's return (spanning over days/months/years)!

“His bond-servants”



- ❧ “His” is referring to Jesus
- ❧ “bond-servants” is ‘doulos’
- ❧ So v.1 is referring to Christ’s slaves
- ❧ In Revelation Christ’s slaves that are mentioned are:
 - ❧ The apostle John (Rev 1:1)
 - ❧ Believers in Thyatira (Rev 2:20)
 - ❧ 144K sealed Jews (Rev 7:3)
 - ❧ OT prophets (Rev 10:7)
 - ❧ Two Witnesses/Prophets (Rev 11:18)
 - ❧ Moses (Rev 15:3)
 - ❧ Glorified saints (Rev 19:5)

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This is the audience of the book of Revelation and primary recipients of this letter!

And anyone who reads and hears the words of this prophecy! – v3

“must soon take place”



- Some argue that this phrase must mean that it is only applicable to the direct recipients of this letter (7 churches)
- However, remember ROE #1:
 - “Thou shalt interpret Scripture with Scripture”
- Which means we are to understand prophecy with prophecy
- This phrase is to be understood from a prophetic perspective
- From the eyes of the prophet the vision is “soon” and “near”

“must soon take place”



☞ For example, at the end of this letter Jesus said:

Revelation 22:6-7

6 And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

☞ “must soon take place” is referring to all the events described in this letter

☞ “coming quickly” - is referring to Jesus’s physical and bodily return

“must soon take place”



- ❧ Obviously the events describe in this letter has not happened yet (it would be in history books)
- ❧ Nor has Jesus's 2nd coming (bodily and physical return) happened yet
- ❧ Thus, “must soon take place” and “coming quickly” is to be understood from a prophetic perspective, in other words, God's timetable!
- ❧ Peter speaks on this in 2Peter...

“must soon take place”



2 Peter 3:8-9

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord **one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.** 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

☞ Revelation was written approx. 1,926 years ago (95/96AD-2022 AD)

☞ From man's timeline: God is taking a long time

☞ From God's timeline: it's been less than 2 days!

“must soon take place”



- ☞ CASE IN POINT: When it comes to prophecy, when phrases like “soon take place” or Jesus is “coming quickly” we are to view it from the prophet’s vantage point and God’s timetable (not ours)!
- ☞ Let’s resist making our own subjective interpretation when it comes to biblical prophecy and take heed to the warning given in this book
 - ☞ Revelation 22:19 (Jesus speaking) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book
- ☞ Jesus Himself warns: If you add or take away from the words of the prophecy of this book, there are consequences
- ☞ Paul warns Timothy on this as well...

“must soon take place”



2 Timothy 2:15-18

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.** 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 **men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.**

☞ Paul likens distortion of Scripture as “gangrene” (a flesh eating sore)

“must soon take place”



- ✧ In the example of Hymenaeus and Philetus they violated ROE #7
 - ✧ “Thou shalt not over spiritualize Scripture”
 - ✧ How else could have they come up with the resurrection has already taken place?

I SAY THIS IN LOVE:

- ✧ This is the equivalent when saying that the 1,000 year reign of Christ in Revelation 20 has already taken place (in believers hearts)!
- ✧ Advocating that is like infecting believers faith with spiritual gangrene!
- ✧ That is an over spiritualization of that entire chapter and no different that what both Hymenaeus and Philetus were rebuked for by Paul!

Exposit Rev 1:2



2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

- ❧ “testified” is ‘martureō’ which means to bear witness to testify
 - ❧ We get our English word ‘martyr’ from this Greek word
- ❧ The angel bore witness and delivered the vision to John
- ❧ John in turn is bearing witness and wrote the vision down
- ❧ So the book of Revelation is John’s testimony on behalf of Jesus!
- ❧ In fact, the gospel of John is also a testimony on behalf of Jesus!

Exposit Rev 1:2



John 21:24 (at the close of his gospel, referring to himself in the 3rd person)

24 This is the disciple who is testifying (martureō) to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his (John's) testimony is true.

☞ John's testimony is true because he was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle

☞ Thus as an apostle, the gospel of John can be trusted

☞ And so is the book of Revelation to be trusted!

☞ For the source is from

☞ The Father → The Son → Jesus's angel → John → to us (the church)

☞ In other words the Bible, including Revelation, is from HEAVEN!

Exposit Rev 1:2



In verse 2, I'd like to call out:

- ✧ John wrote the vision of Revelation exactly how it was given to him!
- ✧ John wrote what he was commanded to write!
- ✧ John did not write what he was commanded not to write!

We're going to do the same for our Revelation study:

- ✧ We're going to take it the way John was given it!
- ✧ We're not going to deviate from any of the visions!

Exposit Rev 1:3



3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- ✧ “Blessed” is ‘makarios’ which means happy
- ✧ The book of Revelation opens with a promised blessing!
- ✧ The book of Revelation closes with a promised blessing!

Exposit Rev 1:3



Revelation 22:7 (Jesus speaking) “ And behold, I am coming quickly.
Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- ✧ Revelation is the only book with a promised blessing in the beginning/end!
- ✧ But Revelation is not the only book that speaks on this blessing
- ✧ In fact, Luke’s gospel tells us what the blessing is tied to...

Exposit Rev 1:3



Luke 11:27-28 (Jesus casted out a demon; crowd alleged it was by Beelzebul)
27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” 28 But He said, “On the contrary, **blessed (makarios; happy) are those who hear the word of God and observe it.**”

- ☞ The blessing is connected to hearing the Word and observing it (phulassō, which means to guard, watch over)
- ☞ TRUTH: the Bible and it's promises are God's blessing to us and comes to fruition when we study, guard, protect and BELIEVE what it says!

Exposit Rev 1:3



SIDE NOTE on verse 3

☞ Just my opinion, but if you were to ask I think v.3 should be in red:

“3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

☞ Why? Jesus said the same thing in Rev 22:7 And behold, I am coming quickly.

Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book

☞ So if I were part of that committee I would have advocated for v.3 to be in red

☞ Not critical, but more of a technical observation

☞ Now let's pull v1-3 together from the Catarroja Amplified version...

Revelation 1:1-3



Revelation 1:1-3 (Catarroja Amplified)

1 The unveiling of Jesus Christ, which God the Father gave Jesus to show Jesus's slaves, the times and epochs determined by God the Father, including end time events, which must soon take place according to God's timetable; and Jesus sent and communicated this message by His angel to Jesus's slave John, 2 the angel testified on behalf of Jesus who testified on behalf of God the Father to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that the angel saw he delivered to John. 3 Blessed is he who reads, studies, guards, protects and BELIEVES the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is near according to God's timetable.