

The REVELATION *of Jesus Christ*
REVEALED

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ Revealed by Christine Miller

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That which has been is that which will be,
And that which has been done is that which will be done.
So, there is nothing new under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 1:9

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INTRODUCTION

MOST OF US, INCLUDING MYSELF, have been taught that the events of Revelation will take place shortly prior to, during, or following the end of this age and the return of Jesus Christ. But I no longer believe that to be the case. The first thing the apostle testifies to in REV 1 is:

This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things which must happen soon.

REV 1:1

The nearness of the fulfillment is repeated again in REV 22:6 and 22:10. The Greek for “soon” means “quickly, at once, without delay.” The plain meaning of the language is that the events of Revelation began to come to pass **soon** after John received the vision.

GOD DID NOT LIE TO US. The view that all the events of Revelation are future to us is a relatively new view in the history of the church. Traditionally, Revelation was seen as an unfolding prophecy of the things which will take place between the first and second comings of Jesus Christ. This unfolding historical prophecy is in the same manner as Daniel, which set the precedent.

One other view which all of us have heard, is that Revelation has already been fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (70 AD). This

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view does not align with the precedent set by Daniel, and requires that John saw the vision before 70 AD. If he saw it after, then Jerusalem and the Temple were already destroyed, and the obvious meaning of the vision as a future fulfillment from John's vantage point would make no sense.

John was exiled on the island of Patmos for the Word of God during a time of tribulation or persecution (REV 1:9). The early church fathers agree that he was exiled during the reign of Caesar Domitian. Domitian became emperor in 81 AD, and the persecution lasted from 95-96 AD. It ended when he was assassinated in 96 AD. So, I assume John was imprisoned in 95 or 96 AD. The Temple had already been destroyed, and as the prophecy makes it clear that John will be seeing events future to him, he could not be witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem or the Temple. That is not to say that the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple was not foretold, it was—just not in Revelation.

THE PRECEDENT OF DANIEL. God had been speaking continuously into the life of Israel as a nation since Moses was called. That speaking became the Old Testament. But the speaking was about to stop, for a time. Before it stopped, Daniel had a series of prophetic visions (DAN 7-12). Those prophetic visions, which were all future to Daniel, have been long since fulfilled by Alexander the Great, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and Jesus the Messiah. God was showing His people what would happen in the world until the **first** coming of Jesus Christ—until the day came when He Himself would come to dwell among men.

Shortly after Daniel's lifetime, the final Old Testament prophet to speak was Malachi. Then there was silence for about 400 years. The silence was broken with the announcement of John the Baptist's birth (LUK 1:5-25).

Part of our misunderstanding of Revelation comes from misunderstanding the historical fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy. In particular, Daniel's seventy-week prophecy (DAN 9:20-27) has nothing to do with Revelation and

the **second** coming of Jesus Christ, but was completely fulfilled with the **first** coming of Jesus Christ.¹

Revelation follows the precedent set by Daniel. With the coming of John the Baptist, God was once again speaking to His people, through the end of the generation of the apostles. That speaking became the New Testament. John was the last apostle alive when he was on Patmos and, as with the precedent of Daniel, the speaking was about to stop. Before it stopped, John had a prophetic vision in which he was shown what would happen in the world until the **second** coming of Jesus Christ.

The events of Revelation, which we are about to read, began their fulfillment shortly after the time that John received the vision, and have continued over the course of the next 1900 years, to date. They will climax in the culminating event of the book, the return of Jesus Christ as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. That is my assumption as we go forward.

I hope to reveal, through the startling events of history, how most of the amazing prophecies of Revelation have already been fulfilled. Our time in history in 2016 is right before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ!

As you travel through this book, be sure to visit our website for extra materials and chapter endnotes: quotations from church fathers and historians, book citations, references, suggestions for deeper study, maps, photographs and artwork, and answers to common questions.

VISIT <http://revelationrevealed.online/extras>

¹ See *The Precedent of Daniel* in the Appendix.

THE DESIGN OF REVELATION

THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS schemes put forward over the centuries to explain the design of the book, within its historical context, which I have summarized in the notes at <www.revelationrevealed.online/extras>.

The scheme, however, which seemed to me to fit the repeating patterns I had been seeing throughout the Scriptures beginning from Genesis, and which unfolded before my eyes in Revelation itself, I first encountered in Fred P. Miller's *Revelation: A Panorama of the Gospel Age*. Simply put, the events predicted in Revelation take place in a series: a series of sevens repeats three times. First the Lamb opens seven seals, and the seventh seal reveals a new series: trumpets. Then the angels blow seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet reveals a new series: bowls of wrath. Then seven bowls of wrath are poured out. When the seventh bowl of wrath is poured out, it does not reveal a new series of judgments, but rather a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (REV 16:17).

This ingenious design communicates a clear message: as each new series cannot begin until the previous series is completed, for each new series is contained within the final event of the previous series, we are given an unmistakable picture of sequential progression.

And after there is an explanation of Babylon, who is being judged by the bowls of wrath (REV 17), and the lamenting of the world over her fall (REV 18), and the rejoicing of the saints and the worship of God over her judgment (REV 19), then the next event is the thousand-year reign and the marriage supper of the Lamb (REV 20). So when the events of history surpass the seventh bowl of wrath, we will be at the end of this age:

I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True. In righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a name written which no one knows but he himself. He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called "The Word of God." The armies which are in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in white, pure, fine linen. Out of his mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword, that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. He has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." REV 19:11-16

In each series of seven, there is an interval between the sixth and seventh judgment. These intervals are described. Now we can begin examining the unfolding of the events that the seals, trumpets, and bowls of wrath portray, understanding their underlying structure.

It will be helpful, going through this book, to have the Bible open as well, to follow along and look up the references as we encounter them.

REVELATION 1

THE THINGS WHICH ARE

Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter. REV 1:19

THIS VERSE IS A KEY to understand the book of Revelation. In the book, John will write the things he saw: what is, and what will be. REV 1-3 describes what is. In REV 1 we learn that John was exiled to Patmos, there because the church was in the midst of a persecution. He describes the awesome glory of the risen Son of Man, whose words John records, and by whose authority the vision is given. These are things in John's present.

Symbols are introduced. The symbols, which have already been explained elsewhere in Scripture, pass without comment. This is helpful to remember when we get to more difficult parts of the book later on. The double-edged sword coming from the mouth of the Son of Man needs no explanation, because the Word of God has already been described as a sword by Paul (EPH 6:17) and the writer of Hebrews (HEB 4:12).

By the time John received this vision, Paul had been martyred thirty years, and his letters were well-known to all the churches and received as authoritative everywhere. But the symbols not encountered elsewhere in

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Scripture receive comment, thus we learn that lampstands (*menorahs*) are churches, and stars are angels.

REV 2-3 contains the letters to the seven churches. These letters actually describe the seven churches as they were in John's time, with the LORD's blessing and warning for each. So they were unique to a specific time in history. Some say these letters describe the church in history, that the church at Ephesus was the church during the Roman Empire, and on down the line, with the church at Laodicea being the church at the time when Jesus returns. But I disagree. John is still describing what is. We know, because when the vision shifts to what will be, John is told that (REV 4:1).

It may also be that as the letters describe the church that is in the present time, they describe the present state of the church, which always is because of the LORD's grace, human nature, and sin. If so, we can find our church described in one of the seven letters, and perhaps ourselves; along with each commendation and warning. Hopefully we will heed it.

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<http://RevelationRevealed.online>

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Christine blogs daily at <http://www.alittleperspective.com>.