

## DAY 6: NOW TO HIM

The Book of Revelation so frequently references Old Testament passages, themes, and concepts that it is critical to view the Book of Revelation through the lens of a first-century Jew (like John). We must also view the Book of Revelation through the eyes of John the Beloved, who is longing to see his dear friend, Jesus, again.

### I. THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. Two ways to view “the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v. 1)
  - 1. “Apocalypses” in Greek = the revealing of Jesus Christ
    - a) The coming of Jesus, the culmination of the story of redemption
  - 2. Unveiling of things that were once “mysteries”
    - a) Things that were once covered, not fully explained now come to light
- B. The Book of Revelation is the revealing of events, but also the revealing of things that were once covered; these things are now all on the table for all to understand
- C. God gives the revelation to Jesus (concerning his own revelation), Jesus gives it to the angel, and the angel then gives the revelation to John

### II. EPISTLE, PROPHETIC, AND APOCALYPTIC

- A. Epistle: Written in the form of a letter
- B. Prophetic: “The Lord said to me...” tells of what is to come
- C. Apocalyptic: Filled with symbolism, mystical, usually an angel comes and explains
  - 1. The Book of Revelation is apocalyptic (although that category likely did not exist at the time it was written); it is amplified prophesy
- D. The BOR has each of these elements; it is a pastoral, practical book
  - 1. “Blessed is he who reads... and heads these things” (v. 3)

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**III. TWO PHRASES, THREE VIEWS**

“...the things that must soon take place.” (v. 1)

“...the time is near.” (v. 3)

- A. Preterist View
  - 1. Focused on the end of Israel, replacement theology
  - 2. Believe that these events were already fulfilled
- B. Historicist View
  - 1. The BOR is unfolding throughout history
  - 2. Begins shortly but continues on for many years
- C. Futurist View
  - 1. The BOR is primarily focused on the final 7 years before the return of Jesus
  - 2. The BOR is primarily discussing two main events:
    - a) Jesus first coming
    - b) Jesus second coming
  - 3. Jesus-centric perspective, rejects replacement theology
  - 4. Until the Son of God is on the throne, these things have not been fulfilled
  - 5. Not primarily an issue of timing but of urgency and certainty
    - a) These things that John reveals will come to pass, so live with urgency
    - b) Jesus also calls us to repent and live with urgency ([Mark 1:15](#))
  - 6. Understand that statements made to the churches in [Revelation 1-2](#) were partially fulfilled
    - a) There was an imminent persecution and there is also an ultimate persecution to come
  - 7. “The God of Peace will soon crush Satan...” ([Romans 16:20](#))
    - a) Communicates certainty, urgency, calls us to trust, rest, know that it is as good as done
    - b) Does not speak to timing

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**IV. OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATION FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

- A. “The One who was, and is, and is to come”
  - 1. Speaks to God’s eternal existence
  - 2. Jesus was not created either; he also calls himself the Bridegroom (John 8)
  - 3. So, in what sense is God to come?
    - a) It’s primarily referring to Yahweh
    - b) We’re looking forward to Jesus, the Son who is the Coming One
- B. The Seven Spirits
  - 1. There is one Holy Spirit, revealed here in a diverse way
  - 2. [Zechariah 4:1-2](#) and [Isaiah 11](#)
- C. “Behold, he is coming on the clouds...” ([Revelation 1: 7](#))
  - 1. Every time Jesus references his second coming, he references [Daniel 7](#) and [Zechariah 12](#)
  - 2. Jesus comes to Earth from heaven, then marches to Jerusalem from the South ([Isaiah 63](#), [Habakuk 3](#), [Psalm 68](#))
  - 3. Blessing of Moses ([Deuteronomy 33](#))
- D. There is a Jerusalem-centric nature to the return of Jesus ([Zechariah 12: 9-13](#), [Zechariah 9](#))