

“A Very Special Book”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 2
Revelation 1:1-3

*“The coming Kingdom of God is
the ultimate goal of human history.”*

1. The challenge of The Revelation.

Question:

What is the purpose of Scripture?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!
Galatians 1:7-8

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.
2 Peter 1:16-18

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
Isaiah 46:9-10

2. The interpretation of The Revelation.

Question:

What is the purpose of prophecy?

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:19-21

Question:

How are we to interpret the prophecies of the Bible?

The “literal” approach (Premillennialism)

The “allegorical” approach (Amillennialism)

Four Major Views on the Prophecies of Revelation

Futuristic view

Historical view

Preterit view

Idealistic view

Question:

How are we to understand John's visions?

I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Daniel 8:27

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:1-3

Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks (An Outline of Prophecy)

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Daniel 9:24-27

3. The Precision of Prophecy (four parts to Daniel's vision).

*The initiation of the prophecy by the decree of Artaxerxes given to Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

*The rebuilding of Jerusalem completed in 49 years

*The presentation of Jesus as Israel's Messiah (April 6, A.D. 32, Palm Sunday). Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy as He entered Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey. This happened on the precise day that ended the 69 week of Daniel's prophecy. On that Palm Sunday, Jesus prophesied against Jerusalem, Luke 19:38.

*The 70th week of seven years, a covenant made by the Anti-Christ and the breaking of the covenant at the mid-point of the seven years

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. Daniel 9:27

Lifework: Hundreds of detailed prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus came 2,000 years ago. As we examine the literal fulfillment of these prophecies, we gain confidence that the prophecies that remain will be fulfilled literally. Revelation is a book of prophecy. Can anyone give a reason why God would not plan to fulfill the prophecies of this book just as He has all the other prophecies of the Bible? Friends, we serve a God who is the author of prophecy!