

## Key Points to Master about the Book of Revelation

- 1. The key to understanding the book of Revelation is given to us in the first verse of the book.**
- 2. The best advice I can give you when you read Revelation is given to us in Hebrews 12:2.**
- 3. The outline for the book of Revelation is given in Rev 1:19.**
- 4. The saints must not lose sight of who we are (explained for us in the epistles like Romans, Ephesians, and Hebrews) when we read Revelation.**
- 5. The central event that Revelation is organized around is the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The event is described in chapter 19, and is found at the beginning (Rev 1:7) and the end (Rev 22:6-20)**
- 6. The vision of Christ that John describes in Rev 1 is the key to understanding the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3.**
- 7. John wrote the book of Revelation during the time of the first great persecution of the church by the Roman Empire - during the reign of the emperor Domitian (AD 81-96).**
- 8. Two key words are repeated throughout the whole book. They are “Lamb” (29 times) and “throne” (47 times).**
- 9. There are several judgments in the book of Revelation, but whatever judgments fall, they do not fall on the saints, the Body of Christ!**
- 10. The book of Revelation contains the details of the carrying out of the decree from God the Father that all Christ’s enemies shall be put under His feet (Heb 10:12,13 quoting Psalm 110) and all things, save the Father, shall be subjected to Him (1Co 15:24-28)**

## More explanation for #1-4 and 10.

### 1. The key to understanding the book of Revelation is given to us in the first verse of the book.

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, 2

It is the revelation from Jesus Christ

It is also the revelation about Jesus Christ

The Greek word for “Revelation” is

ἀποκάλυψις

apokalupsis

This word means “a disclosure, an unveiling”. the uncovering, the revealing, the disclosure, the appearing.

Disclosure of what has heretofore been hidden

This is the key to the whole book!

It is a book of which Christ is the great subject and center, particularly in that period of His glory designated as the day of His appearing.

Undoubtedly the blessing of verse 4 is associated with the fact that this book reveals things about our Lord Jesus Christ that would otherwise be unknown.

The unveiling of Jesus Christ in His glory as King by God the Father

The appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Coming

Luke 2:29-32

29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,

According to Your word;

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,  
And the glory of Your people Israel."

2 Thess 1:6-11

6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be **revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.

1 Peter 1:7

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the **revelation** of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.

Revelation is about REVEALING things, not keeping them hidden!!!

**2. The best advice I can give you when you read Revelation is given to us in Hebrews 12:2.**

Heb 12:1-2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured **the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of **the throne** of God.

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**3. The outline for the book of Revelation is given in Rev 1:19.**

Rev 1:17-19

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, " Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 "Therefore write **the things which you have seen**, and **the things which are**, and **the things which will take place after these things**.

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So the Lord Jesus Christ provided the outline, and therefore we should give heed to it.

The things which you have seen = Rev 1:4-20. The vision of the Glorified Jesus Christ.

The things which are = Rev 2 & 3. The letters to the seven churches.

The things which will take place after these things = Rev 4 through 22.

Worship in heaven (Rev 4 & 5)

The Great Tribulation (Rev 6:-18)

The Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 19)

The Millennium (Rev 20:1-10)

The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15)

The Eternal State – the New Jerusalem (Rev 21-22)

#### **4. The saints must not lose sight of who we are (explained for us in the epistles like Romans, Ephesians, and Hebrews) when we read Revelation.**

We are justified forever by faith in Christ, we are in Christ, and Christ is our Great High Priest leading our worship even now in heaven.

When it comes to the events that are prophesied in the book of Revelation, the saints are looking for the new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells ( 2Pe 3:13)

2 Peter 3:13

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

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The Lord Jesus Christ is not seen in the book of Revelation as the Head of the Body, the Church. In Revelation, we are not studying the calling of the Church as the Body of Christ, as risen and heavenly.

The book of Revelation deals with outcomes: (1) the earthly church testimony, for as a witness for God the church is proved unfaithful and removed from the scene: the real church taken to heaven and the false destroyed by the Beast during the Tribulation.

He is Jesus, the root and offspring of David, the bright, the morning star to His own, His beloved servants (Rev 22:16). He is the Coming One, expected and longed for by His real saints, the Bride, the True Church, who are under His grace continually.

The last words of Revelation are

Rev 22:21

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.  
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We must study this book in light of this verse! And of

Rev 1:5-7

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood — 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father — to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7  
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The strictly prophetic part of Revelation does not begin until the churches are out of the scene – that is, after chapter 4.

Judgment for the true Church is past. The true Church has nothing to do with this present age, any more than it has to do with this world. Her citizenship is in heaven. She is one with Christ; she is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and may be caught up *at any moment*.

Although she is *informed* in Revelation about “the things which must shortly come to pass” on earth, she will not be *in* them.

It is absolutely necessary for us to distinguish, as members of the Body of Christ, between what is said *about* us (in the epistles), and what is told *to* us, as friends, by our Lord, in the book of Revelation.

[with thanks to William Newell for his clear writing on this subject]

**10. The book of Revelation contains the details of the carrying out of the decree from God the Father that all Christ's enemies shall be put under His feet (Heb 10:12,13 quoting Psalm 110) and all things, save the Father, shall be subjected to Him (1Co 15:24-28)**

Heb 10:12-14

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.

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Heb 1:13-14

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,  
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES  
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

Ps 110

10 The Lord says to my Lord:

" Sit at My right hand

Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

1 Cor 15:24-28

24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, " All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

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