

REVELATION

A Study Guide

Kay-Chong Yeo

2011

Revelation: A Study Guide

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One Thing Ministries

International House of Prayer (Singapore)

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Foreword

This study guide is about hope. Unlike what you might expect, *Revelation: A Study Guide* by my friend Kay-Chong Yeo is a view of the future and a glimpse back at the past. We who are believers have hope in our hearts because we know Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13 describes our hope. *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”*

Two very different men lived in the twentieth century. One was Dr. Bertrand Russell, a famous philosopher and atheist who believed and taught that hope in God was nonsense. He once said, “Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence, it will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines.” Before his death he analyzed the coming world crisis, writing, “Mankind is on a spiral downward to despair: I have given up all hope.” It is clear, that he had not found hope in Christ.

The second man was the great European psychiatrist, Dr. Paul Tournier, who was a humble follower of Jesus. Toward the close of his life, he too wrote about hope, saying, “The only hope for the redemption of mankind is a personal confrontation with the Lord Jesus Christ.” You can see the vast contrast between two men with completely different belief systems.

The book of Revelation has always been a book of mystery, intrigue, and challenge mixed with hope. Few Christians ever venture into the study of this book because they fear the unknown. Yet Rev. 1:3 states: *“Blessed is the one who reads and hears the Words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, for the time is near.”* We are assured blessings when we read and study Revelation.

I am thrilled that Kay-Chong helps eliminate the fear of things to come in this study guide. Like a skilled surgeon with a scalpel, Kay-Chong presents Revelation’s insights to us line-by-line, precept-upon-precept.

The book of Revelation is the unveiling of a mystery—a revelation. The whole of Scripture verifies it. My own study of this book through the years has been guided by three principles:

1. *There is no higher authority for interpreting the inspired Word of God than the source of that inspiration.* Father God confirms His truth through Scripture. No author of the Bible contradicts another. The Scriptures never fail to be consistent. An interpretation that holds for one passage of prophecy will hold for another passage as well.

2. *To understand certain passages of Revelation, it is often necessary to study the original languages.* The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek. Understanding prophetic words and phrases often requires an understanding of the original Greek or Hebrew word. It provides a fuller and more complete definition of what the author was saying in the context of Jewish life and culture at the time.

3. *Historical evidence either confirms that a prophecy has been fulfilled, or that it is yet to be fulfilled.* Prophecies are statements about future events, either they happen as foretold or they don’t. If a prophecy can be said to have been fulfilled in reference to a particular

time and place, then the evidence uncovered by archaeologists and historians about that place will be consistent with that prophecy.

On a 1995 prayer journey into Egypt our 6-member team experienced firsthand the Scripture coming alive at an archaeological dig occurring in Zoan, Egypt. Zoan was the ancient city where Moses confronted the great Pharaoh to demand “Let God’s people go.” This city combined social, religious and political influence of that day. A British team sponsored by Prince Philip was funding the dig at Zoan, when we arrived. It was late in the day when the Muslim guards, who thought we were Jewish archaeologists (our guide was an archaeologist, but not us), allowed us into the heavily guarded premises. We were there to find the burial ground of Pharaoh Shishak, the man we believed through our research was behind the beginnings of Freemasonry.

As we walked through the area, one of the guards came to Gigi, our guide, and asked if our team wanted to see their recent find. She answered, “What is it?” He said are you interested in the grave of King Shishak. Wow!! This was the main reason we had come to Egypt. Through translation, we were able to confirm prophetic Scripture with physical evidence. Clearly, Shishak lived in the day of Solomon and Jeroboam, and was an arch-enemy of Solomon’s who plundered Jerusalem and took the vessels of Solomon’s temple back with him to Egypt. (Is. 19:11-14; 1 Kings 11:40; 2 Chron. 12:5-9) We were able to reach into the past to dig out its ancient roots so that we may project into the future how to pray more effectively about a cult belief spread around the world. The traces of the spirit of Freemasonry began in Babel, migrated and developed in ancient Egypt through Pharaoh Shishak, increased during the Greco-Roman periods, and later crossed into Europe and ultimately around the world.

These three principles are listed in priority. The first, that God reveals truth through the Word; the second, that the original language, in its cultural context aids in understanding certain passages; and third, that historical evidence confirms the fulfilment of prophecy. To apply prophetic passages to historical events without reference to other prophetic passages in the Word results in mistaken interpretation. Any interpretation of the prophetic, including Revelation demands a complete and thorough reading and comparison of the entire Scripture.

This is why I am very impressed with Kay-Chong’s study guide. He has masterfully simplified the difficult subject of last day prophecy. As Kay-Chong says, “The Book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus and therefore, is not an optional subject (Rev. 1:1).” He continues, “The spirit of prophecy and prayer is to make known the testimony of Jesus or what is on His heart. Revelation was given to equip the Church to operate in the spirit of prophecy and prayer (Rev. 19:10 –11).” The church in the last days should be operating in the spirit of prophecy and prayer; not fear and hopelessness. If Scripture urges us to “*Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” (Rev. 19:10), then what are we waiting for? Here is the perfect road map to help you start your journey.

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Preface

Seriousness of the Times

"For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. 'The silver [is] Mine, and the gold [is] Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 2-6)

This is the hour we are living in – a crucial and strategic time where the only certainty is uncertainty. We are living in the End Times. One of the most vital needs for the Church of Jesus Christ today is to understand the times and know what to do. We need to ask God for the spirit of the “sons of Issachar” (1 Chron. 12:32) so that we can interpret what God is saying and doing in these hours and to respond in accordance to the heart and will of God.

Two key books we need to know to make sense of what is happening are the books of Joel and Revelation. The book of Joel is an instruction manual for the Body of Christ on how to prepare ourselves for the coming Day of the LORD. It is a call to all believers to live radically in the Last Days. The book of Revelation gives us major information about End-Times. This is the most important and crucial book especially for the End-Time Generation.

Why the Book of Revelation?

The book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood books in the entire Bible.

Firstly, many teach that with the exception of scholars, it is impossible to understand this book. But this book was written to be understood by all. This book can be understood in its plainest form.

Secondly, many teach that it is not relevant for believers today. It was written to help God's people endure and overcome throughout history, but it was written especially for the End-Time Generation that will undergo the coming Great Tribulation. It is the “*prophetic prayer manual*” for the End-Time Church.

Finally, this book is unique in that it is the only book in the entire Bible where God promises a special blessing to anyone who reads or hears it (Rev. 1:3) as well as a curse to anyone who adds or subtracts from it (Rev. 22:18 – 19).

The book of Revelation is a book that gives us more information on the End-Time activities and events than any other book in the Bible. It is a prophetic book which gives us detailed and crucial information about what is to come during End-Times.

However, the book of Revelation is more than a book about God's activities and “events” in the End-Times. It is called the “Revelation of Jesus” (Rev. 1:1) because it reveals His heart, power and leadership in preparing the people of God for His glory.

Why this Study Guide to the Book of Revelation

We are living in the Last Days!

The Church needs to understand the time and know how to prepare ourselves! It is vital for the Church to understand this book of Revelation because it gives us important insight on what is going to happen and how to prepare ourselves so that we can be the burning and shining lamp of God in the coming days (John 5:35).

The Church will go through the Great Tribulation with great testing and in great victory. This differs from the popular pre-tribulation Rapture view that teaches that the Church will be raptured before the tribulation and will therefore, miss the End-Time revival and crisis.

We all agree that the Bible teaches that the Church will be raptured. The issue is one of timing. I believe that the Church will be raptured at the end of the Tribulation, rather than at the beginning.

I respect the godliness and wisdom of many who hold the pre-tribulation Rapture view, but I see it as a serious mistake that will leave many unprepared.

In this Study Guide we seek to answer the following questions:

1. Who Jesus is in the Last Days?
2. What is Jesus looking for in His Church?
3. Why is the coming judgment of God so severe?
4. What will happen to the Church of Jesus Christ during this time?
5. How should all believers prepare ourselves, how can we avoid the pitfalls of deception and how should we partner with God in releasing the glory of God to all nations?

I do not ask anyone to accept my views. Rather, all of us need to study, meditate and process the Book with the revelation and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Truth is never hurt by scrutiny but rather it is confirmed by it. We must boldly challenge all ideas that we hear and refuse any that we cannot clearly see in the Scriptures for ourselves.

Let us adopt the spirit of the Bereans who searched the Scriptures to see if the things that Paul said were so (Acts 17:10 – 11). Likewise, I challenge all of us to seek out what is really in the book of Revelation and what God is saying to all of us through this precious book!

May he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches! (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

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Part I

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Introducing the Book of Revelation

A. Introduction

1. The Holy Spirit is orchestrating the greatest move of God in our generation. This coming move of God will be associated with the End-of-the-Age. (Joel 2:18 – 32)
2. This coming End-Time move will be the most comprehensive revolution in human history and will involve the unique dynamics of the End-of-the-Age. This revolution will include Jesus coming back to earth to replace all the leadership on the earth that aligns itself with darkness. (Rev. 11:15; 19:19 – 20:1 – 4; Dan. 7:25 – 27)
3. The Church in the generation in which Jesus returns will actively participate in this revolution. (2 Pet. 3:10 – 12)
 - a. Many people alive today will see this move of God in their lifetime. Thus, they are called by Jesus to actively participate in this move in a personal and dynamic way.
 - b. Scriptures outline what is involved in preparing the Bride. She must be prepared in an intentional way. The Church needs to be focused on what to do now in practical ways to be prepared for this. (Rev. 19:7)
4. This is a call to action. There are specific actions that must be taken now by the people of God. The next few decades will involve a unique preparation for a unique transition of human history. (Jer. 23:20; Isa. 40:3 – 5)
 - a. We must clearly see the “big picture” concerning this dramatic change to the earth.
 - b. We must understand the role of the Church in this coming End-Time move of God.

B. Understanding a transitional generation

1. We must understand the implications of a transitional generation.
 - a. It is a time in which the majority of God’s people witness the power of God on a regular basis. The measure of revelation and power that God releases will increase dramatically.
 - b. The way God relates to His people on earth will dramatically change.
2. There are 3 transitional generations in history.
 - a. The generation of Moses: God established the Old Covenant.
 - b. The generation of the apostles: God established the New Covenant.
 - c. The generation in which Jesus returns: Jesus establishes the Millennial Kingdom.

C. Book of Revelation: Jesus’ End-Time battle plan for the Church

1. Jesus gave us the big picture in the Book of Revelation so we would know it and engage in it. The overcoming Church in the Book of Revelation is described as a praying Church.
2. The Book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus and His specific plan to transit the earth to the Age-to-come. (Rev. 1:1)
 - a. There will be unique dynamics in the generation Jesus returns that are absolutely necessary in preparing the nations for His return. These events require our deep involvement.
 - b. Jesus gives us strategic information that is essential in equipping His Church to fully participate in His End-Time plan.
3. The theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations. His plan to physically destroy all the evil governments on earth is by releasing His judgments on them. (Rev. 6 – 19)
4. Just as the Book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church, so the Book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the End-Time Church.
 - a. The Book of Revelation is the "End-Time Book of Acts". It is a "canonized prayer manual" that informs us of the ways in which Jesus will manifest His power.
 - b. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh through prayer, so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Anti-Christ through prayer. (Ex. 7 – 12)
 - d. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan. (Rev. 11:1-14; 12:9; 13:2)
5. The main focus in the Book of Revelation is God's judgment against the Anti-Christ's empire. The secondary theme is tribulation against the saints inflicted by the Anti-Christ. These judgment events do not happen to us as helpless victims of Satan, but they are released through us as joint participants with Jesus. Jesus' judgments are released to remove all that hinders love.

D. The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1)

1. The main theme of the Book of Revelation is to reveal the personality, power, and action plan of Jesus in preparing His Church to participate with Him in releasing God's glory to all the nations. It is about the glory of Jesus Christ in His Second Coming. (Hab. 2:14; Isa. 2:1 – 4; 11:9 – 10; Rev. 11:15)
2. At the outset of the book we see that the Father has commissioned Jesus to reveal more of His majesty to His Church. Jesus revealed Himself as the Bridegroom, King and Judge who removes all that hinders love as He takes over the earth. (Rev. 1:1; John 17:26)
 - a. Jesus is a passionate Bridegroom who is filled with tender yet jealous love. Jesus will come only in the context of a prepared Bride who lives in unity with Him and the Spirit. (Rev. 19:7)
 - b. Jesus is a transcendent King who will intervene to save the earth by taking over the government of every nation for the glory of God and the good of His people forever. Jesus will replace all the unrighteous governments on earth with righteous leaders and laws. (Rev. 11:15)
 - c. Jesus is a righteous and wise Judge, who works redemptively to confront the hatred of God and truth in order to establish love across the whole earth. (Rev. 16:5 – 7; 15:3 – 4; 19:1 – 5)

NOTE:

- i. *The Second Coming events will display the various tensions of God's love that will forever change the course of human history and usher us into the next age. It is the hour when God's nature of love will be fully manifested and clarified before the whole world. In the person of Christ the world will watch God declare His name in terms of mercy, compassion, deliverance, protection, righteousness, justice, and wrath. Jesus will declare His Father's name again as He delivers the saints, protects and saves Israel, destroys the wicked, and binds Satan in the bottomless pit, all through the partnership of a praying and purified Bride. All His manifold glory will be displayed as He vindicates His loving nature, as He saves, and removes wickedness from the earth.*
- ii. *The generation in which the Lord returns will witness the full opposition of God against the world, the flesh, and the devil. This generation will see the Lord in the fullness of His zealous, compassionate love as He prepares His Church to partner with Him in the releasing of God's glory in all the nations. The earth will meet Jesus, the Bridegroom, King, and Judge in all of His passion and fury. He will display His passion towards those who are His; fury towards those who scorn His love, refuse His tender affections, and embrace the ugly, the perverted, and the wicked.*

E. The Book of Revelation: the End Time Book of Acts – the glory of the Church

1. Both Daniel and the Book of Revelation reveal the Church as purified and made ready in full agreement and partnership with the Lord. (Dan. 11:32 – 35; Rev. 19:7; 22:17)
2. The Book of Revelation is the Acts of the End Time Apostles. Just as the Book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church, so the Book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the End-Time Church.
3. The Book of Revelation is a canonized prayer manual that equips the Church to partner with Jesus in confronting Satan's authority.
 - a. Jesus is coming back only after the Church is prepared in love, wisdom, and faith to release the Tribulation through prayer against the Anti-Christ's empire. Jesus is waiting for the Church to grow into agreement with His character and End-Time plan.
 - b. As Jesus' judgments progressively unfold according to their numbered sequence, the Church will become greatly unified and focused in prayer. The momentum will build as the Church sees the Seals and Trumpets unfold in numerical order. Nothing like this has ever happened in history - where Christians all over the world unify with an "infallible prayer guide" revealing Jesus' action plan including the coming glory and pressures. What the resurrection was to the early apostles, the sequential temporal judgments will be to End-Time apostles. (Acts 4:33)
 - c. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh through prayer in Exodus 7 – 12, so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Anti-Christ by prayer. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan. (Rev. 12:9; 13:2).
 - d. The End-Time prayer movement under Jesus' leadership will bind and release His redemptive judgments according to the will of God. (Rev. 5:8; 6:9 – 11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:1 – 5, 18; 15:1-8; 16:7; 19:2)

F. The Blessing and Invitation (Rev. 1:3)

1. The Book of Revelation contains seven blessings. (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)
 - a. Five encourage faithfulness in the face of fear, persecution, and deception in order to receive the blessings of the marriage supper of the Lamb, the millennial reign, and the New Jerusalem.
 - b. Two of these (i.e. Rev. 1:3 and Rev. 22:7) deal specifically with the blessing that comes to the person who keeps the words of the prophecy.

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- c. The “blessing” exhorts and encourages believers to take the prophecy seriously, to receive the revelation of Jesus’ majestic personality and plan, and to engage in active partnership with the contents of the book.
2. This verse contains a threefold path:
 - a. Eating the scroll – “*blessed is he who reads...*”
 - b. Digesting the message at a level which brings change and produces the faith necessary to live out – “*blessed is he who hears...*”
 - c. Bringing forth the content of the book – “*blessed is he who keeps the prophecy.*”
 3. **He who reads**
 - a. Most commentators point out the public reading aspect of this verse. The charge to read the book publicly was a statement about the book’s rightful place of being in the centre of the community.
 - b. The content of the book is vital for godliness and the formation of genuine Christian community. The Church must read, study, and meditate upon this wonderful gift given to the Body of Christ.
 - c. Christian community is severely hindered by the lack of attention and emphasis towards this prophecy. This results in six things:
 - i. The Church’s view of Jesus diminishes. Jesus as the Word of God and Lord of lords is replaced with an unusual spiritual man who gave a unique but not supreme revelation of God.
 - ii. As the sovereignty and supremacy of Jesus conform to more sensible and modern notions, worship from an overflowing heart gives way to intellectualism and stale religion.
 - iii. Jesus’ return becomes an abstract concept, not a concrete plan to hasten His coming through dynamic partnership.
 - iv. An eternal perspective gives way to the increase of temporal pleasures.
 - v. The centrality of prayer and worship, as well as its governmental role is replaced by leaders with natural talent and gifting. Marketing, rather than intercession, becomes the tool for church growth.
 - vi. The fear of the Lord and His judgments are forgotten and the scandal of sin is replaced with sociological and psychological reasoning. The conscience-factor disappears as the Church becomes emboldened in perversion, greed, and compromise.
-

4. He who hears

- a. This is the reception of divine insight by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Hearing takes place when the spiritual senses of the person are awakened to the truths contained in the book and suddenly the content shifts from the realm of theoretical principles to be pondered to the place of living understanding that demands a response.
- b. In Isa. 50:4 – 5, Jesus is described in this servant song as having an awakened ear. The awakening enables Him to hear as the learned. Immediately, the verse connects the listening ear with right response.
- c. What you hear and how you hear will always display itself in behaviour. Rom. 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
 - i. Mark 4:24 points to the importance of what you hear.
 - ii. Luke 8:18 points to the importance of how you hear.
- d. Seven times in the gospels (Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35) and once in Rev. 13:9 Jesus exhorts, “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!” Seven times in the Book of Revelation Jesus exhorts, “If anyone has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”
- e. Along with the parable of the sower, Jesus quotes Isa. 6:9 – 10 in Matt. 13:13 – 15. Jesus sets forth the value of God’s Word. Have we considered the infinite value of the Book of Revelation? It is to be cherished, pursued, and sought after like hidden treasure.

5. He who keeps

- a. God’s word is not simply meant to be understood; it is to be kept. The Greek word means “to guard from loss”. Blessed is the one who guards the content of the book in a way which takes the details seriously. The content of God’s word is to be activated in the life of the believer.
- b. Blessed is the one who hears and keeps the word of God. Blessed is the one who takes the details seriously, who searches enough to understand in a way that impacts behaviour. (Luke 11:27 – 28)
- c. The keeping in this passage is not associated with a general obedience to the general commands of God. A general keeping of the God’s commandments is quite clearly stated in Rev. 22:14, but this keeping is specifically related to the words of the prophecy.
- d. This prophecy is an invitation for hastening the day of the Lord through active participation. Which generation will read, hear, and then keep the prophecy. Which generation will come into the revelation of Christ that produces the faith to keep the prophecy? It is the End-Time generation!

- e. Thus, Jesus reiterates the invitation in Rev. 22:7. Who will come into agreement concerning the time that is at hand and embrace the Lord's desire to establish justice on the earth? One generation will come into faith concerning the person and work of Jesus presented in this prophecy.

G. A severe warning given in Rev. 22:18 – 19

1. John ends the Book of Revelation with a sober warning concerning the content of the book. He warns of two types of corruption to the book (Rev. 22:18 – 19):
 - a. He warns against those who would add to the content of the prophecy – changing the revelation of Jesus or making the book too complex for the common person to understand.
 - b. He warns against those who would take away or diminish the content of the prophecy – relegating it to basic good versus evil principles while neglecting the specifics which have eternal consequences.
2. Two reasons for such a severe warning:
 - a. Doing so will leave the Body of Christ unprepared for its greatest threat and most intense persecution. (2 Thes. 2:1 – 10)
 - b. In Revelation 1 – 5, there are 75 descriptions of Christ, where the nuances of Jesus in His person and work are set forth. The book is rightly titled the Revelation of Christ. The book contains within it the necessary revelation of Jesus to overcome the greatest obstacle to Jesus' return – the lack of desire by His Church for Him to come.
 - i. Presently, the Body of Christ is so inundated and inebriated by the spirit of this age that they have no desire for His return. This is only because they have not received a revelation of Christ and His glory.
 - ii. This is going to change and the place of prayer and worship is going to escort us into this bright revelation of Christ and His glory.
3. If the Church does not read, hear, and get a vision to keep the content of this prophecy, it will continue to be malnourished on the very revelation of Jesus which creates the longing for Him to come and will leave portions of the Church vulnerable to the deceptive schemes of the enemy.

H. One generation will keep the prophecy (Rev. 1 – 3; 22:7 – 9)

1. The 2-fold "keeping" of this Book is done by engaging in the battle plan and preserving it in obedience even unto death. (Rev. 12:11)
2. There is one generation of believers will have the mandate to hasten the Day of the Lord by engaging in the uniqueness of the End-Time battle plan as faithful witnesses.

3. There is one generation of believers who will keep the Book of Revelation. It is the generation that intentionally prepares itself as His Bride by making herself ready.
4. There is only one generation that is prepared to follow through in keeping the Book by having the character, skilful insight and anointing in prayer to release its contents.
5. Only one generation rises up to the challenge to keep the Book. They live a fasted lifestyle in order to go deep in seeking revelation of the contents of the scroll (ie. they "eat" the scroll) (Rev. 10).

Overview of the Book of Revelation

A. Introduction

1. The book of Revelation has the clearest and most information on the End-Times in Scripture. Other important books to read are Daniel, Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah 12 – 14, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and 1 and 2 Peter.
2. Common lies related to the Book of Revelation:
 - a. Revelation is not relevant for today because every generation has believed they were the final generation.
 - The truth is possible that each generation has had 1% or less who believed this, yet only two generations have had a universal conviction about it.
 - b. Revelation is to be interpreted symbolically.
 - The events and numbers in Revelation are to be understood in their plain meaning (i.e. literal) unless the Scripture specifically indicates that they are symbolic. (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9)
 - c. Revelation is impossible to understand except by scholars.
 - It was written to be understood by all.
3. It is unique in that it is the only book in the Bible where God promises a special blessing to anyone who reads or hears it. (Rev. 1:3)

B. Purpose

1. The book of Revelation is written for ordinary people. Therefore, it will yield its treasures if we read it with a simple faith, an open mind and a tender heart.
2. The words in the book should be taken in their plainest, simplest sense, unless clearly indicated otherwise. It should be assumed that the author of the book means what he says and the message should be taken at “face value”.
3. The primary purpose of the book is not just to reveal a schedule of future events but to prepare God’s people for what is going to happen.
4. It is to exhort Christians facing immense pressures to endure and overcome and thus avoid the second death by keeping their name in the book of life.
5. Key word in the book: OVERCOME.
6. Key verse in the book: Rev. 14:12.

C. 4 Major Themes in the Book of Revelation

1. The book of Revelation emphasizes 4 major themes:
 - a. The Beauty and Majesty of God. (Rev. 1; 4 - 5 and 19)
 - b. The Great Day of the LORD – End-Times. (Rev. 6 – 19)
 - c. The Bride of Christ. (Rev. 2 – 3; 19 – 20)
 - d. Eternity. (Rev. 19 – 22)
2. The book of Revelation emphasizes the unusual positive and negative events on the Day of the LORD related to Jesus' Second Coming. (Joel 2:11)
 - a. We will see the positive trends of the Day of the LORD when we read the book through the lens of the Bride.
 - b. We will see the negative trends of the Day of the LORD when we read the book through the lens of the Lost or Rebellious.

D. Outline of the Book of Revelation: 4 main parts

1. Rev. 1: **Introduction** – John's commission to reveal Jesus' majesty and beauty.
2. Rev. 2 – 3: **Letters to the 7 Churches** – Exhortations to be overcomers.
3. Rev. 4 – 5: **The Heavenly Court** – God's Governmental Centre and the Supreme Leadership of Jesus. Jesus receives the Scroll with the 7 seals as the title deed of earth.
4. Rev. 6 – 22: **Storyline on earth** – Great Tribulation, Second Coming of Jesus, Millennium and New Earth.
 - a. The storyline covers the largest section in the Book of Revelation, telling us what happens on earth during the Great Tribulation (i.e. 3½ years), and the Millennium leading to the New Earth.
 - b. In this section, John highlights the 3-numbered judgment series – 7 Seals, Trumpets and Bowls.
 - i. They are literal – actual events that are not to be explained away as mere symbols.
 - ii. They are to take place in the future – their greatest fulfilment is in the future.
 - iii. They are progressive – they will increase in intensity.
 - iv. They are numbered – they are released in a sequential order.

E. The Structures of the Book of Revelation

1. The CHRONOLOGICAL sections (Rev. 6; 8 – 9; 11:14 – 19; 15:1 – 16:21; 19:11 – 21:8)
 - a. The 5 chronological sections comprise of and describe:
 - i. The 3-numbered judgment series consisting of the 7 Seals (Rev. 6), the 7 Trumpets (Rev. 8 – 9) and the 7 Bowls of wrath (Rev. 15 – 16).
 - ii. The Second Coming of Jesus to Jerusalem (Rev. 19), the Millennium and the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20).
 - iii. The New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev. 21).
 - b. In the 5 chronological sections, the events happen one after the other in chronological order. These sections unfold in a straightforward way without any symbolism. The passages say just what they mean.
 - c. The storyline of Revelation unfolds in a sequential way as the 1st Seal leads to the 2nd which in turns leads to the 3rd, and so on. After the 7 Seals come the Trumpets, and then the Bowls.
 2. The PARENTHETICAL sections (Rev. 7:1 – 17; 10:1 – 11:14; 12:1 – 14:20; 17:1 – 19:10; 21:9 – 22:5)
 - a. A parenthetical section is one that is in parentheses and it follows after a chronological section. Each parenthetical section is followed by another chronological section.
 - b. The parenthetical sections are the interpretative sections of Revelation. They answer the deep questions that surface because of the severity of God's wrath which were seen in the preceding chronological sections.
 - c. There are 2 main questions that are asked:
 - i. Why are the judgments so severe? How can a God of love find it necessary to release such severe judgments upon the world at the End of the Age?
 - ii. What will happen to the Church? Will we be in God's favour and be anointed, and are we safe in the process? What will happen to the saints during this time? How can I avoid the pitfalls of deception?
 - d. Each of the 5 parenthetical sections answers these 2 questions in different ways. After each parenthetical section, the angel continues to unfold the chronological storyline again.
 - e. The parenthetical sections are the more challenging or difficult sections because of the symbolism. Most of the symbols in the book of Revelation are located almost entirely in these 5 parenthetical sections.
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3. General flow of the Book from Rev. 6 – 22:
 - a. Chronological Section 1: The 7 Seals. (Rev. 6)
 - b. Parenthetical Section 1: Sealed for protection – physical and spiritual. (Rev. 7)
 - c. Chronological Section 2: The 7 Trumpets. (8 – 9)
 - d. Parenthetical Section 2: Prophetic Ministry – direction and power. (Rev. 10 – 11:14)
 - e. Chronological Section 3: The Rapture of the Church. (Rev. 11:14 – 19)
 - f. Parenthetical Section 3: War in the Spirit: Anti-Christ and False Prophet. (Rev. 12 – 14)
 - g. Chronological Section 4: The 7 Bowls. (Rev. 15 – 16)
 - h. Parenthetical Section 4: Fall of Babylon. (Rev. 17 – 19:10)
 - i. Chronological Section 5: Jesus received as King of kings over the earth. (Rev. 19:11 – 21:8)
 - j. Parenthetical Section 5: Victory of the Bride. (Rev. 21:9 – 22:5)
 4. Understanding the relationship between the Chronological Sections and the Parenthetical Sections makes the Book of Revelation much easier to grasp. The parenthetical sections are the most challenging parts of Revelation because most of the symbols are in these sections.

F. Seven primary symbols in the parenthetical sections

1. How do we know when a passage is symbolic? When the text clearly indicates that it is. For example, the angel tells John that the 7 lamp stands are symbolic of seven churches. (Rev. 1:20)
2. Seven primary symbols
 - a. The dragon is always symbolic of Satan. (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)
 - b. The first Beast is symbolic of the Anti-Christ. He is called the Beast 33 times in Revelation. (Rev. 6:8; 11:7; 13; 14:9 – 11; 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 17:3 – 17; 19:19 – 20; 20:4, 10)
 - c. The “another Beast” is symbolic of the False Prophet. He is only called “another Beast” once in the book. He is normally referred to as the False Prophet. (Rev. 13:11 – 17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10)

- d. The 7 heads: speaks of the 7 world empires through history that have persecuted Israel – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and Nazi Germany. The Roman Empire that will be revived in the End Times will also persecute Israel. (Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3,7,12,16)
- e. The 10 horns speak of a future 10-nation confederation that will rule simultaneously over their own nations as they come into an enthusiastic agreement or partnership under the Anti-Christ's authority. (Dan. 2:41 – 42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36 – 45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16)
- f. The Harlot Babylon: will be established in the literal re-built city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (i.e. 50 miles south of Baghdad). Babylon will be restored and used as a headquarters for the Anti-Christ. It will function as the centre of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks. (Rev. 17-18; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; Jer. 50 – 51)
- g. The Woman with the Male-child (i.e. Jesus): the woman is the faithful remnant of Israel through history. Satan wars with her offspring who are Gentile believers. (Rev. 12:1 – 6, 17)

G. Introduction: John's commission to reveal Jesus' majesty (Rev. 1)

1. The Book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus because it reveals His heart, power and leadership in preparing the nations for God's glory.
 - a. The four Gospels give us a record of Jesus' miracle power at His first coming to accomplish redemption.
 - b. The book of Revelation tells us about Jesus' miracle power in taking leadership over the earth at the End-of-the-Age.
 - c. The Gospels and Revelation reveal the same Jesus operating in the same power of the Holy Spirit.
2. If we read the Book of Revelation right, it causes us to adore Jesus. Revelation is not an optional book for the Church.

H. Letters to the 7 Churches: Exhortations to overcome (Rev. 2 – 3)

1. Jesus spoke prophetically to 7 churches in the first century, calling them to be overcomers.
2. His prophetic messages are intended to give us instructions on how to best prepare for His coming in the midst of the End-Time dynamics.
3. Jesus promised us eternal rewards. (Rev 2:7, 10, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

I. The Heavenly court: Jesus Receives the 7 sealed Scroll (Rev. 4 – 5)

1. Rev. 4 – 5 gives us a powerful picture of the heavenly throne of God and governmental centre of the Kingdom of God. The purpose of these 2 chapters is to give us confidence in God and shows us how we can partner with Him through prayers and worship.
2. In Rev. 5, Jesus will take a 7 sealed scroll from the Father. The scroll represents the title deed of the earth and the action plan to judge, cleanse and prepare the earth for Jesus' rule on the earth while bringing the Church to maturity and in unity with redeemed Israel. This plan is seen in the events of Revelation.

J. First Chronological Section: 6 Seals of Judgment (Rev. 6:1 – 17)

1. The timing of Jesus' opening the 7 Seals is one interpretive key to the book of Revelation.
 - a. Is it in the future or has it already happened in the past?
 - b. Rev. 5:8 gives insight into the timing of Rev. 4 – 5. It happens when the prayer movement is matured worldwide. In other words, only when the Bowls of prayer are full will Jesus open the 1st Seal.
2. The 7 Seals are released by Jesus, the Lamb of God. (Rev. 5:5; 6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 8:1)
 - a. White horse (1st seal): Anti-Christ's political/ military aggression (v.1 – 2)
 - b. Red horse (2nd seal): Bloodshed and world war (v.3 – 4)
 - c. Black horse (3rd seal): Famine and economic crisis (v.5 – 6)
 - d. Pale horse (4th seal): Disease and death of ¼ of the earth's population (v.7 – 8)
 - e. Prayer movement (5th seal): Releasing God's judgments (v.9 – 11)
 - f. Cosmic disturbances (6th seal): Cosmic crisis (v.12 – 17)

K. First Parenthetical Section: Who can stand? (Rev. 7:1 – 17)

1. This interlude answers the question of "Who can stand?" in Rev. 6:17. This affirms the security of God's people.
2. God reveals that "144,000" Jewish and Gentile believers will be able to stand in victory. (Rev. 7:1 – 8)
 - a. These saints will receive a protective seal before God strikes the earth, sea and trees (the areas affected by the 1st four Trumpets in Rev. 8:7 – 12).
 - b. Many saints will be protected from the judgment and wrath of God. (Zeph. 2:3; Mic. 7:14 – 19; Isa. 11:15 – 16)

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- c. This is similar to the book of Exodus, where the people of Israel received a protective mark on their doors as a seal that saved their firstborn from death.
 3. God reveals that the Gentile martyrs stood strong without wavering in persecution till the end. (Rev. 7:9 – 17)

L. Second Chronological Section: 6 Trumpets (Rev. 8:2 – 9:21)

1. The Trumpet judgments constitute the 2nd Judgment Series.
 - a. They are supernatural acts of God inflicted on nature (1st four Trumpets) and demons (5th and 6th Trumpets).
 - b. They are not merely natural or historical acts portrayed in symbolic language.
 - c. They are sent as the answer to the prayers of the saints on their persecutors. The saints are not the objects of the Trumpet Judgments. (Rev. 9:4; 7:1 – 17)
 2. The Trumpet Judgments have a 3-fold purpose:
 - a. Judgment on the enemies.
 - b. Warning to the lost.
 - c. Victory for God's people.
 3. The Trumpet judgments display the Anti-Christ's false gods as inferior in power to Jesus. God will frustrate the Anti-Christ's plan through the Trumpet judgments.
 4. The 7th Seal (Rev. 8:1) gives the commission for 7 angels to release the Trumpet judgments, signifying God's incense, thereby releasing the fullness of His anointing on the End-Times prayer movement (Rev. 8:3 – 4), which causes God's fire to be cast to the earth (Rev. 8:5a).
 5. The 1st four Trumpets release God's judgments on nature with an indirect judgment on the natural resources and safety of Anti-Christ's worshippers. The last 2 Trumpets touch men in the Anti-Christ's kingdom in a direct way using demons to torment and then kill them.
 - a. 1st trumpet: burning 1/3 of the earth's vegetation (Rev. 8:7)
 - b. 2nd trumpet: destroying 1/3 of the earth's seas (Rev. 8:8 – 9)
 - c. 3rd trumpet: poisoning 1/3 of the earth's fresh water (Rev. 8:10 – 11)
 - d. 4th trumpet: darkening 1/3 of the earth's light (Rev. 8:12 – 13)
 - e. 5th trumpet: releasing the demonic plague of locusts (Rev. 9:1 – 12)
 - f. 6th trumpet: killing 1/3 of the earth's population (Rev. 9:13 – 21)
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M. Second Parenthetical Section: Prophetic Messengers (Rev. 10:1 – 11:14)

1. Rev. 10:1 – 11:13 is a parenthetical section just before the releasing of the final Bowl judgments.
 - a. The main point in this parenthetical section is that God is assuring us that He will provide prophetic direction and power to those who call out to Him.
 - b. God will release an unprecedented outpouring of prophetic revelation in the End-Times (Acts 2:17 – 21) at international, national and regional levels.
2. God promises to raise up prophetic messengers before the Bowls are released so as to not leave the people without prophetic messengers to prepare them. God will use the “seven thunders prophetic messengers” to contribute to the release of His End-Time purpose.
3. There are 2 Witnesses who will preach with great power to release God’s judgments for 3½ years during the Great Tribulation. They will work miracles like Moses and Elijah.

N. Third Chronological Section: the 7th Trumpet and the 2nd Coming begins (Rev. 11:14 – 19)

1. The 7th Trumpet initiates the 2nd Coming procession and is followed by the Rapture. (Rev. 11:15 – 18; 1 Cor. 15:50 – 52)
2. The empire of this world will come under Jesus’ reign at the last Trumpet when the saints are rewarded and those who destroy the earth are destroyed by God.
3. The 2nd Coming is a 3-stage process that includes many events instead of being only 1 event that happens within 1 day.
 - a. Jesus comes across the entire earth in the sky. (Rev. 1:7)
 - b. Jesus comes across the land. (Isa. 63:1 – 6)
 - c. Jesus re-enters Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39; Ps. 24:7 – 10) using the 7 Bowls to destroy the armies of the Anti-Christ and thus, win the Armageddon Campaign (Rev. 19:11 – 21) at the Battle of Jerusalem.

O. Third Parenthetical Section: War in the Spirit (Rev. 12:1 – 14:20)

1. This parenthetical section occurs just before the announcing of the release of the 7 Bowls of wrath (Rev. 15 – 16). The purpose of it is 2-fold:
 - a. To give us insight into the certainty of victory for the saints.
 - b. To give us insight into why God’s wrath is so severe.

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2. In Rev. 12, war breaks out in heaven between Satan and Michael, which results in Satan being cast to the earth in the generation that the Lord returns.
 3. In Rev. 13, Satan continues his war on earth using his 2 primary weapons of war – the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.
 - a. In Rev. 13:1 – 10, the Anti-Christ is introduced as the Beast from the sea.
 - i. He is the final world leader who wages war against God and persecutes the saints.
 - ii. He has a political, military and economic alliance with a 10-nation confederation. He will have the largest army, the most money and power in the entire history of mankind.
 - iii. He will use demonic miracles to deceive (Rev. 13:12 – 14) and the political process to kill resisters (Rev. 13:15).
 - b. In Rev. 13:11 – 18, the False Prophet is introduced as the Beast from the earth. His goal is to cause all nations to worship the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13:4,8). He has 3 strategies:
 - i. Deceiving many by giving demonically empowered speeches that are confirmed by great miracles. (Rev. 13:12 – 14)
 - ii. Abomination of desolation – a demonically empowered idol. (Rev. 13:14 – 15)
 - iii. The mark of the Beast which provides a strict way to control of finance, trade and purchases of the necessities of life. This is a means of forcing all to openly declare their loyalty or the lack of loyalty to the Anti-Christ. (Rev. 13:16 – 17)
 4. In Rev. 14, God promises rewards to His people who endure till the end and judgment to the followers of the Anti-Christ in 4 different sections:
 - a. “144,000” Jewish and Gentile believers: a model for victory in the midst of persecution. (Rev. 14:1 – 5)
 - b. 4 specific End-Time proclamations that the Spirit will anoint. (Rev. 14:6 – 13)
 - i. Earthly victory: Gospel preached to all nations. (Rev. 14:6 - 7)
 - ii. Earthly judgment: Babylon/ Harlot Church faced with certain defeat. (Rev. 14:8 – 11)
 - iii. Eternal judgment: Certain judgment for Anti-Christ worshippers. So, heed the warning and do not take the mark of the Beast and do not worship the Beast. (Rev. 14:9 – 11)
 - iv. Eternal reward: certain blessing/ reward for perseverance. (Rev. 14:12-13)
 - c. Unprecedented Harvest released by the prayers of believers and judgment on the harvest of sins. (Rev. 14:14 – 16)
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d. Final Judgment – the release of the bowls. (Rev. 14:17 - 20)

P. Fourth Chronological Section: 7 Bowls of God's wrath (Rev. 15:1 – 16:21)

The 7 Bowls of wrath constitute the 3rd Judgment series. The judgment events are parallel to the plagues in Egypt released by Moses against Pharaoh. (Ex. 7 – 12)

1. 1st Bowl: loathsome sores to Anti-Christ's followers. (Rev. 16:1 – 2)
2. 2nd Bowl: sea turns into blood and kills all in the sea. (Rev. 16:3)
3. 3rd Bowl: all the fresh water turns into blood. (Rev. 16:4 – 7)
4. 4th Bowl: scorching heat and fire from the sun. (Rev. 16:8 – 9)
5. 5th Bowl: darkness on the Anti-Christ's global empire. (Rev. 16:10 – 11)
6. 6th Bowl: demons lure the nations to Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12 – 16)
7. 7th Bowl: worst earthquake ever, with 100-pound hail stones. (Rev. 16:17 – 21)

Q. Fourth Parenthetical Section: The Fall of Babylon (Rev. 17:1 – 19:10)

1. God assures the saints of His complete judgment on Babylon whose worldwide economic and religious networks have seduced many to follow evil and to persecute the saints.
2. The judgment of the Great Harlot (Rev. 17) and the fall of Babylon (Rev. 18) will destroy many of the resources and the infrastructure of darkness. God's wrath will come in 2 stages:
 - a. The 1st phase of the fall of Babylon (Rev. 17) relates to a worldwide religion system of toleration and syncretism. This will fall in the middle of the 7-year period at the hands of the 10 kings (Rev. 17:16). They will replace it with the Anti-Christ religious system that is likely to be based in Jerusalem.
 - b. The 2nd phase of judgment (Rev. 18) will be the collapse of the Anti-Christ's worldwide economic system at the end of the 7-year period at the hand of God (Rev. 18:8)
3. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the rewards for each believer occur in context to the 2nd Coming and the Rapture. (Rev. 19:7 – 10)

R. Fifth Chronological Section: Millennial Kingdom, New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 19:11 – 21:8)

1. This describes Jesus' coming to earth (specifically to Jerusalem) as the Warrior-King (Rev. 19:11 – 21) to end the Armageddon Campaign by defeating the Anti-Christ (Rev. 19:17 – 21).
2. Jesus as King of kings will take over all the governments of the earth after binding Satan (Rev. 20:1 – 3). He will then establish His earthly 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:4 – 10).

Note: The Millennium is a literal 1000 year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in righteousness, prosperity and continual peace. (Isa. 2:1 – 4; 9:6 – 7; 11:1 – 16; 51:1 – 8; 60 – 62; 65:17 – 25; Ps. 2:6 – 12; 110:1 – 7; Deut. 8 & 28)

3. After the Millennium is the Great White Throne Judgment. (Rev. 20:11 – 15)
4. The Father establishes His Throne with His people on the New Earth. (Rev. 21:1 – 8)

S. Fifth Parenthetical Section: New Jerusalem, New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21:9 – 22:5)

1. The fifth parenthetical section describes the New Jerusalem's relationship to the millennial earth. The New Jerusalem descends to the New Earth. (Rev. 21:10)
2. After the Millennial rebellion, the present heaven and earth is purged with fire to become the New Heaven and New Earth with the New Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:1 – 22:5)

T. John's Final Exhortation (Rev. 22:6 – 21)

Chapter 3

The Importance of Revelation Chapter 1

A. Introduction

1. Revelation Chapter 1 is an important and vital chapter in the book of Revelation because it lays the foundation for us to understand the entire book.
2. The purpose of Revelation Chapter 1 is two-fold:
 - a. Rev. 1:1 – 8 reveals to us the main theme of the book of Revelation.
 - i. The main theme of the Book of Revelation is to reveal the personality, power and action plan of Jesus in preparing His Church to participate with Him in releasing God's glory in all the nations. (Rev. 1:1)
 - ii. This book is also about Jesus returning to take leadership of the earth in deep partnership with His people. (Rev. 1:7)
 - iii. Jesus will come in the context of a prepared Bride in unity with the Spirit and anointed in prayer to release God's glory on earth. The Book of Revelation is the "eschatological Book of Acts". (Rev. 19:7; 22:17; 8:3 – 6)
 - b. Rev. 1:9 – 20 answers the fundamental question for the End Time Church: Who is Jesus at His Second Coming.
 - i. The most important issue to the early Apostles centred on the truth about Jesus. The same issue will be emphasized by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time apostles and prophets.
 - ii. The question to the End-Time leaders is "who do they say Jesus is". Jesus has called His people to partner with Him through prayer that binds and looses in agreement with His Word. The most important question in this hour of history is WHO JESUS IS. (Matt 16:13 – 19)

B. Revelation 1:1 – 8

1. Rev 1:1 – 8 gives us two major themes of the book of Revelation:
 - a. To reveal who Jesus Christ is at His Second Coming: His glory and majesty; His personality; His power and His plans. (Rev 1:1)
 - b. The return of Jesus to take leadership of the earth and in deep partnership with His people. (Rev 1:3 – 8)
2. This book is about Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Man behind the plans revealed in the book of Revelation.
 - a. The book of Revelation gives us the clearest picture of who Jesus is in the entire Bible.

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- i. There are about 100 descriptions of Jesus in the entire book of Revelation.
 - ii. A correct understanding of this book will stir our hearts with love for Jesus.
- b. The book of Revelation also gives us the most complete picture of Jesus in the entire Bible.
- i. The OT emphasizes the deity of Jesus with some reference to His humanity – i.e. Jesus is God.
 - ii. The Gospels emphasizes the humanity of Jesus with some reference to His deity – i.e. Jesus is Man.
 - iii. The book of Revelation gives us the complete picture of Jesus as the God-Man – i.e. Son of God and Son of Man.
- c. The goal of this book is to inspire and create adoration for Jesus and a yearning for His return. (2 Peter 3:12; Rev. 22:20)
3. In Rev. 1:1, Jesus is being commissioned by the Father to reveal Himself as the Bridegroom-King-Judge
- a. Many passages in the Bible exhort us to develop understanding of who Jesus is at the Second Coming. (Ps 2:10 – 12)
 - b. In His First Coming, Jesus came as the Lamb of God – He is our Saviour, Shepherd and Redeemer.
 - c. In His Second Coming, Jesus will come as the LION of Judah – He will come as Bridegroom, King and Judge.
 - i. He will come as our passionate Bridegroom filled with tender love and jealous passion for His Bride. (Rev. 19:7, 12, John 17:24)
 - ii. He will be our conquering King who will establish His kingdom on earth. (Rev. 11:17)
 - iii. He will be our righteous Judge who will remove everything that hinders wholehearted love for Him, remove all evil, and establish justice, truth and righteousness across the earth. (Rev. 15:3 – 4)
 - d. No other book gives us a clearer revelation of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge.
 - i. The book of Song of Songs mainly focuses on Jesus as Bridegroom.
 - ii. The book of Isaiah focuses on Jesus as the King.
 - iii. The Major and Minor Prophets (e.g. Joel, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk) focus on Jesus as Judge.
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- e. The book of Revelation gives us the most complete picture of who Jesus is at His Second Coming and we must not read this book casually or treat this book superficially.
 - f. Why we need to know Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge?
 - i. Knowing Jesus as Bridegroom will prepare us as the Bride of Christ. We will encounter His passion and desire for us.
 - ii. Knowing Jesus as King will equip us to fulfil the Great Commission. We will encounter His power.
 - iii. Knowing Jesus as Judge will prepare us as the House of Prayer in releasing Judgments. We will encounter His zeal to remove everything that hinders love.
 - 4. Rev. 1:3 – 8 tells us about the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - a. More than revealing an event, it is about the return of Jesus to take leadership of the earth and in deep partnership with His people.
 - b. We need to know this because Israel and the Church are instrumental in ushering in the Second Coming of Jesus. Therefore, we need to develop understanding of this. (Matt. 23:39; Rev. 22:17)
 - 5. There are four things Jesus will do before, during and after the Second Coming:
 - a. He will prepare and purify the Church, bringing her to maturity. (Rev. 1:5 – 6)
 - b. He will bring in an unprecedented harvest. (Rev 14)
 - c. He will judge the nations and cleanse the earth from all evil and drive Satan off the face of the earth. (Rev. 6 – 19)
 - d. He will replace all evil governments with the saints and establish the Kingdom of God on earth for 1,000 years. (Rev. 20)
 - 6. Rev. 1:5 gives us a glimpse of the Man who will provide leadership over the Church in the End-Times. Jesus will prepare the Church to partner with Him in the End Times.
 - 7. Rev. 1:5 also gives us 5 Descriptions of Jesus as the Leader who will lead the End-Time Church.
 - a. Faithful Witness – He will be faithful to the Father's mandate for Him (Isa. 61:1 – 3) and He will be faithful to us until the end (2 Tim. 2:13).
 - b. Firstborn from the Dead – He is the Resurrected One who has conquered death and therefore we will not fear death. (1 Cor. 15:55 – 57)
 - c. Ruler over Nations – He is the King over the whole earth. (Ps 24:1 – 2)
 - d. He loved us – Love of God will energize us to face anything
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- e. He washed us from sin – Because of the Cross, we are freed of the guilt of sin and we can come to Him with confidence.
8. Rev. 1:6 describes the plan of Jesus for His Bride.
- a. The people of God will rule and reign with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom. Understanding this reality will determine how we live in this Age.
 - b. This verse also reveals to us the two specific roles for the saints in the Millennial Kingdom: Kings and Priests.
9. Rev. 1:7 describes the return of Jesus to take leadership of the earth.
- a. Jesus will rule and reign over the earth during the Millennium as the Son of Man. It is the Father's will (i.e. Gen. 1 – 2) that Man will have dominion over the earth forever.
 - b. Many will mourn because Jesus will judge the nations who have sinned and rebelled against Him. He will also remove all evil governments and replace them with His kings and priests.
10. Rev. 1:8 describes Jesus as the Ultimate Leader who will rule and reign over the earth. He will be unlike any other king or leader – He will be the perfect leader with absolute completeness in wisdom and love. There are three descriptions of who He is as the Leader in Rev. 1:8:
- a. Alpha and Omega:
 - i. This indicates His completeness as a Leader. He will establish an eternal plan for us where nothing will be amiss – eternal love, joy, peace and prosperity.
 - ii. His government will be right and perfect and He will be an Absolute leader who is complete in wisdom and love.
 - b. Who is, who was and who is to come: He is the Eternal God.
 - c. Almighty: He is One who is absolute in power.

C. Revelation 1:9 – 20

- 1. In Rev. 1:5 – 20, Jesus came to John and revealed 24 specific descriptions of His personality and ministry pertaining to His Second Coming. Together with Rev. 2 and 3, it gives us the most complete and clearest picture of who Jesus is at the Second Coming.
- 2. Rev. 1 – 3 gives us 42 descriptions of who Jesus is. It emphasizes the 3 primary personalities of Jesus at His Second Coming: passionate Bridegroom; conquering King and righteous Judge.

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3. The primary purpose of this passage of Scripture is to equip the End-Time Church to know who Jesus is at His Second Coming. The question of who Jesus is will be the most important and fundamental issue for the Church in End-Times.
 4. There are two primary reasons why we need to know who Jesus is at His Second Coming:
 - a. A correct understanding of who Jesus is will enable the Church to be made ready as His Mature Bride.
 - i. We will not fully understand our identity as the Bride of Christ unless we know Jesus as our Bridegroom.
 - ii. Jesus will not return unless the Bride is made ready and she yearns for His coming. (Rev 19:7)
 - iii. Rev 19:1 – 10 gives us a picture of the mature Bride.
 - b. A correct understanding of who Jesus is will prepare the Church to rise up as the House of Prayer.
 - i. The primary function and role of the End-Time Church is intercession. The End-Time Church will partner with Jesus through our agreement with Him in prayer.
 - ii. Like Moses in the book of Exodus who releases the plagues on Egypt, we will release the judgments of God (i.e. 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls). Like the early Apostles who released power to bring in the harvest, we will release signs, wonders and miracles through prayer.
 - iii. The End-Time Church will be operating under the Matthew 18:18 – 19 mandate in a much greater measure. The Church has not fully operated in this mandate yet.
 - iv. Intercession is voluntary agreement with the will of God and His promises. We will NOT AGREE with God if we do not understand His heart. Therefore, understanding Jesus as King and Judge is essential for the maturing of the End Time Prayer Movement

D. The Foundational Issue in End-Times

1. One of the foundational issues of the early apostles concerned what they understood about Jesus. The same issue will be emphasized by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time apostles and prophets.
2. In Matt. 16:13 – 20, Jesus asked His disciples a very important and profound question – “But who do you say that I am?”
 - a. Some thought Jesus was John the Baptist – a holiness preacher. Some thought He was Elijah or a prophet that could do miracles and call fire down from heaven. Some thought He was Jeremiah or weeping prophet who was full of compassion.

- b. All three answers contained some truth about Jesus. However, they did not point to the full truth that was revealed in Scripture about Him.
 - c. Peter understood that Jesus was both the Christ – human Messiah, and the Anointed One (Isa. 61:1 – 3) - and the Son of God (Isa. 9:6 – 7).
 - d. Jesus will build His Church on the revelation of who He is as seen as in Matt. 16:13 – 20.
3. The gates of Hades speak of Satan’s authority. The Church will fully prevail against Satan by using the keys of prophetic proclamation, intercession, and a Sermon on the Mount lifestyle.
- a. Jesus promised that Satan would be defeated in every sphere of society by the Church using the keys of the Kingdom. This measure of prevailing has not yet occurred in society.
 - b. Jesus fully won the victory on the cross but it has not yet been completely made manifest on earth. On the cross, He fully triumphed over the power of hell, yet after 2,000 years, most of the societies of the earth are still significantly under the influence of Hell.
4. The Church will not be prepared to stand, nor be able by prayer to bind the plans of evil men or loose God’s power to the full measure without the revelation of Jesus in Rev. 1 – 3.
- a. In this passage, Jesus promised to release “greater works” which speaks of the miracles of Acts and the miracles of Exodus being combined and multiplied on a global level in the End-Times.
 - b. God is raising up a prayer movement to confront the Anti-Christ, who is the ultimate oppressor in human history. Jesus will only confront the oppressor to the measure that the prayers of the saints ascend in faith. (Rev. 8:4 – 5)
 - c. Believers around the globe will engage in the prayer of faith to bind and loose according to God’s will. This passage is fulfilled on earth in the Tribulation by all the praying Church. (Ps. 149:6 – 9)
5. The ultimate question for the End-Time Church is the issue of who Jesus is. Thus, the question of “who do they say Jesus is” is related to the measure of faith to fully bind and loose His power.

E. Conclusion

1. The question concerning the truth about “who Jesus is” will be emphasized once again by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time apostles and prophets. Jesus will not return until the Church is prepared as a Bride in knowing who He is before His Second Coming.

2. One of the great conflicts at the End-of-the-Age will be centred on who Jesus is. Satan wants to confuse the Church about who Jesus is so as to divide the Church, to keep the Church unprepared in prayer. This will eventually result in the Church being offended by Jesus when His judgments begin to be released upon the nations instead of trusting in His loving leadership.
3. The greatest and most powerful End Time prayer movement is based on 2 factors:
 - a. AGREEMENT with God's heart. (Matt 18:18)
 - b. UNITY in the Body of Christ. (Matt 18:19)
4. But God will send the Holy Spirit to glorify and exalt Jesus by guiding us into all the truths about Jesus. (John 16:13 – 14)
5. We must search the truths about who Jesus in Rev. 1 – 3. It will produce revelation, understanding, humility and a fear of God. It will also stir love, faith, courage and boldness.