

Appendix

The Importance of the Book of Revelation

A. Introduction

1. The Book of Revelation is an important book in the Bible to understand and grasp in order to understand the End Times.
2. Contrary to what some may believe, it is not a difficult or impossible book to understand. God will give us His Holy Spirit as our Teacher and Guide.
3. God wants us to know and understand it. In fact, Scripture says that the person who reads, hears and keeps what is written in this book is considered blessed (Rev. 1:3).
4. Furthermore, this book is of great relevance to us who are living in the generation in which the Lord returns. We will be the generation who will keep this prophecy as we will live out the events that are written in this book.

B. Five Reason Why is it Important to Understand the Book of Revelation

1. **Reason 1:** The Book of Revelation provides a clear eschatological roadmap for the Church to navigate through the End Times.
 - a. The Book of Revelation provides a clear roadmap for us to navigate through the End Times, especially through **the final 3 ½ years of human history**. This period will be the most extreme, intense and challenging times ever known.
 - b. It gives us details and crucial information about:
 - i. What is coming at the End of the Age;
 - ii. Where everything is heading — what the culmination of human history looks like;
 - iii. Why the shakings and judgments are so severe;
 - iv. Who Jesus is at His Second Coming and what He is looking for in His Church.
2. The Book of Revelation is like a lighthouse that shines forth light to give direction and clarity in the face of the coming End-Time storms. In the midst of the emotional storms of confusion, fear, offense and deception at the End

of the Age, we will need the narrative and perspective of God in order to see clearly and navigate!

2. **Reason 2:** There is an urgency and a vital need for the Church to understand the times and know what to do (1 Chron. 12:32).
 - a. We are no longer living in normal times but in a “new normal”.
 - i. With the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have crossed a line of demarcation and stepped into a higher level of intensity and pressures in the God’s timeline.
 - ii. We are living in the time frame known as the Beginning of Birth Pangs (Matt. 24:4–8).
 - b. The Book of Revelation is not just a book about doom and gloom. There are four main themes and the revelation of coming End-Time events is simply one of them. The four themes are:
 - i. **Revelation of Jesus Christ** — It is about the Beauty and Majesty of our Coming King;
 - ii. **Revelation of the Mature Bride** — It is about the glory of the mature Bride;
 - iii. **Revelation of Eternity** — It is about the hope of the glorious age to come;
 - iv. **Revelation of End-Time Events** — It is about the plans that are on Jesus’ heart to transition from this age to the next.
 - c. The purpose of revealing the End-Time events to the Church is for us to have clarity and know exactly what is going to happen, so that we can prepare ourselves and know how to partner with the Lord.
3. **Reason 3:** The Book of Revelation gives us insight into the role of the Church in the End Times.
 - a. The key role of the Church at the End of the Age is to partner with the Lord to advance His kingdom, and to release His glory and His plans unto the earth through our prayers.
 - b. Rev. 5:8 tells us that there are golden bowls in heaven collecting incense, which are the prayers of the saints. As we agree in prayer with God’s

heart in the context of His will and plans for the End Times, these bowls are filled up. When the bowls are full, the Lord will release His plans unto the earth.

- c. Thus, prayer is a major way that the saints are called to partner with the Lord in His End-Time move.
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4. **Reason 4:** The Book of Revelation serves to prepare the Church for the Intensities of the End Times and the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - a. In Rev. 19:7, when the mature Bride is revealed, the great multitude in heaven proclaims, *“The marriage of the Lamb has come and the bride has made herself ready.”*
 - b. The Book of Revelation teaches us how to prepare ourselves to be the mature bride of Christ.
 - i. Revelation 2 and 3 give us seven areas of spiritual maturity that Jesus is looking for in His Church, throughout all human history, but especially for the Church at the End of the Age.
 - ii. These are also the seven major issues that will confront the End-Time Church, which we can and will overcome as we prepare ourselves and walk with the Lord.
 - c. We prepare ourselves through beholding and encountering Jesus as we study and meditate on the Book of Revelation.
 - i. The Book of Revelation gives us the clearest description of who Jesus is in the entire Bible. Revelation chapters 1 to 3 alone have around 30 distinct descriptions.
 - ii. Each description communicates a specific insight about Jesus that is necessary for equipping the church to overcome compromise, endure persecution and tribulation, and engage in partnership with Jesus in His great End-Time storyline.
 5. **Reason 5:** The Book of Revelation is about the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - a. The book of Revelation opens with this declaration by the Apostle John: *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place.”* (Rev. 1:1)
 - b. Thus, the primary theme of the Book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ Himself — the beauty, splendour and glory of this Man, as

well as His heart and plan to transition human history into the Millennial age.

- c. The ultimate goal when we study the Book of Revelation is to produce yearning in our hearts for this beautiful Son of Man and Son of God.
 - i. When we encounter Jesus as we study and meditate on who He is from this book, we will realize that this Man is absolutely beautiful, altogether lovely, full of splendour and majesty. There is none like Him.
 - ii. Our hearts will move and we will naturally yearn and long for Him. Because when we see Jesus rightly as He is, our hearts will burn, our hearts will yearn.
 - iii. The apostles and saints of the early Church had a yearning for Jesus' return. They had seen Him, touched Him, heard Him, talked with Him, beheld Him, and walked with Him.
 - iv. Thus, after Jesus' Ascension, the memories of their time with Jesus continually stirred up deep longing in their hearts to be reunited with Him. They prayed, talked about Him, gave their all, and sought to hasten His return. This is the main reason they looked forward to the End Times.
- d. However, over the centuries, we have lost that yearning because our picture of who Jesus is has become blurred and sometimes distorted.
 - i. As the picture of the sovereignty and supremacy of Jesus gave way to a picture of a "sensible religious man", adoring worship from an overflowing heart has also given way to intellectualism and dead religion.
- e. The eyes of our understanding need to be opened once again to who Jesus really is, and the Book of Revelation is meant to bring us back to this.
- f. Apostle John's response in Rev. 22:20 is meant to be, and will be, the Church's response and cry to Jesus when we restore the whole counsel of the knowledge of who Jesus is to the Church, and especially who He will be at His return — our Bridegroom, King, and Judge.
 - i. "Amen, even so, come, Lord Jesus!" will be our cry of anticipation and joy as we wait for the Day when we will see Jesus face-to-face.

- ii. Apostle John responded thus despite witnessing the intensity of all the tribulations that were going to come. This was because he knew that Jesus was truly worthy, and that nothing — not even going through persecution for His Name's sake — could compare to the glory and excellence of Jesus.

C. Conclusion

1. The Book of Revelation is an important book to study if we want to gain clarity regarding the End Times.
2. However, more than just a book on a series of events, the main theme is the Revelation of the Person of Jesus Christ, which will be necessary to prepare His End-Time church to become the mature Bride at His return.
3. May we take this book seriously and begin to pay attention to what He is saying and what He wants to do in His people through the Book of Revelation.
4. For a more in-depth study, visit bit.ly/bookofrev2021.