

Transforming Daily
“... *things which must shortly take place* ...”
Revelation 1:1

The book of Revelation is one of the most, if not the most, well known books of the Bible. Genesis is probably a close second. However, Revelation is also probably the most misinterpreted, misapplied and misunderstood book of the Bible. Because Revelation was sent by God and “signified” by His angel, much has been read into the signs and wonders recorded on its pages. There are those, some scholars, who would boast that the book of Revelation is not at all difficult to understand and apply. I am not one of those to make such a claim. For me, while some parts of the book are easy to understand, most of the book remains a mystery and difficult to comprehend. Revelation is somewhat of an oxymoron (jumbo shrimp), or a double-entendre, perhaps an enigma. Its title claims one thing, “revelation,” but its content remains another, “veiled mystery” (though somewhat frustrating at times, I think it was done on purpose, and that it’s intriguing and stimulating). The clearer the details of the message appear the more the meaning becomes convoluted; with the exception that the most important parts of the book are the parts most understandable.

The single message to take away from the book of Revelation is that Jesus Christ is going to come again. However, before He does, some things are going to take place. When, where, what, and sometimes how these things are to take place is the biggest challenge for the Bible student to determine. It’s also what makes it difficult to interpret the whole book, not just in part, with any level of certainty. If this were not the case, why then are there so many varying points of view on, who is who, and what represents what, and when will Jesus Christ actually return (e.g., Premillennialism, Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Pre-tribulation Rapture, Mid-tribulation Rapture, and Post-tribulation rapture just to name a few of the Theological, Christological, Eschatological, and Ecclesiological issues of Revelation)? Again the main thing to know about the message of the book of Revelation is that Jesus Christ is coming again.

I trusted Jesus as my Savior in 1976. I was 16, just before turning 17. Just about that time or just a little while before, a movie came out entitled *A Thief in the Night*. I don’t think there is a film that affected so many Christians (as well as non-Christians) so far, and so fast, as that movie did. The storyline is about the rapture. It was produced from a Premillennial, Pre-tribulation Rapture point of view. And the message was clearly, “get right with God, or get left.” It scared the socks off of every teenager I knew. I still have cold chills about that show. The movie used a lot of Scripture passages from the book of Revelation. Whether the writers and producers of the movie were right about their biblical perspective of Revelation or not, God used that movie (and as far as I know, still does) to turn the hearts of unbelievers to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and the hearts of believers to recommit their lives to Him.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ will one day soon return? Are you ready for His return? Are you telling others of His return? Based on Revelation and the rest of Scripture are you telling others of the things which shortly must take place?