

OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY PASTOR CHRIS JORDAN:

BOOKS:

1. Supernatural: Contending for Signs and Wonders Today
2. The Beausejour Pulpit
3. The Visitation (2012)
4. The Voyagers: Mutiny on the Fellowship (fiction, 2012)

MINI-BOOKLETS:

1. Church, It's Time to Grow Up!
2. Faith in Focus: The Newspaper Columns 2011
3. Foursquare Foundations: Our Statement of Faith
4. Fullness of Joy and Rivers of Pleasure
5. Hunger and the Need for Revival
6. Origins #1: Creation
7. Origins #2: The Fall
8. Origins #3: Dinosaurs in the Bible
9. Proverbs: Wisdom for Daily Living 31 Day Devotional
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12. Unlocking the Mysteries of Revelation
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BOOK REVIEWS:

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3. A Review of Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE:

1. The Five Minute Challenge: Bible Reading Schedule

FAITH BUILDING MINI-BOOKS

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF REVELATION



PASTOR CHRIS JORDAN



About the Author

Chris grew up in a little house on the Canadian prairies in Rouleau, Saskatchewan. Although he first became a Christian in August of 1989, it wasn't until September of 1990 that he radically committed his life to Jesus Christ. For the next year, Chris attended *Solid Rock Ministries* in Regina, a powerful little church pastored by Erwin Dyck and Dave Koop. In January of

1992, Chris attended *Christ for the Nations Bible College* in Surrey, BC. After only a year and a half of Bible College, he started interning at *Victory Christian Centre*, where he served as the youth pastor for four years. Two of those years were also spent as a prayer minister working for *KCM Ministries*. In March of 1995, Chris married his best friend, Liza Woods.

In January of 1997, Chris enrolled in *Pacific Life Bible College* (PLBC), and came on staff at Bible Fellowship Church. For the next ten years, he served that local church as youth pastor and Christian Education Director. During that time, Chris was the chapel speaker for the primary students at *Regent Christian Academy* (RCA). He also taught several Bible classes at RCA, and filled in as a substitute teacher for many other subjects as well. In May of 1999, Chris graduated from PLBC with a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Leadership. After graduation, Chris taught Bible Research and Hermeneutics as an adjunct professor at Pacific Life for the next eight years. In September of 2006, Chris and Liza pioneered the *Revolution Master's Commission* (RMC) discipleship program at Bible Fellowship.

Two months later, Chris received the call from the Lord to pastor *Beausejour Community Church*. Because he had just started the RMC program at Bible Fellowship, he felt he needed to complete the first year of this discipleship school before moving to Beausejour. So in January of 2007, Chris was installed as the lead pastor of BCC and started travelling back and forth between BC and Manitoba. In July of 2007, Chris and Liza moved to Beausejour with their four children: Caleb, Tori, Austin & Hannah.

Pastor Chris has a passion to teach and preach God's Word. He is also an author who published his first book, "**Supernatural: Contending for Signs and Wonders Today**" in June 2010.

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By Chris Jordan

Hunger and the Need for Revival: God's desire is that this latter day's church would be greater in glory than the early church. It's time to contend for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst today and pray for revival.

Redigging the Wells of Prayer: If we want to see the same power – signs, wonders, healings and miracles – as the church in Acts, then we must have the same priority of prayer as they did.

With Jesus in the School of Prayer: Jesus wants to teach us how to pray. When we spend time with Jesus in the secret place, prayer becomes an exciting adventure.

Church, It's Time to Grow Up! God has given us an amazing gift in the Bible. When we feed upon His Word, we will grow spiritually and become more like Jesus.

Fullness of Joy and Rivers of Pleasure: There's something missing in the church today. It's called JOY. God wants us to experience fullness of joy, and rivers of pleasure.

The Blessed Life: God's desire is that we would experience the blessed life – where we would be happy, supremely blessed; and spiritually prosperous – with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favour and salvation.

Origins #1: Creation: Is there more scientific evidence that supports the Biblical account of creation or the theory of evolution? The Origins series considers this question and more.

Origins #2: The Fall: If God is good, and He created everything, and the original creation was very good, then why is there death and suffering in the world?

Origins #3: Dinosaurs in the Bible: If God made the dinosaurs with all other land animals and human beings on day six of creation, are there dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?

Unlocking the Mysteries of Revelation: The Revelation of Jesus Christ is one of the most interesting books of the Bible. This message will give you the keys to unlocking the mysteries of Revelation.

Foursquare Foundations: A look at our church's statement of faith.

Faith in Focus: The Newspaper Columns 2011: A collection of articles that were published in our local newspaper.

Proverbs: Wisdom for Daily Living: A 31 day devotional journey through the Book of Proverbs.

Jesus said, “I’m the one who died on the Cross, and was raised from the dead, and I have power over death.” He’s preaching the Gospel here! In another one of his writings, John recorded Jesus as saying, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16). Then Jesus encourages us with the truth that He has power over death – the grave is not the end. This life is not all there is. I heard one Bible teacher describe the book of Revelation as “God’s Grand Finale,” and in a sense it is the end of this age, but in another sense, it is the beginning, the commencement, where real life begins.

THE FIRST INTERPRETATION:

“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.” (Rev. 1:19-20).

Here is one of the many places in Revelation where the Lord actually gives us the interpretation of some of the symbols. The seven stars that Jesus was holding in His right hand represent the angels of the seven churches in Asia. The lampstands represent the churches themselves.

The fact that churches are called lampstands is significant. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” As the church, Jesus wants us to shine brightly in the world. Jesus standing in the midst of the lampstands is significant as well, because it speaks to us of the presence of Jesus in the midst of His churches. He said, “I will build my church.”

Some people might wonder who the angels of the churches are. I agree with William Hendriksen who says that the angels describe the pastors of the churches. He writes, “The Lord holds (his pastors) in his right hand. He exercises absolute authority over them; they are His ambassadors.” (*More Than Conquerors*). This makes sense because the Greek word *angelos* simply means a messenger, or one sent from God.

In conclusion, I want to challenge you to read through the rest of the Book of Revelation, so you can be blessed. If you want to learn more about Revelation, we have an entire series that goes verse by verse through this book of the Bible that you can download from our church’s website at www.beausejourchurch.ca.

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF REVELATION

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is one of the most interesting books of the Bible. This message will give you the keys to unlocking the mysteries of Revelation.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place.” (Revelation 1:1).

The Book of Revelation is one of my favorite books of the Bible. Many people believe that Revelation is one of the most mysterious books of the Bible. There are many people who are afraid of it or confused by it. That’s unfortunate, because this sixty-sixth book of the Bible was given to us by the Lord for our benefit, just like all the other books of the Bible. Second Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable.” Revelation is no exception.

The Bible says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Cor. 2:9). Many people have taken this Scripture out of context and taken it to mean, “God’s so mysterious, you never know what God’s going to do.” It’s important to notice the important connective word that starts the very next verse: “BUT God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” (1 Cor. 2:10). These two verses go together. Even though with our natural eyes, ears and heart we don’t understand the things of God, the Bible says that God reveals them to us through His Spirit. God is not playing a big game of cosmic hide and seek and trying to confuse us. God wants to reveal Himself to us. He wants us to find Him and know Him.

It is God’s desire for us to read and understand the Book of Revelation. It is the *revelation* of Jesus Christ, not the *riddle* of Jesus Christ. It’s unfortunate that some of the end-times TV preachers have given the average person the idea that only they can understand the secrets and mysteries of Revelation. That’s ridiculous. All Christians have the Holy Spirit inside of us, and we can pray for God to give us wisdom. We can know and understand what this book is about.

Because of the unique nature of this Apocalyptic Scripture, I thought I would share with you some background information to help you in your understanding. As we begin studying this great book of the Bible, I encourage you to take the time to read through it on your own.

BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

The Apostle John is the author of Revelation. John was the only one of the faithful eleven disciples of Jesus who was not martyred for his faith, but not for a lack of their trying. They persecuted and tried to kill John, but he wouldn't die. Church history tells us that they tied a huge millstone around his neck and threw him off of a cliff into the sea to drown him, but God miraculously preserved his life. John Foxe tells us that, "From Ephesus, John was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury. Domitian afterwards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation." (*Foxe's Book of Martyrs*). We know now the reason God spared his life and didn't allow him to die a martyr's death was because Jesus had a specific plan for John. After John was exiled to Patmos (kind of like an ancient Alcatraz), God gave him this great Revelation.

The book of Revelation was written during a period of extreme persecution of Christians during the first century. Believers who stood up and declared Jesus as Lord were martyred for their faith. The book of Revelation was most likely written before the destruction of Jerusalem in September of AD 70 and is an authentic prophecy concerning the continuing suffering and persecution of Christians.

The theme of the Book of Revelation is to encourage believers to be faithful to Jesus (even in the midst of suffering), and to give them hope that they will ultimately be victorious. We've read the back of the book, and we know we win. For example, if you were in the middle of a baseball game, and it was the seventh inning, and your team was down by a dozen runs, you might get a little discouraged. But if someone had a time machine and came from the future and they said, "In the next two innings, your team's going to come back, and you're going to win the game" that would change your perspective as you're playing the rest of the game. You wouldn't be so discouraged. "Wait a minute," you would declare, "We're going to win!" This is one of the purposes of the book of Revelation – to encourage us as Christians in the midst of the battle. God tells us that ultimately we will be victorious. That's the encouragement of Revelation.

The second purpose of the book of Revelation is to teach us that God is the Sovereign Lord of the Universe. That means He's in control of everything. He already knows the end from the beginning. He already knows what's going to happen in the future and how it's going to end, because He's the one who's determining how it will end.

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will." (Ephesians 1:11).

lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet, and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength." (Rev. 1:10-16).

In this prophetic and symbolic picture of the Lord Jesus, each of the different parts of the picture teaches us something about the nature of Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING THE SYMBOLS:

He was girded with a golden band	- ROYALTY
His head and hair were white like wool	- AUTHORITY
His eyes like a flame of fire	- WISDOM
His feet were like fine brass	- JUDGMENT
His voice as the sound of many waters	- POWER
He had in His right hand seven stars	- (see v. 20)
Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword	- THE WORD
His countenance was like the sun	- GLORY

This powerful picture of Jesus reminds me of this Old Testament Scripture: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all." (1 Chron. 29:11). Hebrews 1:3 tells us about Jesus that He is "the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." (Rev. 1:17-18).

What an amazing revelation John receives about Jesus here. After seeing the great vision of Jesus walking in the midst of the seven lampstands and holding the seven stars in his hands, John falls down at His feet in reverential fear. Then Jesus lays His hand on John and says, "Do not be afraid." Here is another confirmation that the book of Revelation is not designed to cause believers to be full of fear and confusion. What Jesus said to John, He says to us today: "Fear not!" Then Jesus spoke to John and gave Him another revelation of who He is:

and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:7-8).

Another one of the themes of the book of Revelation is the second coming of Jesus. Just as certainly as Jesus came the first time 2,000 years ago as a baby in a manger, Jesus is coming back to the Earth a second time. This time He's not coming back as the Lamb of God; this time He's coming back as a lion – the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the mighty warrior. The first time Jesus came to die on the Cross to pay the price for our sins to be forgiven. The second time Jesus will return to execute His judgment and pour out His wrath on His enemies.

The Prince of Preachers wrote: "What a difference between the first and second comings. When He shall come a second time, it will be to be glorified and admired, but when He came the first time, it was to be despised and rejected of men." (Charles Spurgeon).

Here's another Scripture in the New Testament that teaches us what will happen when Jesus returns to the Earth:

"I can tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words." (1 Thess. 4:15-18, NLT).

John has done a great job so far of laying out for us what the book of Revelation is going to be all about. It is going to teach us about who Jesus is, who we are, the call to worship, and the second coming of Jesus.

"I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 1:9).

The book of Revelation was written by the beloved disciple, John, while he was in exile on the Island of Patmos. Here we see the first great revelation that John received of the Lord Jesus:

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden

TIPS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND REVELATION:

Here are a few simple keys to help you unlock the mysteries of Revelation.

1. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not the devil, beast or antichrist.

Sometimes when people talk about the book of Revelation, they say, "It's all about the devil," or "It's all about the antichrist." Incidentally, there are only 10 verses in the whole book of Revelation that talk about the devil, and the antichrist isn't even mentioned in Revelation. This is "the revelation of JESUS CHRIST." These are the first five words of the first verse of the first chapter of this book of the Bible. That makes Revelation just like the other 65 books of the Bible: all about Jesus and God's wonderful, loving plan to redeem a sinful humanity. That's good news.

2. Revelation contains a lot of Biblical symbolism – it cannot all be taken literally.

Some people get into error interpreting Revelation when they overlook the fact that some of what's written here is symbolic. Revelation contains three distinct types of literature: apocalypse, prophecy, and letters. When we're reading our Bibles, and we come across the statement where John the Baptist said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29), we're smart enough to know that Jesus isn't a little sheep that's walking around saying, "Baa!" We understand that John is using a symbolic word picture to help us understand something about the nature of Jesus. Jesus is not a literal, physical sheep. John is saying that Jesus is *like* the Passover lamb that was sacrificed in the Old Testament. Jesus died on the Cross and shed His blood so we can be saved and forgiven.

When we're reading Revelation, we need to remember that there is a lot of symbolism. Therefore, part of our task as we read through the Apocalypse is to discern between the literal and figurative language. I will give you some keys to help you figure out the figurative language as we go throughout this study. In Revelation, there are many places in the book itself where the symbols are actually explained for us.

3. "Revelation" is the Greek word *apokalypsis*.

Revelation means the revealing of something that was previously hidden. Some people think Revelation is a secret, mysterious book that God doesn't want us to know about, but that doesn't make sense. It is the revelation or revealing of Jesus Christ. God wants us to understand this book of the Bible and learn more about Jesus through it.

4. Read through the entire book of Revelation in one sitting to get the big picture.

This might take you anywhere from an hour to two hours, depending on how fast a reader you are. This is one book, one unit of thought, and if you only read one verse here or there, you will have a harder time understanding it. As you start reading through it, do not try to figure out everything, at least until you have a feel for the book. There is a blessing that will come to those who simply read this book of the Bible.

FOUR DIFFERENT INTERPRETIVE VIEWS OF REVELATION:

There are four main different interpretive views to this book of the Bible. When I first became a Christian, I was only taught one viewpoint. They said, "This is how it is, and everyone must believe it this way because this is how we see it." But when I started attending Pacific Life Bible College, I took a course in eschatology – a study of the end times. The book that we used for a textbook was called "Four Views of the Millennium" edited by Robert Clouse. This book had four different ways of interpreting the millennium in Revelation 20. The four different authors each wrote a chapter explaining their viewpoint, and then the other three authors critiqued that position. This way, we were exposed to all four different views of eschatology. This was a great tool for us as students to come to our own conclusions about what we believed about the end times.

Here are the four main interpretive views of Revelation. Even with all of these diverse interpretations to the book of Revelation, all believers agree with this one important truth: Jesus is coming back again. They might disagree about the event surrounding his return – be they premillennial dispensationalists, postmillennialists, amillennialists, or something else – we all agree that He is coming back again, and after He returns: Eternity, Heaven or hell – where are YOU going to go? That's more important than the eschatology you hold to!

I like the perspective that Jack Hayford, a previous President of the International Foursquare Gospel Church, takes. "The *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* does not embrace any conclusive point of view concerning these popularly discussed subjects. Rather, it seeks to help fellow Christians clearly understand one another's viewpoints in order to assist dialogue and to dismiss bigotry. It is probably not reasonable for one Christian to be divided from another on the interpretation of things yet future, things of which neither can know the exact outcome until their actual occurrence." We will hold to a similar position as we seek to come to a greater understanding of Revelation.

PRETERIST:

The preterist interpretation regards the visions of the book as refer-

message as the rest of the Bible – God loves you. "Jesus loves me, this I know – for the Book of Revelation tells me so!" A lot of people overemphasize the holiness and wrath of God, but we need to understand that the wrath of God is not directed towards His children; rather it is reserved for His enemies. Christians do not need to fear the wrath of God described in the book of Revelation.

2. We are washed from our sins in the blood of Jesus. Because Jesus died on the Cross, our sins can be forgiven, and we can be washed clean. I love the old hymns that sing about the blood of Jesus:

Are you washed, in the blood, in the soul-cleansing blood of the lamb?

Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

3. We are Kings and Priests to His God and Father. To say that we are kings means that He has given us authority to rule and reign with Him. To say that we are priests tells us that we have direct access to God. We can go to God for ourselves through Jesus; we don't have to go through a human mediator.

WORSHIP:

"To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (Rev. 1:6b).

One of the themes of the book of Revelation is worship. We see this over and over again in this book of the Bible. When you read through Revelation chapters 4-5, you see some glimpses of the pure and perfect worship of Heaven. Our highest calling as Christians is to worship God – to love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, minds, souls and strength. Here is just a sample of some of Heaven's worship songs:

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:8).

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev. 4:11).

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:12).

"Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13).

THE SECOND COMING:

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning

3. God's Commandments? (what God wants us to do for Him)

God's Promises? (what God has said He would do for us)

Let's keep these ideas in the back of our mind as we read through Revelation, as we're going to learn about who God is, who we are, God's commandments and God's promises.

WHO GOD IS:

In these verses here, we see a picture of the Trinity. God is a triune being:

- from Him who is and who was and who is to come
 - this is a picture of the Eternal Father
- from the seven Spirits who are before His throne
 - this is a picture of the Perfect Holy Spirit*
- from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness
 - this is a picture of the Faithful Son, Jesus

* Seven in the Bible is a symbolic number representing perfection.

Notice that one of the very first things John gives us in this book of the Bible is a revelation of who Jesus is:

He is the FAITHFUL witness. You can trust Jesus. He is a promise keeping God. God is faithful, faithful, faithful. If God said it in His Word, you can trust it.

He is the FIRSTBORN from the dead. That's an interesting expression – what does it mean? Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have the hope as believers that we too will one day be raised from the dead. Up until Jesus' death on the Cross, He is referred to as the only begotten Son of God. But after His resurrection from the dead – throughout the rest of the New Testament – He is referred to as the firstborn from the dead. Jesus, the Son of God, became the Son of Man, so that we, the sons of men, could become the sons of God.

He is the Ruler over the Kings of the Earth. He is the King of all kings, and the Lord of all lords.

WHO WE ARE:

“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.” (Rev. 1:6).

Not only does God's Word teach us about the nature of God, it also teaches us about our nature as God's children. There are three things we learn about ourselves as God's children in this Scripture:

1. We are loved by God. The book of Revelation proclaims the same

ring primarily, if not exclusively, to events belonging to the closing of the first century, contemporary with John. The prophecy was concerned with the persecution of Christians instituted by the “beast,” usually understood to be Nero or Domitian, and was continued by the Roman government, called “Babylon.” Revelation was written to encourage believers with the hope that God would intervene, destroy the “beast,” bring deliverance to His people, and establish His everlasting Kingdom.

HISTORICIST:

According to the historical interpretation, Revelation contains visions that reveal in advance outstanding moments and events in human history from the days of Rome to the end of this present evil age. Within the book are discovered references to the various waves of barbarian invasions, the rise of Islam, the Protestant Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, the French Revolution, World War I and so on. The “beast” has been identified variously as Mohammed, the Pope, Napoleon, or some subsequent dictator.

FUTURIST:

The futurist interpretation sees Revelation as primarily a prophecy concerning the resolution of history as it concerns the church in the world. The seven letters are addressed to seven historical churches, and the seals represent the forces of history, however long it may last, through which God works out His redemption and judicial purposes leading up to the end. However, beginning with chapter 8 or 16, the events described lie in the future and describe the final disposition of God's will for human history.

SPIRITUAL:

The spiritual interpretation finds in Revelation relatively few references to specific events or persons of the past, present or future, but rather the presentation of great ‘spiritual principles’ intended to encourage and guide Christians in all geographical locations in every area of history.

(The Four Schools of Interpretation quoted from *The Spirit Filled Life Study Bible* by Jack Hayford).

Although you might initially be overwhelmed by the fact that there are all these different interpretations to Revelation, let this following truth encourage you: You don't have to adopt one particular view to benefit from studying Revelation. There is a blessing available to anyone who will read it for its overall message of victory.

THE BLESSING IN REVELATION:

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (1:3).

When you read Revelation, and obey the things written in it, you will be blessed. If you just simply read the book of Revelation, you will be blessed. If you hear it being read, you will be blessed. Most importantly, there is a blessing to those who obey it.

What is the book of Revelation about? It is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Those first five words of the first verse of Revelation clearly identify Jesus as the central figure in this book. He is the Lamb of God who has provided salvation, and will execute judgment and ultimately overcome all of his enemies. Every book of the Bible is about Jesus. Some of you may be shocked by that and say, “I don’t remember reading about Jesus in the Old Testament.” Jesus said, “Behold, I have come - In the volume of the book it is written of Me - To do Your will, O God.” (Hebrews 10:7). Every book of the Bible is about Jesus, and Revelation is no different. It’s all about Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

AN OVERVIEW OF REVELATION:

Before we begin going verse by verse and chapter by chapter through Revelation, let me finish our introduction by giving you an overview of the major sections of the book of Revelation:

1:1-20	Prologue – John’s Vision of Jesus
2:1-3:22	Seven Letters to the Seven Churches
4:1-11	Vision of God the Father (Powerful Creator)
5:1-14	Vision of Jesus the Lamb of God (Loving Redeemer)
6:1-8:1	Seven Seals
8:2-11:18	Seven Trumpets
11:19-15:4	Seven Signs
15:5-16:21	Seven Bowls
17:1-19:11	Judgment of Babylon
19:11-20:10	The Second Coming of Jesus and the Millennium
20:11-22:21	Heaven: Paradise Restored; Jesus is Coming Soon

REVELATION CHAPTER ONE:

Let us go verse by verse through the first chapter of the Book of Revelation.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.” (Rev. 1:1-2).

Who is the book of Revelation about? Jesus Christ. If you walk away from these lessons with this one simple truth, it can revolutionize your understanding of this book of the Bible. It’s all about Jesus – not the devil, the beast, or the antichrist.

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (Rev. 1:3).

The blessing of Revelation is for all who read, hear and obey these words.

“John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.” (Rev. 1:4-5).

Notice first of all that John says God extends GRACE and PEACE to the seven churches which are in Asia. He doesn’t say, ‘Here comes gloom, doom, despair and agony. The wrath of God is coming!’ No. He says, “Grace and peace to you.” That sounds like the rest of the Bible to me – God’s loving plan to restore humanity to a relationship with Him. Pay special attention to the next phrase that John uses here: “from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.” We’re about to learn something about the nature of God here.

One of the things we need to understand about the Bible is that God was very purposeful when He chose what things to be recorded in His holy book. The main truths that God wanted to communicate with us can be narrowed down to four categories.

What does this Scripture teach me about:

1. Who God is? (the nature of God – holy, loving, eternal, etc.)
2. Who we are? (our nature – children of God, loved by Him, accepted in the beloved)