

BONUS CONTENT: A Special Book | Rev 1:1 (Warren Wiersbe) — Episode 1

“At the very beginning of this book, Jesus presented himself to his people in majestic glory. What the church needs today is a new awareness of Christ and his glory. We need to see him ‘high and lifted up’ (Isa 6:1)”

*“No believer should study prophecy merely to satisfy his curiosity. When (the Prophet) Daniel and (the Apostle) John received God’s revelation of the future, both fell down as dead men (worshipping). (**Daniel:10:7-10; Rev 1:17**). They were overwhelmed! We need to approach this book as wanderers and worshipers, not as academic students.” Warren Weirsbe*

- Our approach to Revelation to worship Jesus as we to reflect, ponder and study the glories from this book
- Focus is not a timetable but a person-JESUS

“John’s prophecy is primarily the revelation of Jesus Christ, not the revelation of future events. You must not divorce the person from the prophecy, for without the person there could be no fulfillment of the prophecy.”

- We don’t need to understand every vision to have faith and be edified. **Rev. 10:4**
- God wanted us to have a revelation of JESUS. **Rev.1:1-2**
- **ALL** scripture points to Jesus

*“In **Revelation 1-3**, Christ is seen as the exulted Priest-King ministering to the churches. In **Revelation 4-5**, he is seen in heaven as the glorified Lamb of God, reigning on the throne. In **Revelation 6-18**, Christ is the judge of all the earth; and in **Revelation 19**, He returns to the earth as the conquering king of kings. The book closes with the heavenly bride groom ushering his bride, the church, into the glorious heavenly city. **Whatever you do as you study this book get to know your savior better.**” WW*

Commentaries allow us to look at Revelation through the lens of others who have also studied this book. **Pro 11:14**

9 Reasons Revelation is a Special Book (Warren Weirsbe)

1. A Christ centered book

“To be sure, all scripture speaks of the Savior; but the book of revelation especially magnifies the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ. The book is, after all, the revelation of Jesus Christ and not simply the revelation of future events” WW

- John is seeing the risen Christ in this book and God is revealing His victory over sin, death and Satan

2. An open book...Rev. 22:10, an unveiling

*“John was told not to seal the book (**Revelation 22:10**) because God’s people need the message it contains. Revelation can be understood, despite the fact that it contains mysteries that may never be comprehended until we meet at the throne of God. “*

- God wants us to know the main points
- God gave this book to John to tell the churches so they would be encouraged
- As we read and study this book as well...God can and will speak to us.

“Even today, with many years of concentrated study behind me, I am still fascinated by its message and mysteries.”

3. Filled with symbols, timeless in meaning and limitless in their content

*“Biblical symbols are timeless in their meaning and limitless in their content. For instance, the symbol of Babylon originates in **Genesis 10-11**, and its meaning grows as you trace it through scripture, climaxing with **Revelation 17-18**. The same is true of the symbols of the lamb and the bride. It is exciting to seek to penetrate deeper into the rich meanings that are conveyed by the symbols.”*

- References all over scripture which help us interpret many of the symbols
- God uses symbols and visions to invoke feeling and to give timeless truths

4. A book of prophecy: Revelation 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18-19, note also 10:11.

*“The letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor dealt with immediate needs in those assemblies, needs that are still with us in churches today; but the rest of the book is devoted almost entirely to prophetic revelations. It was seeing the victorious Christ presented that the persecuted Christians found encouragement for their difficult task of witnessing. When you have assurance for the future you have stability in the present. John himself was suffering under the hand of Rome (**Rev 1:9**), so the book was born out of affliction.”*

- Prophecy can be comforting as it shows us how powerful God is
- Reminds us He is the author of history and He can speak purpose and plans into existence
- When there is uncertainty in the world, we can have certainty in Jesus

5. Revelation is a book with a blessing: Rev 1:3

"It is not enough simply to hear (or read) the book; we must respond to his message from the heart. We must take the message personally and say a believing 'Amen!' to what it says. Note the many 'Amens' in the book; Revelation 1:6-7, 18; 3:4; 5:14; 7:12; 19:4; 22:20-21".

- Blessing as we come in agreement with Christ and what He is going to do
- Jesus always promised a blessing when we apply God's Word to our lives
- Blessing when we think about the future and apply it to our lives now, **1 John 3:3**

6. Relevant book.

- Things will 'shortly come to pass'; **Rev. 1:1**, 'time is near', **Rev. 1:3**
- 1000 years is but a day to God. **2 Pet 3:9-10**

*"The word shortly does not mean "soon or immediate", but "swiftly and quickly". No one knows when the Lord shall return; but when he begins to open the seals of the scroll (**Revelation 6:1**), events occur with speed and without interruption."*

- Signs and they would be like labor pains...once they start it is quick. **1 Thess 5:3, Daniel 12:4** (rapid increase in knowledge)
- Relevant in these last days for living appropriately by the wisdom found in His Word.

7. Majestic book

"Revelation is the book of "the throne", for the word throne is found 46 times throughout. This book magnifies the sovereignty of God. Christ is presented in His glory and dominion."

- Healthy for the Church to see Jesus as exalted and glorified on the throne and in heaven.

"There is a dangerous absence of awe and worship in our assemblies." WW

- Revelations gives us a full view of who Jesus is from humble servant to exalted King.

8. Universal book

*"John saw nations and people (**Revelation 10:11; 11:9; 17:15**) as part of God's program. He also saw the throne of heaven and heard voices from the ends of the universe."*

- Every tribe, tongue and nation is represented in heaven and worshipping Jesus.

9. Climatic Book

*"Revelation is a climax of the Bible. All that began in Genesis will be completed and fulfilled in keeping with God's sovereign will. He is "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (**Revelation 1:8**). What God starts He finishes."*

- God keeps His promises
- He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it –**Phil 1:6**

"The overriding theme of the book of revelation is the return of Jesus Christ to defeat all evil and to establish His reign. It is definitely a book of victory and his people are seen as Overcomers."

**All quoted text from Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Study Series*