

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #1: Revelation 1:1-2 | The Heart of the Revelation

The Revelation is about ONE Person, all things point to Him

- When you misunderstand *what* is being *unveiled*, you'll miss the meaning of the book.
- When you've missed the meaning of the book, it becomes wild and fanciful and leads to all manner of bad dreams on dark nights!
- The Revelation is an *unveiling*.
 - It is the ἀποκάλυψις [apokalypsis].
 - *Apo* – from, specifically *moving away from*
 - *Kalupto* – to cover
 - The key question: *what/who is unveiled?*
 - This question is answered in the first three words of the Greek text, translated into English as: **The revelation of Jesus Christ.**
 - Through every event that unfolds, the reader of the book *should* be pointed to Jesus.
- This means that the Revelation is *not* about:
 - The end times.
 - The role of America in prophecy.
 - The advance of Islam or the Chinese or the Roman empire.
- The heart and soul of the book is: *How is Jesus Christ finally revealed for the world to see?*
 - The Hebrew Scriptures prophesied of a coming Messiah.
 - The Gospels told of a living Messiah.
 - The Epistles tell us how to serve a risen Savior.
 - The Revelation tells us how that risen Savior will be *unveiled* for all the world to see.

The Revelation is a Glorious Gift for the Savior

- It is not a gift *from* the Savior – that would make the book about *us*.
- It is a gift *to the Savior* from the Father: **the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him.**
 - In the book of Revelation, God gave the Son the advance display of the Son's revelation to the world.
 - This is a gift to the Son as a response to what the Son gave the Father. See Philippians 2:6-11 and Psalm 2:8.

Why the Revelation was Given in Advance

- Because **these things must shortly come to pass.**
 - The word **must** is not a *requirement* word but a *need* word.

- What the world *needs* is for these things to come to pass. It is ultimately the only hope for creation.
- The word is also used in Revelation 4:1 and 22:6 in very similar fashion.

- Note that what the world needs if for these things to **shortly come to pass.**
 - The word could mean “soon,” and the world needs that!
 - The word can also mean “quickly,” referring to the speed in which they happen when they do happen, and this would also be a blessing to those living at that time.
 - Jesus used this word in John 13:27, speaking to Judas on the night of the betrayal, as a means of saying, “let's get this over with.”

How the Revelation of Jesus Christ was Given

- Jesus sent **his angel** to John.
 - Does Jesus have an angel assigned to Him?
 - The same term is used in Revelation 22:6 and 22:16.
 - The word angel can equally be translated *messenger*, so there is no need to have a specific angel connected to the work of Jesus Christ.
 - If it is a specific angel, perhaps it is the archangel, whose voice is heard at the rapture (1 Thes. 4:16).
- The angel **signified** the revelation.
 - The underlying Greek word can involve *words to signify* – see John 12:33.
 - The word itself implies *more than words*, and as the Revelation unfolds, it is often communicated in events and illustrations more than in words.
 - Each time we see something unusual in Revelation, we must be reminded that this was used to *signify* that which will take place.
 - The emphasis is not the *signs* themselves, but what they *signify*.
 - Notice that John gave a report **of all things that he saw**, not just things which he *heard*.
- John, the author, **bare record** of three things:
 - **The word of God** – the things God revealed
 - **The testimony of Jesus Christ** – the things Jesus gave witness of
 - **The things that he saw** – the things of the vision