

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
March 23, 2022
The Book of Revelation

Revelation 1:1-3 KJVS

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: [2] Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. [3] Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

We begin this book with what is properly known as the Prologue (vv1-3) of the Introduction (vv1-8). Group participants will have been handed an outline to the book which will help us follow the events. We will be using various handouts to help make sense of this fascinating letter to the Church of Christ. We will be discussing various points of view and methods of interpretation as well as related histories, chronologies and textual references. While Revelation is highly symbolic in its language it is similarly straightforward in its clarity. While there is room for some speculation there is little confusion in interpreting each passage. God, in His wisdom managed to hide most of His preaching and prophecy from the governments and dictatorships that desired to tear apart His Kingdom by the use of symbolic language and variation in authorship and writing style. Meanwhile He defines for us every sign and symbol all tucked neatly within His Word. No mysteries, no confusion. Down through the ages, students of the Word carefully studied all that God shared and have always been able to understand His Message, primarily that Jesus Christ died on a cross to pay for our sins and was resurrected to guarantee us new and eternal life.

Our class time will be spent digging into each passage, always following Pastor's message but due to the depth of the material it will not always be fully presented in the written format. Please contact FRBC with questions or better yet, join us in our studies.

Let's break down verses 1-3.

1. Jesus is here, finally being fully revealed to us in all His Divine Glory. We will see Him as He truly is. We will come to understand His symbolic manifestations as they unfold through the Word of God. Jesus Himself is here revealing to us His ultimate plan for mankind and creation. Revelation in the Greek is the word, *apokalupsis*; disclosure: - appearing, coming, to lighten, manifestation, to reveal or to be revealed, revelation. We are His servants, *doulos*: willing slaves or bondmen. An unnamed angel close to the Lord is delivering this message to the Apostle John (more on his circumstances later) Of particular interest is the use of the phrase, "must shortly come to pass" meaning "in a (*tachos*) brief space of time or in haste, quickly, or to be (*ginomai*) brought into existence. While we are not told when these events will commence, we are told that when they do commence they will begin suddenly and things will move along very rapidly. This harkens us back to Daniel 2:28-29. The similar phrasing will act as a connecting link to an amazing thought. The book of Revelation can be seen as a continuation of the book

of Daniel. We will be seeing many connections and parallels to Daniel, Ezekiel and other prophetic books.

2. John's bearing record is *martureō*, literally being a witness to the Word of God and *marturia*, providing evidence for Jesus Christ, Whom he saw during His ministry and now in His Revealing.
3. Supremely Blessed and happy are two specific groups. Readers and hearers. You are one or the other or both. Why such blessing? Because we do not leave our Lord dead on a cross or gone to heaven and missing. We have our eternal hope in His Appearing, His Coming, His Revealing. The woes of this age will close instantly. Creation will experience the consummation of all things. We all will see the Glorified Messiah finally ruling His universe. We are told to keep, to watch or guard what we learn. Read and hear and be blessed because you know what unbelievers have rejected. The time is at hand... the Greek for this phrase literally states that Jesus is "squeezing the throttle at the set and proper time" Hang on for the ride of your life!