

Jesus Revealed

I. Slide1 Intro:

A. Slide2 Questions:

1. So what **scares** you about the book of Rev? (ask)
2. So why do you **like** the book of Rev? (ask)
3. So what would you **personally** like to get out of the book of Rev? (ask)
 - a) We are **inspired** by its content, **fascinated** by its prophecies, & **stand in awe** of its mysteries. (www)
 - b) What will God *unveil* to us this time through? It does expect *a response* from us... John's was on his face (1:17) *it flattened him*.

B. Where **the 4 Gospels** *revealed* Jesus in His **Humility**, **Revelation** *reveals* Him in His **Glory**.

C. Pray:

D. Slide3 Why people are **afraid** of this book?

1. Winston Churchill said in a radio broadcast in Oct.1939, "*I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia, It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest.*"
 - a) Some see **revelation** as, *a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma*.
 - b) Or as Swindoll said, some see Rev as a kind of a **biblical boogey-man**.
2. Everyone is quick to say it is **God's Inspired Word**...**but**, a part of everyday life? Application for today?
 - a) Yet, it is *piercingly relevant* & has some of *the most straightforward advice* for **the Church** in all of Scripture. (see 7 churches)
3. **Plus**, *the devil* doesn't want you reading a book about *his demise*, **and** the **win win** for **Jesus, His bride, grace, His mission & missions accomplished**.

E. Slide4 Symbols...they Scare me! Why did John use symbolism?

1. Symbols don't weakened w/time.
2. Symbols not only convey **information**, **but** also impart values & raise emotions.

a) *i.e.* John could have written *a dictator will rule the world*, but instead he described - *a beast*. Instead of a world system, *Babylon*.

F. **Slide5 Biblical symbols** are consistent w/the **whole** biblical revelation.

1. Some symbols are **explained**, *7 stars are 7 Lampstands*. (1:20)
2. Others are **understood in the OT**. *Tree of life*. (2:7)
 - a) Out of **404** verses in Revelation, **278** contain ref to the OT.
3. Some **aren't explained** at all, *White stone*. (2:17)
4. **Symbols speak of reality**. *eg.* A flag stands for the existence of a nation.

G. **Slide6a-e We must be careful not to allow our imagination to run wild.** (back in the early 1980's)

1. Don't overanalyze the details. (*i.e.* 666, Ronald Wilson Reagan)
2. Mikhail Gorbachev (his birth mark?)
3. Try not to try to correlate every image to a **modern equivalent**.
4. Every generation has had its Antichrist & Babylon.

H. **Slide7 Don't loose the Big Picture.**

1. When lost in the details, lift your head up for air.
2. **What is the Big Picture?** Mankind started **well**, then went **bad** fast.
 The promise of **a deliverer** was 1st given in *the seed of a women*. The **hope** was passed on to Abraham, then to Isaac, then to Jacob who passed it on to his sons. Then it was beautifully illustrated in Exodus. It was longed for by the Judges, amplified in the Kings, & predicted by the Prophets. Finally it was fulfilled in the Gospels. **But** not until the Rev does it come to its fullest climax. Christ rides out of heaven to destroy Sin & Satan, & to restore creation to its original glory for our good, & His good pleasure forever.¹

I. **Slide8 Why I love this book.**

1. I love John's writing style (Think of his Gospel. Think of his 1st epistle about love)

¹ Charles Swindoll, God's Masterwork, Revelation Overview, pg.123.

2. **It's Beatific Vision.** Rev.22:4 [Latin *A happy-making sight i.e. when we see God*]

a) It was such a shocking statement. **Because of His transcendence. Because of His inapproachability.** Only the High priest, once a year. Moses said, *show me Your Glory* (only could show him his back). **No one has ever seen the face of God & lived** (earthly).

(1) I also think when we finally do see Him, our wonder will not be answered, **but** will cause us to wonder even more.

3. 2 of the most beautiful chapters on Worship (ch.4 & 5).

4. Stir us to *a deeper commitment to the Lord* in light of end-time events.

5. And to promote a concern for **lost souls**.

J. **Slide9 Is Revelation really a book for us to understand?**

1. (1) *unveiling* (not veiling) *a laying bare*.

2. Read 22:10 says, **Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.** It wasn't to be sealed.

3. This is Jesus' *Royal Mail* to the Church.

K. **Slide10 What views are there, and which view will we take?** (very brief)

1. **Historicist View** - A *panorama* of the history of the church from the days of John to the end of the age. (2000 yr church overview)

2. **Spiritualistic View** - This viewpoint **spiritualizes & allegorizes** the text.

a) Saying these are not actual events **but** are simply *stories* of the struggle between good & evil. [emerged in the 4th cent. Catholics & Reformers held/hold to]

3. **Preterist View** (Latin for *past*) - Already fulfilled in 1st cent Roman Empire, esp fall of Jerusalem in ad 70.

4. **Futuristic View** (prophetic/eschatological view) - **Literal, future, normal, plain view.** From ch.4 on as *yet* to be fulfilled. [the view we'll take]

L. **Slide11 Revelation is written in an apocalyptic, prophetic style.** This kind of writing often featured an angel or otherworldly being who revealed heavenly mysteries to a

human recipient. These mysteries are delivered in the form of visions that use graphic imagery to symbolize cosmic realities. The cryptic language may have helped Revelation be easily circulated around the Roman Empire during a time of Christian persecution - the language, couched in OT imagery, would have been difficult to understand for anyone without such knowledge. Faithlife Study Bible. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

1. **Apocalyptic** - (a revealing) not like we hear that word today (dict: the complete final destruction of the world). Instead it means *uncover or reveal*. You can understand it. God wants you to.
2. **Prophetic** - (the future) which shows our God's sov. 1/4 of the bible is prophecy.
 - a) Ultimately, Revelation is both *hope literature* and *crisis literature*: it is meant to instill **hope** during a period of **crisis**.

M. **Slide12** Revelation answers the **deeper questions of life**. [read comic]

1. Like, **Why are we here? Where is this mixed-up, out-of-control world heading?**
2. **It's ok** to be *dissatisfied* w/this world...**because** we were created for a better one. **A world w/o pain, perfect harmony w/our Creator, & w/each other.**

N. **Slide13** What is the world **looking for?**

1. I think of **the stereotypical answer** to the Miss America Pageants, *World Peace* [think Sandra Bullock in *Miss Congeniality*]
2. *World peace, or peace on Earth, is the concept of an ideal state of happiness, freedom and peace within and among all people and nations on earth.*
 - a) **But wait, that's our message of the millennium.** No wars, a remade earth (plants & animals), world peace.
 - b) **Folks we can guarantee this for them if they'd *accept Christ*.**

O. **Slide14** Revelation is where things come to a **fitting conclusion**.

1. Creation of heaven & earth. Creation of NEW heaven & earth.
2. 1st Adam reigning on earth. Last Adam reigning in glory.
3. Night & seas created. **No more night, no more sea.**

4. A bride brought to Adam. **The Bride prepared for Christ.**
5. A tree of life in Eden. **A tree of life in the New creation.**
6. Death & a curse. **No more curse, no more death & tears.**
7. Man driven from God's face. **Men see His face in glory.**
8. Believers looking for a city. **The Holy City presented in glory.**
9. Where is the Lamb? **The Lamb reigns.**
10. Satan utters the 1st lie. **Nothing that makes a lie enters the city.**

P. **Slide15** How should we **interpret** it?

1. **See it Chronologically.** [highlights of all 22 ch's in chronological order]
2. Yes we'll talk about the **future**, **but** let's not forget the meaning to its **original readers**, **or** its timeless truths for us **today**.
3. We will interpret it with *normal, grammatical, historical, ordinary literal sense* w/in the normal context that it is written.
 - a) *When the literal makes sense, seek no other sense.*
 - b) **When it doesn't** (i.e. a symbol) we will use proper rules of grammar & interpretation.

II. **Slide16 IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS (1:1-3)**

A. **Just Give Me Jesus.**

- B. (1) Revelation unveils the central figure of Scripture in all His Glory...**Jesus Christ.**
1. He is the Savior to whom all symbols point.
 2. Strange that **Martin Luther** said, I quote, *My spirit cannot adapt itself to the book and a sufficient reason why I do not esteem it highly is that Christ is neither taught nor recognized in it.* [Calvin didn't put it in his 22 vol. com set]
 - a) **Jesus** 14x's, **J.C.** 7x's, all 7 churches He refers to himself in 7 diff ways (**son of God**, 1st & last) etc. [actually we only have what Jesus looks like *post res* in Rev.1]
 - b) To miss seeing Jesus in Revelation is to squint so hard staring into the sun & thus missing the sun.

- c) It's the most worshipful book in the bible. For it reveals the glorious splendor of our gracious Lord.
- C. **Revelation** = 1st He is the revealer; 2nd He is the content or object of the Revelation.
- D. **This Rev came from:** *the Father, to Jesus, to the angel, to John, to his servants.*
- E. **Things which must *shortly take place*** - wait, wait, wait...2000 yrs later?
1. **Shortly** is *taxos* - short amount of time, speed not length of time, velocity, *tachometer* (measure engine speed). 22:20 *Surely I am coming quickly.*
- F. (2) **John** saw & recorded these things.
1. An apostle. Inner circle. Jesus loved. 1st at tomb, 1st to bel res. now in 90's.
 2. **Slide17** Writing from **Patmos** (9). 35m off coast of Turkey/Asia minor. (6x10m island)
- G. (3) The only book in the bible that promises a **blessing**.
1. **Blessed is he who** - is the 1st of 7 beatitudes in Revelation.
- H. **Reads** – reads aloud.
1. In the ancient world not everyone could read (estimate about 20/30% were able) & not many could afford books/scrolls.
 2. Col.4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
- I. **Hears** – (to listen with intention) Many people in the 1st century were illiterate and received instruction by having it read to them.
- J. **Keeps** – Takes to heart, heeds. (to conform one's action or practice to)
1. **Slide18,19** Read Rev.22:7
 2. Let's commit to keeping the things we are about to read in the next weeks.