

WORKBOOK

REVEALING

REVELATION

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HOW GOD'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE
CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE NOW

AMIR TSARFATI
& DR. RICK YOHN

REVEALING REVELATION

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& DR. RICK YOHN



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INTRODUCTION

The Bible study you hold in your hands has a twofold purpose: (1) to help you grasp the meaning and importance of the book of Revelation, and (2) to provide you with an approach to personal Bible study.

This book is an inductive Bible study. To learn from the Bible inductively means to look at the texts of Scripture and then draw conclusions. It is a “connecting the dots” approach to learning from God’s Word. Such study is often based on three aspects: (1) observation, (2) interpretation, and (3) application. But too often it does not include a fourth very important aspect: correlation. This answers the question, How does this passage relate to the rest of Scripture? When we don’t include this part of Bible study, we fail to see the unity of the Bible, how each part contributes to the whole.

Correlation will be an important element of this study, which will help you understand that the book of Revelation is not an isolated book. Instead, it is the accumulative words of God through the entire Old and New Testaments.

Our desire is that you will not only have a sound understanding of God’s last word to mankind, but also a working approach to the study of Scripture that will enable you to better grasp all the books of the Bible as the whole counsel of God.

In this workbook, it is our privilege to introduce you to this marvelous revelation that came from the exalted Lord Jesus Christ by means of an angel to the apostle John, to seven churches, and then to us. Your study will be an adventure—a journey through some unfamiliar language, filled with narrative and symbols and, occasionally, some very strange stuff. Along the way, you will uncover wonderful hidden treasures known only to those who are willing to take this journey into the future.

Join with us as we see Jesus no longer as the rejected prophet from Galilee, but now as the exalted Lord who alone is worthy to bring an end to the sinful stain that has corrupted the perfection of God's creation. He begins His revelation with a message to the church, transitions to the coming judgment upon Satan and mankind, and then declares that He will reclaim that which is rightfully His. This will then launch us into a new heaven and earth. And now, turn your eyes upon the exalted Jesus.

THE EXALTED JESUS

REVELATION 1

For many people, the book of Revelation is mysterious. For others, it's just downright scary. But for those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, it is a captivating, sobering, and yes, a more complete perspective of the Messiah. No longer do you read about a babe lying in a manger, or about the man from Galilee, or even about Jesus the prophet. No more is He the lowly servant who will die for mankind. Instead, a very different perspective of Him emerges from the pages 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. 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 (Revelation 1:1-3).

Some of you will be looking for the church in this book and wonder where it is when God's wrath is poured out on mankind. Others will want to know all about the Antichrist and may even be tempted to try to figure out what the number 666 is all about. You can spend a lot of time in speculation, or you can take the book of Revelation at face value by accepting it as a message not only for the people of the first century, but also for each of us today. It is not all written about us today, but all of it is for us today.

In this workbook, we want to give you an overview of Revelation that includes both highlights and details. We have designed this study for your participation. It is the companion to Amir and Dr. Yohn's book *Revealing Revelation*. You will have the opportunity to act much like the believers in the city of Berea during the days of the apostle Paul. He tells us that they were not mere listeners to what he had to say, but also took the time to dig deeper. How did they accomplish that? Paul tells us in the book of Acts:

The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so (Acts 17:10-11).

We are encouraging you to do the same thing. You may have already read *Revealing Revelation*, so now it is time to evaluate for yourself whether the contents of the book line up with what the Bible actually teaches. Whether you are doing this study on your own, in a small group, or in a large class at church, personal investigation into the Scriptures is the best way to learn what it teaches.

As we study Revelation, we are going to learn how to interpret it using a literal approach to understanding the Scriptures unless the text specifies that it is symbolic in nature. Even then, we will look for the literal meaning behind the symbols. Fortunately, many of the symbols are interpreted for us.

I, Rick, had just graduated with my BS in Bible from Bible college. I had taken two-and-a-half years of Greek, four years of Bible and theology, as well as many other college courses. I loved those four years of being immersed in God's Word. I learned how to teach the Scriptures, how to preach from God's Word, and how to understand what I was reading.

You would think by that time, I would also know how to study the Bible. I thought so, too, until I took a class on Bible study methods from Professor Howard G. Hendricks at Dallas Theological Seminary. During my first year there, I discovered that there is a difference between knowing *about* the Bible and knowing how to *get into the Bible for myself*. Hendricks taught us how to dig into the Scriptures on our own. We not only learned what we should be looking for when we opened the Bible, but also how to draw out the meaning of the specific passage. Then, best of all, he showed us how to apply it to our personal daily lives.

This is what we want to provide for you. What should you look for when you

EXPLORE THE BIBLE YOURSELF

- 1 **CAPTURE** THE SCENE (What do I see?)
- 2 **ANALYZE** THE MESSAGE (What does it mean?)
- 3 **COMPARE** THIS CHAPTER WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE
(Is this supported by other passages in Revelation, John's other books, the Old/New Testaments?)
- 4 **EXECUTE** (So what? How does this affect my life?)

Dr. Rick Yohn

open your Bible? How do you draw out the meaning from what you are reading? And how do you make it work in your life?

Over the years of teaching others how to study the Scriptures, we have refined the process and will be using the following fourfold approach to Revelation as spelled out in this chart. Let's use the first part of Revelation 1 to demonstrate what we mean.

CAPTURE THE SCENE (What do I see?)

As you read the Scriptures, you want to bombard the passage with a series of questions, including, What am I seeing? What am I feeling? Who is speaking? Who are the main characters in the passage? What is he (or are they) saying?

W

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 HAT?
 HY?
 HERE?
 HEN?

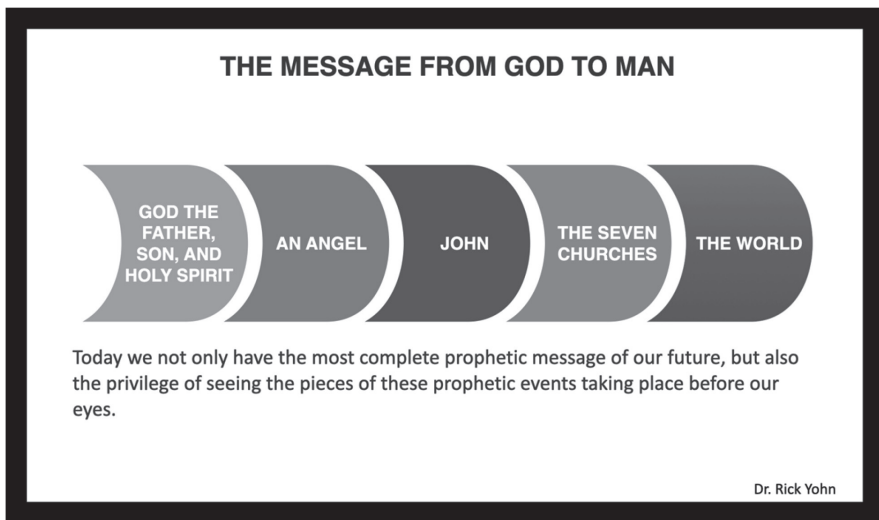
Why is he saying what he is saying? When is this situation taking place? Where is it occurring?

This is the **observation** stage. You are not attempting to interpret the passage. You just want to know what is going on before your eyes.

The first thing we notice in Revelation 1 is that a *progression* of individuals are passing on a message.

Read Revelation 1:1-3

Notice the progression of communication as the message begins with the Godhead: the Father, Son, and Spirit. The message is then passed on to an angel, who gives it to the apostle John, who, as we'll see in a moment, sends off the letter to seven literal churches. From there the message spreads and is carried out to the entire world.



The best place to begin understanding any book of the Bible is to discover something about the author of the book. Some of that information can be found by tracing the author's name in the Bible. You can also find information about the author by checking some online Bible apps or sites. Ones we particularly like are www.biblehub.com, www.blueletterbible.com, www.youversion.org, www.bible.org, and www.biblegateway.org.

1. Who is the apostle John?
2. What other books did John write?
3. How is his relationship with Christ expressed in the Gospels (John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20)?
4. How was John different from the other disciples when it came to Jesus and the cross (John 19:27)?

Now let's CAPTURE what we read in the text itself.

Read Revelation 1:1-8

5. Who are the ones receiving a blessing from this letter?

6. What threefold blessing can we receive from Jesus?

7. Check the relationship between verse 7 and the following passages. What do these passages add to this statement?
 - a. Zechariah 12:10—

 - b. Matthew 24:30-31—

 - c. Acts 1:9-11—

 - d. Revelation 19:11-16—

8. Do you believe Jesus will return symbolically or literally? Why do you say that?

9. How should the awareness that Jesus is going to return to earth one day affect your life today?

d. Revelation 2:12—

Read Revelation 1:17-20

13. What else do you learn about Death and Hades in Scripture?

a. Revelation 6:8—

b. Revelation 20:13—

c. Revelation 20:14—

ANALYZE THE MESSAGE (What does it mean?)

1. What is the meaning of the following two symbols in Revelation 1:12-20?

a. The seven stars—

b. The seven golden candlesticks—

2. What surprised you most about this chapter?

3. What was the greatest insight you gleaned from this chapter?

4. Our “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13) is not the second coming of Christ, but the rapture of the church. We look forward to that wonderful day when suddenly, we will ascend to heaven. That will be an instantaneous event that the world will not see. In contrast, the second coming will be a process, and every eye will see the Lord return to the earth. We as the church will return to earth with Him. Is this how you have understood these two events? If not, what understanding have you had?

COMPARE THIS PASSAGE WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE
(Is this supported by other passages in Revelation,
John’s other books, the Old/New Testaments?)

Remember, even with the Bible’s great diversity, there is unity throughout the Scriptures. Therefore, what you read in one book may be found again in another. And never will any properly understood passage contradict another. Though the various books of the Bible were written over a period of 1,500 years, on three continents, and in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), it is one book that focuses on one nation (Israel) and one person (the Lord Jesus Christ), and it offers one salvation by one means (the blood of a loving Savior).

Write the phrase that is similar to the one in the book of Revelation:

1. “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1)
 - a. 1 Peter 1:7—

b. 1 Peter 1:13—

c. Galatians 1:12—

2. "... who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:2)

a. John 8:13-14—

b. Revelation 1:9—

c. Revelation 12:17—

d. Revelation 19:10—

e. Revelation 20:4—

3. "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5)

a. 1 Corinthians 6:11—

b. Ephesians 5:26—

4. “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” (Revelation 1:7)

a. Matthew 24:29-31—

b. Zechariah 12:10-14—

c. Daniel 7:9-14—

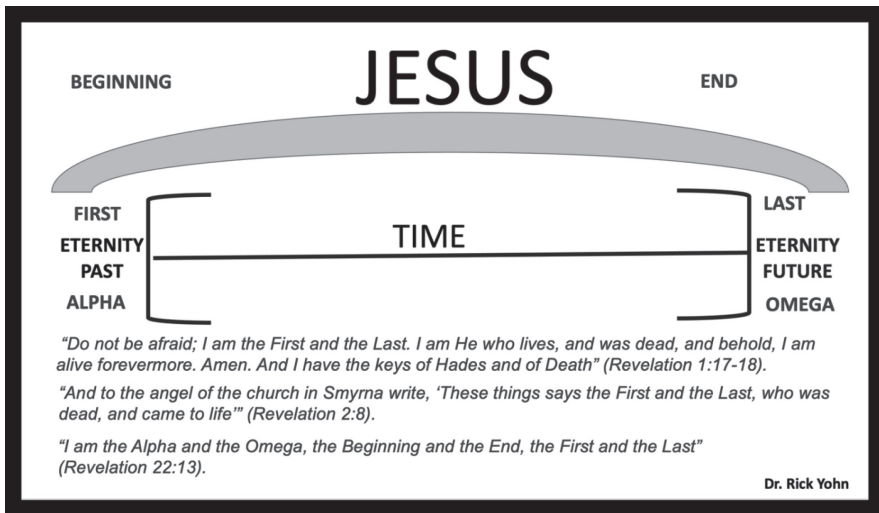
EXECUTE (So what? How does this affect my life?)

In this part of our study, the goal is to draw out a principle from the passage and determine how that principle will affect our lives.

By itself, information about the book of Revelation is helpful, but not transformative. Only when you find some carryover principles by which to live will the Scriptures make a transformative impact on you. So let’s see what principles we can draw from this chapter.

Too often, we will read through a passage quickly looking for something to jump out at us that will give us comfort, encouragement, or some new insight. Occasionally that works, but more often it doesn’t. When it comes to applying God’s truth to life, we need to ask the right types of questions.

Application Principle: Jesus is an eternal God with neither beginning nor ending. In eternity past, He developed a plan for your life, and He has equipped you to fulfill that plan.



Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End... who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). This description confirms God's eternal nature. He never had a beginning, nor will He ever have an ending. God the Father has always existed, along with the Son and the Holy Spirit. That concept is almost impossible to grasp because everything we know in life has a beginning and an ending. This means that before you were brought into this world, God knew you and planned for you to be here. Your parents might have been surprised, but not God.

God told both the prophet Jeremiah and the apostle Paul that He had planned for them to be what they became even before they were born.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5).

When it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus (Galatians 1:15-17).

And the same is true about us:

We are His *workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which *God prepared beforehand* that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

Do you see the parallel between the call on a prophet, an apostle, and you? God has a plan for your life and has equipped you to carry out that plan. He has prepared you with His Word, the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and natural abilities.

Many believers think that serving the Lord is optional. But nothing is further from the truth. You and I were born to serve, not to be served. We were born to glorify the Lord by meeting the needs of others. And one day we will be standing before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account as to how faithful we were with what God entrusted to us.

1. How has God equipped you? You may discover the answer to that by asking yourself the following questions:

a. What am I naturally good at?

b. What do I most enjoy doing?

c. Circle which of the following statements best describes you:

I love helping others.

I love singing and playing musical instruments.

I love to fix things that are broken.

I love to lead people in a worthwhile direction.

I love to teach others the Word of God.

I love to create (writing, painting, drawing, singing or playing music, etc.).

I love to program computers.

I see needs of people that others do not see.

I am a very organized person and enjoy helping teams or groups organize efficiently.

I love to give to others, though I don't always have a lot to give.

I love to pray for those in need.

I love to _____.

d. Look at each of the statements you have circled, and for each one, write a sentence or two that describes how that is manifest in your life.

e. How are you using your giftedness, talents, experience, and education for the Lord today?

f. How would you like to use what God has given you to serve Him in the future?

God is the One who gave us the spiritual gifts and talents to succeed in life. He is the One who opens doors of opportunity for us to enter and closes other doors to protect us from going the wrong direction. When we look back on our

lives, we can probably remember times when we wanted to do something but God said, “No!” Then there were other incidents that were never on our radar screens that God alone opened up. We just had to walk through those doors of opportunity.

As we leave the first chapter of John’s last epistle, reflect on the fact that Jesus is walking among the churches and observes the leaders and the parishioners. He knows those who love and serve Him. He is aware of those who are merely “playing church.” He is aware of the powerbrokers and the manipulators in the congregation. And He knows the leaders who serve Him well.

It is now time for us to move into the section of Revelation where the Lord directly addresses each church. Remember, Jesus does not see the church as a building on the corner. Nor does He think of churches in terms of denominations. And He isn’t preoccupied with what version of the Bible you happen to be using. What He is interested in is His bride. One day He will present her to His Father. The next two chapters focus on preparing her for that glorious occasion.