

Ten Reasons to Read the Book of Revelation

David Pawson

Extract from audio tape DP1086, *Revelation Riddle: Can Believers Lose Their Inheritance?*

*"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"*
(Revelation 1:3)

**The Book of Revelation is the only book with a blessing attached to the beginning of it.
Other books encourage faith in God's past work and love in His present work,
but this book produces hope in His future work.**

It is the Completion of the Bible

It has a striking resemblance to Genesis. The Bible begins and ends with a wedding of God's arrangement. God found a bride for the first Adam and for the last Adam (Christ).

It is a Defence Against Heresy

It is a sad thing that the average church member in this country has not been taught this book. JW's, Christadelphians, and Mormons all have their own teaching on this book and know it better than most church-goers.

It Gives Us an Interpretation of History

Future events cast their shadow before them: If there is going to be one antichrist, there are now many antichrists in the world. If there is going to be one false prophet, there are now many false prophets. If there is going to be a one-world government and one-world economy, we can now see that happening very rapidly. It gives us an insight into current affairs and understanding of our daily newspaper. This book shows us that history will get very much worse and then suddenly better – when Jesus returns.

It Gives Us Grounds for Hope: Jesus Wins

There is no doubt about the outcome. God is still on the throne. Everything is going according to His plan. Christ *will* defeat Satan. His saints *will* inherit the earth and rule over it. No human empire will survive, but the Church *will* be eternal.

It Gives Us a Very Clear Motive for Evangelism

There is no clearer presentation of the alternatives. Either we finish up in the new heavens and the new earth with God, or we finish up in the lake of fire. There *is* to be a day of judgement after which it will be too late for everyone to change their mind. The day of salvation is still here; whoever wishes may drink of the water of life. What a motivation for taking the opportunity to tell people of God's plan [of salvation].

It is a Great Stimulus to Worship

It is full of worship. There are eleven major songs in this book which have inspired many others, from Handel's 'Messiah' to the battle hymn of the Republic (Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord / He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored...)

It is an Antidote to Worldliness

If we are not careful, from Monday to Saturday, we hardly think of the next world at all. Most of the people around us don't believe there *is* any other world but this one. The Book of Revelation brings us up with a jerk and says, 'Which world are you living for?'

It is an Incentive to Godliness

It shakes us out of our complacency and slackness and indifference. It tells us that holiness is essential if we are going to survive the troubles. It calls us to overcome pressures outside and temptations inside. It says blessed and holy are those who rise in the first resurrection. God is always praised in this book as Holy, Holy, Holy.

It is a Preparation for Persecution

Jesus predicted that His followers would be hated by all the nations before the end of history. That has never happened yet. There have always been some nations where Christians are not hated. Before the end we shall be hated everywhere and this is the main reason for this book being written. It speaks loud and clear to Christians' suffering.

It Gives Us a Balanced View and Understanding of Christ

In this book we don't have the pale Galilean, or the 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild'. Here we have Him riding on a horse with blazing angry eyes, coming to deal with evil by force. In the Gospels we have Christ the Prophet. In the Epistles we have Christ the Priest who ever lives to make intercession for us. But in the book of Revelation we have Christ the King. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The world has never seen Him like this. But they will one day and then every knee will bow and every tongue confess. No longer a baby in a manger, no longer a victim on a cross; the world will see Jesus on the Great White Throne wearing a Crown.

After reading this book you can never be quite the same again.

You can never forget about it.

It becomes part of your thinking, part of your outlook,

And, indeed, we need to keep reading it.

It says blessed are those who read it and keep those things.

And that means letting it find a resting place in [our] inmost being

So that it becomes part of [us].