

20220109 THE TIME IS NEAR SERIES – PART 1

INTRO

Revelation 1:1-3, 19

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

¹⁹ Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Isaiah 41:21-23

²¹ “Present your case,” says the LORD.

“Set forth your arguments,” says Jacob’s King.

²² “Tell us, you idols,
what is going to happen.

Tell us what the former things were,
so that we may consider them
and know their final outcome.

Or declare to us the things to come,

²³ tell us what the future holds,
so we may know that you are gods.

Do something, whether good or bad,
so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Revelation 1:3

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Today’s considerations

FIRST, THIS REVELATION IS FROM JESUS CHRIST.

v1

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

Ephesians 2:6

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Acts 17:30-31

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

² Or do you not know that the Lord's people **will judge the world**? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

³ Do you not know that we **will judge angels**? How much more the things of this life!

Revelation 1:14-17

¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

SECOND, THIS REVELATION IS ABOUT WHAT MUST SOON TAKE PLACE.

v1

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants **what must soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

There are four major views on interpretation of the book of Revelation: The idealist view, the preterist view, the historicist view, and the futurist view.

Each view attempts to interpret Revelation according to the laws of hermeneutics. Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpretation,

which is central to the debate about how we should approach and interpret Revelation.

The idealist view believes that apocalyptic literature like Revelation should be interpreted allegorically. Allegorically means symbolically, metaphorically, or figuratively.

The preterist and historicist views are similar in some ways to the allegorical method, but it is more accurate to say preterists and historicists view Revelation as symbolic history.

The preterist views Revelation as a symbolic presentation of events that occurred in 70 A. D. while the historicist school views the events as symbolic of all western church history.

The futurist school believes Revelation should be interpreted literally. In other words, the events of Revelation are to occur at a future time.

THIRD, THIS REVELATION IS TO BE KNOWN.

v1

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. **He made it known** by sending his angel to his servant John,

Revelation 1:19

¹⁹ Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

One. About Himself. His glory and His majesty. That's chapter 1 in the book. In this section, we see Jesus as He is now.

Two. About the church. When it comes to the major prophecies concerning the world history in the Bible, they are always closely connected to the nation Israel. This aspect is very clear if you look at the Old Testament. And this principle is never changed in the New Testament, too.

Ezekiel 5:5

⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

Important points from today's message

Number one. Jesus is the Lord of all. He is our Shepherd. Even though there seem to be a lot of confusion and problems in this world, our Shepherd is able and faithful to His sheep. So, let's trust Him and follow Him.

Number two. God's Word is true and the history of the world is going to the direction that the Bible points to. There is no reason for fear and anxiety in the midst of crisis in the world. We are promised to have the ultimate victory in Christ.

Number three. God wants us to understand the book of Revelation. Proper understanding of this book will let us experience God's blessings. This is not a hidden book. It's an open book. As we understand this book clearly, it will provide us more insight for reading the events of our time better, so that we may live in assurance and confidence in Jesus Christ.

And finally, number four. It's not just for our curiosity that we study the book of Revelation. It should motivate us to share the truth of God with others more urgently and diligently. The time is near and yet, many have not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ nor many have not made the decision to follow Him.

Saving faith comes from the whole response from three aspects of our soul:

- One. Intellectual agreement of the truth,
- Two. Emotional agreement of their sinfulness in contrite heart and God's glorious work on the cross in thankful heart,
- And three. Willful and volitional agreement to follow the Savior Jesus Christ as Lord.