

The Year of the Revelation

~ The One-Verse Theme of the Revelation ~

(The Glorious Theme of the Bible)

Introduction - Read the Book of Daniel

Daniel had been given the opportunity 650 years earlier to peak into these future events.

What Daniel saw in part and which he revealed in part - Jesus will open wide so that all may be fully revealed!

To fully grasp the symbolisms of the Revelation, one must have, as a foundation, the book of Daniel. Daniel provides the building blocks to better understand the message of the Revelation.

The verse that is quoted is Daniel 7:13, where Daniel introduces us to someone called the "Son of Man" who would eventually have dominion over all creation. This Son of Man is Jesus!

A summary of the vision of Daniel in Chapter 7.

The four kingdoms of the time of the Gentiles:

Babylon	605 - 539 BC
Medes & Persians	539 - 330 BC
Greeks	330 - 63 BC
Romans	63 BC - Dissipated

Nebuchadnezzar's Statute

Daniel's Beast from the Sea

* The Roman empire was never defeated. It lies dormant until the time of the tribulation when it will be re-established by 10 nations which will put in place the opportunity for the rule of the Anti-Christ.

In the same vision, Daniel sees into Heaven and watches as God (The Ancient of Days) takes His place on the throne to judge the nations. He describes the event and participants at this great heavenly gathering.

Daniel also sees the Son of Man (Jesus) coming on the clouds with all His glory to take over the rulership and dominion of all creation and to defeat Satan and the evil host that works in cooperation with the enemy.

Daniel describes in brief details what is about to be fully revealed by Jesus, the Son of Man!

I. "Behold, He is coming with the clouds"

The cloud represents the presence of God.

The children of Israel - led by a cloud in the day.

In multiple places, the Second Coming of Jesus is pictured as coming in a cloud.

Daniel 7:13f

Matthew 24:29-30

Matthew 26:62-64

Acts 1:9-11

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II. "Every eye shall see Him."

He will be visibly recognized (not every mind will see Him.)

The second advent of Jesus will be as His first in that:

"our hands handled Him"

"our eyes looked upon Him"

"The Word was made flesh."

A Valid Comparison:

If He came to Bethlehem - He will come to Olivet.

If He came to die - He will come to reign.

If He came to be crucified - He will come to be admired.

There is no meaning to the first advent of our Lord if we forget or forsake the second.

III. An Apparent Contradiction

A. In the Revelation

Revelation 1:7

"Every eye shall see Him"

Revelation 16:15

"Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk unrobed, and they see his shame."

Revelation 3:3

"I will come upon thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

B. In Other Scriptures

II Thessalonians 1:7-10 -

"When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels. . ."

Matthew 24:27-30 -

"For as lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth over unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. . ."

Matthew 24:42

"Watch therefore: for you do not know what hour your Lord doth come. . ."

I Thessalonians 5:1-2

". . .for you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

II Peter 3:8-9

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."

C. No Contradiction - A Two-Act Drama

* The statement "that all will see Him" should not, as some infer, mean that all see Him at the same time, in the same place, in the same manner, with the same feelings. *

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Act I: There will be some who will see Him when He comes as a thief to steal away His jewels (His people) - The Rapture of the Church.

This secret call of the Lord is presented in the Bible through types, promises, and stories!

- (1) Enoch was taken without announcement. All the world knew was that Enoch was gone.

The church will be called out "ecclesia," like Enoch - one day she will be gone. (Matthew 24:40-41)

- (2) As it was in the days of Noah -
While the people of the world were blaspheming, carousing, and living life, God called Noah into the ark, and "God shut the door."

* No announcement - The world did not know.

"...So will the coming of the Son of Man be..." (Luke 17:26-27)

- (3) As it was in the days of Lot. . .
While the Sodomites fell into their gross, indescribable iniquity, while they drank, caroused, and cursed, the angel snatched Lot out of the city. God said, "I cannot do anything until have arrived there."
(Genesis 19:22)

"...So will it be also in the days of the Son of Man." (Luke 17:28-30)

* God cannot rain judgment and the fire of righteous indignation upon this earth until His people first be taken out. *

Act II: There are others who will see like the lightning that strikes from east to west -
The Second Coming.

It is this public coming that is the focus of the book of Revelation. The book concerns itself with the great, final act when He comes in power and in glory.

First, He is coming **for** His people - which ushers in the Great Tribulation on this earth.
Then He comes back openly, publicly **with** His people.

- (1) In these comings, there is the glorious triumph of the people of God.
- (2) There is also the terrible horror and despair of the unrepentant - "the kindred of the earth shall wail because of Him."

*** But all must some day look upon the face of our Lord. ***

The Book of Revelations is the completion of the circle of the revealed Word of God.
(What is begun in Genesis, finds its concluding, consummating climax in the Revelation.)

In Genesis	In Revelation
The Story of Creation of the Heavens and Earth	The Creation of the New Heaven and the New Earth
The Story of How Man Lost His Paradise	The Story of How Paradise is Returned to Fallen Man
The Story of the Tree of Life and How Man Was Driven From It	The Story of the Tree of Life and How Man Is Invited Back To It
First Introduced to Satan	Satan is seen for the last time in his ultimate doom.
The Entrance of Sin into the World with All its Sorrows	Announcement That There Shall Be No More Sorrow Nor Pain
Story of the First Death with Parents Weeping	The Glorious Announcement That There Shall Be No More Death
Story of Mass Disobedience and the building of the Tower of Babel	The Story of the Destruction of Babylon and the World System It Represents
The Story of the First Adam and His dominion Over All Things that God Made	The Story of the Revelation of the Second Adam and His Dominion Over Things in Heaven and in Earth
The Story of the First Woman, the First Bride, and How She Was a Helpmate for the Man	The Story of the Bride, the Church of Christ, and How She Shall Share with Him in His Glory

** What is begun in Genesis finds its completion and ultimate consummation in the Revelations.*
W. A. Criswell