

THE REVELATION

APOCALYPSE—"AWAY FROM" - "TO COVER"
"UNVEILING"

Two Aspects:

(1) There is the revealing of Jesus to the world as a reward from God the Father.

- (a) The first time Jesus came to earth, His deity, glory, and majesty was covered by His manhood. Except for a few occasions, His deity was veiled.
- (b) The world last saw Jesus when He was hanging in shame, misery, and anguish on a cross.
- (c) The unbelieving, godless world will see the Son of God in all His glory.
- (d) Paul spoke of this time in Philippians 2.

* This Revelation of Jesus points to the reality of the second coming of Jesus. *

His Promises: John 14:3, Matthew 24:3, 29-31

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

Angels' Proclamation: Acts 1:11

"And they (angels) said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:11)

The second coming is primarily a Jewish event where the Messiah returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, not as the humble suffering servant as described in Isaiah 53.

- (1) The Jewish Struggle
- (2) The Same Jesus
 - Suffering Servant
 - Coming King

The Rapture of the Church

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Facts:

(1) Church established by Jesus (Matthew 16:18)

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it." (Matthew 16:18)

(2) The church made up of believers in Jesus from Jews to every Gentile nation.

(3) The church will exist in this world until the Rapture, which is an instantaneous, secret gathering of believers to be with Jesus.

* The reality of the Rapture in the Revelation is that the church is mentioned only in the first 3 chapters (18 times) but never again. *

* The events happening in chapters 6-18 are taking place on an earth unoccupied by the church. The church is with Jesus in Heaven while the events of the Great Tribulation take place.

(2) There is the revealing by Jesus Christ as it relates to future events.

Apocrypha – “hidden or sealed”

The prophecies of Daniel predicted human history to Christ.

Daniel 12:4 – Daniel is commanded to close or seal certain things he had seen.

“But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”
(Daniel 12:4)

“which must shortly take place” -
a statement of certainty rather than speed of fulfillment.

There is a speed factor as it relates to how quickly this takes place once it begins.

“write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.”

* Identifies the prophetic nature of this writing!