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Introduction to the Revelation

Against the current backdrop of religious apostasy, moral corruption, political anarchy and impending sociopolitical collapse made abundantly evident within the Preface of this book, one prophetic text of the Holy Bible stands out as a clear warning and prediction of the ultimate outcome of mankind's insane rebellion against God and his Christ.

The Revelation firmly stands on its own for both its promise of eternal salvation of God's redeemed and conversely, its severe warnings of eternal destruction of the obstinate unrepentant sinner who arrogantly opposes God's divine will and authority. This document is strategically and appropriately placed as the very last book of the Holy Bible, where it lays out and describes God's coming judgment of this decadent world in astonishing detail.

Not surprisingly, no other book of the Bible has been so viciously attacked, maligned, misquoted out of context, grossly misinterpreted, and even ignored as has this extraordinary book. While many still choose to embrace its passages revealing the wondrous delights of Heaven, the same choose to avoid, ignore, deliberately misinterpret, and totally dismiss all other passages that reveal God's necessary judgment of all the unrighteous who continue to oppose his divine authority.

There are seventeen prophetic books in the Old Testament, and we also find short prophetic texts scattered throughout the New Testament, but the text of the Revelation is the only entirely prophetic book found within the New Testament. That fact, as well as its placement at the end of

Holy Scripture, makes it unique enough to demand our full attention.

This last book of the Bible has always fascinated men and women because it tells about the last days of mankind on earth at the end of time. This interest has been greatly enhanced today in view of the obvious moral and political decline of human society driving mankind toward a world-wide state of chaos. The once unthinkable idea of a global nuclear holocaust looms ever closer on the horizon, as rogue nations and radical political and religious groups scramble to obtain nuclear superiority.

Unfortunately, many delve into the book of Revelation in an attempt to discover how God will deal with mankind's plunge into moral chaos without having given due diligence to studying the prophetic passages that come before it in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Without that background, the Revelation is virtually indecipherable – leading many to fantasize over its meaning or to conclude that the Book of Revelation is but a jumble of unrelated visions randomly dispersed throughout the book that have no cohesive organization or basis in reality.

Still others find its many passages of coming judgment so frightening that they believe they merely act to suppress the Christian's present-day joy. For that reason, this important book is ignored by many individuals and churches. Admittedly there are many things contained in the Revelation that we would rather not consider because of their terrifying implications, but that is no reason why a mature believer who is secure in Christ cannot accept what is being revealed about God's future judgments as they seek the Holy Spirit to comfort and aid them in their understanding. Hopefully the approach taken within this commentary and analysis will aid the reader into accepting that all the things spoken of in the Revelation are both faithful and true, for the time when all of the events contained within this book must be realized is now rapidly approaching. There is a unique blessing and promise is given to those who read, hear, and keep the words of the Revelation: "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" (Re.1:3). This same blessing is repeated by Jesus near the very end of this document wherein He says "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book:" (Re.22:7).

About the Second Edition

The First Edition of this book was published in mid 2022, after which it had immediately undergone three rapid Revisions in an attempt to locate and correct grammatical errors, and to include any critical omissions. While contemplating a still Fourth Revision, it was determined that a comprehensive rewrite of the entire text of this book would be beneficial to expand upon important precepts, principles, and concepts that had been introduced within the First Edition.

The Preamble of this book, which serves as an essential background for the necessary study of the text of the Revelation, had continued to expand within each subsequent revision of the First Edition to the point that it had become a running dialog, which was impossible to keep current without many often-repeated revisions. For that reason, it was decided to finalize the Preamble within this Second Edition to include only major developments found within the ongoing decline of this world's satanically-inspired systems, without attempting to go into exhaustive detail regarding every individual event that has led up to them.¹

We have expanded the topics on Religious Apostasy and Moral Corruption, but particularly so the last topic on Political Anarchy. Extreme political divisions within national governments and irrational concerns over climate-change will ultimately lead to the fall of Nationalism. We have thus included a rather large section on the many dangers inherent within man's far-advanced technologies and the fearful negative effects of their application that will ultimately lead to

¹ Many of those detailed events are discussed within Worldview articles available as Newsletters on this website: www.CRChristianity.org.

governmental Globalism. Globalism will eventually make way for the evil regime of the ultimate world dictatorship of the Antichrist within the final seven-year period of this current age.

Many of the more complex doctrinal issues presented within the Commentary of the First Edition had been relegated to various Ancillary Articles in order to make the Commentary of the biblical text easier to follow without undue distraction. Under reexamination, however, it was discovered that some important textual details, which should have been addressed within the Commentary, had been omitted. Within this Second Edition the entire Commentary Section has been critically reexamined for accuracy and reedited to ensure that any significant exposition of the inspired text has not been neglected.

All of our Addendum Articles were reexamined and reedited where it was deemed necessary to better organize and explain any text that may not have been made adequately clear within the First Edition. In doing so, we have made every effort to firmly ground those ancillary texts within Holy Scripture. We have also reexamined each of them concerning their relevance to the study of the text of the Revelation.

While some Articles were more relevant than others, it was decided to retain all of the Articles included within the First Edition with minor modifications – with the sole exception of the Article on Heaven. Inasmuch as Holy Scripture is largely silent regarding many details concerning Heaven, this Article was expanded in this Second Edition to provide a hypothetical description of the wondrous properties of Heaven that is only very broadly based upon Scripture. It is hoped that it will be accepted in the speculative sense in which it is presented as a blessing to those redeemed on earth who, not unlike this author, must contemplate the wonders and joys of Heaven from afar through the cloudy lens of the human mind's eye even as the Holy Spirit reveals it to our understanding (cf. 1Co. 13:12). ■