

A Revision of Chapters 1-3

There are four main schools of interpretation of Revelation and the events that are contained in it.

- The Preterist Viewpoint (all prophecies in the bible have already happened)
- The Historical or Continuous Historical Perspective
- The Futuristic or Plain Position
- The Spiritual Notion

The conclusions that each of us comes to will always be subject to a personal revelation by the Holy Spirit. Whilst there is a great deal to be learned from the scholars and the various studies undertaken by men and women of God, we will inevitably be left with more questions to ask, such as: How far are we from the end? What period are we in right now? Why is there so much mystery? When will Jesus come for His bride?

Some of these questions can be answered with a measure of certainty and with some reservation; it is enough to take hold of the parts that we are convicted about. Paul says the following.

1 Corinthians 13 v 12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

The first study that we looked at speaks to us about God's willingness to communicate the things that we need to read about, hear and do. We shall be given more revelation and understanding as we do these things. The promise of fruitfulness is conditional. As God brings revelation about anything we are to move on into its reality, the doing or obeying His word and as we do this blessing follows, Jesus is very clear about this.

Luke 8 v 16-21

"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him." And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You."

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*SCF- Stevenage Christian Fellowship where Dennis Marshall was Pastor

But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Luke 11 27-28

While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed." But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

Communication is one of the greatest connectors between two people, also perhaps the most difficult. We do not always communicate to others what we mean, this is sometimes because we lack the ability to say what we mean and we then leave people guessing, or having to piece together the things we have left out. If we only give half a story the devil is able to *make up* the rest of it.

Attempting to speak the truth *in love* is sometimes so wrapped up in emotion that love is not communicated; only the cold, stark and often critical truth that often will bring reaction from the other person.

God is not like this, we have a different problem, that of hearing and receiving. Our hearing is sometimes hindered by fixed ideas or wrong expectations. We are encouraged by Jesus to take care how we listen. This indicates that we can be careless listeners!

We may well hear the truth but receiving it is to accept it and with the help of the Holy Spirit we are to do what is required of us. In doing this we are promised a blessing in the here and now.

Prayers are not answered sometimes because we have either not heard God or we have not done something that He has told us to do.

Communication and receiving, hearing, accepting and doing are skills available to all of us, we have to spend time with Him to hear and know that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him by faith.

Revelation will inevitably lead us into other aspects of truth, although Revelation is the last book in the bible it is often the first stage of us being changed into the image of Jesus.

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We need revelation to see God's overall plan, we need revelation to have vision, we need revelation to have the strategy, we need revelation to hear and receive faith to live by and we need revelation to see the fruit that God expects to see. All these are essential if we are to grow into maturity.

I may have knowledge of His word, but I am called to digest the word of God because it is in the eating of the food that I am nourished, it has to be in my stomach, not in the fridge!

The hearing and doing of His word brings God's blessing, grace and peace to us in the power of the Spirit of the living God. Jesus intercedes on our behalf and as we subject ourselves to Him we become priests in His kingdom which is everlasting.

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