

## Chapter 30: Why is Revelation so Hard to Believe?

### Life Application Verses:

**Revelation 1: 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, ...

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**Revelation 22: 21. (NIV):** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

**N**ow, I know that reading The Book of Revelation in the Bible is a bit hard to understand, but if you look at the first and last verse, it really is quite simple. Right!? Well, it depends on your perspective. For example, in this final Book, God opens our eyes to what He will do to validate His Mighty Power. There are Holy Seals; Trumpets; cities coming down from Heaven; Wrath; a New Heaven and a New Earth—and no sea. The secular view of Revelation is that it is allegory, metaphor, or some other type of ‘make believe.’ Yet, in our secular society we are all about make believe, science fiction, and the future. I am a *Trekkie* from the original *StarTrek* series. One of my favorite quips of all time was from Captain James Tiberius Kirk: “We have them just where they want us.” I suppose that is the sentiment of secularists: “We have God just where we want Him.” Unfortunately, they miss the boat on this 1000%. They miss the Truth that God has the Universe and all that it contains in His Hands. He hasn’t relinquished His authority over our World or its future. Thus, in light-of-and-in-spite-of our best efforts, we will arrive full-circle to Revelation. Not science fiction, make-believe, or allegory—but our future as Christians. You might argue that the future will not be like we expect it to be, that there will be too much change. Fellow Believers, listen to me—if God is in it and Christ is right in the mix, how in Heaven’s name can it NOT be wonderful! If it is not a hopeful expectation for followers of Christ Jesus, then tell me what in this world will EVER be this wonderful!? Life is full and good because of God in Christ Jesus first, then all other things.



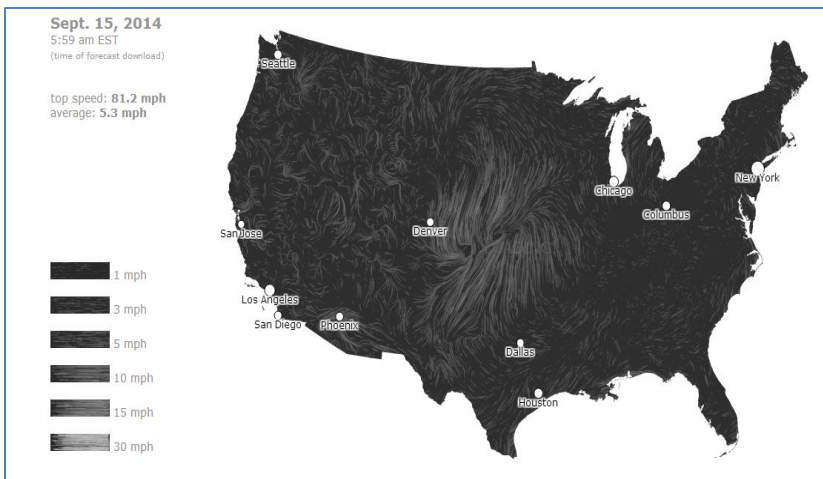
The point being made here is not that Revelation is unbelievable, but that it will usher in God’s Kingdom as He has ordained it and has informed us in this Book. Our job is to be Faithful

to its future. We may not understand it, but does that negate its importance or Truth? Not in the least! I don't understand it all, with the Seven Seals, New Heaven and Earth, and so forth. Yet, if we believe in God, and have accepted Jesus Christ, then does it really matter that we have full knowledge of how it will all turn out? Is not God capable of taking care of that in Christ Jesus? Are we not to be Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good and living extraordinary lives whether Revelation makes perfect sense to us or not? Has not God told us that His ways are not our ways? Look...which one of you reading this at this very moment can go outside and capture the wind? If I had riches untold, and guaranteed you every cent of it, I would have no worries, as they say 'Down Under.' Why?

Because you will NOT capture the wind; you will NOT be able to see the wind; and, no one alive today can accurately predict the wind. Oh, now, our meteorologists can do a good bit of predictions with their hi-tech equipment and so forth. In this first image (©The Weather Channel), you



can see the patterns of wind across the United States. This is a very fluid image of wind, and it is only as accurate as the very second that the image is captured. In the second image (© <http://hint.fm/wind/>), you see a Wind Map in a slightly



different format. Yet, in both of these, YOU CANNOT CAPTURE THE WIND! It moves, changes direction and velocity, and it cannot be seen with our eyes. Wind is cause and effect, but it

cannot be seen with our eyes. Without the debris and color of the physical composition of a tornado, it would not be visible—but its impact can be felt in destruction, death, and heartache.

Yet, in all of this about the wind, God's Laws of Nature rule over our Earth and our lives as we live within the confines of this Earth. But one day, Hallelujah, God will remake all things according to His Plan and as Believers in Christ Jesus, that plan includes us. As I was working on this chapter, my July/August 2014 issue of *Decision: The Evangelical Voice of Today*, arrived from The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. On the cover of the magazine, was this title: *Cowards: Destined For The Lake Of Fire*. Here is an excerpt from that article: (Graham, 2014, p.4)<sup>1</sup>

Heaven is not for cowards! Recent comments I made while speaking at an event in Washington, D.C., have drawn some controversy. In a challenge to those who are afraid to speak out on moral issues addressed in the Bible, I referenced a chilling passage—a warning from God about the most catastrophic indictment the world will face someday: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21: 7-8). Christians cannot ignore parts of God's Word because they are unpopular or cause division. Our commission is to proclaim Christ and all He stands for.

Wow. Let me revisit the original question posed: Why is Revelation so hard to believe? Because it is so illuminating in our lives, maybe? Or because in ‘modern times’ it is unpopular to voice the Will of God to our nation and the lost? Or because Revelation is so nebulous to Christians that speaking of it does not add to our Faith? Here is what I suggest to you as a Follower of Christ. First, God does not lie. It is not in His vocabulary. And Revelation, therefore, is not a lie, but a Truth that will one day come to pass. Second, accept Revelation by Faith. I have never seen God, Jesus Christ, or the wind. But, as I know the wind exists because I have seen or felt its effect, I have felt the Holy Spirit in my Soul and heard its Voice. I know that to a World that does not believe in God or desire to accept Christ Jesus, this sounds like heresy; even so, I will not abdicate my Belief in the Holy Spirit and reliance upon Christ Jesus for Salvation. Third, it is not that we must fully understand Revelation, but that we must believe

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<sup>1</sup> Graham, F. (2014, July/August). Cowards: Destined for the lake of fire. *Decision*, 55(7-8), 4-6.

that it will come to fruition in God's Power, Love, Mercy, and Grace—just as He said it would unfold. That's all we have to do with Revelation, is it not? Oh, and Pray for discernment in the Words of Revelation, that God in the Holy Spirit will convict us of its Truth and Application in History. God's timeline is within His grasp, not ours. And, if God saves us by the Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, His timeline for Revelation is just alright with me. The Book of Revelation does not depend on us; yet, it is being prepared for us as The Children of a Holy God!

To reiterate, why is Revelation so hard to believe? Short answer: it isn't! But you must validate your understanding by Faith. You must choose to remember that Revelation is not a mystery to true Born Again followers of Christ Jesus. Why? (I sure am asking Why? a lot in this chapter!) Because it will happen just as God said it would in the Words of Christ to John at Patmos when Revelation was given to John. Is it something to be afraid of? No. I think Heaven will be a place of Peace of Mind, Heart, Soul, and a New Body. Our questions will no longer be unanswered, because they will—by the very Nature of God and Christ Jesus—be answered without us having to even ask them. We will no longer see through the glass darkly, but we will see clearly. Revelation is the glass darkly now, but it will be as clear as 20-20 vision when it happens to us in Christ. No mystery, no unbelief, no doubt. Just as God in Christ Jesus is no mystery, so will our participation in Revelation be no mystery.

One other thing about Revelation: it provides the ultimate Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good reference for Christian Living. Hold on...I'm getting there. The Heavenly Minded aspect is that God in Christ has given us this Hope and Assurance of His Ultimate Power over ALL things—past, present, and future; the Earthly Good aspect is that God in Christ has given us this Hope and Assurance of His Ultimate Power over ALL things—past, present, and future. Wait a minute! Ain't those the same thing? *You're catching on!* Listen to what God in Christ said in Revelation 1-3, or what the NIV Leadership Bible says:

#### **Prologue**

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.

Notice that in v.3, it didn't say you MUST understand it all; it says, "...blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Remember: a thousand years is like one day to God, so in our time, Jesus was crucified some 2014 years ago, and was raised from Death to Life, sitting at the Right Hand of Almighty God The Father. That only happened some 2.014 days ago to God, and therefore, "...because the time is near" is not as some consider, "When will God take action?" The time **is** near! Our job is to be Faithful as we hear it (Revelation) and take to heart what is written. According to The Free Dictionary, the meaning of 'take to heart' implies: "to consider that some comment is significant to oneself." Read the following verses and "take to heart what is written in it...": (Revelation: 22: 12-21)

#### **Epilogue: Invitation and Warning**

<sup>12</sup> "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup> "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Whoa! I think you might want to invigorate your visual acuity to the following words: **Invitation and Warning.** This right here is worth the price of admission, because Jesus is saying two things: 1) "I am extending an invitation to all that would believe in Me for Eternal Life"; 2) "I am extending a warning for those that would reject Me and miss My Glory in Eternal Life." Christ gives us a picture of His Authority and Hope for Salvation and a Heavenly Home; yet, on the other hand, He tells ALL people that to be of this world is to do those things He indicates as done in Free Will and without consideration of His Glory and Sacrifice for our Salvation. There is

no lack of clarity from Jesus in the Invitation and Warning in Revelation: 22: 12-21. NO LACK OF CLARITY WHATSOEVER!

So, why is Revelation so hard to believe? By Faith that it is Truth, Love, Mercy, and Grace, it is as clear as the Heavens above our heads. It's Power, Outcomes, Future, Application, and Impact upon our Eternal Lives is within the Full Purview of Almighty God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, Revelation is not hard to understand at all. Oh, it might be somewhat unbelievable as to how all of those events and such can occur, until you remember the Author and Finisher of our Faith! And, if you tune into world events in The Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen, you can see Revelation unfolding before our very eyes—just Open Your Spiritual Eyes—and you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free from asking yourself, “Why is Revelation so Hard to Believe?”

**A Question of Curiosity:**

If the Word was with God, and the Word was God, when all things were made, is it even remotely doubtful that this same God does not have the Power to fulfill Revelation—in toto? He, God, made all that is; His Power is not lessened one iota; and, He will bring to Full Fruition, the events that have been Prophesied in Revelation. Do you doubt this? And you say...

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As I have reconsidered each of the issues in this book and reexamined both the teachings of Jesus and the writings of the apostle John concerning the end times, I have been forcefully reminded of the urgency of these issues. From the vantage point of the 1990s, we can now see the genuine dangers behind us, and we can imagine those still ahead. *The worst thing any man or woman can do is to ignore these writings and assume that either they are fantasy or hyperbole.* [Italics added]

Like the reporter from *Le Figaro* I mentioned earlier who thought I was simply trying to scare the people, some people may assume that nothing so horrible as the Apocalypse can ever happen. But I must assure you, it can, it must, and someday it will. The Apocalypse will come when God, in His Wisdom and Mercy, decides that this world cannot go any further in its rebellion against Him. But until that time, I believe we have the future, as it were, in our own hands. If we turn to Christ and, with His help, change our lives to conform to the Will of God, we can prolong the days of planet Earth.

Graham, B. (1992). *Storm Warning*. Word Publishing: Dallas, Texas. (p. 309-310).

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