

# **WHEN WILL IT ALL END? An Introduction to the Book of Revelation**

## **Desert Light Christian Church**

### **Part 1, From December 29, 2014**

“Will the world keep going on? If not, how will it end? Global warming, asteroid collision, earthquakes, volcanoes, and nuclear holocaust are some of the front running candidates for global annihilation. A website, “Exit Mundi” proposes 48 ways for the world to end. The Book of Revelation, or The Apocalypse (literally means, “The Unveiling”) is more *hopeful* and more *horrible* than a gloomy doomsday pundit could ever imagine. It pictures a recreated earth full of joy, without war, hunger, sorrow, or deprivation of any sort. But to get there earth must go through unprecedented worldwide disasters in 7 years. International warfare, outer space chaos, earthquakes, economic collapse, rampant disease, invasion of demons, starvation, poisoning of the world water supply, death of the oceans, dried up vegetation, and a one world government under an insane and evil dictator who demands to be worshipped in every nation is enough to make the “A” list of world catastrophes.

In 1976 – at 19 years old I read a book about The Unveiling. The author’s words mesmerized me. He interpreted the symbols in the book noting that in chapter 9, the flying locusts were helicopters and the horsemen were battle tanks in a very soon to happen world war. He said that Jesus would probably return in 1982 as the planets lined up. I remember thinking, “Jesus is coming, and the world will end, so why go to college?” Fortunately, common sense took over. But I began my own quest to understand the book and its visions. It does answer two questions without any doubt. “What is the destiny of Planet Earth?” The second one depends upon my own choice “What will be my eternal destiny?” **Let’s Find our Destiny in The Revelation of Jesus Christ.**

#### **1. Let’s Find our Destiny in The Revelation of Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation, the Apocalypse is, The Unveiling**

The name, Revelation is a translation of the Greek word, apocalupsis (hence the term, Apocalypse). Removing the veil from a statue is a fitting image (Plato uses it this way in Protagoras 35 2a) as it can literally mean, “unveiling.” *apokalupsis* : *apo* : away or off *kaluptô* : to hide, cover, or conceal "Apocalupsis" technically meant "taking off a covering on something that has been deliberately hidden or concealed". So if we were translating literally, the final book of the Bible would be, “The Unveiling of Jesus Christ.” Any art lover would long to be the first to walk through an art museum with veiled masterpieces of great sculpture; busts and statues all over the gallery floor, and be the one to remove the cloths one at a time. He’d examine each to get the message of the sculptor!

#### **2. Let’s Find our Destiny in The Revelation of Jesus Christ, The unveiling is all about Jesus**

The first words of the book say it (1:1), ***“The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”*** The human author of The Unveiling is a Christian exile named John and an apostle of Jesus. He got his information from an angel, who got it from Jesus, who got it from God. The picture The Unveiling presents of Jesus overshadows everything else in it. No other book of the Bible shows such a full view of Jesus. Visions, images, and declarations unveil Jesus in every stage of time- as the pre incarnate (that is- before He became flesh and blood) Word of God, the baby born on earth, the lamb of sacrifice in His crucifixion, the resurrected Lord of the church, the coming King over the kings of nations, the King of Israel, and the Bridegroom.

Since it is *The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*, the most important thing to discover from any verse, passage, or chapter of this book is “What does it unveil, or reveal about Jesus Christ? Reading and understanding The Unveiling will expand, clarify, and deepen our knowledge of Jesus Christ. This is not first and foremost about the Antichrist, the European Union, or mega disasters. In any section of The Unveiling, you can discover what it reveals about Jesus.

For example, Jesus’ declaration of being “The first and the last” is nothing short of claiming to be God (Unveiling 2:8, Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12). The terms, “*Alpha and Omega*” are titles which God speaks to describe Himself two times in 1:8, and 21:6. In the latter, He combined it with the title “Beginning and End.” Then in 22:13 Jesus uses both of these the divine titles “Alpha and Omega” for Himself, but also adds that he is the First and the Last! The phrase, “*First and Last*” is another divine declaration found in Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, and 48:12. The Unveiling uses this phrase to show that Jesus is divine, part of the Trinity, yes, God Himself.

### **3, Let’s Find our Destiny in The Revelation of Jesus Christ, The Unveiling has a practical application to life today.**

*What does it say to the reader in practical application for choices in how to live?* The book opens by telling the reader (1:3) “*Blissfully happy the one reading and the one hearing the words of the prophecy.*” Simply, John wrote that there is happiness to the person who will *read and heed*. Then Jesus Himself goes on to say to the 7 churches what He wants them to do. For example some points to apply are: he wants the church in Ephesus to return to first love, He wants Smyrna to be faithful till death with no fear, Pergamum to stop tolerating false teachers, He tells Thyatira not to tolerate a false prophetess who points to other gods and immorality, the church in Sardis to wake up, Philadelphia to hold on, and Laodicea to be hot or cold and let Jesus in. These personal messages from Jesus to the 7 churches are applicable to all Christians who are part of the church today. Yes, according to The Unveiling, Jesus will return. It’s all about Jesus, and we apply it by wrapping up our destiny in Him. That’s destiny.

#### **Conclusion**

Chapter 1:7 declares, “*Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, He whom they also pierced and all the tribes of the earth will beat their breasts regarding Him, yes, so be it!*” This one verse is associated to at least 15 biblical passages. Zechariah 12:10 matches it “*I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.*” Three other scriptures directly refer to piercing the Messiah- Psalm 22:16 was a prophecy of it, John described it (John 19:34 and 1 John 5:5-6) and quoted Zechariah 12:10 (John 19:37). His coming with the clouds matches no less than 11 biblical sources, (Psalm 97:2, Isaiah 19:1, Daniel 7:13, Nahum 1:3, Matthew 24:30, 26:64, Mark 13:26, 14:62, Luke 21:27, Acts 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:17). In this one phrase John lists 2 biblically attested facts: Jesus’ coming is in and with clouds and it will be a universal world-wide and visible. He was pierced, pointing to the cross, He is risen and bids us to share destiny with Him.

## A SIMPLE 12 POINT OUTLINE OF THE UNVEILING

### INTRODUCTION:

**Part 1—In it Find our Destiny: in the Unveiling, In Jesus, In its Practical Application**

**Part 2—In it Unveil Symbols of Destiny: Connecting it with the rest of the Bible, In its Codes, Phrases, and Style that come from Hebrew Thought, Greek Language, Roman Context, and Christian Experience, and Interpreting the Meaning of Objects, Animals, Numbers, Colors, and Actions.**

**Part 3—Let the Unveiling (and all of Scripture) Speak for itself: It doesn't Speak Directly of the Rapture, It is Very Missionary, When it is Literal and Figurative.**

#### **1. GREETING (Chapter 1:1-8)**

**"Favor to you and peace..." (1:4)**

#### **2. MESSAGE TO THE 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA (Chapters 1:9- Chapter 3)**

**"...write it in a book and send it to the seven churches..." (1-11)**

#### **3. A VISIT TO HEAVEN (Chapters 4-5)**

**"...a door open in heaven..." (4:1)**

#### **4. THE OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS (Chapters 6- 8:5)**

**"...the Lamb opened one of the seals..." (6:1)**

#### **5. THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (Chapters 8:6-10)**

**"...to them were given seven trumpets..." 8:2)**

#### **6. HELLISH AND HEAVENLY HOSTILITY (11-14)**

**"...the beast that ascends out of the abyss will make war against them..."**

#### **7. THE SEVEN BOWLS (Chapters 15-16)**

**"...for in them the wrath of God is complete..." (15:1)**

#### **8. JUDGMENT OF THE HARLOT (Chapter 17)**

**"Come I will show you the judgment of the great harlot..." (18:1)**

#### **9. JUDGMENT OF BABYLON (Chapter 18)**

**"...Babylon the great is fallen!" (18:2)**

#### **10. JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS (Chapter 19)**

**"...He should strike the nations..." (19:15)**

#### **11. THE THOUSAND YEARS (Chapter 20)**

**"...for a thousand years..." (20:2)**

#### **12. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH (21-22)**

**"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." (21:1)**

### **Introduction Part 2, From January 5, 2014**

So, in the *The Unveiling*, the symbols in the book are like statues and it is for us to unveil them and discover our destiny. Since it is *The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*, the most important thing to discover from any verse, passage, or chapter of this book is "What does it unveil, or reveal about Jesus Christ? We discovered that The Book of Revelation, the Apocalypse is, an unveiling of the destiny of earth, it's all about Jesus, and it has a practical application to life today. For part 2, to unveil the symbols of destiny, one has to know the Bible, learn its style and

codes, and interpret objects, animals, numbers, colors, and actions. **Let's learn how to unveil apocalyptic symbols of destiny!**

**1. To unveil the symbols of Destiny in this book you have to know the rest of the Bible.**

Knowing the rest of the Bible *is the most important skill* to utilize in understanding this amazing piece of literature seeded, rooted, and planted in the scriptures. Like an internet site with blue letter links to other sites every verse of the Unveiling is a link to other scriptures (most in the Old Testament). Learn to study scripture using a concordance, computer, or internet search skills. The best way, however, is to simply know the Bible. One of the greatest weaknesses in our churches today is that Christians do not know the scriptures. It takes time, commitment, and real reading, listening, and repetition. Repetition is either speaking out, meditating, or memorizing the word of God. You can read the Bible in the old fashioned book, on a phone app, or listen to it through cd, mp3 or by someone reading to you! Start getting into the word today!

**2. To unveil the symbols of Destiny in this book learn its style of 4 cultures, codes and key words and phrases.**

As literature, The Unveiling is the first of a kind. John's view was from the Middle East of Old through a code of Hebrew symbols and OT themes as in Daniel's, Ezekiel's, and Zechariah's visions. He wrote in *koine* (common) Greek language. It very Christian with such phrases as the Christian greeting "favor and peace" (1:4), the words, "church" (discontinues at 3:14), "gospel" (14:6), and it refers 14x to Jesus by name (2 as "Lord Jesus" 22:20, 21), and 29x to Jesus as the lamb. But it is in a Roman context with veiled though unmistakable pictures of Rome. Rome is given the code name Babylon and symbolized as the prostitute that sits on 7 hills yet described as **"the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth"** (17:18). It's a *Christian* document in *Hebrew* apocalyptic code in common *Greek* in a *Roman* context!

The Unveiling uses Jewish cryptic apocalyptic communication code; images and pictures from visions and dreams that represent real ideas and events. It started in Babylon and Persia in Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah. The author says what's needed without getting in trouble, even *audacious claims that contradict empires that ruled over and persecuted God's people...without saying them directly*. In Roman times it speaks of a king greater than Caesar, to Whom he must someday bow, and a kingdom greater than the Roman Empire-- a dangerous message. Apocalyptic coded literature saved lives! Let's uncover statues and busts!

**Words and phrases:** Some words and phrases have very strong meaning. This was already covered but something so powerful can endure repetition. For example, being "The first and the last" is nothing short of claiming to be God (Unveiling 2:8, Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12). "Alpha and Omega" are titles which God speaks to describe Himself two times in 1:8, and 21:6. In 22:13 Jesus uses "Alpha and Omega" for Himself, also the First and Last! The Unveiling uses this phrase to show that Jesus is divine, part of the Trinity, yes, God Himself. These verses directly challenge the doctrines of Jehovah's witnesses that Jesus isn't God but like a created angel, Mormons who say that Jesus is Satan's brother, Muslims who say He is a prophet but none other, and Hindus who claim many ways to the gods.

**3. To unveil the symbols of Destiny, interpret objects, animals, numbers, colors, and actions.**

The images in the code are usually simple but there can be *so many* to decipher in even one scene. The unveiling speaks through cryptic (But understandable!) images of (1) objects, (2) animals, (3) numbers, (4) colors, and (5) actions that appear in every one of John's visions.

They are often defined *in the rest of the Bible*. Sometimes you can interpret them *using common sense*! Sometimes *they refer to Rome*! Sometimes *The Unveiling explains it for us* in its own text!

**Objects:** God holds a sealed book in chapter 5 verse 1. That means it contains secrets. Though it was a secret before the Lamb released it.

**Animals:** The Lamb in 5:6 is a powerful image in the Bible. It's the sacrifice whose blood turns away God's wrath. The lamb of Passover points to Jesus, the prophet John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36), Luke quotes the prophet Isaiah (53:7) in his New Testament book of Acts (8:32) calling Jesus the lamb for the slaughter, and Peter (1 Peter 1:19) called Jesus' blood "precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless." When Jesus appears as the Lamb in The Unveiling, he fulfills an ancient and confirmed biblical image. It also says that He loves us, is our sacrifice, and that the King of kings and Lord of lords who will judge the earth (19:6), the Lion of Judah (5:5), the dispenser of wrath (6:16), is a lamb for the believers. Also the Christ who is within us (Colossians 1:27) though most often lamblike, does have a lion side, a time of wrath, and He rules. In ***The Unveiling***, Jesus is called The Lamb way more than any other name or title, 29 times while His name, Jesus, Jesus Christ, or Lord Jesus combined only appear 14x. (6 The torment of a scorpion (9:5) refers to excruciating pain. The dragon is "***the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan***" (12:9). The Unveiling itself gives this one away. A white horse was the Roman symbol for a conquest. Jesus on the white horse (19:11) reveals Him as king and conqueror of the Earth. This meaning came from the Roman world.

**Numbers:** 6 days of creation (man created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day- hence "6," the number of man) and the 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest. Throughout scripture numbers talk and do have meaning. The following table is a generally accepted biblical view for the meaning of numbers in scripture.

## **# MEANING**

- 1-** God, Unity
- 2-** Witness, Testimony
- 3-** God, Trinity
- 4-** Earth (4 compass pts.)
- 5-** Grace, Mercy (God would spare Sodom & Gomorrah for only 5 righteous)
- 6-** Man, Incomplete
- 7-** Complete, Total, Rest

## **# MEANING**

- 8-** New Beginning, Resurrection
- 10-** Testing
- 12-** God's People (Jews, followers of Jesus, and/or both)
- 24-** Israel and Followers of Jesus
- 40-** Testing on the Earth (4x10)
- 1,000-** Multitude
- 144,000-** Multitude of Jews who follow Jesus

**Colors: Example- white:** For example: the robes of the righteous (The Unveiling 19:8); horses (Zechariah 1:8; The Unveiling 6:2, 19:11); forgiven sins (Psalm 5:7, Isaiah 1:8); a refined remnant (Daniel 11:35, 12:10); the beloved one (Song of Solomon 5:10); garments of angels (The Unveiling 15:6) Jesus' transfiguration, (Matthew 17:2); Jesus' head and hair (The Unveiling 1:14); and the great throne of judgment (Revelation 20:11) show the Bible using white to make a point. The point is that everywhere in scripture, white points to God, the godly, the pure, and purity. **Red:** In almost any context red means blood from common sense! **Green:** Green almost always represents vegetation, again from common sense. **Purple:** History is virtually unanimous in that not just in Rome, but everywhere, purple stood for wealth and royalty. It was Roman soldiers who put a purple robe upon Jesus (Mark 15:17, 20). **Black:** In 6:5, black stands for a major worldwide starvation. The black days of famine are the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 4 horsemen in chapter 6. **Ashen or Pale:** In 6:8, the pale horse brings death: "I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death;"

**Actions:** In the New Testament, Paul teaches that believers are "sealed" by the Holy Spirit upon coming to Christ (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13). The 144,000 Jews of chapter 7 verse 2 similarly are sealed as they begin their journey to follow Christ. In the Old Testament, the priest wore 12 precious stones with the seal of the name of each of the 12 tribes of Israel over his heart. He also wore a seal in the gold plaque on his turban saying, "Holy to the Lord." In the unveiling, God seals 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel combining the New Testament definition of coming to faith in Christ, and the Old Testament definition of them serving in the presence of God as priests. Blowing trumpets is an ancient practice for: (1) making announcements, (2) commencing war and (3) calling an assembly for gathering. In the several references to trumpets in The Unveiling the reader must discern which form it represents in the specific passage.

### Conclusion

With the word Revelation meaning Apocalypse meaning, Unveiling as in a statue, this is a book of destiny. To understand and unveil its purpose, meaning and subject, the Lord Jesus Christ one must learn and apply the following three exercises. The first is to know scripture and how each passage is a link to another part of the Bible. The next is to understand the style of this one of a kind literature, and interpret from a Hebrew mind, Greek language, Roman context, and Christian culture. The third is to use scripture, common sense, The Unveiling's own definitions, and early New Testament Christianity to get the meaning from objects, animals, numbers, colors, and actions from each vision. This is the most relevant unveiling of its time and still is today for it charts the destiny of our planet, each nation, and every individual life. No other unveiling comes close though many have tried.

A satanic group has unveiled designs for a 7-foot-tall statue of Satan to be built at the Oklahoma state Capitol. The New York-based Satanic Temple formally submitted an application for the monument, which it wants to place near the Ten Commandments monument erected in 2012. The designs include a goat-headed figure with horns, wings and a long beard that's often used as a symbol of the occult. In the rendering, Satan is sitting in a pentagram-adorned throne with smiling children next to him. "The monument has been designed to reflect the views of Satanists in Oklahoma City and beyond," temple spokesman Lucien Greaves said in a statement. Greaves added that the statue will also serve a practical purpose as a chair, "where people of all ages may sit on the lap of Satan for inspiration and contemplation." The group maintains that the Oklahoma Legislature's decision to authorize a privately funded monument of the Ten Commandments at the Capitol opened the door for a statue of its own. The Ten Commandments

monument was placed on the north steps of the building in 2012. Similar requests for monuments have been made by a Hindu leader in Nevada, an animal rights group and the satirical Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. In response, the Oklahoma Capitol Preservation Commission recently placed a moratorium on considering any new requests.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

The boldness of something so despicable, demanding rights to put Satan next to the 10 commandments unveils the lost-ness of our world. Unless we live lives that unveil that Jesus is real, by how we live, it is all up for grabs. Let's discover destiny in Jesus, unveil what Revelation says of Him and share it with the world. What's sad to say, is most people know neither the 10 commandments nor where to find them in the Bible.

As we study this book, we imagine ourselves unveiling hundreds of statues. We need to and can get better at knowing scripture. This first of its kind as distinctly *Christian* literature mixes *Hebrew* thought through *Greek* language in a *Roman* context. Words and phrases, speak theological volumes. Objects. Animals, numbers, colors, and actions are the tools to interpret the images from John's visions in The Unveiling. It's all about Jesus. It's all about destiny. It's about YOURS AND MY destiny in Jesus Christ. Have you discovered your destiny?