

Read Barnhouse quote...

Two Basic Principles of Scripture

1) The Bible consists of 66 separate books penned by over 40 authors Over a period of several thousand years that are an integrated message system.

2) And this message system was skillfully designed outside of our dimensions of space and time. How? Because the structure of the Bible anticipates things before they happen. This is called prophecy, and understanding this changes your entire perspective of the Bible.

Revelation is a book of Prophecy...for it self describes itself that way...as we will see..

The book of Revelation is unique in the New Testament, No other book is quite like it. The new Testament consists of five history books, the four gospels and Acts... 14 epistles or letters to specific churches written by the Apostle Paul dealing with issues in those churches, and 7 general epistles written to all churches....

However Revelation which means Revealing.... Given to John the Apostle through Jesus himself, angels and visions ...Reveals the return of Christ in power and great glory to punish the wicked and establish his Kingdom on this earth and then onto eternity. Revelation ties the Old testament and the New testament together into a bow..... there are 404 verses in Revelation and 278 of those verses contain references to the Old testament. In fact the symbols and numbers correspond to numbers and symbols in the Old Testament and help to clarify their meaning.....

The Old testament tells us the Messiah is coming...the New Testament he has come as the suffering servant...the Book of Revelation he will come again as King of Kings!!

IN revelation 5 we have a passage that sums up the book well... we will read about Jesus taking a scroll from his Father's hand, this scroll which bears seven seals, and speaks of the inheritance that Jesus has been given

by his Father ... most of the rest of Revelation will reveal how this is accomplished...through the judgement of all evil...and the establishment of the righteous Kingdom of God on earth.

NLT REV 5:1 *Then I saw a scroll^[a] in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?” ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.*

⁴ Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. ⁵ But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s throne,^[b] has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶ Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit^[c] of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. ⁷ He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. ⁸ And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.”

The Psalmist David prophesied this about Jesus in the Old Testament.... NIV PSA 2:7 I will proclaim the LORD’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. ⁸ Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron^[b]; you

will dash them to pieces like pottery.”¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.¹² Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Paul says it happened in Acts 13 :²⁹ “When they had done all that the prophecies said about him, they took him down from the cross^[g] and placed him in a tomb.³⁰ But God raised him from the dead!³¹ And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel.³² “And now we are here to bring you this Good News. The promise was made to our ancestors,³³ and God has now fulfilled it for us, their descendants, by raising Jesus. This is what the second psalm says about Jesus: ‘You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.

Revelation reveals Jesus and completes the knowledge of how the reign of Christ and his people shall be accomplished ...all of this given to John to write down...

NIV Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

NLT Rev 22:6 Then the angel said to me, “Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon.”

- **He told John that these words are trustworthy and true, and that he should write them down. We can rely on this always being true of God.**
- **The absolute truth of the knowledge of God’s rule to come on this earth has encouraged and comforted every generation of God’s people to persevere in times of trouble, distress and persecution.**

- But before it does there will be a period of jarring judgement on this earth.
- Jesus will establish his kingdom by means of judgment on a wicked world. God will judge the world in preparation for the coming Kingdom of Christ on earth with his people. All of History is moving inexorably toward the messianic Kingdom....We Win!!
- As that time draws ever closer...perhaps even our generation!

That is what Revelation is all about!! Let's Jump into Chapter 1...the first three verses give us the general outline of the book...

NLT Rev 1:1 This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, ² who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- Right off the bat ...we hear from Jesus in the present place of his residence Heaven... and he will show the events leading to His future glory...
- God the Father gave Jesus the information....
- This is in continuity that Jesus has said while living on earth ...he only speaks what his Father tells him...

*NLT John 6:28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he. I do nothing on my own but **say** only what the Father taught me.*

- Jesus gave the info to an angel...the angel is revealing it to John who is told to write it down and reveal to his servants..
- **Reveal What? What will take place shortly to usher in the Kingdom of God will take place soon.... Soon is not the idea of time...but quickly or suddenly when it begins to happen....**
- **This is the report...**

- **This Revelation By Jesus gives us the end of the story just as Genesis gives us the beginning.**

******And Jesus says something very special about this book.... As none of the other 65 books of our Bible explicitly state. And that is this....**

NLT Rev 1:3 God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

1. **God will bless** (add something of great value) **to the one who reads this book**
2. **God will bless** (add something of great value) **to the one who listens to its message and obeys it....**
3. **And because we are told to obey it....we can by design understand it to a great degree.**
4. **And this is a book of Prophecy.....it tells of the future and the time is near...these things will happen quickly and suddenly ...but in God's time not our time when they begin...**

As Peter states... *NLT 2 Peter 3:8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.*

******So whether you are brand new to the faith or a long time follower of Jesus ...you will be blessed in a special way through this study!**

Now Having told us the general outline of the book...John greets the churches to whom he is writing in the name of Jesus and to all of which he has had an extensive relationship... the churches in what then was called Asia...we call Turkey today. ...lets read

NLT 4 This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; .

- **This letter is for the seven churches in modern day Turkey...we will discuss them next week...This Grace and peace to you comes from God the Father who sits on the Throne and from the seven fold Holy Spirit who is with him at the Throne**

Isa tells us of the seven fold work of the Holy Spirit

NLT Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Rest or comfort

And From Jesus... who provided us this peace with God and was God's Grace from God to us....

*verse 5 **and from Jesus Christ**. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶ He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!*

- **And from Jesus...who is the faithful witness of the father...and witness of the Holy Spirit... all these things there.....the first born of the resurrection!!...conquering death...and the ruler of all the kings of earth...**
- **He loves us, present tense ...**
- **and past tense, He freed us from sins by his shed blood...die on our behalf...**
- **And Past tense...He has made us priests of His Father's Kingdom.... All the glory and power belong to Him who did this for us!!**
- **Present /Future Tense And look He comes down from heaven again in the clouds...and all will see him**

- *As he left in the clouds he will return in the clouds Acts 1:9...except all will see him at his coming to establish his kingdom....*
- **...one of the central points of this book! Know this in the present while it will happen in the future**
- **Even those who pierced him...seems to speak of Israel...**

Zech 12:10 “Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.

And John closes this greeting from the mouth of Jesus!

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the **Lord God**. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

*******What the triune God started in Genesis they will finish...for he is , who always was and is still To come!! The almighty one!!**

- **I am the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet...the complete word**
- **I am the beginning and end of all creation ...**
- **I am the self existent one...I am who is, always was and who is still to come to earth! **The eternal one!****
- **I am Jesus the Christ! **These first eight verses describe Jesus ...his person and work...****
- **John states emphatically! Yes! Amen.....in Hebrew and Greek...So be it! This is Truth**

No other place in Scripture paints this clear of a description of the Almighty one

....The one of eternity past and eternity future! The always was and always will be ever present God...who will literally come again to earth and absolutely triumph!

Well what is there to obey here? Remember Jesus said he was Lord God...the singular person of the plural God

So we obey... Exodus 20:2 (ESV). 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me....

nothing is to be in front of him....Have no other gods before him....know who he is... God above all....make nothing bigger or more powerful than him....don't put evil before him ,worry, fear, before him him...governments are not above nor before him...evil will not reign above him put nothing and no one before him!!! before him ...employment, future or past not before him!

Repent of anything before him....

end

NLT John 6:37 However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

Revelation 21:5

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

I called this God's Manifesto, because it's one of the best descriptions I've found in the Bible of how God operates. He even told John that these words are trustworthy and true, and that he should write them down. We can rely on this always being true of God. We would also do well to remember this.

I know I'm a Greek Geek, but the Greek here is so rich. The phrase for "I am making everything new!" is directly translated as:

"Behold! New I make all things"

First, let's look at the word "new". In Greek, there are two words commonly used for "new" in the New Testament. The word "kaina", which means "new, as in a new type or purpose for something", and the other is the word "neos", which means "new, as in new to existence". For example, in Luke 5:38, we see both words for "new" in use side by side.

Luke 5:38

38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

New(neos) wine in New(kaina) wineskins. The wine was something that was created as a new thing, but the skins which already existed, were fashioned into something new, a wineskin. In this statement in Revelation 21, the word “kaina” is what is used. So what God is saying, is not that he is creating new things, but rather that He is remaking them as new. He is renewing them, restoring them, or transforming them into something new. For something Glorious!!

NLT Eph 1:19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶ He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. ⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.

And everyone will see him—
even those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the world
will mourn for him.

Yes! Amen!

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,”[Ⓜ] says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

But it was a common kind of literature for the people who received it. So they didn't come to it with great mystery and tried to dig out all the things. First of all, John knew his readers and they knew him. It's subversive literature. It's basically telling the Roman empire that their days are numbered – right at the height of their glory, when Rome had reached the peak of its power and universal domain, here is John, exiled, on a lonely island, basically facing towards Rome and saying, "God's got your number -- your days are coming to an end." It took 200 years for it to happen, but time wasn't John's big thing. It was the certainty of it. So that's what the Revelation is basically about. It's about God in charge of the universe and not the Roman Empire.

the Revelation is unique in the New Testament. is first of all, a letter. I mean it's to the seven churches. And he writes to them individually and everybody else is reading everybody else's mail. So, they're all in this together, but the document has to do with the fact that they are headed for a terrible holocaust. John recognizes that the martyrdom of Antipas of Pergamum [2:13] is the signal, the harbinger that it's going to get worse before it gets better. And that martyrdom is what really sort of tipped this off... trying to tell the people that the days to come are going to be far worse that you even imagine. And the catacombs are the clear example of the fact that John was right.

the chapters in Revelation are basically very well done. Nonetheless, the numbers have a way of separating things that should be held together. So when you get to chapter 14, it's the only place in the book where you have a series of small units and you have to come to terms with how these work. It begins with a lamb and 144,000 on Mount Zion whom they'll meet again. Later on there are the three angels who fly in and make a pronouncement. And then there are these two marvelous images of the grain harvest and the trampling out of the grapes. My instincts are that if our chapter 15 began there (as it should), everybody would read those two correctly. But at the end of chapter 14, they just hang there.

But in fact, these two parables of the harvest of grain and the trampling of the grapes, introduce the whole rest of the book -- the gathering of God's people, the gathering of the saints and the judgment on Rome and its minions. So, that's sort of the intro and then you have the final set of seven, the seven bowls of God's wrath and it's quite clear "wrath" is the right term here – "wrath" having to do with God's final judgment of which the final one is the overthrow and collapse of Babylon the Great – which is his language for the Roman Empire. That's followed then by the marvelous picture of Rome as a very high-priced prostitute. (Prostitute is really the wrong word. This is a call lady of the highest order.) And she is seductive, and she seduced the whole world. Rome has done that. So the very next thing is lament over Rome's fall.

And then there are the warnings to escape, and then that's followed by the three sets of woes, which is then followed in Chapter 11:1-9 by three sets of hallelujahs... three woes, three hallelujahs, this is hardly accidental. You understand? This is carefully constructed literature. And then the final thing there is the heavenly warrior defeats the Beast. Right after that, if we didn't have numbers, one would see that the so-called millennium is *an insert* that is assuring the martyrs that they have a place in God's program. The only people mentioned in this are those who, for their testimony of Jesus have been killed by the Empire. And they're given a special role. He says, the rest of the dead, those who aren't martyred, they're going to have their time at the end... I don't think you should take this literally... This means God has secured them, this is a special people, martyred because they believed in Jesus.

And then that's followed by the final judgment Satan and the dead and then you end up the book finishing with the new heaven and new earth and a new Eden. He didn't know it's going to be the last book in the Bible. The book begins with Eden; it concludes with Eden. This is just a marvelous thing that God, by his providence, saw as our canon, so that you have a restored heaven, a restored earth, and then in this restored earth, a restored Eden. And then the book ends. I mean it ends with a lot of little things that are all important, but its basic story ends in 22:5. It's a marvelous book. And I just cringe whenever I see and hear people take it and make it have to do primarily with something in our future, when the only stuff that's in our future is chapters 21 and 22. Everything else belong back in the near future of these seven churches and all other Christians at the beginning of the second century – wonderful re-assurance.

JMF: And it reminds you of course of the passage... of the statement where Jesus talks about you're a little flock; in this world you will have...(GF: Tribulation!) but.. (GF: But I've overcome!) same message as in Revelation in a nutshell.

I love this book. This is marvelous stuff. Don't screw it up by making it mean something different from what John intended, and the Holy Spirit intended by inspiring John to write it. It has to do basically with them and with us as we follow in their train. Just as the Gospels had to do with them and with us as we follow in their train. And once one sees that, then the glory of this book just comes alive on the pages.

: One thing? It's about the first-century church that is headed for a terrible two-century holocaust. Read it with that in view, and then ask yourself "Where do I fit in?" God is in control -- there is absolute reassurance -- there are three-fold woe over Rome, over Babylon, but there's a three-fold hallelujah to those who are God's people.

God's in control, not ourselves – our task is to bear witness to Christ. And the Greek word for *bear witness* is the word that we have transliterated into the word *martyr*. It is the Greek word for *witness*. The ultimate witness was martyrdom, so the Greek word *martyr* -- witness -- became *martyr* – being slain for one's witness, and now we simply think of martyrs as those kinds of people only. But that's the word for *witness*. We bear witness to Christ and we may not live long after we do that, if we're in certain parts of the world. And I happen to be among the privileged. I say that with tears, because I know that I'm among the privileged. What pains me is for the privileged to not take seriously the brothers and sisters in the world that are not as privileged as we are.

The "last things" are presented somewhat differently by St. John in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. St. John writes differently because he received the truth differently. He is not just writing a book based on certain sources. He writes what he has seen in visions or received through special inspiration. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and I heard behind me a loud voice When I saw him I fell at his feet I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door! and lo a throne stood in heaven" (Rev. 1:10-17; 4:1-3). Every vision stands for itself and has its own message. Through all of these images Christ speaks about the mysteries of God's will for the Church and the world (Rev. 1:1; 2:2-7; 5:1-5).

Exiled for the sake of the word of God to the island of Patmos, St. John, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, had visions in symbolic scenes which indicate, interpret and clarify things which are happening, or which are going to happen in the life of the Church (Rev. 1:1-11). In familiar images from the Old Testament, and from the current life situation in the Church, St. John saw and depicted for us the struggles of the Church of Christ against the manifold evils and the battles between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. Behind the images of the beast and the prostitute woman, for example, are the persecutions by political and religious opponents of the Church, particularly the Roman Empire. Always hidden behind these opponents is the ancient serpent, the dragon, the devil, Satan himself, who deceives the nations and turns them against the Church.

The fundamental idea of the Book of Revelation is the belief that Christ is the Lamb, sacrificed for us. He who opens the seals of the book is the ruling king revered and worshipped by the Church in heaven and on earth (Rev. chs. 4, 5, 6, 12, 19). The Lord Christ, the sacrificed Lamb, leads the struggle with His armies, the Saints of the Church. Their weapon is their faith in the word of God to the point of self-sacrifice. The blood of the Lamb, the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His Resurrection strengthen them; the victory over the enemy is certain (Rev. 6:2; 12:11; 19:17-18). The Christology in the Book of Revelation, which emphasizes Christ as the sacrificial Lamb, is the most powerful witness for the power of the Cross in the salvation of the world, as the Church experienced it. The Cross, the Resurrection, the Parousia, all indicate clearly the absolute sovereignty of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 11:26).

In chapter 1, St. John speaks about the origin of his revelation. The source of the revelation is God Himself, but it is Christ who, through an angel, reveals to St. John things which must shortly take place. Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is always the mediator between God and the world. The Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit creates and saves everything.