

STUDY 1

REVELATION'S ANCIENT DISCOVERIES

Revelation's Startling Predictions for the 21st Century

by Mark Finley

The new millennium is here—and with it a new interest in prophecy. Millions wonder: *What will happen next? Where are we headed?* Interest in the future is at an all-time high. One expert says that over the past 30 years more scholarship has been devoted to last day events than in the last 300.

People are desperate for answers. But seers and psychics like Nostradamus, Edgar Cayce, and others have utterly failed to deliver dependable prophecies. At best, the psychics are guessing the future. At worst, they are demon inspired.

Yet the Bible has proven reliable throughout the centuries. Its prophecies have been fulfilled with uncanny accuracy for thousands of years. In fact, one of the clearest evidences of the Bible's divine inspiration is its ability to foretell future events. Fulfilled Bible prophecy verifies the authenticity of God's Word.

One of God's greatest attributes is His unique ability to foretell the future. God does not guess—He knows! We read in **Isaiah 46:9-10** - “Remember

the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done.”

The prophet Amos adds these incredible words: “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” **Amos 3:7**. That word “surely” means *certainly, definitely, without a doubt*.

“Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

God's Word is sure. We can safely trust Him!

Of all the books of the Bible which shed light on the last days, the Bible's last book, Revelation, is the most complete. In Revelation God unfolds amazing last-day events that will dramatically affect you and me. Revelation's incredible predictions guide us through the maze of false prophecies so common today.

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Note how the book of Revelation opens in **chapter 1, verse 1**. It's called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John." Did you notice the divinely appointed chain of communication?

Look:

Where did Jesus get it? From God!
Who did Jesus give it to? His angel.
What did the angel do with it?
Brought it to John.

Then John wrote it in his book called Revelation to show God's people what "must shortly come to pass."

Revelation 1:1-2.

Thus the book of Revelation is not mere personal opinion or human guesswork. It's not some psychic's view of the future. Its prophecies come directly from God. It bears the signature of heaven and reveals God's final message for this world. The Lord Himself offers a triple blessing for those who

study His book: **Revelation 1:3** promises, "Blessed is he who *reads*, and *hears*, and *keeps* the things which are written in it."

The central theme and major focus of Revelation is Jesus—the One "who *is* and who *was* and who *is to come*." **Revelation 1:4.** We can trust Him who conquered death and is coming to take us home. All history is moving to one grand climax. All creation is standing on tiptoe awaiting the coming of the King. That's the theme of the Bible's last book.

This planet has a date with destiny. **Revelation 1:7** tells us: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him." Those lacking this end-time hope need to be reminded we are not cosmic orphans. Earth won't

be reduced to some spinning globe of ash from a nuclear holocaust. Famines and earthquakes won't dash our hopes of a

happy tomorrow. Revelation can lift our spirits and gladden our hearts, giving us hope to hold onto in a hopeless world.

Every one of Revelation's prophecies end in the same place—with hope. The book of Revelation is a revelation of hope. For beyond natural disasters, beyond conflict between nations, beyond ethnic hatred and escalating worldwide political tension, beyond an uncertain economy, there is hope:

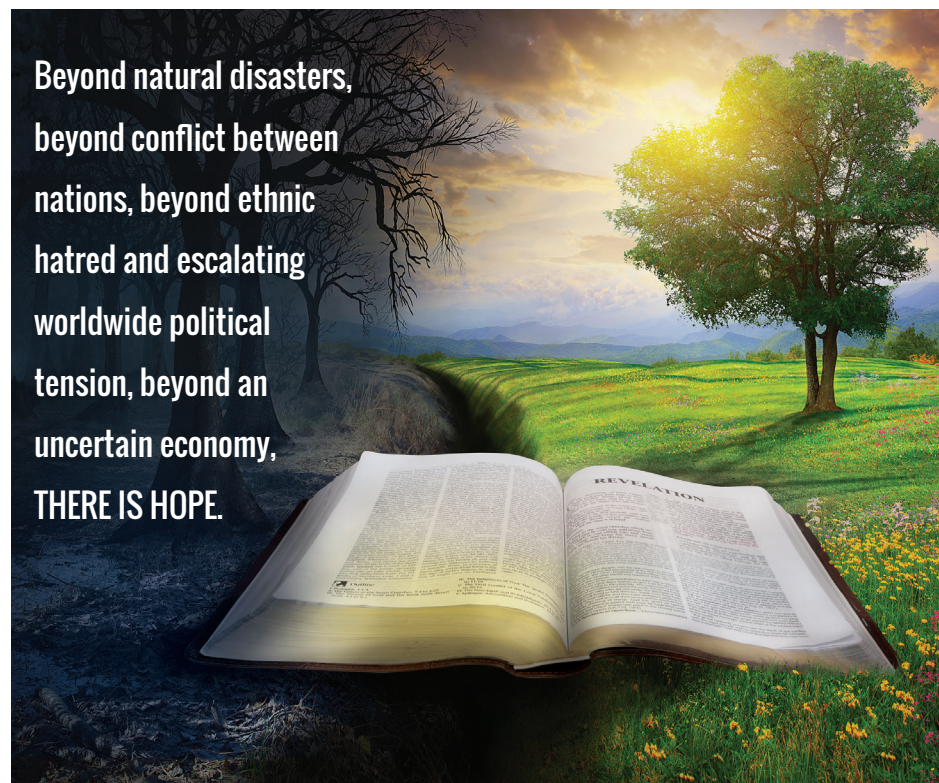
Hope in a new kingdom.
Hope in a new society.
Hope in a new Leader.
Hope in the Coming of the Lord!

Revelation thirteen foretells the rise of the powerful Antichrist/Beast. It unfolds a time when no man can buy or sell. It discusses the Mark of the Beast and the mysterious number 666. But in **Revelation 14:14**, at the end of this sequence, the Apostle John shouts for joy, "And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." John looks away from the Beast and sees his loving Lord returning in glory.

Revelation 7:14-15 pictures those "who have come out of great tribulation, and . . . are before the throne of God." The tribulation does not destroy

them. They come through unscathed with their faith stronger, praising God. The Seven Last Plagues are not directed at God's people, and when they're over, a voice from heaven proclaims, "*It is done!*" **Revelation 16:17, 21:6.** Earth's heartaches are over. Divorce, disease, and disaster are over! Worry, war, and want are over! Pain and pollution, sickness and sorrow, death and dying are all over! And the Almighty God triumphantly declares throughout the whole universe: "Behold, I make all things new." **Revelation 21:5.** The God who will create a new world can make all things new in *your life*—new joy, power, and purpose—a new heart and happiness. **R**

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QUIZ 1 Revelation's Startling Predictions for the 21st Century

Our heavenly Father has so much He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

1. God’s *foreknowledge* is part of His claim to *divinity*: “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the _____ from the _____, and from *ancient* times things that are *not yet* done.” (ISAIAH 46:9-10)

2. On the lines at the left, **NUMBER** the correct **ORDER** of the five *links* in heaven’s *chain of communication* that brought us the divine Book of Revelation.

(REVELATION 1:1-3)

- _____ A. Jesus Christ, God the Son
- _____ B. The Apostle John
- _____ C. God the Father
- _____ D. The angel messenger of Jesus
- _____ E. Us—the church—from reading the Bible’s final book.

3. When God had to warn the world about the coming Flood, He told _____ . When He wanted to announce Jesus’ First Advent with a message of repentance, He told _____ the _____ .

When He had a message of coming Judgment to prepare a people for Christ’s Second Coming, He told the Apostle _____ .

(GENESIS 6:13, MATTHEW 3:1-3 & 11, REVELATION 1:1)

4. Though some feel Revelation is a puzzling and confusing book, God leads us to believe it’s a most revealing and rewarding one when He opens it by saying: “_____ is he that _____.” (REVELATION 1:3)

Your Name: _____ Date _____

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

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Isaiah 46:9-10	God alone knows the future. His foreknowledge is a mark of His divinity.
Amos 3:7	God reveals His secrets to His prophets.
2 Peter 1:19	Bible prophecy is more sure than even our senses (verses 16-18), like a light shining in a dark place.
Habakkuk 2:3	A prophetic fulfillment may seem delayed, but it will surely come.
Isaiah 14:24	Almighty God not only knows future events, He also brings them to pass.
Revelation 1:1	It’s the revelation not of John, but of Jesus Christ Himself.
Revelation 1:3	God pronounces a three-fold blessing on the reader of this book.
Revelation 1:4	Grace and peace from Christ—who is, and was, and is to come.
Revelation 1:7	Jesus’ Second Coming will be visible to all, to “every eye.”
Revelation 5:13	Every creature will sing the praises of Christ, the Lamb of God.
Revelation 7:14-15	The time of great tribulation ends in triumph for God’s people.
Revelation 11:15	The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord.
Revelation 13:1-18	The Antichrist/Beast arises and imposes his mark by coercion and force.
Revelation 16:1-21	The Seven Last Plagues are poured out on those with the Beast’s mark.
Revelation 14:14	But Jesus returns to rescue His faithful followers.
Revelation 22:12	When Jesus comes, He brings His rewards with Him.
Revelation 21:4	God shall wipe away all our tears, with no more pain or death.
Revelation 21:5	God will make all things new—a new earth with paradise restored!
Revelation 22:6	The book of Revelation is to be not a closed, sealed book, but—on the contrary—a divine revelation of inspired truth to all who read it.