

# Behold, Jesus Is Coming

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## HOW TO GET STARTED...



Reading directions is sometimes burdensome—often tedious! Sometimes you'd just like to get started. Only if all else fails will you read the instructions. I understand, but please don't approach this study that way. These brief instructions are a vital part of getting started on the right foot! These few pages will help you immensely. In fact, you'll probably be lost and frustrated in your study if you skip this section!

### FIRST

First of all, let us explain how this study is set up. There is an assignment for every day of the week—so that you are in the Word consistently. If you work through your study daily, you will find it more profitable than doing a week's study in one sitting. Pacing yourself this way allows time for thinking through what you learn on a daily basis! In this study of Revelation you need to allot at least 28 minutes for study six days of the week for 13 weeks.

The seventh day of each week has several features that are different than the other six days. These features are designed to aid group discussion; however, they are also profitable if you are studying this book individually.

The “seventh day” is whatever day in the week you choose to finish your week's study. On this day, you will find a verse or two for you to memorize and STORE IN YOUR

## 6 HOW TO GET STARTED

HEART. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. Read through these and then decide which ones you want to discuss in light of the time frame you have set. You will usually have more questions to discuss than you can cover in your weekly discussion time. Even if you are not doing this study with anyone else, it would be good for you to answer these questions.

If you are in a group, be sure every member of the class, including the teacher, supports his or her answers and insights from the Bible text itself. Then you will be handling the Word of God accurately. As you learn to see what the text says, the Bible explains itself.

Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in light of its context. Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If it ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

After the discussion questions is a THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK. In this study of Revelation many of these sections will be utilized to explain what we believe the Word teaches about future events. We by no means expect you to agree blindly with our stance. We do not believe we have a corner on the truth. Therefore, as you come to this section, have an ear to hear—be teachable, but discerning! As you consider our view, continue to study Scripture to see how what we believe lines up with what you see in the Word of God.

Remember, whether we agree on every point or not isn't the issue! Keep an open, teachable spirit! The issue is that you carefully observe the text for yourself! Learn to handle the Scriptures carefully and accurately by becoming familiar with the whole counsel of God.

## SECOND

As you study Revelation, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. The marking is essential. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB* is in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, which is ideal for marking. The margins of the text are wide and blank for note taking.

The *NISB* also has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text, nor is it compiled from any theological stance. Its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.)

Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings me to the second item you will need...

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens that you can use to write in your Bible. Office supply stores have these.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color leaded Pentel pencil.

4. A composition notebook or a notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

### THIRD

1. As you study Revelation, your daily assignments will consist of various instructions that will help you see exactly what the Word of God says. These should take you between 25 and 30 minutes a day, but if you spend more time than this, you will increase your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Once you see what the Word says, then you can know how to interpret and apply it to your daily life. You may wonder how to do that. Well, that's why the New Inductive Study Series exists—to show you how to study book by book through the Bible until you see and begin to understand the whole counsel of the Word of God.

If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and find the lessons too heavy, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

Remember, any time you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And our one-and-only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The enemy wants you to have a dull sword. Don't cooperate! You don't have to!

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to ask the "5 W's and an H": who, what, when, where, why, and how. Asking questions like these helps you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, you ask questions like these:

- a. **Who** are the main characters?
- b. **What** is the chapter about?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?

e. Why is this being done or said?

f. How did it happen?

3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. I do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of my Bible beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. You may want to underline or color the references to time in one specific color. These are some references to time that you will need to look for: *coming quickly, done, finished, day, times, until, and forever*. Also mark any time references that give specific time frames such as these: *forty-two months, time and times and half a time, day and night, one thousand two hundred and sixty days*, etc.

4. At various points in the study, you will be told to make lists, create charts, etc. Although such exercises may not be your favorite thing to do, following the easy and specific instructions related to each of these will grant you deeper and broader insight than you would gain without these exercises. Please understand that every instruction in this study has a purpose and know that following each will pay off!

5. You will be given certain key words to mark throughout the book of Revelation. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. If you develop the habit of marking your Bible in this way, it will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of your study and in how much you remember.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book; others will be concentrated in specific chapters or

segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that mean the same thing in the context) and any pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way you marked the key word.

Marking words for easy identification can be done with colors or symbols or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If I use symbols, I keep them very simple. For example, I color *repent* yellow but put a red diagram like this with it:  **repent**. The symbol conveys the meaning of the word.

When I mark the members of the Godhead (which I do not always mark), I color each word yellow. But I also use a purple pen and mark the Father with a triangle like this:  **God**, symbolizing the Trinity. I mark the Son this way:  **Jesus**, and the Holy Spirit this way:  **Spirit**.

You should devise a color-coding system for marking key words throughout your Bible so that when you look at the pages of your Bible, you can see instantly where a key word is used.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. Therefore, we recommend that you list the key words on an index card and use different symbols and/or colors to mark each word. Mark the words the way you plan to mark them in your Bible and then use the card as a bookmark. You may want to make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible and one for the specific book of the Bible you are studying.

6. A chart called REVELATION AT A GLANCE is located at the end of this study. As you complete your study of each chapter, record the main theme of that chapter under the appropriate chapter number. The main theme of a chapter

is what the chapter deals with the most. It may be an event or a particular subject or teaching.

If you will fill out the *REVELATION AT A GLANCE* chart as you progress through the study, you will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find the same chart in your Bible. If you record your chapter themes there, you'll always have them for ready reference.

7. Always begin your study with prayer. As you do your part to handle the Word of God accurately, you must remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words that you are reading are truth, given to you by God so you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely revealed.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

Therefore ask God to reveal His truth to you as He leads and guides you into all truth. He will, if you will ask.

8. Each day when you finish your lesson, meditate on what you saw. Ask your heavenly Father how you should live in light of the truths you have just studied. At times, depending on how God has spoken to you through His Word, you might even want to record these "Lessons for Life" in the margin of your Bible next to the text you have studied. Simply put "LFL" in the margin of your Bible, and then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for life you want to remember.

Books in The New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible study course on that book. You may obtain more information on these courses by contacting Precept Ministries International at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at [www.precept.org](http://www.precept.org), or filling out and mailing the response card in the back of this book.

# REVELATION

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION



Of all the books of the Bible, none has sparked more interest, curiosity, or disagreement than the book of Revelation. Of the 66 books comprising the Word of God, this is the one that promises a special blessing to the one who reads it and to those who hear and heed its words.

But how can we heed something we don't know or understand? Isn't the book of Revelation unknowable? Some people would say so. Others would advise you to stay away from it. After all, if the scholars cannot agree, how could ordinary laypeople expect to crack its mysteries!

We believe that behind all the mystery and controversy you will find one common foe—the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan. After all, he holds the title of the “prince of this world.” What a fool he would be not to do everything he could to discourage you from studying the book that so clearly shows the demise of his kingdom and the ultimate triumph of the One he so unjustly accused. What was lost—and has remained lost down through the millennia of the ages—when Adam and Eve listened to his lie is restored in the book of the Revelation. Revelation is the rest of the story!

The words of Revelation are faithful and true and, thus, worthy of our study, of our understanding. And understand you will if you exercise your spiritual senses to discern what the Lord says about the things which must shortly take place.

This inductive survey course will enable you to lay a solid and critical foundation. A foundation you can build on. A foundation that will stand and will hold you in the earthquakes and storms caused by every wind of doctrine and cunning craftiness of man. A foundation that will give you confidence in the face of controversy because you see for yourself “thus saith the Lord” about the things which must take place.

To really appreciate Revelation (and it is possible!), you should first study the book of Daniel in The New Inductive Study Series, *God's Blueprint for Bible Prophecy*. Daniel gives the big picture of prophecy, the general blueprint. Revelation fills in the details. So, consider working through Daniel first.

# UNVEILING THE FUTURE



As you work through this book we urge you to put aside all you have heard regarding the explanation of the book of Revelation. Come to this book with an innocent approach—no preconceived ideas. Simply see what the text is saying. Let the Word speak for itself. You will benefit greatly from the blessings that will come as you study Revelation inductively.

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## DAY ONE

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Read through Revelation 1. As you read, look for who wrote the book and to whom it was written. You will find that time phrases are extremely important in the book of Revelation. We suggest that you mark every time phrase with the clock symbol as recommended in the “How to Get Started” section in this book. (You may also want to review the samples of time phrases listed for you in that section.) Or, of course, you could develop your own coding system. Refreshing your memory may help you as you begin so that you don’t miss important phrases since they are so key to understanding!

Record your insights on who wrote Revelation and to whom it was written on the REVELATION AT A GLANCE chart (page 137).

What did you see about those who read the book of Revelation? Are they blessed if they simply read the book? Read Revelation 22:7 also. Record your insights in your notebook.

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DAY TWO

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Read Revelation 1 again. You need to read this chapter several times because it contains much truth you'll want to absorb.

Now read Revelation 1:1,2 and think through how the author receives this revelation. What is it a revelation of? Watch your answer carefully. You are not looking for who gave the revelation but for what is going to be revealed. By the way, English transliteration for the Greek word for Revelation is *apokalupsis*\* which means “an unveiling.” According to Revelation 1:1,2, what is going to be unveiled?

Now, in your notebook, draw a diagram/sketch which represents how this book came about. Think about the process and draw it—even if it is a rough sketch! You may feel like you aren’t much of an artist, and we understand! But believe us, sketching the process will help tremendously—even if you use stick figures!

In this first chapter the author was told to write three things. List these in your notebook and note the verse where you find each one beside it. As you work through the book, you’ll be making numerous lists of pertinent information. We suggest that you always note the chapter and verse

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\* From time to time we will look at the definition of a word in the Greek. Since the New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek, sometimes it is helpful to go back to the Greek to see the original meaning of a word. We will always use the English transliteration of a Greek word. That is, the English alphabet equivalents of the Greek letters. There are many study tools to help you if you would like to do this type of digging. One excellent book to help you understand how to do more in-depth study is *How to Study Your Bible* (Harvest House Publishers, 1994).

where you find your insights beside each one as you list them for future references! When you go back to review your list, having the “address” of the insight will be most helpful! Also, since we suggest you list various insights in your notebook, you may want to think about how you’ll organize your notes. One good way is to simply make notes by chapters—so you might want to divide your notebook into 22 sections and title each segment by chapter. Remember though, you’ll have several lists that you’ll maintain throughout the entire book, so leave a large section for such work.

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DAY THREE

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Before you begin today’s work, make a bookmark on which you will record the key words and/or phrases that you will be asked to mark in chapters 1–3. Later you will make another bookmark to use in your study of chapters 4–22. Some of the words from the bookmark you make today will be transferred onto the bookmark for chapters 4–22 also, but most of the words will be concentrated in chapters 1–3. If you aren’t sure how to make the bookmark, refer to the “How to Get Started” section at the beginning of this book.

Today we want to see what Revelation 1 says about Jesus Christ. Therefore, read the chapter and mark every reference to Him. Since you will also mark every reference to the Father and to the Spirit on days 4 and 5, if you do not have a particular way to mark the Father, Son, and Spirit, let us make a suggestion. Since all three are one in character and attributes, and since each is God, you might want to indicate their unity by using a triangle.

You could mark God the Father with a triangle like this:  God, God the Son like this:  Jesus, and God the Spirit like

this:  **Spirit**. So list these key words on your bookmark and color them there as you plan to mark them in your Bible.

Now, read the chapter and mark or color every reference to Jesus Christ. Don't miss any pronouns or synonyms which refer to Him. Remember, a synonym is a word or phrase that has the same meaning as another word and is used in the place of that word. For example, *son of man* is a synonym for Jesus. If you didn't read how to mark key words in the section "How to Get Started," stop now and read it so you understand how to best mark key words.

Mark any reference to the coming of Jesus Christ in another distinctive way. Make sure the references you mark are references to His return. As you study other books of the Bible, you will want to mark any references to His second coming in this same way so that you can always spot these at a glance. (Because these references are so varied, we can't give you all the specific phrases, but you'll see them!)

Read through Revelation 1 again carefully. This time examine the text in the light of the 5 W's and an H. Ask questions like: What do you learn about Jesus Christ? Who is He? How is He described? Where is He? What is He doing?

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**DAY FOUR**

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Read through Revelation 1 and mark every reference to God. Then in your notebook make a chart with three headings: JESUS CHRIST, GOD, and the HOLY SPIRIT. List everything you learn about God from this chapter. Be sure to leave several pages for the chart since you will add to your list throughout the study. Remember to note the chapter and verse beside each insight you record.

Now, add to your list all you learned from marking references to Jesus on Day Three.


 DAY FIVE
 

Read Revelation 1 again, and this time mark every reference to the Spirit. Mark the reference to *seven Spirits* in the same way you mark *Spirit*. Add this phrase to your bookmark. When you finish, note all you learn about the Spirit on your chart.

As you study Revelation and observe anything in the text about any member of the Godhead, record it on your chart.


 DAY SIX
 

What would you say is the theme of Revelation 1? (The theme is the subject that is dealt with the most in the chapter.) Record this theme on your REVELATION AT A GLANCE chart (page 137).

Go back and read Revelation 1:19 where you'll see that John is told to write three things:

1. “the things which you have seen”<sup>1</sup>
2. “the things which are”<sup>2</sup>
3. “the things which will take place after these things”<sup>3</sup>

Now read Revelation 4:1. What do you see in this verse that relates to Revelation 1:19? Let's reason together. From what you observed, how would you divide the book of Revelation (by chapters) into the three parts listed above? Where does Revelation 1 fit? Where does Revelation 4:1 fit? Can you conclude where Revelation 2 and 3 fit in the structure of the book of Revelation? Record your insights next to the three phrases noting which chapter(s) correspond to each. This breakdown gives you the outline of the book of Revelation.

Now quickly read through Revelation 2 and 3 so you can see what these chapters are about.

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DAY SEVEN

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Store in your heart: Revelation 1:1-3,19.

Read and discuss: Revelation 1:1-3,9-20.

*QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY*

- ❖ From what you have learned just in Revelation 1, what is this book about?
- ❖ Who is the book of Revelation for? Where is it to be sent? Give the details as to how the book of Revelation is given to the seven churches in Asia. As you discuss this, have the group share how they sketched the progression in Revelation 1:1,2.
- ❖ How does the book of Revelation break down (or segment)? Or, to put it another way, what is John to write and how do the chapters of this book cover these three things?
- ❖ What promise is connected with this book? On what basis? Do you think this promise applies to today, or did it only pertain to John's time? Why?
- ❖ What do you learn about Jesus Christ from this chapter? Have the group refer to the chart in their notebooks.
- ❖ Did you learn anything new about Jesus Christ? If so, what?
- ❖ What do you learn about Jesus that might make a difference in:

- a. What you believe about Him?
- b. How you live now that you know what you do about Him?
- c. How you should pray?
- d. How you worship Him?

- ❖ What is the mystery of the seven golden lampstands and the seven stars? How do you know?
- ❖ Do you think we should study prophecy? Or is the study of prophecy just for scholars to debate? What is the benefit of prophecy? Look up and discuss Revelation 19:10.

### *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” God does not want to keep you in the dark regarding the future, beloved child of God. The future can be very scary if you don’t know what is coming and who is in control. Thus, He has given you the Word of God, and you will find in it the whole counsel of God, not only in regard to what you are to believe and how you are to live, but also in respect to what the future holds.

It’s all there in the Bible for you to know. Regardless of who you are or the degree of your education, if you are a true child of God you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who is there to lead you and guide you into all truth. That He will do, if you will do your part. And what is your part? It is to read and heed the Word of God.

You are off to a good start, friend. Press on. Don’t let anyone keep you from knowing and understanding the

unveiling of the “things which must shortly take place” (Revelation 1:1). They are laid out for you in the book of Revelation. In chapter 1, John records the things that he saw as Jesus stood in His magnificence among the seven lampstands. Then, in chapters 2 and 3, John records Jesus’ messages to the seven churches existing in Asia at the time of his writing. Finally, from Revelation 4–22, John records for us what will take place after these things.

Study well, and you won’t be in the dark regarding the future and the things which must shortly take place!