

# ‘Revelation’, Step by Step, 1

If we want to understand the book of Revelation, there is something we need to know, Proverbs 9:10, ‘[The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.](#)’ Understanding starts with respecting and obeying God, by starting to follow His way rather than a religion of men. Jesus Christ came as our living example, and as He was the God of the Old Testament, the One who dealt with Ancient Israel by representing the One we call “Father”, His teaching and example sum up God’s way. 1Peter 2:21, ‘[For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.](#)’

Now we know that there is nothing like reading through the whole book to gain the overview, but we can see what Christ considered *most* important by looking at what He taught and what He did. The message He brought from His Father is found in Mark 1:14-15, ‘[Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; \*\*repent and believe in the gospel.\*\*”](#)’

The churches tend to bring a message *about* Christ and neglect to expound that same message which John the Baptist also delivered, Matthew 3:2, ‘[“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”](#)’

Just before He ascended into Heaven, Christ gave us, His disciples, the Commission to carry the same message to the nations, Mark 16:15-16, ‘[And he said to them, “Go into all the world and \*\*proclaim the gospel\*\* to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.](#)’ Of course we must repent before we can be baptised.

The Kingdom of God then, is central to Christ’s message, along with our need to repent, before we are baptised, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38, ‘[And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.](#)’ We are baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, bought by His blood. (Acts 20:28) We are members of Him in the spiritual Church of God before any individual church organisation, ‘[For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.](#)’ Romans 8:38-39.

While the Church (God’s people) have been able to carry the name and sacrificial role of Jesus Christ to most of the world, they have been less successful in expounding the Kingdom of God because they do not understand the Plan of God pictured by the Holy Days of Leviticus 23, which most churches have rejected,

despite the biblical evidence that Christ kept them, as did the Gentile New Testament Church, and the whole world will keep them in God's Kingdom. (Zechariah 14:16, 1Peter 2:21) Thus the "End Time", linked so closely to the meaning of the Holy Days, remains largely a mystery to them, but it is so vitally important to us that its introduction will be preceded by God's miraculous intervention in our lives, for such is His mercy that He will give the whole world one last unmistakable warning to repent, for He is about to establish His Kingdom, and will first remove all evil doers from the earth!

## The First Step (The First Angel's Message)

The churches, mainly of Britain and the US, did their best to carry out Christ's Commission and reached most of the world with the Bible, and now, through the internet, it is available virtually everywhere. But still not all have a phone, or maybe even a Bible. God, however can reach everyone, and in his mercy, He will, despite our sins, Lamentations 3:22,

*It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.'*

How will it be done? Not by man. Revelation 14:6-7, *Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth - to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."*

This is the gospel of the Kingdom of God, projected into the minds of everyone on earth in their own language. Christ is coming; you must repent of your sins and worship your Creator because we will all be judged! The book of Joel is about the End -Time. Joel 1:15, *'The day of the LORD is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that day will be!'* Joel 2:1, *'Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem! Raise the alarm on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us.'* New Living Translation. It is a warning message of impending danger!

It is interesting to note that verse 28 tells us that all mankind will then experience a spiritual vision or dreams, *' "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."* Is this the way that the angel reaches all mankind with his message? It could enable God to graphically portray both the horror of the Tribulation and the wonder of His Kingdom, and it is at the right time, *before* the Heavenly Signs, verses 30 -31, *' "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall*

be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, *before* the great and awesome **day of the LORD** comes.” The day of the Lord is “the great day of his wrath”, Revelation 6:17, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, the second half of the 7 years, or “GREAT Tribulation”, Matthew 24:21. This places the angel’s message in the *first* half of the 7 years.

So it is that the very same message Jesus Christ brought, will finally reach every person on earth through God’s miraculous power, Matthew 24:14, ‘**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**’ This astounding event is approaching and it will not only be the biggest media event ever, but it will mark the arrival of the last 7 years of this age, the Tribulation.

When exactly will this take place? The Bible tells us here in, **Matthew 24:14**, ‘**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**’ When the angel astounds the whole world with God’s message, we will know that the End (of this age) has begun. It is the vital sign that God’s people need, to carry out His End-Time instructions!

This then, is the End-Time, a period of 7 years until Christ establishes His Kingdom here on earth! Daniel 9:27, “**And he (The Beast of Europe) will confirm a covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of the temple will come the abomination that causes desolation, until the decreed destruction is poured out upon him.**” (Each day for a year) This is the same event Christ described in Matthew 24:15, “**So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**”

Now we see that the *earlier* events in Matthew 24:5-9 (equivalent to the first 5 Seals of Revelation 6) *precede* “**the middle of the week**” :

‘**For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. These things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are **the beginning** of birth pains. Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.’**

All these events are called “the Tribulation of those days” in verse 29, to differentiate between them and the ‘Great Tribulation’, and culminate with the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, verse 30, at the **halfway point** in the 7 years - the Heavenly Signs and the arrival of Christ for His Saints:\_\_\_\_\_ ‘Immediately after the tribulation of those days: The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’ At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.’

So, what have we learned?

We have learned that the very first sign that the 7-year End-Time has begun, will be an astounding miracle as an angel delivers the gospel of the kingdom of God to the world, with a warning to repent. This *begins* the ‘Tribulation of those days’, the first 5 Seals of Revelation 6, which culminate with the Heavenly Signs and the arrival of Christ at the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, **half way** through the 7 years of Tribulation.

**This is the First Step in understanding the book of Revelation**

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