

Revelation

The Power of Anticipation

Revelation 1:1-3

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, March 15, 2026

I. This Book Is Not All About the End But the Birth of Something Glorious and New

This book is filled with a sense of anticipation and urgency about what God has already done, and has promised yet to do, that will usher in something brand new!

Think of it in terms of pregnancy and birth! Right now, this entire universe is pregnant and groaning with contractions and birth pangs that are leading up to what Revelation is showing us.

It's not all about what's going to end, it's all about celebrating what's new and next!

Revelation 21:1-5 “Then I saw a **new** heaven and a **new** earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, **new** Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ ⁵And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things **new**’...”

II. What Are We Going to See in the Book of Revelation?

A. You See a Hope-Filled Message from Jesus that's All About Jesus

Revelation 1:1 “The revelation of Jesus Christ...”

Whenever a message is from Jesus and all about Jesus, it was designed to feed and fuel hope in the heart of believers, not fear and panic or a foreboding sense of dread.

The book of Revelation pulls back the curtain and gives us a sense of what's happening all around us that is invisible to us, so that we'll stop living as if right-here, right-now is all that matters.

Revelation was never written to satisfy Christians who want a timeline. It was written to fortify Christians so that they can endure harsh treatment and alienation with confidence, knowing that this world is not all there is!

B. You See Some Invisible But Ultimate Realities for Right Now and Beyond

Revelation 1:1 “...which God gave Him to show to His servants...He made it known...”

Revelation is about what's always been true, being brought to you in vivid, fresh, new ways.

That's what Jesus did for us in the book of Revelation. He brought it to John in a way that had never been done before, so that John struggles to find words to describe all that he's seeing.

John sent this letter to the seven churches in Asia in 96 AD, and it was meant to encourage them right then, and to encourage us right now.

Titus 2:13 "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

Revelation was designed to refocus us on what matters most and to help us repent of how often we compromise with the world around us by the way we use our money, our time, our priorities, and our passion.

Revelation is a wake-up call for the American Church, just like it was for the seven churches in Asia, to not put your trust in the power of politics, the power of money, or the power of what personality and influence can do.

Put your trust in King Jesus who is coming back soon!

C. You See a Blessing for Those Who Take It to Heart and Live It Out

Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it..."

Revelation was a circular letter that was meant to be read aloud to seven different churches. That's why he says there's a blessing for the one who reads this letter aloud.

But there's a second group of people who qualify for a blessing: those who hear and keep what is written in it.

John is saying that the blessing is for those that have been affected by it, so that it changes how they live and how they perceive all that is going on in our world.

In other words, the blessing is for those whose lives are impacted and shaped by what they've heard so that it changes their priorities, strengthens their courage, drops them to their knees in prayer, takes away their fear of death, makes them bold to speak of Christ, and rearranges how they spend money.

D. You See Why We Need to Live with a Sense of Urgency

Revelation 1:1 "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants the things that **must soon take place...**"

"Soon" means that this is the next big, redemptive event on God's calendar. Regarding the overall progress of redemption, we are way towards the end, which means that the people of God should always be living with a sense of expectancy!

The book of Revelation stirs this up from beginning to end, as we start with this word "soon," and then Jesus Himself sticks the landing in the final chapter by using that word **3x**.

Revelation 22:7 “And behold, I am coming soon...”

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming soon...”

Revelation 22:20 “...Surely I am coming soon...”

Everything that John sees and hears is bracketed by this great fact: Jesus, the Lamb of God and King of Kings, is coming!

He wants us to be living with a sense of urgency.

Revelation 1:3 “...for the time is near.”

The word “time” here is not the word “Chronos” that meant clock or calendar time. It’s the word “Kairos” that meant era, epoch, or season. The word era and epoch indicate a period of time in history that is considered noteworthy.

We’re living in a period of time that is noteworthy because of where we are in history. God’s next big event is the return of Christ!

We get to be His people for such a time as this! Which means we need to be living for what matters most with our time, our money, our priorities, and our lives.