

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

September 3, 2023 – The Book of Revelation – Erlinda Cruz

The Book of Revelation: Jesus' End-Time Battle Plan for the Church – Part 1

Overview of the Book of Revelation

The book of Revelation reveals JESUS and HIS plan to transition the earth to the age to come.

The return of Jesus will usher us into the millennium. Jesus prepares the earth for heaven to come down to earth, the Throne of God, and finally dwell with men.

(Revelation 1:1; Revelation 21:3)

“[THIS IS] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,”

Revelation 1:1 AMPC

“This is the unveiling of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to share with his loving servants what must occur swiftly. He signified it by sending his angel to his loving servant John.”

Revelation 1:1 TPT

“I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “See! God’s Sh’khinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away.””

Revelation of Yeshua to Yochanan (Revelation) 21:3-4 CJB

“And I heard a thunderous voice from the throne, saying: “Look! God’s tabernacle is with human beings. And from now on he will tabernacle with them as their God. Now God himself will have his home with them— ‘God-with-them’ will be their God! He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and eliminate death entirely. No one will mourn or weep any longer. The pain of wounds will no longer exist, for the old order has ceased.””

Revelation 21:3-4 TPT

“Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne and I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. [Ezek. 37:27.] God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions and the former order of things have passed away. [Isa. 25:8; 35:10.]” Revelation 21:3-4 AMPC

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The book is called The Revelation of Jesus because it reveals His heart, power, and leadership in preparing the nations for God's glory.

One of the Father's purposes in giving this book to the Church is to reveal the beauty of Jesus. It is secondarily a book about "events" in the end times.

The main theme is the glory of the Man behind the plan.
Jesus' return to earth as king to rule all the nations (Revelation 1:7).
His "royal procession" back to earth will be seen by every person.

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him.
Revelation 1:7

We must read Revelation correctly, it must cause us to love Jesus and trust His leadership as we see His plans for the end times.

His wise and loving plans combine God's sovereignty (in manifesting love and righteousness), man's free will and Satan's rage resulting in the end-time harvest of souls and a victorious Church, without violating justice or man's free will.

The Lord's plan is for an environment that allows both love and wickedness to come to full expression.

Sin and wickedness will manifest its full expression...it will be seen like none of us has seen it before. It will be so dark and wicked in all its demonic expression.
On the flip side, righteousness and love worked in the human heart will also go beyond any time in history.

The Bible is clear. The church will go through the Tribulation in great power and great victory. We are invited to check out the scriptures like the Bereans. (Acts 17:11)
Checking out the veracity of the source of a belief or teachings.

Why?

Because there are many erroneous teachings with regards to the end times, it is important for us to know the biblical narrative so we may not be seduced by the secular perspective.

The tribulation in the book of Revelation is tribulation against the Antichrist.
Tribulation is NOT against the church. There are 403 verses in the book of Revelation.
Only 12 verses out of 403 are persecution of the church. Three percent of the book of revelation is persecution.

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The majority of the book is tribulation on the Antichrist.

The judgment of God destroying oppression.

That is what the book of Revelation is.

The saints partnering with the Lord in prayer, and in other ways as well, but that is the primary way.

The church will be raptured. We believe in the rapture, but it is at the end of the Tribulation, not at the beginning that rapture will happen.

We will study this in another time extensively so we are not ignorant of the foundation to such claim.

The point that we are making here is that the reality of the Great Tribulation is so weighty.

Like we said earlier tribulation will be minimal for the believers, the ensuing tension at the time will affect us, that is why preparation and training in discerning and understanding of the scriptures and a strong relationship with Jesus as led by Holy Spirit will play great importance. We cannot reduce it to theological exercise.

This is the most intense time in human history.

It cannot be reduced to theological debate and theological one-upmanship.

Like, "I have this point you did not get."

It is not about winning an argument.

It is about preparing a people spiritually not to be offended or be deceived or yield to fear, but actually to grasp what is going on.

Again, the preparation is spiritual.

God may tell some group to prepare in practical, physical ways, but our burden is spiritual preparation so that:

We are not offended,

we are not afraid,

and we are not deceived.

We are not stumbling;

we are not seduced by lies.

We get what is going on.

We are not passive either,

drawing back in passivity.

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We get the drama and significance of what God from heaven has put in the book that is going to happen.

The book of Revelation gives us more information on the end times than any other book of the Bible.

There is more information on the end times.

Isaiah has a lot. And other prophets and narratives tell us and warning us as to what to expect in the end times. (We will go there and study them so our foundation will be strong when the final conflict comes)

Revelation has a lot of unique information.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

It was written to help God's people to participate in the drama.

It is not just a poetry book.

It is a book written so the people of God can participate with the Head of the church in the most glorious hour in history.

In this generation, when all these things happen, history is going to shift.

The earth is going to shift to the age to come in one generation.

There is one time frame where the planet will shift to the age to come. That is a remarkable time frame.

You might be in it.

Your children might be in it.

Their children might be in it.

I do not know, but you might be.

It is not too early to start understanding the drama and passing that understanding on to your children.

It may be sooner than we think.

It may stretch out quite a bit longer.

We do not know. I believe it is time to start understanding what the Book says, instead of relegating it to,

well, nobody gets it. I do not have time.

It is kind of crazy anyway.

Who really knows anyway?

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That is a horrible response to this glorious information.

Not just the book of Revelation.

Talking about all the prophets.

The 150 chapters. We have to start understanding it.

There are 150 chapters in the Bible of which the primary theme is the end times.

We want to give our next generation clarity on what the end times is about.

To take it up to the next degree and hand it to their children with clarity too.

So there is a generation that is prepared, and we do our little part, and a thousand other ministries in the earth will do their part.

A thousand more will do their part. God will have a prepared church.

Will start studying this now so that you can understand it and pass it on if it does not happen in your day.

Then you will have handed more than confusion to the next generation.

As true shepherds, we care about that.

Things are escalating so rapidly from the biblical point of view.