

Revelation – Session One

“Apo Kalupso”

In the Summer of 1998, the executives of New Line Media took the biggest risk in film history when they gave film-maker Peter Jackson 330 million dollars to make three films. That 330 million dollar investment has now earned over 3 billion dollars today, and still counting.

What trilogy of films am I talking about? The Lord of The Rings

What were the three films titles? The Lord of the Ring, the Twin Towers, and the Return of the King

Can someone give me the overview in a few sentences what this trilogy, this adventure, was about?

This trilogy was based on a book written by who? JR Tolkien

Does anyone know anything about JR Tolkien and his style of writing? His beliefs? Tolkien states himself he never intended for the Lord of The Ring series to be taken as a Christian allegory. He states that his novels were never written to teach Christianity (Because in that case, you should go directly to the source, Christ and Scripture), BUT he was quick to admit that all his works were written in the Christian tradition and therefore were full of Christian symbols.

LET’S WATCH A PARTICULAR SCENE: Break up into groups and discuss.

In one scene in The Two Towers, the hobbit Frodo is given the nearly impossible task of destroying the object of ultimate evil, which is the ring, and he tells his companion Sam “I can’t do this!” Sam’s response is very realistic, answering, “I know, it’s all wrong, by all rights we shouldn’t even be here, but we are. It is like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo, the ones that really mattered, full of darkness and danger, they were, and sometimes you didn’t want to know the end because how could the end be happy. How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad has happened, but in the end, it is only a passing thing, this shadow, but even the darkness must pass, a new thing will shine out even clearer.”

Do you think this conversation describes the world we live in right now? How? This world is becoming darker and darker. We wonder how could all the wrongs be made right? How can we go back to the way it is supposed to be?

In both you find:

- Dark Lords and dark lands (There is evil all around us in the world)
- Monsters and orcs trying to rule and bring chaos and disorder to the land and our lives (drugs, anxiety, hate, separation, divorce, pride, greed, sexual perversions, break-down of marriage, break-down of society, terrorism, murder...)
- Epic battles between good and evil
- **What about the title of the last movie of the trilogy?** Yes, the climax ends in the return of the long awaited King, who will come and finally bring triumph of good over evil!

This is the theme of Revelations: The darkness will finally pass when Jesus Christ, our “long awaited King”, will return to restore the world to what it was before sin infected it and do away with evil and pain once and for all.

Why do YOU want to study the book of Revelations? Often, when it comes Bible prophecy, people want to study it for one of three reasons. Which category would you put yourself in?

1. **Sensationalism:** Maybe you haven't ever read or studied Revelations yourself, and you find it exciting. Maybe there is not much in the bible that excites you and your thinking "This is what I need to jolt me out of my spiritual pit." Maybe your thinking we'll discover the date of Christ's return or identify who the antichrist will be, and if when we don't, you'll fall back away disappointed. ALL SCRIPTURE IS EXCITING IF YOUR READING IT BECAUSE YOU ARE PURSUING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!!
2. **Intellectualism:** Maybe you are interested in filling up notebooks full of notes and are excited about unwrapping the mystery of the book of Revelation. There's not necessarily anything wrong with taking notes, but just be sure and be in the right mindset when you approach the bible. I've was a classic example of this for many years!! In 1 Cor 8:1, Paul warns that "Knowledge PUFFS UP". **What does he mean "Puff Up?"** Studying the bible for just intellectual knowledge does not cut to the soul, it means your searching the Bible with your head and not your heart. **How do you approach the bible when you read it? Do you approach the bible as "fill my head with knowledge", or as "Lord, let your words mold me and change me and help me to find the right way this applies to my life?"**
3. **Obedience:** This is the true way to study the bible. What does Rev 1:3 tell us? Blessed are those that READ and HEED (obey) the things the bible teaches.

Where will we find a good overview of the book of Revelation? Rev 1:1 and the title of the book itself.

Rev 1:1:

- **SIGNIFIED:** Some translations may say communicated, but the King James uses the word "signified" which is probably most appropriate. **What shorter word is "signified" based on?** SIGN. Sign-i-fied. **Who is revealing these signs and who is the angel speaking for?** So this angel, sent by Christ, will be revealing "signs". God communicated the book of Revelations through signs and symbols. **What kinds of "signs" did Jesus give in his ministry here on earth to prove He was who He said He was?** Miracles! "Sign" can also mean miracles, meaning these events are being revealed to John in a miraculous way. John is literally seeing the future and what is to come.
- **REVELATION: What does the word Revelation mean?** This word comes from a Greek compound word "apo" and "kalupso".
 - **APO :** Meaning NON or UN, like in the words NONsense or Unclothed (not clothed)
 - **KALUPSO or KALUPSIS:** Meaning VEILED. Meaning something is CONCEALED or HIDDEN.
 - **So put these words together and what do you have:** This means "unveiling".
- **Is the title of this book singular or plural?** It is singular. We often say "Revelations" when we refer to this book, as in plural, but that takes away from the overall, central theme of this writing.
- **What are the first five words of 1:1?** "The Revelation of Jesus Christ". **Now replace Revelation with what we just learned the Greek word means.** This writing is most importantly about THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST! This book is not about certain things Christ has revealed, but about the unveiling, the appearance, of Jesus Christ Himself.
- **"Shortly come to pass":** The Greek of this simply means "in speed". What two things might God be trying to tell us??
 - The coming of Christ is always imminent?
 - When he does come, the events of this book will come quickly in a short period of time?

Rev 1:2:

- **Does this verse say anything about John falling asleep?** Absolutely not. This was not some dream or hallucination. In a miraculous way only God could do, he allowed John to literally see and hear all these things in the future.

Rev 1:3:

- **What does God promise to those that read, or have read to them, this book?** Nothing. Just hearing is useless and pointless unless you respond with action. The promise of blessing is to those that keep those things that are written.
- **Do you think God made Revelation so entirely confusing that it is impossible to understand or get anything from it? Can you really be blessed by reading something that you cannot one bit understand?** If God knew there was no way to understand this book, know way to draw anything out of it, then he wouldn't have given it to us and wouldn't have said it would be a blessing to all that read and keep it.
- **Why do many say that it is impossible to understand Revelation and choose not to read it at all?** Often it's not that it is impossible to understand, but that it's just too hard to believe. Some just cannot believe that the coming judgments are so severe for non-believers and that the effects will be so global. It's not until you truly come to your senses and realize that these things WILL HAPPEN will it shape your life RIGHT NOW.
- **What about all the competing views on what it all means?** Yes, there are a number of different views on the order of how things happen and what certain signs mean (*historical, preterist, idealist, pre-millennial, post-millennial, amillennial, sequential, cyclic, pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, mid-tribulation, partial rapture, pre-wrath rapture, etc.*), but that does not mean we cannot find a common ground on that each of these things WILL happen by God's will.

FINAL DISCUSSIONS:

Why should this book lead us to obedience? At some time in the future, every knee will bow to the coming King. From Hitler and Mother Theresa, Snoop-Dogg and President Trump, Mitch McConnell and Nancy Pelosi, Billy Graham and Ghandi, Muhammed and Bill Graham, to you and I. The question is not if everyone will become a believer, the question is will it be too late to.

Will each person be bowing in excitement, respect, and love, to Jesus, ready to be given their new resurrected body and live eternally in this new kingdom with Him and all other believers, this new Garden of Eden, that Christ will bring, devoid of and emotional pain, physical suffering, death, corruption, and evil?

OR

Will they bow in terror, remorse, and sorrow as a rebel and enemy of God, hoping for a second chance that no longer exists, knowing in their hearts it is too late, and all the things that were foretold in the bible about eternity in Hell, cast into the Lake of Fire with Satan and all the demons, is finally here. A place where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth, the wailing of souls that now do believe, that now are ready to accept Christ as the King and their savior....but the time has past and there is now no going back.

You see, this may seem harsh, but thousands of opportunities have come and gone. For someone to wait until the end to accept Christ as King and savior out of fear of Hell is not true love. This is a forced decision, not a decision of the will and not out of love and respect. Genuine believers become believers on this earth. They have just the right amount of evidence to know truth. They have an open heart allowing the Holy Spirit to work on them and lead them to what is true. God will not force Himself upon us, else the relationship we have with Him would not be a Free Will decision.