

What do we know from our introduction in verses 1-3?

COMMENTARY: These “obscure” prophecies were literally fulfilled at the first coming of the Son of God, but they were completely misinterpreted by the religious establishment because their expectations had skewed their perspective and disabled their ability to receive the prophetic word and to understand God’s purpose.

LESSON: As we approach our study in Revelation, we must allow God to establish his purpose and direction for the text.

-
- (Genesis 3:15 ESV) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
 - (Psalm 22:16 ESV) For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet,
 - (Isaiah 7:14 ESV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - (Micah 5:2 ESV) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
 - (Psalm 118:22–24 ESV) The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
-

COMMENTARY: These prophecies are familiar to us now after the fact, two thousand years after their fulfillment. But even with that in mind, go back and read them in context, and you will see how obscure they really were.

LESSON: We need to view Scripture, prophecy and otherwise, through the proper lens. We must receive God’s biblical direction in our approach to his word.

AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR REVELATION STUDY: Multitudes search for the identity of the anti-christ, but the central idea of Revelation is the apocalypse—the revealing, the unfolding, the uncovering, the identity—of Jesus Christ. The Christ is the central idea, not the anti-christ.

- (Revelation 1:1–3 ESV) The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, (2) who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. (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, for the time is near.



1. We know the central idea of this book is to reveal Jesus Christ.
2. We know that God intended for us to have this information.
3. We know that the tenor and tone of this revelation are one of imminence.
4. We know that the Apostle John was the human instrument chosen to make the revelation known.
5. We know that in the revelation John bore witness to three things:
 - a. the word of God,
 - b. the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - c. and all that he saw.
6. We know—based on John’s three-fold witness—that these words are trustworthy and true, cf. 22:6-7.
7. We know that the revelation is a prophecy.
8. We know that God promises a three-fold blessing with this prophecy:
 - a. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy,
 - b. and blessed are those who hear,
 - c. and [blessed are those] who keep what is written in it.
9. We know we are to respond to this prophecy with urgency and awareness.
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

