

## **Teaser**

Revelation! It's the final book in the Bible. And it's all about the final days of earth and then a most exciting future beyond our wildest dreams. Revelation is more than about tomorrow's tribulation. It's about how to experience the awesome and living Christ today and really discover a life worth living. I'm Frank Eiklor. And this is MORE THAN TALK.

## **Intro**

Many Christians get so hung up on disagreements in the book of Revelation that other Christians avoid this amazing book altogether. Just like the devil likes it. We won't fall for that trap. Instead, I believe God's Holy Spirit is going to help me give you life changing truths that will transform your heart and mind—not doctrinal arguments that will add to your confusion. Are you ready for Part 1 of the book of Revelation? I am!

## **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: LESSONS FOR THE HERE-AND-NOW** (Life Changing Truths – Not Doctrinal Arguments)

### **No time for spiritual slumber**

Many Christians avoid the final book of the Bible – the book of Revelation. Perhaps that's because there have been so many disagreements in churches and denominations concerning this book. Arguments about the anti-Christ. When the tribulation will occur. What constitutes the beast, the false prophet and all the symbolism found in this book. So the devil has put a fear in many Christian hearts to “stay away from these arguments – stay away from the book of Revelation.”

Of course, Satan is always a liar. The book of Revelation is more than about the future – it is also about the present. This book is filled with common sense issues of life – not just prophetic sense for future days. It is a book of life changing truths that a child can grasp – not doctrinal arguments to separate the brethren.

Most Christians agree that we are living in the last days. It certainly appears so with the re-establishment of Israel, a disappearing morality, a call for a new-world-order and someone to lead it, worldwide plagues, diseases, catastrophes, etc. To be ignorant of the transforming truths found throughout the twenty-two chapters in the final book of the Bible is to be an easy target for Satan's lies and distortions. So in our study of Revelation, we will not get involved with arguments and debates. Instead, we shall see how the Holy Spirit can use this book to transform our lives here and now.

The first verse of the first chapter says everything we need to know before we begin our journey through this study. “The revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1) is the opening of the book. Why? Well, not only is this book a living testimony of our God – but also of His Son. The book of Revelation is written simply and elegantly to “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (2:29).

The world we live in today leaves us no time for spiritual slumber or foolish priorities. So let's get started with a prayer that our Father in Heaven will open our eyes as we explore the final book in God's plan for the ages.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **Who And What The Book Is All About**

Revelation 1:1

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:”

If you are one of His servants, you're in on this personal meeting with Jesus.

### **Your Promised Blessing**

Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

That blessing comes to those who don't merely read or hear the words of Scripture, but those who determine to obey God's Word.

### **Your Greatest Miracle**

Revelation 1:5

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

Only when you realize how much a perfect and holy God hates sin will you ever appreciate Christ's sacrifice on the Cross so that you can be forgiven and cleansed.

### **Your Greatest Privilege**

Revelation 1:6

“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

Wow Lord! You are not out to merely forgive my sins. You want to transform me into your new creation. If I am a king, I have authority over Satan. And as a priest, I am to offer all my worship to You.

## **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: LESSONS FOR THE HERE-AND-NOW** **Facing life's tests and temptations**

The book of Revelation is the only book in the Bible that contains a special promise to obedient readers (chapter 1:3) and at the same time pronounces a curse upon any who tamper with its contents (chapter 22:18,19). It is obviously filled with the mysteries of the future—the end of the world and the glorious return and reign of Jesus Christ in a new heaven and new earth. But the book is not merely about the hereafter but the here-and-now. That's where I'm taking you and me—to see the lessons of life that can help us offer our lives as living sacrifices to the Author of life Himself, Jesus.

### **The Greatest Promise**

Revelation 1:7

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

We've looked at the greatest miracle—our forgiven and guilt removed. And the greatest privilege—no longer a victim and tool of Satan, but adopted into God's own family and made a king and priest. Now we have something else. We don't know the day or hour—but we do know the seasons. And those who are wise love the Lord Jesus and live as if He is returning today.

### **The Greatest Personality**

Revelation 1:8

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

And the only One to whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He—Jesus Christ—is Lord of all.

### **God's Call For Patience Under Suffering**

Revelation 1:9

“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Tribulation works patience. That's why our loving Father allows us to be tested. He's developing warriors—not wimps!

### **An Important Lesson For Every Day**

Revelation 1:10

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,”

Lord, teach me to be led by Your Holy Spirit day by day and to hear Your voice through Your Word and obey You.

### **The Real Jesus**

Revelation 1:13-16

“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp towedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”

He came as the Son of man in a human body like ours. Now He reigns as the Son of God and declares His everlasting love for you. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

### **The Tenderness Of The Almighty**

Revelation 1:17,18

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

What He said to John, Jesus now says to you—fear not. That's because He loves you and has a plan for your life.

## **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: LESSONS FOR THE HERE-AND-NOW**

### **First love: guard it with your life**

Never feel overwhelmed by the Book of Revelation. It's the only book in the Scriptures where God promises a blessing to those who read, hear and obey the words written in this final book of the Bible. That suggests that Revelation is filled with commands and life-changing truths that pertain to your Christian walk today and not merely filled with difficult-to-understand prophecies that only "prophecy experts" can understand.

Besides, there are no "prophecy experts" who have all the answers. God reveals His truth as He chooses, and often uses the most humble servants through whom He speaks. Those who write books giving "the final word" and even give dates for fulfillment always end up wrong. Then they write another book that you can buy – if you have money to waste.

It is good to ponder the prophetic scriptures in Revelation and seek answers as to what the future might hold. But it is even more important to apply the commands, warnings and lessons in the book to how we live today. That's what we are doing as we study the Book of Revelation to seek out its life changing truths.

We have looked at the first chapter in Revelation. Now let's study key truths in chapters two and three.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **A Christian's Greatest Loss—When Jesus Is No Longer Our First Love**

Revelation 2:2-4

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

That's why I am to spend time each day alone with the Lord in the Bible and prayer. Then all I do for Him will come from a heart that is in love with Him

## **The Reward For Faithful Suffering**

Revelation 2:10

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

There is a cost to taking my cross and following Jesus. But it will be worth it all when we see Him.

## **The Martyr’s Call (When Obedience To Christ Requires Sacrifice)**

Revelation 2:13

“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

Believers around the world are giving their lives as martyrs rather than deny Christ. Am I willing to be His witness in my own home and world?

## **The Importance Of Good Works**

Revelation 2:19

“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”

James is right. Faith without works is dead. That’s why I am not to be only a hearer of His Word, but a doer.

## **Christ’s Promise To The Overcoming Christian**

Revelation 2:26

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations”

To overcome is to not let the world change me, but to change the world through the help and power of Christ.





## **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: LESSONS FOR THE HERE-AND-NOW**

### **The cost of lukewarmness**

#### **CHAPTER 3**

##### **Man Sees The Outward But God Sees The Heart**

Revelation 3:1-4

“...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”

How horrible to play the hypocrite and have people think me a live Christian while God calls me dead. Lord, help me get serious with You and make You my number one priority in life.

##### **The Open Doors God Also Has For You**

Revelation 3: 7,8

“...These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

Never be satisfied with your plan for your life. Trust the Lord and ask Him for His plan for your life. Then watch as He opens new and wonderful doors.

##### **God’s Promise To Those Who Practice Patient Obedience To The Word Of God**

Revelation 3:10

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

Never measure life by your emotions or feelings. Just take time daily to seek God's Word and will.

## **The Terrible Cost Of Lukewarmness And The Overcomer's Greatest Reward**

Revelation 3:14-21

“...I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

How do I move from lukewarm to hot? Reach for the gold that is Christ. Put on the white raiment of His character and purity. Anoint your eyes with the eye salve of the Word of God. He chastens those He loves. Then He rewards those who obey.

# **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: LESSONS FOR THE HERE-AND-NOW**

## **The reason for your being born**

### **CHAPTER 4**

#### **The Reward Of The Spiritual Climb**

Revelation 4:1

“After this I looked, and , behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”

As you take time daily to study God’s Word and pray, you will also experience that open door to God’s heart and the voice of the Holy Spirit that will guide you to new levels of growth, obedience and discerning of the signs of the times.

#### **A 24/7 Life Of Worship**

Revelation 4:8

“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

Your privilege is to offer each day your adoration and praise to God. Let there be those times when you say “Lord Jesus, I’m not coming now with any requests. I just came to worship You and to tell You how much I love You.”

#### **The Reason For My/ Your Being Born**

Revelation 4:11

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

You were created to bring pleasure to the Lord through your love and obedience.

Now how is that for incredible? You and I—created to bring pleasure to God! How? To obey is better than sacrifice. So let's study His Word and ask the Holy Spirit to help us obey His commands as proof of our love for Christ

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **The Lamb Who Is The Lion**

Revelation 5:5

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

Hallelujah, the Lamb who is your Redeemer is also the Lion who is your protector. And the One who guarantees that He will never leave nor forsake those who put their trust in Him.

### **The Glorious Result of World Evangelism**

Revelation 5:9

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

Jesus' final order was for us to reach our world with the gospel. His love is for every person, and we have the privilege and responsibility to introduce them to Christ. Family, friends, neighbors, strangers. Jesus wants to love and reach them through us.

### **The New Rulers On Earth**

Revelation 5:10

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Today's rulers will be gone tomorrow. But those faithful to Jesus will reign with Him forever. The rich and famous are applauded today and dead tomorrow. The

faithful to Christ will be mostly unknown today but famous tomorrow. The difference is Jesus.

### **God's Greatest Call: A Life Of Worship**

Revelation 5:12,13

“...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven—on the earth—under the earth—in the sea, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**”

If we are truly in love with our Heavenly Father and our Savior Christ Jesus, we will often find our hearts overflowing with praise and adoration. Take time – make time – to be alone with God. His presence will be your reward!