

PROGRAM 97 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.

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, we believe God's Holy Spirit is going to help us give you life changing truths that will transform your heart and mind. Are you ready for Part 1 of the Book of Revelation—God's Blueprint For Awesome Living? Tom Hughes and Frank Eiklor—about to give you More Than Talk.

PROGRAM 97 PAGE 1

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR AWESOME LIVING (PART 1)

PAGE 1 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 awesome 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 skip the arguments and debates. Instead, we shall see how the Holy Spirit can use this book to transform our lives in the 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 who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to 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 Him to show His servants— things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John."

If you are one of His servants, you're in on this personal meeting with Jesus. **(F & T discuss servanthood)**

Your Promised Blessing

Revelation 1:3

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."

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." **(F & T discuss obedience— John 14:21 etc)**

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION:
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PAGE 2 Your Greatest Miracle

Revelation 1:5

“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.”

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. **(F & T discuss a Holy God)**

Your Greatest Privilege

Revelation 1:6

“And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever 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. **(F & T discuss authority over humanity's enemy-Luke10:19)**

The Greatest Promise

Revelation 1:7

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

We've looked at the greatest miracle—our sins 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. **(F & T discuss the “season” we are living in)**

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PAGE 3 The Greatest Personality

Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who 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.

No Pain, No Gain

Revelation 1:9

“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island 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! **(F & T discuss temptation & how to handle it)**

An Important Lesson For Every Day

Revelation 1:10

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud 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. **(F & T discuss living in Spirit, not flesh)**

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PAGE 4 The Real Jesus

Revelation 1:13-16

“And in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its 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! **(F & T discuss great mystery—“Christ in you”)**

The Tenderness Of The Almighty

Revelation 1:17,18

“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades 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. **(F & T discuss fear-ridden society plus 2 reactions when Jesus shall appear—saved vs. lost)**

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION:
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PAGE 5 A Christian's Greatest Loss

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

Revelation 2:2-4

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your 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 2:13

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

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? (**F & T discuss grace to live—grace to die**)

The Martyr's Call (When Obedience To Christ Requires Sacrifice)

Revelation 2:10

“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

There is a cost to taking my cross and following Jesus. But it will be worth it all when we see Him. (**F & T more martyrs today than in the past**)