

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

July 9, 2023 Revelation 1:1-4 By Bob Branch
Standing in the Fire, part 1

¹ The revelation [apocalypse] of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near. John, to the seven churches in Asia.” **Revelation 1:1-4** CSB

The Main Message: _____

BIG IDEA: What kind of disciple are you going to be? What are you training for? It is a discipleship manual, especially for those being challenged and persecuted. It gives Christians in all eras a sense of direction and meaning, even when it’s tough.

BACKGROUND

Written 96 AD; Domitian, “**Caesar Kurios**” (Caesar is Lord)

LETTER (1:4; 22:21)

Addressing specific people in specific situations.

PROPHECY (1:3; 22:7) God speaks

Less, what is coming, more, thus says the Lord.

God enabling us to see what he sees

APOCALYPSE: *apokalypsis*

Unveiling, disclosure, pulling back the curtain.

“Elisha said, “Don’t be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed, “LORD, please open his eyes and let him see.” So the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” **2 Kings 6:16-17** CSB

“Apocalypse seeks to set the present in light of unseen realities of the future” **Darrell Johnson**

“...it sets the present in light of the unseen realities of the present... Things not as they seem, there’s more going on than we can perceive with our unaided senses.” **Darrell Johnson**

“What did John see next?”

UNIQUE FEATURES

People as animals

Historical events as natural phenomena

Colors & numbers have meaning: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 144,000, 3½, 1,000

WHY APOCALYPSE? Encoding for specific listeners

Team _____ or Team _____

*Revelation is not a roadmap of the end of the world.
It is a discipleship manual.*

What kind of disciples are we going to be?

What are you training for?

Are you training your soul for Team Lamb?

Where is your mindset?