



The Revelation of Jesus Christ 1:1-3 Sermon Notes

Daniel 2

Daniel 2:28 — “However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar *what will take place in the latter days.*” (*ha dei genesthai ep’eskaton hemeron*)

Daniel 2:29 — “As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to *what would take place in the future...*” (*hosa dei genesthai ep’eskaton hemeron*)

Revelation 1:1 — “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants *what must soon take place.*” (*ha dei genesthai en taxeí*)

The Last Days in the New Testament

1. These men are not drunk as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people . . .” Acts 2:15-17
2. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. Romans 13:11-12
3. In the past, God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son . . . Hebrews 1:1-2
4. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:26

5. But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
6. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 1 Peter 1:20
7. First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 2 Peter 3:3
8. Dear children, this is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18. But dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts but do not have the Spirit. Jude 18

Three General Approaches to Revelation

1. Preterism—Holds that Revelation describes events already past, whether the fall of Jerusalem or the collapse of the Roman Empire.
2. Idealism—Claims that Revelation describes the timeless battle between the kingdom of God and of Satan going on in all ages.
3. Futurism—Teaches that Revelation primarily foretells events that are still to come, just before the return of Jesus.

Our reading of Revelation will affirm aspects of each of these three schools of thought. We’ll see that Revelation’s visions apply to the original audience, to the church throughout the ages, and to the final climax of history. Since the end times in the NT are the entire period from the first to second coming of Jesus, we should not be surprised to find past, present and future meanings to Revelation’s visionary material.