

Preface

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of **the Bible as I have been constrained by copyright and publishing considerations. It's not** always the easiest version to read so you may like to read along with your preferred translation. My personal preference is the New King James Version which you will notice I have often quoted. Here is a list of the Bible Versions I have used with their respective abbreviations:

KJV	King James Version
NKJV	New King James Version
ESV	English Standard Version
YLT	Young's Literal Translation
CEB	Common English Bible
GNT	Good News Translation
ICB	International Children's Bible
MEV	Modern English Version

I have given the source of my information by citations in the text, so there will be no separate bibliography, nor the clutter of footnotes. I am of course confident that everything I have written is thoroughly researched and accurate, however I am human. **Therefore, I have taken up this saying that I heard somewhere, "I am convinced that I am right, but I am also convinced that I could be wrong."**

I have come to believe that the searching and confirming exercise is healthy for the soul and therefore I encourage each individual to personally validate. In this modern day, practically everything can be researched online by simply typing the subject of interest **into your favourite search engine, click and "hey presto", dozens of sites with which one** can be informed. (Warning: eat the fish and spit out the bones.) In the process you will definitely find some scholars who completely disagree with me. Check them out and trust in the Lord to lead you into all truth. When in doubt, let God be true and every man a liar.

What you are about to read was originally intended to be the final chapter of my book **EVERY BELIEVER'S PROPHECY GUIDE**, sub-titled: The Prophetic Destiny of Judah, Israel and The Kingdom of God. Besides the fact that analysing the interpretations of the Apocalypse was slightly off topic, I soon discovered that assembling the essential information that enables a proper understanding of the Book of Revelation was going to require much more than a closing chapter. I had to face the facts and embrace the reality that it was a treatise on its own beyond what I had ever imagined.

In Every Believer's Prophecy Guide, I presented a comprehensive chronological collation of all the prophetic Scriptures which speak of the Kingdom of Judah, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of God, from Abraham through to the end of the age. The clarity that comes from arranging these Scriptures decently and in order along with the historical fulfillment of those predictions that have already come to pass, has enabled men and

woman of God to apprehend God's glorious plan for the latter days, it has equipped them to recognise false prophets and false teachers and has opened the eyes of their understanding so that they can see where they are in Bible Prophecy.

Throughout this treatise I will be making frequent references to my previous study, so to make it easy for those of you who have **not read Every Believer's Prophecy Guide, I have** made a copy available online which can be read for free so that when you are prompted, you can have your computer handy and go to www.livingandlovingbyfaith.com and **click on Every Believer's Prophecy Guide** and scroll to the appropriate chapter. This will save many pages from being unnecessarily printed which will keep the price of publishing down somewhat. For those without internet access, I will hopefully provide sufficient information and Scripture references to make this a stand-alone study by copying the more important passages into this book.

In my introduction to Every Believer's Prophecy Guide and on the back cover of this book, I made the following comment:

The student of eschatology is presently confronted with a multitude of end-time theories: pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, post-tribulation, pre-millennial, post-millennial, a-millennial, futurist, historicist, full or partial preterist, hyper-literal or allegorical interpretations and the list goes on . . . With variations within each particular school of thought we probably find that there are over a hundred different scenarios offered up as truth, if not more. Therefore, if you happen to align yourself with any one of the eschatological viewpoints, you will automatically find yourself in disagreement with over ninety percent of the Christian Community. This ought not to be.

Armed with the Twelve Rules for Handling God's Word (a short teaching from Every Believer's Prophecy Guide which you will find immediately after this preface) and a proper understanding of God's prophetic destiny for the Kingdom of Judah, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of God, I really thought that I would wade into the writings of John of Patmos and the mystery would dissipate and the truth would simply unfold. But when I came to the Book of Revelation, which is literally so full of symbolism that even what appears to be plain reading needs some explanation, and was then confronted with the multitude of interpretations of all its visions, I was utterly confounded.

In my quest for understanding, I found myself led to explore the spectrum of opinions first and so I engaged with other posters on a prophecy forum. I guess I was hoping to find some insight within the cyber community of prophecy buffs. But the secret of its symbolic visions remained a mystery despite all my efforts to understand. I could not get **the plain and simple revelation of God's plan that had unfolded through my journey** through the Old Testament prophets, and which was confirmed by Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament, to fit in with what I found in the Apocalypse. It was like trying to ram a square peg into a round hole. Its symbolism left me baffled and eventually I became entirely frustrated. At the same time, some of my long held eschatological beliefs were beginning to crumble in the light of what I was discovering in His Word. Yeah, if you are going to grow in understanding, you have to maintain an attitude of teachability and humility.

To be honest, at the time I had no idea where this was going. However, with the benefit of hindsight, I can see that God had His Hand upon me. It was through my experience of being confronted with the countless theories I encountered on that forum that I came to the place where I was ready to have the eyes of my understanding opened. Like He has with so many things in my life, God waited until I had come to the end of myself.

No doubt about it, Revelation is unique, no other book in our Bibles is as devoted to symbols and visions as this book is. Consequently it required of me a different approach. What follows is the result of my journey into THE REVELATION OF REVELATION.

The first step in this journey is to be firmly grounded in the Twelve Rules for Handling **God's Word as they will establish the basic premise that I believe God has given to His** people that we might understand what He intended us to comprehend from the written Word of Truth.