

REVELATION – THE TIME IS AT HAND

By Joseph Edwards II

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Why do most Christians believe that the time for the prophesied events contained in the book of Revelation have not arrived yet (or are just getting started) in light of what the book actually teaches?

The book clearly states that the seals are already open and that the time is at hand:

Rev 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.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I COME QUICKLY: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Rev 22:10 And he saith unto me, SEAL NOT the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for THE TIME IS AT HAND.

If the time for the Book of Revelation is still future, how can anyone, especially those who lived and died over the past 1900 years, ever hope to KEEP THE SAYINGS OF THE PROPHECY?

Was Christ mistaken when He said "I come quickly" and "the time is at hand"? 1900 years is not "quickly" nor can that long length of time mean that the time is "at hand".

So what does it mean for the time to be "at hand"?

We don't have to guess. All we have to do is look to scripture and it will give us the answer:

Mat 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus Christ is the Kingdom of Heaven. With His proclamation in Mat 4:17, Christ was announcing that the Kingdom of Heaven had come - that the time was at hand.

The truth is the prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in the 1st century A.D. even before John received the prophecy and they have continued to be fulfilled over and over again since that time within the life of each of Christ's Elect.

For Christ's Elect, Christ has already come or is presently coming or will come in the future.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to COME; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne...

Rev 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.

Christ's second coming to His Elect is a reoccurring spiritual event. His "coming" will continue until the last chosen person has been saved.

After the last Elect person has been saved, the bodily resurrection from the grave will occur which will bring an end to this age.

The book of Revelation is not teaching about outward coming world events that only happen at the literal end of this age. The book is teaching on the spiritual events that occur to an Elect person as they travel the pathway to salvation. Their salvation occurs when Christ is unveiled within them at their moment of conversion.

Also, the events that were shown to John in the vision were presented to him using spiritual symbols (spirit words, **John 6:63**).

Rev 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:

To understand the meanings of the symbols, Paul says to compare them with how they are used elsewhere in scripture. We should be looking for their meanings out in the world.

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things (words) with spiritual (words).

If a person has been chosen by Christ to be a First Fruit of His harvest, Christ will see to it that they keep the sayings of the book before they physically die.

Matthew chapter 24 is one of the great end-time prophecy teachings of Christ. And just like the book of Revelation, Matthew chapter 24 is teaching about the spiritual events that occur within each Elect person as they travel the pathway to salvation. End-time prophecy is not teaching about future physical world events that can be witnessed with human eyes.

In the verse below, Christ is referring to His Elect (the generation) who have been chosen for salvation in this present age.

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

The generation of First Fruits will not pass away until each of Christ's Elect have kept the sayings of the prophecies and have been converted.

And as Paul says, the end of the ages are coming upon the Elect in this age. The end comes upon them when they are converted and saved.

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, upon whom the end of the ages are come.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those (the Elect) who are waiting for him.

James confirms Paul's understanding of Christ's second coming in the scripture below:

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the **EARLY and LATTER RAIN**. **8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James was writing to unconverted "babes" who had received the Early Rain of the Spirit but not the Latter Rain of the Spirit. They were still waiting for the Lord to bring them their salvation.

James' main purpose for making this statement to the babes was to remind them to have patience while they waited for the Lord's return. James then encourages them by saying that the Lord's coming "draweth nigh".

James knew that the coming of Christ to these Elect babes was not a far off future event that only happens at the literal end of the age. James fully expected the Lord's second coming to occur within the lifetimes of each of the babes to whom he was writing.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit occurs when a babe receives the Spirit of Truth. The Spirit of Truth is what the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost when Christ came a second time to them.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he (Christ) shall come unto us as the Rain, as the Latter and Early Rain unto the earth.

Paul also mentions the second coming of Christ to the babes (**1Cor 3:1-2**) in the Corinthian church:

1Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: **7** So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: **8** Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthian babes when they made a confession of faith after they received the Early Rain of the Spirit. The Early Rain of the Spirit is what gave the Corinthian believers their faith and their spiritual gifts. Without the small measure of the Spirit, they would not have called Jesus “Lord”:

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

And like the babes to whom James was writing, the Corinthian babes were still waiting on the Lord to come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit is what confirms a babe’s inheritance & election and is what makes them blameless during their time of judgment (Day of the Lord).

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful Rain (the Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

The judgment of the Day of the Lord is what completes the process of conversion for an Elect person.

If a person does not experience the second coming of Christ during their lifetime, they are not one of the Elect. For this reason, Christ says that He will “come quickly” to those who are who are waiting for Him:

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.