

APOCALYPSE

A SPIRITUAL GUIDE TO THE
SECOND COMING

DR. JIM RICHARDS



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Apocalypse: A Spiritual Guide to the Second Coming
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I dedicate this book to my children and my children's children.

They are inheriting a world filled with Luciferian corruption: an economic system designed to enslave, an education system engineered for unbelief, governments addicted to power and a world-wide media that calls good evil and evil good.

Know this, *where sin abounds grace does much more abound! Christ in you makes all things possible!* You hold in your hands the truth that will keep you and your children walking in the light in a world of darkness.

Tonya, Angela, Christy, Amy, Summer and Julie, teach these truths to your children so they can guard their hearts against the coming deception. Prepare them to be overcomers when the rest of the world is being enslaved.

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HOW TO STUDY THIS BOOK

This book is written to provide a clear spiritual history of the world from the fall of Lucifer to the present time. Based on a biblical understanding of the history of the world we will have a framework from which to understand the future. Unless we use what God has said about Himself, the World's System*ⁱ, and the work of the devil we will interpret futuristic prophecies from our personal opinions or current events. This means we will face the most challenging time in human history without the facts we need in order to understand and respond in faith!

This book is divided into what I believe to be crucial periods of history that serve as demarcation points for understanding the way Satan's tactics have shifted and been refined. Understanding each of these historical periods gives unique insight into the strategy of our archenemy and his plans for our destruction. But more importantly, knowing these strategies combined with the specific instruction of our Lord equips us to be overcomers in any situation.

The historical sections are divided into these time periods:

- Section 1 From Lucifer's Rebellion to Abraham
- Section 2 From the Tower of Babel to the Church
- Section 3 From the Middle Ages to the 20th Century
- Section 4 From the 20th Century to the Present
- Section 5 From the Beginning of Sorrows to the Millennium

i See glossary at the end of this book for this term's definition.

It is important to work your way through each section in order to have a full understanding of every word Jesus spoke concerning our preparation for overcoming. If you jump straight to the last section you will not understand the significance of the simple instructions Jesus provided for us to face the end times as well as any period of persecution.

It is not the goal of this book to explain all the possibilities of eschatology.^{*ii} Hundreds of books that attempt to do so already exist. The goal of this book is to do what I have found in no other book on the end times. I want us to pay close attention to what Jesus taught us to do to prepare for the end times or any other period of persecution or hardship. It doesn't matter what we know if we don't know what Jesus told us to do!

The end of each chapter will include a "Spiritual Guide" section. I encourage you to ponder, consider and meditate on the points raised in this section of each chapter. You may even want to make a list of these points to review regularly as you develop your spiritual life around these priorities. There will also be links to a companion website that will provide expanded information on specific topics.

Some of the terminology in this book may not be familiar to you. Some terms are theological and some are terms I created to avoid the confusion that comes through misused terminology and religious definitions. **When you see an ASTERISK * following a specific term, its definition will be included in the glossary at the back of this book.** The digital editions of this book include live hyperlinks to the companion website which will provide definitions and/or expanded information.

The Introductions and Conclusions to each section will help you maintain perspective. In those sections that include so many negative historical events it is essential that you are able to bring your thoughts back to the ways in which God consistently gave provision and protection through Holy Spirit leadership for all who were willing to listen! If you feel unsettled after reading any section of this book go back and read the introduction and conclusion again. Focus on God's faithfulness and settle your heart back to a place of peace. When you trade peace for fear, you lose focus on God, our Deliverer, and over-focus on the work of the evil one! The goal of this book is to equip you, to provide a spiritual guide for the return of the Lord Jesus.

ii See glossary at the end of this book for this term's definition.

INTRODUCTION

Ears to Hear

A hearing ear has no preference other than hearing!

If you were to ask any Christian - in fact, almost any person on Planet Earth, if they want to always know the truth, the answer would be an emphatic “yes!” But if that were really true the world would not be the chaotic mess it is today! Truth, while becoming harder and harder to discern, can always be known by those who truly seek it above all else. Truth is not simply accurate information; truth is accurate information and all it implies. Unless we understand the implications, accurate information can be used to deceive. Jesus came to bring us truth: all that was implied and intended by every word God had spoken.

As the most catastrophic events ever experienced on Planet Earth unfold it is essential that we know the truth.

This book is not written from the perspective that the insights presented here are the only way to interpret the material, but it is written in a way that will increase your capacity for the truth. As the most catastrophic events ever experienced on Planet Earth unfold it is essential that we know the truth. In this case the truth about the end has little to do with our interpretations of the events but has everything to do with the warnings and preparations taught by our Lord Jesus.

Too often we hear a message about the return of Jesus that plunges us into fear, overwhelms us with information, or in some manner paralyzes us. The

emphasis seems to always be more on end time tragedy than Jesus' personal return, or the horrors of the devil instead of the protection of the Lord. God's Word, even His revelations about the most horrific events, are always designed to warn, equip and comfort those who know Him and are fully committed to following Him. It is His intention that all His children be overcomers* or at the very least capable of enduring*. But in our quest for end time knowledge we have ignored the most important single capacity for absolute victory: *ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

There can be a variety of reasons someone does not want to hear the truth. As Jesus said, we sometimes close our ears lest we hear! The need to be right drives us to only want the portion of truth that confirms the notion that our opinion is correct. When we have something to lose we tend to long for a version of the "truth" that appears to protect us from loss. If a particular truth presents the possibility of danger or hardship it is human nature to deny, discredit, or otherwise convince ourselves of an "account of truth" less threat-

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ening. All of these factors can cause us to twist what we read and what we hear in our heart to something more palatable. In Revelation 2:7 Jesus repeats an admonition given while preaching the essential aspects of the Gospel of the Kingdom. In this case He added this phrase: *"... what the spirit says to the church."* When He originally said these words there was no Church! But in Revelation He had a message to the churches of Asia. *"He who has an ear, let*

him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." The Book of Revelation is one of the most challenging and difficult books of the Bible to understand. Yet, within it is the key to overcoming during the world's most difficult period of history. It is a message to the Church, the body and bride of Christ, His most valued love, those for whom He sacrificed His life and fought the most significant spiritual battle in all of history! Even though these words were originally spoken to a particular group, like all His words, they are life for the Church of all ages. This is something He wants us to hear and understand.

The other books of the Bible, with the exception of some futuristic prophecies they may contain, relate to past history. It is easy to look back and understand what they meant because we have the historical record for comparison. But

the Book of Revelation is the future; we have nothing with which to compare these events... or maybe we do!

If instead of attempting to interpret these future events based solely on current events we used past history and other events documented in the Bible as the main key to interpretation, we could demystify that which seems so complex. One of the most important keys to biblical interpretation is this: let the Bible interpret the Bible. Failure to utilize recorded biblical past events may be a major contributor to confusing and often erroneous doctrinal, as well as prophetic, interpretation. We must compare these futuristic prophecies to what God has said and done in the past to best understand them.

As you will discover, a major aspect of the world-wide conspiracy of the father of all lies is to twist our understanding of both biblical and secular history. Of course, the phrase “biblical” and “secular” history is to some degree a misnomer. It is impossible to properly interpret any account of history without an accurate knowledge of biblical history. Biblical history is the light whereby we judge all accounts of history. Failure to do so not only leads to a perversion of the truth of God’s Word, but will also lead to an antichrist*, Luciferian* opposition to the truth. If we understood history from a biblical perspective we would not be vulnerable to so many false theological doctrines about God. In fact, armed with the historical, spiritual facts our understanding of the future would be almost crystal clear.

Perhaps there is another factor that makes end time teaching so difficult to understand. There are so many people teaching various versions of the coming events. We not only have information overload, we also have contradictory information overload! Obviously, there are doctrinal positions that are so theologically murky they cloud the pool of biblical knowledge. We feel compelled to choose one teaching over another. Sometimes a particular interpretation may have very accurate information mixed with a very inaccurate situation. Maybe we have put our attention and efforts in the wrong place. Maybe we should start with what we do know, and there is nothing more clear than what Jesus said we must do to prepare.

The days that are coming will affect the entire world unlike anything that has ever happened. As you will soon discover, there will be many paths of destruction working in various ways. We will look at many of these demonic factors and show the reader how they are all different dimensions of one spirit working toward the collapse of the entire world.

We know in the end there will be a *great falling away*. I believe part of that falling away will occur because believers will think God failed them. Those who set their entire hope on a particular unfolding of events will be rendered hopeless if they are wrong. It is possible to be so committed to a predetermined position we will not recognize when or if the Spirit of the Lord is leading in a direction we did not expect. This book is written to move you to put your trust in God, to be able to hear His voice and be willing to follow - no matter how things unfold.

John 9 recounts the story of Jesus healing a blind man. In verse 39, while explaining that He came so the blind could see, the Pharisees ask, “*Are you saying we are blind?*” He then points out in verse 41 the reason they were blind was from their insistence they could see! A key to hearing God with pinpoint accuracy is realizing we may not really see as clearly as we think. The one who has *ears to hear* will have a working knowledge of the Bible, will be aware of the different possibilities of how the events unfold, and will be open to hear the voice of God in their heart. As much as anything, it requires the surrender of all egotistical attachment to our opinions.

In the final analysis, having *ears to hear* is not necessarily going to depend on how much Bible we know, although that can be an incredible antidote to deception. It will be about our ability to hear and know the voice of God in our hearts. After all, the Spirit of God is not nearly as interested in proving us right in our eschatology as He is in leading us into the realm of the Kingdom where God’s power, provision and protection abound!

Have you ever trusted the wrong person, invested in a bad business deal, married the wrong person, or taken the wrong job? We all have! These are all times we did not have “*ears to hear*.” God always attempts to lead us but for various reasons we either fail to hear or refuse to follow. We have never made a bad decision from which God was not trying to protect us. Owning this truth is the starting place to opening the ears of our hearts to hear. I am not as interested in changing your theology as I am in helping you develop a “*hearing ear*.”

Spiritual Guide

Learning to walk with God from your heart today is the only solution for facing the future with any real hope of overcoming. And remember, the promises in the Book of Revelation are to those who overcome. Begin today

to develop a life of meditation, reflection and prayer. Make all of your decisions with a deliberate intention to yield to the Holy Spirit no matter how He may lead. If you need tools for developing an awareness of Christ visit www.heartphysics.com and get *Essential Heart Physics*®. This is a 30-day life-renewal program designed to help you create an abiding awareness of Christ in you, which is the first step toward hearing the voice of God in your heart.

In the final analysis having “*ears to hear*” what the Spirit is saying exceeds the boundaries of an open mind, an understanding of eschatology or anything else that depends on an intellectual understanding of the end times. There are so many factors that we do not and will not recognize until they happen. In the end what really matters is, “Will I hear the voice of God as He is leading me and my family into protection, safety and provision when my logical mind is telling me all is failing?”

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In fact, I do not want you to live like we are living in the end times. I want you to discover this incredible paradox - live like everything Jesus said about the end is true and happening soon, but at the same time enjoy a life alive to the Spirit of God. Live with a certain awareness of eternity for yourself and others; yet, be able to experience abundant life here and now. Above all, follow the Holy Spirit every day as if your life depends on it. If we do this we will be as prepared as possible.

Unlike any end times book I have ever read, at the end of most chapters I provide you with some practical or spiritual steps you can take to prepare yourself for what you learned. This section is termed “Spiritual Guide.”

I will present you with concepts that may be different than anything you have heard concerning the end and how to prepare for it. I am not trying to get you to reject your current views as much as I want you to open your mind to the possibility of different scenarios and how they could unfold. This willingness to see other possibilities will open you to the voice of the Spirit as He leads you “*through the valley of the shadow of death, unto green pastures, still waters,*” strong protection and supernatural provision! The most important thing you should know is this: while the world is plunging into total darkness

the Bible provides an account of the individuals who stood against all the powers of darkness and won. This cloud of witnesses provides a model for how to win against all odds. The common denominator in all of these people of faith is that they trusted God and then followed the leading of His Spirit!

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As you read the introductions and conclusions to each section, your perspective will be brought back to one reality: *greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!* You and God are a majority! We have this cloud of witnesses who stood and overcame. You are more than a conqueror because the true Conqueror lives in you and you in Him!

SECTION ONE

APOCALYPSE

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO SECTION ONE From Lucifer's Rebellion to the Flood

*To understand the end we must
understand the beginning!*

JESUS SAID THE TIME OF THE END WOULD BE JUST AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH.ⁱ The problem is, few believers have a true biblical picture of what really happened in the years preceding the Flood. Yet, in order to recognize what will occur in the world just prior to the physical return of the Lord Jesus, we must decipher world events. Even more important is the fact that those who served God were delivered from darkness prior to the Flood and their deliverance occurred in many different ways. The one common denominator was they heard and followed the voice of God as He led. In other words, they had “*ears to hear.*”

One of the most important rules of biblical interpretation is the law of first reference. The law of first reference says we must go to the first time something is mentioned in Scripture to get the clearest, most concise understanding of a

i Matthew 24:37, But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

truth. Although other factors could compound or augment our understanding of that truth, they can never change that truth.

One of the darkest eras in history occurred when Christian Era Religionists* departed from the teaching of the Old Testament as a basis for understanding many of the most fundamental aspects of God's plan and His nature. The Old

One of the darkest eras in history occurred when Christian Era Religionists* departed from the teaching of the Old Testament as a basis for understanding many of the most fundamental aspects of God's plan and His nature.

Testament is full of types that were fulfilled in Jesus. To fulfil something means to "bring it to its fullest expression and intention." For example, all the feasts, holy days, sacrifices, rituals and ceremonies were types that had their true and full expression in the life, death, resurrection and inheritance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The rejection of those types meant the Religionists would create their own definitions and explanations of the cross independently of what God had revealed. The confusion comes when they use biblical terminology with secular definitions and explanations. The hearer thinks they are talking about the

Bible when, in fact, they may be talking about an occultⁱⁱ Luciferian doctrine but disguising it in biblical terminology!

This has happened in every area of biblical doctrine, but for our purposes we must consider how this has occurred in eschatologyⁱⁱⁱ. Religionists have hijacked the truth of God's Word and made it impotent and powerless, devising bizarre interpretations of Revelation and other end time prophecies that contradict things God has made clear in the Old Testament. The Bible foretold with uncanny accuracy the years the Messiah would be born and then crucified. This is why Herod's astrologers were so intently looking for the sign of the Messiah at that particular time.

ii Occult means "hidden." It covers practices that are not approved of by God. (<https://carm.org/dictionary-occult>)

iii Eschatology is the study of the teachings in the Bible concerning the end-times or of the period of time dealing with the return of Christ and the events that follow. (<https://carm.org/dictionary-eschatology>)



While we obviously do not know the exact time of His second coming, we can know all the signs with absolute clarity. In fact, Jesus and Paul comforted us with the fact that while those days would come *as a thief in the night* to the world, we are not of the world that those days should take us unaware! There is no reason for us to be shocked, surprised or unprepared for anything that occurs in our lifetime whether it is the end of the age or just a time of persecution.

Without understanding the beginning of biblical history we are like someone who wandered into a mystery movie an hour late. We are trying to figure out the plot and killer based only on what is being revealed before our eyes. We are attempting to relate the storyline to other movies we have seen, but we get it all wrong because we missed the first half of the movie. The average Christian has very little knowledge or understanding of what happened in the beginning. We have no real clue how the world got where it is and without that understanding it is impossible to understand how Scripture says this present age will end up. In the absence of God's spiritual account of history we rely on a secular, atheistic, false science to explain what can only be understood from God's Word.

Reading this section you may experience a dramatic shift in your current understanding and perspective of biblical history, and with each subsequent section you will get a clearer picture of world events from God's perspective, all of which will make understanding end time events far more simple and clear.

The early sections of this book may seem very negative, but remember, these are events that have already happened and they speak for themselves. There is no way to make a war on earth by fallen angels and a world-wide flood happy news. But we will find the positive nuggets in some incredibly dark times in history. Most importantly, we will discover how to find and connect with God and experience His power, protection and provision no matter what comes. We will learn these lessons from those who have fought and won!

SPIRITUAL GUIDE

If you struggle with these concepts, please feel free to visit <http://www.secondcomingguide.com> which will give you expanded information and other resource material. If you want “*ears to hear*” it starts now with prayer and the intention to hear what you may have never heard, see what you may have never seen and embrace ideas you may have never considered!

