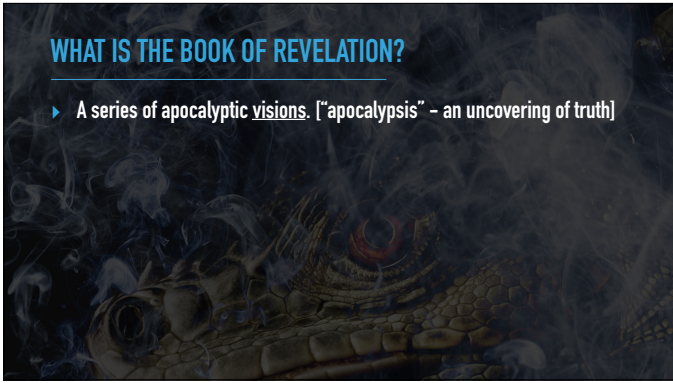


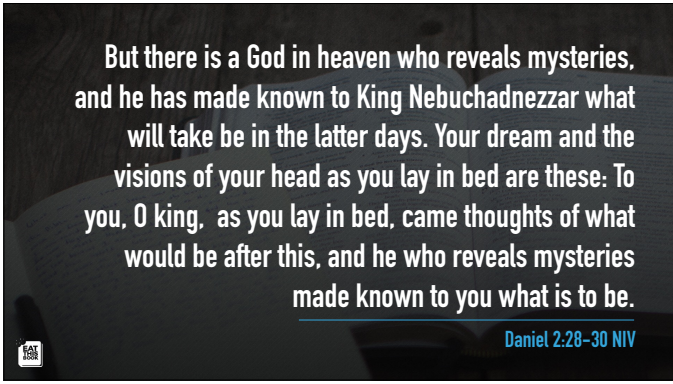
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2



3



4

But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

Daniel 2:28-30 NIV

5

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdoms be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 2:44 NIV

6

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF REVELATION?

- ▶ A series of apocalyptic visions. ["apocalypse" - an uncovering of truth]
 - ▶ Predominant use of symbols and numbers.
- ▶ Filled with prophetic pronouncements.
 - ▶ The Kingdom of God has come and will soon be consummated.
- ▶ Written as a congregational letter. (1:4)
 - ▶ From God in Christ through an angel to his servants for the church.

7

WHEN WILL THESE PROPHECIES BE FULFILLED?

8

WHEN WILL THESE PROPHECIES BE FULFILLED?

FOUR INTERPRETATIONS

- ▶ **PRETERIST:** They were fulfilled in the first few centuries of Christianity.
- ▶ **HISTORICIST:** They have been and are being fulfilled in the course of Western Christian history (mostly in the last 500 years).
- ▶ **FUTURIST:** They are largely unfulfilled (chapters 4-22 are still awaiting fulfillment in the future).
- ▶ **IDEALIST:** They are fulfilled symbolically throughout the history of the church.

9

WHEN WILL THESE PROPHECIES BE FULFILLED?

THREE MILLENNIAL VIEWS

- ▶ **PREMILLENNIALISM:** Jesus will return before the millennium.
- ▶ **POSTMILLENNIALISM:** Jesus will return after the millennium.
- ▶ **AMILLENNIALISM:** The millennium is the present church age, and there is no other future millennium to come (before or after Jesus' return).

10

WHEN WILL THESE PROPHECIES BE FULFILLED?

TWO IMPORTANT CONTEXTS

- ▶ Specific historical context: A text can never mean what it never meant.
- ▶ Overall biblical context: Start with what you know, not what you don't.

11

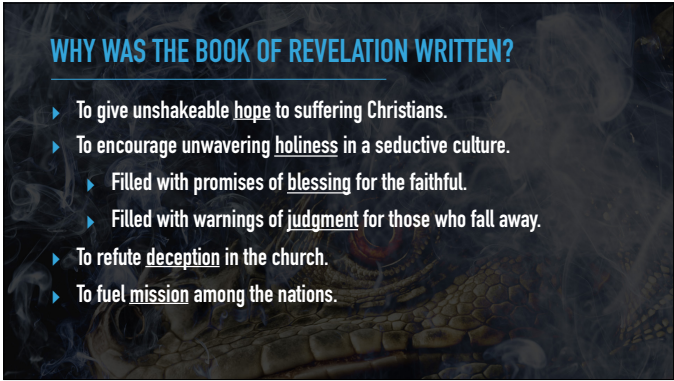
ONE SIGNIFICANT REMINDER

The book of Revelation was **NOT** written to create confusion for the Christian, cause division in the church, or promote speculation about the coming of Christ.

12



13



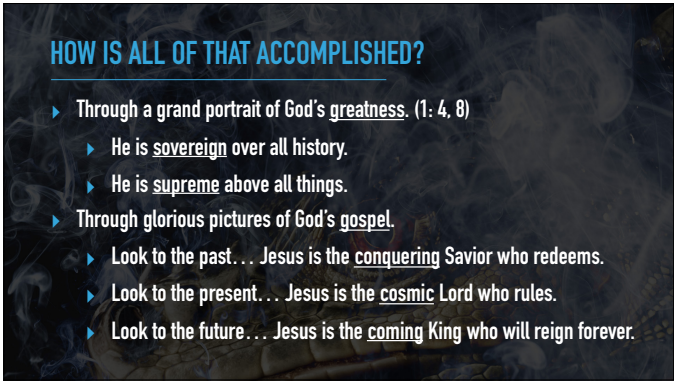
14

WHY WAS THE BOOK OF REVELATION WRITTEN?

- ▶ To give unshakeable hope to suffering Christians.
- ▶ To encourage unwavering holiness in a seductive culture.
 - ▶ Filled with promises of blessing for the faithful.
 - ▶ Filled with warnings of judgment for those who fall away.
- ▶ To refute deception in the church.
- ▶ To fuel mission among the nations.



15



16

HOW IS ALL OF THAT ACCOMPLISHED?

- ▶ Through a grand portrait of God's greatness. (1: 4, 8)
 - ▶ He is sovereign over all history.
 - ▶ He is supreme above all things.
- ▶ Through glorious pictures of God's gospel.
 - ▶ Look to the past . . . Jesus is the conquering Savior who redeems.
 - ▶ Look to the present . . . Jesus is the cosmic Lord who rules.
 - ▶ Look to the future . . . Jesus is the coming King who will reign forever.

HOW IS ALL OF THAT ACCOMPLISHED?

- ▶ Feel His affection for you.
- ▶ Experience His liberation of you.
- ▶ Realize your position in Him.
 - ▶ We're not just people under His rule; we're participants in His reign.
 - ▶ We not only have access to God, we're also now ambassadors of God.

17

HOW IS ALL OF THAT ACCOMPLISHED?

- ▶ Give your adoration to Him.
- ▶ Live with anticipation of Him.
 - ▶ Humbly wait over your sin.
 - ▶ Patiently wait for His return.

18

THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

19

THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

- ▶ Jesus is a man.
- ▶ Jesus is God. (Isaiah 41:4)
- ▶ Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy. (Daniel 7 & 10)
- ▶ Jesus is the final high priest.
- ▶ Jesus is infinitely old.
- ▶ Jesus is infinitely wise.

20

THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

- ▶ Jesus has knowledge of all things.
 - ▶ He searches every area of our hearts.
 - ▶ He sees everything we'd like to hide.
- ▶ Jesus is holy above all things.
 - ▶ His purity has no error.
 - ▶ His power knows no equal.

21

THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

- ▶ Jesus' voice resounds with authority.
 - ▶ He declares eternal salvation.
 - ▶ He decrees final judgment.
- ▶ Jesus face radiates with light.
- ▶ Jesus had the first word in creation. (Colossians 1:21; John 1:1)
- ▶ Jesus will have the last word in creation.

22

THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

- ▶ Jesus was dead . . . for a time.
- ▶ Jesus is alive . . . for all time.
- ▶ Death is controlled by Jesus.
- ▶ No one or nothing compares to Jesus.

23

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CHURCH

24

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CHURCH

- ▶ Jesus is present among us.
- ▶ Jesus possesses us.
- ▶ Jesus protects us.
- ▶ Jesus has a purpose for us.

25

THE INEVITABLE COMMISSION

26

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CHURCH

- ▶ Fall down in worship.
 - ▶ Non-Christians: Have much fear.
 - ▶ Christians: Have no fear.
- ▶ Rise up as witnesses.
 - ▶ May His glory continually captivate our imagination.
 - ▶ May His grace supernaturally empower our devotion.
 - ▶ May His gospel radically compel us on mission.

27

HOW TO DODGE A DRAGON

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

28
