

Vexing Statements in Revelation

Here are some vexing statements in Revelation that relate to the timing of the events contained in the epistle. These statements cannot be satisfactorily explained by futurists as they concern the immediacy of events happening:

- What must shortly take place (Revelation 1:1)
- For the time is near (Revelation 1:3)
- I am coming to you quickly (Revelation 2:16)
- I am coming quickly (Revelation 3:11)
- The third woe is coming quickly (Revelation 11:14)
- The things which must shortly take place (Revelation 22:6)
- Behold, I am coming quickly (Revelation 22:7)
- For the time is near (Revelation 22:10)
- Behold, I am coming quickly (Revelation 22:12)
- Yes, I am coming quickly (Revelation 22:20)

Revelation 1:19; 4:1 (AMP) – “So write the things¹ which you have seen [in the vision], and the things² which are [now happening], and the things³ which will take place after these things”...After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a [war] trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

Every one of these statements indicates that a prophecy in Revelation would be fulfilled in the near future. It's pretty plain if you don't have a preconceived idea that Revelation refers to End Times. When these were spoken in around 65AD, he's either coming soon like he said, or we have to think of some way to eliminate the suddenness so he can come 2,000-odd years later.

The principle of accurate biblical interpretation needs to be applied to revelation. It states: “A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or his or her readers.”⁴ Therefore:

“[W]e cannot simply look at the texts that say soon and conclude it couldn't be so because it was written two thousand years ago and we haven't identified anything in history that fits what we think it should look like! This should not be. Instead, we must diligently treat the text with respect. Our ignorance of history gives us no allowance for such a conclusion.

The text says 'soon'; therefore, we must look for a soon fulfillment that respects the text. We also must not do violence to the text by forcing it to fit into history. If it fits into history, it should fit beautifully and with such smoothness as to not violate the conscience in the least. I believe Revelation does just that—if we understand it in its proper location, which is not the entire globe but the small region of the world where it was created and where its original audience lived.”⁵

Here's some vexing verse that seems out of place in Revelation if its message is futuristic:

Revelation 11:8 (NKJV) – *And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

(This is speaking of Jerusalem, God's holy city!)

1 – i.e. the vision of chapter 1

2 – i.e. the events of the present moment (chapters 2 & 3)

3 – i.e. the events to come in chapters 4-22, after the messages to the churches in chapters 2 & 3

4 – Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart (2003) “How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth” Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI p:74

5 – Jonathan Welton (2017) “The Art of Revelation” p:25

Revelation 12:7-9 (NKJV) – *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them⁶ in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

(Satan was cast out of Heaven millennia ago. How could it happen twice? Is this the 3rd time?⁷)

Revelation 21:2, 10, 16 (NKJV) – *Then I, John⁸, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife⁹.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy¹⁰ Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.*

(The city is a woman, it's the saints¹¹ and it's also physically 2,414 miles in 3D)

Revelation 8:7, 8, 9, 11 (NKJV) – *And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up...a third of the sea became blood...a third of the living creatures in the sea died...A third of the waters became wormwood.*

(There shouldn't be anyone alive following these catastrophes)

Revelation 8:12 (NKJV) – *Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

(These are improbabilities)

Revelation 8:12 (NKJV) – *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.*

(This is an impossibility)

Revelation 22:14 (NKJV) – *Blessed are those who do His commandments¹², that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city...But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

(How can evil people be outside the New Jerusalem if Jesus has returned – all things are new¹³, and the Great White Throne of Judgement has already taken place¹⁴?)

Revelation 21:27 (NKJV) – *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes¹⁵ an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.*

(How can there be evil people or things on the Earth after Jesus has returned – all things are new¹⁶, and the Great White Throne of Judgement has already taken place¹⁷?)

6 – M-Text reads *him*.

7 – Luke 10:18

8 – NU-Text and M-Text omit *Joh*

9 – M-Text reads *I will show you the woman, the Lamb’s bride*

10 – NU-Text and M-Text omit *the great* and read *the holy city, Jerusalem*

11 – Rick Joyner's revelatory book, 'The Path', also reveals that believers are to become the New Jerusalem.

12 – NU-Text reads *wash their robes*

13 – Revelation 21:1, 5

14 – Revelation 20:11-15

15 – NU-Text and M-Text read *anything profane, nor one who causes*

16 – Revelation 21:1, 5

17 – Revelation 20:11-15

Revelation 21:4; 22:2 (NKJV) – *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away...In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

(Why are the leaves of the Tree of Life available for healing when there is no more sickness or disease?)

Many of these references are prophetic picture statements. We either have to accept it that way, or if we see Revelation as a factual message, we have to work out what's pictorial and what's not, and then try to meld the 2 together so the end result is logical. This is the futurist position and it's NOT very tenable.

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