# REVELATION PHASE ONE

JESUS FULFILLS THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

## ROBERT CHARLEY

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What has been is what will be, and what has been done will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 TLV



The ram's horn sounded from the fiery cloud above a barren desert mountain and the smell of smoke filled the air. Waves of women and children, young men and old gathered below, packed together like a crowd in a stadium. Lightning jig-sawed overhead and they cowered at the rumble of thunder. All looked up, eyes locked in terror, as massive flames swallowed the mountain peak.

Blasting heat hit their faces, all were in shock and the mountain began to tremble. Young men began to scream, "We're gonna die! We're gonna die!" The mountain shook, yet strangely, the masses stood safely on solid ground.

Again, the ram's horn began to resound, at first drowned out by the chaos of thunder and screams of the panicking multitude. One continuous blast sounded and slowly increased in volume – louder and louder and louder until the blast overpowered all. Now the blare took center stage and shook the masses to the core, as Moses introduced Israel, the newborn nation to the God of their fathers.

When God spoke to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, the Rabbis of old teach that God's Words sounded like the continuous blast of a ram's horn. Rather than an audible voice, God's voice sounded like tones and

blares causing the masses to fear. Yet when Moses heard God's voice, the message was clear, audible, and articulate. The purpose of this book is to transform the mysterious tones and blares many hear when reading Revelation and make God's message clear, audible, and understandable.

This book came from a series of Bible studies I taught as a layman at the local church and home study groups over several years. To be up front, some interpretations may go against your theology. If so, please, extend me your grace. In all humility, I don't have all the answers, I am a fellow student of God's Word, trying the make sense of the whole thing. My heart is to give the big picture and an easy-to-understand version of Revelation and make the voice of Jesus Christ clear to my generation.

I will use time-honored ideas, customs and concepts as a template, and place them over verses in Revelation to reveal recognizable patterns established in the Bible. Here is the key to unlock the Book of Revelation. Are you ready? Revelation is Jesus Christ fulfilling the fall feasts of the LORD. It's really that simple, yet through the ages the door to the book of Revelation remains locked.

So what are the fall feasts of the LORD? Did you know there are fall feasts of the LORD? Since the majority of Christians have no idea they exist, Revelation remains locked and the voice of Jesus Christ blares like the shofar, a ram's horn, His message makes no sense.

As Christians, many of us are familiar with Easter, originally called Passover, the first Feast day of the LORD. Using events on Passover as recorded in Exodus chapter 12 and Leviticus chapter 23 like templates, we place them over the season of Passover during Jesus Christ's day. When we compare the Passover lamb in Egypt to the Passover Lamb Jesus Christ, we gain greater understanding into redemption. Or we can attend a Jewish Seder, a Passover celebration, hear the story of slavery and freedom from Egypt and watch the customs used to commemorate that day. Although there is no mention of Jesus Christ, we see how Passover in Egypt foreshadows Passover generations later, as Jesus Christ hung on the cross, resurrected from the grave and set mankind free from the slavery of sin.

In Revelation 22:10, the angel tells John not to seal up the words of prophecy in this book. In other words, Revelation is supposed to be

understandable. John, the scribe of this book, observed God's Feast days and Jewish customs and used Israeli idioms of his day. His name is Yochanan, not the Anglicized John and he wrote from an ancient Middle Eastern Jewish world view.

Centuries after John penned Revelation, the gospel spread into Europe and lost the Middle Eastern Jewish world view. Wanting to distance themselves from the Jewish heritage of the Bible, European Christian leaders replaced the Feasts of the LORD with European holidays, Easter and Christmas to make the Bible acceptable in their culture. Many focused only on New Testament reading of scripture and dropped the Old Testament to further separate themselves from their Jewish origins. As time passed, the commonplace culture of John's day written in Revelation was covered by the dark veneer of European traditions, hiding the meaning in Revelation. To renovate Revelation, we have to sand off the dark veneer of our European traditions and restore it with the original clear coat finish of Jewish culture.

I am not Jewish by any means nor am I calling you to be Jewish. I am Native American, Hopi and Navajo, raised on both reservations with a Hopi and Navajo and US American cultural world view, all three vastly different cultures. After reading different English Bible translations from Genesis to Revelation nonstop year after year, I began to ask, "What does the Bible really say?" Fifteen years later, I began my quest to learn to read the Bible in Hebrew. I wanted to understand the Bible in its original language.

I listened to sermons by Jewish Rabbi's, read volumes of commentaries on the Torah, and learned to read Hebrew from a native-born Israeli whose native tongue was Hebrew.

After studying from Genesis through Deuteronomy, our Bible study group asked if we could study Revelation next. With my new comprehension of the Bible from a Jewish perspective, Revelation came alive. The symbolism made sense. No longer was it a blare of a ram's horn, now the voice of Jesus Christ was clear.

Until we take into account the scriptures from the Old Testament, the whole Bible, and the customs of our Jewish brothers, we will never have a clear understanding of Revelation. Without learning to add and subtract, the foundation of math, we can never grasp and understand the next level

of math: fractions, ratios, etc. In the same way, if we do not understand the whole Bible, especially the Old Testament, like the foundation of math, we will not understand the calculus of Revelation.

For millennia, the Bible has been the most studied book by billions, from all races and cultures around the world. Throughout time, authors have penned volumes on the book of Revelation, pondering whether the prophecy would occur in their generation. I am grateful for preachers, teachers, and especially rabbis who translated Hebrew commentaries into English. Without their works, this writing would not be possible. This is a collection of their timeless ideas sprinkled with my meager attempts to make sense of Revelation.

My purpose is to keep the interpretation of Revelation brief, simple and to the point. I will share traditional viewpoints and also established Bible patterns to interpret Revelation. My hope is that by using well established themes in the Bible you will grasp Revelation and come to your own conclusion revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. That in our day and our hour we will use its message to give hope and overcome when all is said and done.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### YEHOVAH'S FEAST DAYS

"And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, the feasts of Jehovah, which you shall proclaim, holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts." (Leviticus 23:1-2 MKJV)

hroughout Leviticus chapter 23, Yehovah (God's Name) gives names and dates of His seven appointment days of the year. Notice, Yehovah emphasizes, "MY Appointed Feasts," they are not Jewish feasts. In other words, these appointed days belong to ME, the LORD. They are Yehovah owned days or the "LORD's Days."

In Hebrew, "moedim" is translated as "appointed feast," which conjures up the idea of a banquet, yet one of the days is a day of fasting. In Genesis 1:14, MKJV "moed" is translated into English as "season," "And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to divide between the day and the night. And let them be for signs, and for seasons (moed) and for days and years." In English, "seasons," refers to spring, summer, winter, and fall, but moed means "an appointment." In Genesis, God explains how the moon, sun and stars work as a clock to set the time of His appointed days.

If you had the privilege to meet someone you revere, a President, a movie star, a rock star, etc., on the first of next month, at 10:00 am, would you be there? Of course! You would cancel your schedule and do everything in your power to keep the appointment. In the same way, God set aside appointment days on His calendar to meet with you.

#### THE LORD'S DAYS - PROPHETIC IN NATURE

Another key word in Leviticus 23:2 is the Hebrew word "mikra," translated as convocation or assemblies. Mikra does mean a gathering together of His people, but mikra also means "a rehearsal." Yehovah's appointment days are rehearsals for future events. Said another way, the LORD's Days are prophetic dates. On these days, His people practice or rehearse for a greater revelation of the nature of that day.

For example, Passover originally commemorates how Yehovah saved the nation of Israel from Egypt. For over a thousand years, the Israelites observed Passover by sacrificing a lamb and eating part of it as a memorial meal while recalling their slavery in Egypt. Centuries later, a greater revelation of Passover came into being, keeping true to the original spirit. Unaware, the nation of Israel rehearsed Passover generation after generation on that specific date for a future revealing. That of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who saved the human race on Passover. Like the Passover meal consumed by Israelite observers, Jesus Christ established the communion observance with bread and wine, keeping in character the nature of Passover.

All seven of the LORD's Days are rehearsals or prophetic in nature. Each having its own unique character, revealing God's relationship with his people and completing His promises to His people. With His arrival 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ fulfilled four appointment days of the LORD: (1) on Passover, (2) the Feast of Unleavened Bread, (3) Firstfruits and (4) Pentecost. The book of Revelation is Jesus Christ personally fulfilling the LORD's final appointment days in our generation: (5) the Feast of Trumpets, (6) the Day of Atonement and (7) the Feast of Tabernacles.

#### THE HIDDEN DIMENSION OF THE SEVEN FEASTS

In Hebraic thought, time travels in a circle, similar to a grandfather clock with hands for minutes and hours. They circle around the numbered faceplate. Likewise, in creation, the earth travels in a circle: one orbit around the sun is a measure of time, one year. One circle of the moon around the earth is one Biblical month. Arguably, since time's motion is circular, the seven Holy days of the LORD follow this cycle and repeat again the following year. Therefore, the word for year in Hebrew is "shanah," which means to repeat.

Written into the text of Revelation are pictures and themes of the LORD's Days which occur in the fall. Those with a Jewish or Hebraic background recognize the symbolism, yet for the modern Christian, the ancient symbolism has no meaning.

The seven LORD's days of the year are (1) Passover, (2) the Days of Unleavened Bread, and (3) Firstfruits which occur in the spring. In the summer is (4) Pentecost and in the fall are (5) the Feast of Trumpets, (6) the Day of Atonement, and (7) the Feast of Tabernacles, which complete the circle of God's appointment days. Like numbers on the face of a clock, they do not change position and always occur in the same order every year.

Since these days are GOD's Appointment Days and not Jewish holidays, Jesus Christ, a Jew from the tribe of Judah, played and will play key roles on these days. Like a precision timepiece, the LORD God keeps His appointments on schedule. Jesus Christ fulfilled his role on Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Pentecost. However, Jesus did not fulfill his role during the remaining three fall Feasts of the LORD.

God is a God of order; not disorder. Like the hour hand circling a clock, Jesus pointed to 1, 2, 3, and 4, feast days of the LORD, but went to heaven before pointing to 5, 6, and 7, the fall feasts of the LORD. Two thousand years later, in our day, the hour hand of the God Father Clock will strike five, the fifth feast day. Then Jesus Christ will fulfill the Feast of Trumpets. When God Father Clock strikes six, the sixth Feast day, Jesus will play his role on the Day of Atonement. When it strikes seven, he will finish on the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus Christ will complete the cycle, in order, on time; as God

scheduled in His master calendar in Leviticus 23 almost 3,500 years ago. Again, the key to the Book of Revelation is to understand the fall feasts of the LORD. This book will focus on the Feast of Trumpets and its relationship to the Book of Revelation.

Verses from Revelation are quoted from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

#### CHAPTER 1

### The Titles of Jesus Christ

#### What Does Revelation Mean?

Revelation 1:1-2 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

evelation! Every time I heard this word I'd think, "The mark of the beast!" Yet, what does Revelation really mean? It is the Greek word apocalypse. When I heard this word, I imagined, "Armageddon - the end of the world!" Both of these thoughts are wrong definitions of the word, yet this is what the modern world has defined them to be.

Actually, Revelation and Apocalypse mean the same thing. Barne's Notes defines Apocalypse as, "nakedness, to uncover... anything covered up so as to be hidden from view, as by a veil, a darkness, in an ark or chest, and then made manifest by removing the covering." In plain English, Revelation means to remove the cover and expose what is hiding behind it; to unveil something