

TWO MINUTES  
IN THE BIBLE®  
THROUGH  
Revelation

BOYD BAILEY



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS  
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## **TWO MINUTES IN THE BIBLE® THROUGH REVELATION**

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*To Jess and Angela Correll  
who inspire all of us  
with their BIG vision of God  
and what He can do*

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# Introduction



We hosted a “reveal party” at our home for our daughter and son-in-law’s baby because none of us, except the expecting parents, knew the gender. It was a festive occasion, full of joyful anticipation. Everyone chose one of two sides—the baby-blue decoration on the left or the precious pink on the right—as our friend Donna was perched on the deck above with camera in hand, ready to capture the raw emotion of the moment. JT and Bethany pulled the trigger on a gun-like contraption that launched a brilliant Roman-candle display of blue confetti all over the backyard. Five of us on the boy side were ecstatic, and the fifteen or so on the girl side were equally berserk. There was no pique, only jubilation at the revelation of this hope, soon to become reality—the birth of a firstborn!

The book of Revelation is all about Jesus Christ and His reveal party—His salvation, His faithfulness, His judgment, His heaven, and His second coming. Joining Him on this breathtaking journey are His faithful followers, who repent and persevere during intense persecution, awaiting the fulfillment of His promise of a heavenly future. Sadly, there are also the unfaithful who deny Christ. They are drawn into Satan’s deadly schemes and will occupy hell for eternity.

With mind-blowing emotion, Jesus reveals Himself to His beloved disciple John in a flurry of visions pronouncing His kingship and lordship over all creation—the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly, the believers and unbelievers, the Spirit-led and the devil-deceived. In the end, Jesus promises to come again quickly and to provide abundant grace in the interim.

Though Revelation can be a head-scratcher with its symbolism and strange imagery, these prophetic writings warm my heart with their heavenly focus on praise and worship of Jesus. As I read, the Spirit moves my soul to wait with urgent obedience, and He compels me to share the gospel with all tribes and tongues worldwide. Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ, revealed in all His majestic glory, calls forth my commitment to not grow weary in well-doing and to remain faithful to bring Him my sacrifice of praise—especially when my feelings belie my beliefs. Revelation is more than a reminder of my reigning Lord’s kingship—He is also my ever-present strength, empowering me to humbly serve in His kingdom and gladly give Him all glory!

What about the passages in Revelation that are unclear at best and confusing at worst? As with other challenging verses in the Bible, we first interpret the God-breathed Word by comparing it with other scriptural passages, and when we do, we discover a consistent imprint of Old Testament influence and Holy Spirit inspiration. Then we prayerfully seek to apply New Testament understanding to the text. The much-loved apostle John received his revelation from Jesus in the context of his contemporary culture and his comprehension of sacred Jewish Scripture. If we read aloud the words written in Revelation and take them to heart, we can be sure we will be blessed (1:3) so we can be a blessing.

We are waiting on Jesus and His return, not in worrisome dread, but in a celebration of joyful anticipation. Revelation shows us our Savior Jesus in His regal power so we can worship Him, trust Him, love Him, obey Him, and rest in Him. So now and in the end—by His grace—we can confidently say, “Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.”

Expectantly awaiting Jesus’s return,  
Boyd Bailey  
Roswell, Georgia

# Grace and Peace



*Grace and peace to you...from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

**REVELATION 1:4-5**

Grace and peace are gifts from God that every human heart craves. Grace for sustaining strength during sickness and peace in the process. Grace for continued forgiveness in a challenging relationship and peace that produces patience. Grace for ongoing gratitude and peace when things don't go our way. Grace for generous giving and peace in God's faithful provision. A heart governed by grace and peace is a heart filled with the Lord's love. Grace and peace come from Jesus.

John is secluded in exile, and his Lord had ascended to heaven decades earlier. Yet in some ways, John sees Jesus more clearly in this vision than he did when they were together. Jesus Christ is the faithful witness who gives His children grace and peace. How? In His words and His actions, Jesus revealed who God is—the loving heavenly Father. Jesus's sonship gave His story veracity, so He stated the facts with humble authority. Jesus testifies to truth, and His reassuring words extend grace and peace.



"The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37).

Grace and peace come to those who believe Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. Others, like Lazarus, died and were brought back to life, but they died again. Jesus Christ is the only one whose body was transformed in resurrection power, never to experience death again. Faith in the resurrection is essential if we are to receive the Lord's grace and peace. We cannot remove the supernatural from Jesus and just keep the natural. Trust in Christ's resurrection is the key that unlocks the treasure chest of riches found in His grace and peace. Those who would embrace Jesus must embrace His miracles. These hugs from heaven warm our hearts by His loving care.

Tranquility comes to hearts that trust in Christ as their Lord. Crown Him conqueror over death, and you will enjoy His grace and peace while dying. Crown Him Lord over fear, and you will receive His grace and peace while afraid. Crown Him all-wise King and learn how to make the best decisions. Crown Him Lord over sin and apply His grace and peace when in need of forgiveness. Whatever we face, Christ has already faced—and has overcome. Thus, we come to the One who is full of grace and peace!



“[To those] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance” (1 Peter 1:2).

Whom or what do I need to entrust to Jesus? Have I received His grace and peace?

### **Related Readings**

Psalm 89:27; Isaiah 55:4; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 6:15; 2 John 3

## Liberated by Love



*To him who loves us and has freed  
us from our sins by his blood.*

REVELATION 1:5

As a 19-year-old freshman in college, I was shackled by my sins. I felt chained to my past pain, held captive by my present guilt, and fearful of the future consequences of my misdeeds. Fortunately, I was introduced to the love of God by a godly family whose evangelism was love—love for each other and for me. They invited me to church, where I understood for the first time the seriousness of my sins and the abundance of God’s grace. I trusted in Jesus to save me.

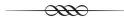
The blood of Christ on the cross not only washes away the stain of our sins; it also breaks the bondage of sin’s control over our being. Our lustful thoughts become thoughts of true love. Our desire for more money transforms into quiet generosity. The Holy Spirit tames our angry outbursts into a spirit of gentle patience. Jesus loved us, loves us, and will love us. Our exalted Christ in heaven loves us now, just as He loved us when living as a humble servant on earth. Each nail driven into the cross resounded emancipation. His shed blood liberates us.



“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ... cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14).

Are you held back by a besetting sin? If so, release it to the love of Jesus. His loving forgiveness will heal your malady and replace it with His righteous strength. Sin is an affront to Almighty God not only because of His holiness but also because of His great love. Rejecting divine love says the fleeting affections of one's little idols are enough. Accepting divine love ensures we will always desire eternity's embrace. Your compassionate Lord looks down in empathy and extends His love to you. Will you let go of your trinkets and trust Jesus? His love liberates.

Live in ongoing worshipful celebration of Christ's love, as if you were in a postwar victory parade. Jesus has overcome sin, Satan, and death. We are more than conquerors because Jesus has conquered, is conquering, and will conquer. He rode a lowly donkey on the road to forgiveness, but He will emerge from heaven mounted on a mighty stallion, ready to judge. The victorious love of Christ flows from hearts full of Him. Believe in and receive the love of Jesus.



“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

What distorted love of mine needs Christ's perfect love? What controlling sin do I need to be freed of?

### **Related Readings**

Romans 5:8-9; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:7; 5:2; 1 Peter 1:18-20

## Kings and Priests



*[He] has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,  
to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

REVELATION 1:6 NKJV

A humbling thought: By faith in Jesus, He makes us kings, queens, and priests. We are to reign with Him in His future kingdom, but also we reign with Christ now. We have dominion over ourselves and the world around us. When we bow to our Master Jesus, He empowers us to master the good and the bad in our lives. Jesus became the Son of Man so we could become sons and daughters of the Most High. Christ became like us so we could grow into His likeness.

What does it mean for us to have dominion over ourselves? We can overcome unrighteousness. We are no longer slaves to sin since our righteous Savior overcame death. We rule over sin because our Ruler won the fight against evil forces. When we live in defeat, we are like prisoners of war who remain in the enemy camp even though the prison doors are unlocked and wide open. Not only have we been set free from sin, self, and Satan; now we rule over them. We are royalty!



*"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).*

Why has Jesus made His followers priests? He made us priests because He was the great High Priest who sacrificed Himself for our

sins (Hebrews 9:11-12). Our priesthood means we have direct access to our heavenly Father. We lift up our offerings of praise, thanksgiving, and repentance to Him. We bring our sacrifices to God since Christ sacrificed His life for us. Every follower of Jesus is a priest who daily surrenders and points people to Jesus. Priests mediate for God.

How can you use your royal priesthood for the advancement of God's kingdom? Prayerfully develop your professional platform. Mold your culture after the gospel of Christ through excellent work, collaboration, and compassion. Maybe you engage insiders in the faith and outsiders in Bible study, prayer, or fun outings. It may mean becoming more involved in your children's education to have increased influence over their spiritual and material roles in the world. Invite friends to church so they can learn how to have a friend in Jesus. A royal priesthood governs with grace.



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

How can I better govern my life for God? With whom can I share the gospel of Jesus?

### **Related Readings**

Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 62:12; John 16:33; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 4:14-16

## Tribulation in Christ



*I, John, your brother and companion in the tribulation  
and kingdom and patient endurance which are in Jesus...*

REVELATION 1:9 AMP

Followers of Jesus travel along paths of inevitable tribulation (trouble). As citizens of God's kingdom, our life in Christ invites trials. Jesus is very clear: In Him we will suffer persecution. Those who embrace the world are not a threat to the world, but those who are ruled by Christ will rule with Christ—not just later, but now. Righteous rulers are cause for the unrighteous to be uncomfortable, and adversaries of Jesus seek to discredit His followers. Since Jesus suffered unjust accusations, we can expect the same. Tribulations test our faithfulness.

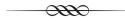
John writes as a fellow partaker of suffering for Christ's sake. He had matured beyond his early days of seeking kingdom power for selfish motives, and after submitting to King Jesus, he had become a Spirit-filled servant of the Lord. Exiled by his persecutors to isolation and virtual martyrdom, he remained true to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Since by faith he sided with his Savior, John had all he needed. The best adversity is an adversity not wasted on fear.



"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (1 Peter 4:14).

What blessings are behind your tribulation? Perhaps unfair allegations are drawing you closer to Christ. Persecution flushes out false faith and validates genuine trust in God. Because of your bold belief in Jesus, you may be labeled narrow-minded—even bigoted—but you know in your heart that God’s love motivates you. Integrity may cost you; if so, remain humble, knowing you suffer reproach for the sake of the gospel. Christ’s followers are partakers of Christ’s suffering. Blessings come when we suffer for His sake.

How can we patiently endure tribulation as active citizens in God’s kingdom? One way is to support fellow followers of Jesus who have been exiled for their faith. We can become a refuge of help, healing, and hope. Soldiers of the faith need our assistance when they are wounded by the world. During persecution we stay faithful to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ—His death for our sin and His resurrection. Persecution is our chance as true believers to overcome untruths with our love.



“You will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God,  
for which you are suffering” (2 Thessalonians 1:5).

How can I patiently endure trials? Who is suffering persecution today, and how can I help that person?

### **Related Readings**

John 15:21; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1,10;  
Revelation 2:10