

Can We Understand the Book of Revelation?

H.L. Collett

Recently it was suggested that we cannot because it is a book of prophecy and like the prophets of the Old Testament whose prophecies could not be understood so neither can the prophecy of the book of Revelation be understood. This article will strongly disagree with the analogy and conclusion of this logic. Let us study this further.

While it is true that the Old Testament was written in “dark speeches”, enigmatic and veiled language and was several times labeled a “mystery” by the New Testament writers who “revealed” the mystery being inspired by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:5) the book of Revelation while a book of symbols and word pictures was in fact intended to be understood; *thus its name: “Revelation.”*

Paul says: “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ). (Eph 3:3-4) Revelation from God makes known; that we may understand and have knowledge. In as much as revelation always involves inspiration Paul explains the revealing of the mind of God to the inspired man by the Spirit of God in 1 Cor. 2. Things (thoughts) in God’s mind are not discernible by man’s empirical senses, science cannot discover it, God has to reveal them and has through the Apostles “that we *might know* the things that are freely given to us of God.”

The book of Revelation begins with the statement: “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Rev 1:3) It ends with: “blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” (Rev. 22:7) and “of them which keep the sayings of this book” (22:9) and “Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.” (22:10) How can one “keep” the written sayings that he cannot understand? If we cannot understand the book then it follows that the blessings spoken of in Revelation are unavailable to us because we cannot keep the sayings of this book.

Read the book, you can’t miss the message: the devil and his servants lose, Christ and his servants win. Serve Christ always!