

Book of Revelation

A Final Short Overview

The book is written to encourage the saints of John's day because of the persecution from the Roman Empire. The main message to the saints was assurance that they would be rewarded in heaven if they kept the word of God and not the dictates of the Roman Empire.

The statements "I am coming quickly" and "the time is at hand" indicated to the saints that the things described in the book will begin soon. These statements provide strong motivation for obedience in keeping the things to be revealed in the book which, for the most part, were in the near future and not in the distant future down to our time. The Roman Empire, which is in conflict with the laws of God, will soon be at an end even though the total end did not come until about 313 AD.

The various visions of the seals, the trumpets, the bowls, the beasts and the harlot all show in different ways how God deals with disobedient nations and specifically the Roman Empire. These judgments against the Roman Empire are not the final judgment. The final judgment is described at the end of the book after Satan and all his helpers have been destroyed.

While it is true that the concern for the Christians of John's day was the persecution from the Roman Empire with its emperor worship and lust for physical things, the same judgments and wrath is meted out to nations throughout history including nations in our time.