

A WHOLE
NEW WORLD

THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO REVELATION

GREG UTTINGER



Ventura, California
2007

From the Publisher

WHEN my Theology Editor suggested we publish Mr. Uttinger's book on Revelation, I shuddered, thinking, "Haven't too many books been written on the subject of eschatology already?" But since the book came from my friend, Rev. Christopher Hoops, and was a short-read, I delved into the book wondering if there would be anything more that could be said about this vital topic.

To my surprise, *A Whole New World* indeed captures the essence and truth of the book of Revelation given to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos sometime prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This brief summary book clarifies much of the confusion that exists about prophecy. It is a quick and easy read to supplement the Word of God itself. Nordskog Publishing was delightfully compelled to publish this updated second edition of the manuscript revealing the blessed hope that awaits us.

I, too, was one who was influenced three decades ago by the interpretation of Hal Lindsey's theoretical theological views in *The Late Great Planet Earth*, a strange version of the *futurist* viewpoint of the *end times*. In *The Gospel According to Revelation*, Greg Uttinger sees much of the book of Revelation fulfilled in God's covenant acts in the first century, but also recognizes that its prophecies hold out a glorious future for the kingdom of Christ before He returns in glory.

The author clearly and simply puts forth a reasonable and realistic interpretation, taken from Scripture as a whole, comparing Scripture with Scripture (and Old Testament with New Testament). He deciphers signs and symbolism from the Word of God and concisely and simply explains the glorious future all believers



cherish as we walk and work in the Kingdom of God on earth now in anticipation of the Heavenly Kingdom and God's ordained "Whole New World."

—Gerald Christian Nordskog
Publisher

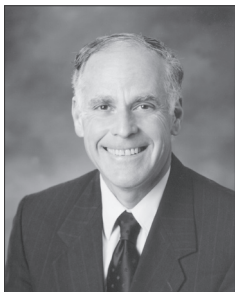
Foreword

NOT many years after my conversion I determined to master the book of Revelation! I thought to myself that the best way to comprehend this mysterious book was to remain unsullied by all the publications and bizarre ideas then in vogue. If I approached Revelation with a blank mind and read it through at several sittings, then its truths would begin to dawn. I would develop an understanding pristine and virgin pure. So, I read it repeatedly, thinking that repetition would lead me to enlightenment. But after my plan was completed, I found myself just as frustrated as before. My real need was twofold: A Christ-centered teacher and an interpretive tool to help excavate some of the gold ore from this mine of kingdom-truth. The tool did not have to be a multi-million dollar mining-apparatus—just an inexpensive pick-axe that would serve the purpose of picking up some placer gold, thank you.

In this little volume, *A Whole New World*, independent scholar Mr. Greg Uttinger provides the tool necessary for wondering, intimidated, or blank-minded Christians who think that the Revelation is limited to Greek scholars or those waiting until their octogenarian years before devoting themselves to its study.

Although far more than a mere grid, Mr. Uttinger's book provides a framework by which we can read the entirety of the Revelation with profit. For example, an understanding of the events, metaphors, and symbols of the Old Testament are key interpretive tools. A person untaught in the Old Testament and unaware of even a few important chapters in the New Testament (i.e., Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, etc.) will struggle mightily. However, by using the grid this book provides, the interpreter's understanding will be greatly enhanced. The reason is that the grid is derived from the book of Revelation itself, and not from any outside interpretive model or prejudice.

George Santayana once said that brevity is "almost a condition of being inspired." Brevity may have a stronger punch than a literary tome. Before we can have the last word, we must first hear the first word. This little book is that first word. This means it can be safely placed into the hands of any Christian, regardless of age or spiritual maturity. It gives each Christian a jump-start, significantly reducing the likelihood of a reading stall.



The book of Revelation is indeed a revelation, a revelation for all of God's people. *A Whole New World* shows how this is true.

—Jim West,
Associate Professor, City Seminary,
Sacramento, California

Contents

From the Publisher	vii
Foreword by Jim West	ix
About the Author	xii
Author's Preface	xiii
The Imagery of Revelation	1
When Shall These Things Be?	5
Mystery: Babylon the Great	9
The Makings of a Harlot	15
The Seven Churches	19
The Opened Book	23
The Radiant Woman and the Beast	27
The Mark of the Beast	31
Blood and Wine	35
The Millennial Kingdom	41
A Whole New World	49
The New Jerusalem	55
Conclusion	59
Appendix: An Overview of Revelation	63
Poem: <i>Apocalypse</i> by Brittney Todd	67
Endnotes	73
Recommended Reading	79
Eschatology Matters by Mark R. Rushdoony	81



About the Author

Greg Uttinger has been teaching systematic and Biblical theology to high school students for twenty-five years. He has written web and print articles for the Chalcedon Foundation and a number of handbooks on theology, history, and literature. He currently teaches at Cornerstone Christian School in Roseville, California. Greg, his wife Kate, and their three little girls live in nearby Sacramento.

Preface

THIS is a booklet about the *Apocalypse*, the book of Revelation. That may not mean what you think it means. You will find nothing in these pages about World War III, killer bees, Cobra helicopters, or New Age Conspiracies. There are no timetables or pullout charts. There are no predictions about the next ten years.

For though Revelation is prophecy, it is prophecy in the Biblical sense. It is an inspired proclamation of God's eternal covenant in Christ; in other words, it is a preaching of the Gospel.

To be sure, Revelation has its predictive elements. But the focus of those predictions is what God has already done for us in His Son. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). The book of

Revelation is, as it claims, a revelation of Jesus Christ, (Revelation 1:1).

If you want to read about end-time catastrophes, this booklet will disappoint you. But if you would like to know more about the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ and the riches of our inheritance in Him, read on. You may be pleasantly surprised.

—Greg Uttinger
Easter 2007

Eschatology Matters

GREG UTTINGER'S book is refreshing for its brevity; it does not confuse the reader in the minutia of exposition. It demystifies Revelation by focusing the reader on the big picture. I do not agree with all of what the author says, but I would nevertheless encourage anyone to read it. Here is why. There are several views of Revelation that I believe are faithful to its message. Partial preterists, like Uttinger, believe much of the book was fulfilled by A.D. 70. Historicists believe the book represents the battle between Christ and Satan in the entire inter-advent period described sequentially. I follow the idealist view which also sees it as a description of the entire inter-advent period, though not viewed sequentially. All these positions are in agreement in seeing Jesus Christ as presently "the prince of the kings of the earth" (1:4). The blessing on those who read, hear, and keep the message of Revelation (1:3) was not referring to the academic or technical interpretation of the details of the book, but to its core message—that we serve the risen, victorious



Lord of time and eternity. Uttinger's book is faithful to that "Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1).

—Mark R. Rushdoony
President, Chalcedon Foundation