Ny Spiritual Time

BY DR. RICHARD BOOKER

ow would you like to be in a spiritual timetravel machine and go back in time 2,000 years to the island of Patmos where John was exiled for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus? That is what the Lord did for me.

With almost forty years of Christian ministry as an author, Bible teacher, and scholar, I had set my heart and soul to rightly understand the most misunderstood book of the Bible—the book of Revelation. I wanted to know and internalize John's revelation, not as a Western book, but as God intended us to see Jesus as the victorious King on His throne. I not only wanted to better know John's revelation, I wanted to better know the One who gave it to him.

After so many years in ministry, I still wanted to know Jesus better and have a renewed passion for His glory, His kingship, His presence, His worldview and His encouragement for faith and hope for the future.

Why did I need this spiritual time-travel experience? Because John was not a Western theologian; he was a Jewish seer. To get the fullest meaning of John's vision, and the One who gave it to him, I needed to know Jesus as John knew Him, not only as the Son of God, but the exalted Son of Man, the "Cloud Man" of the book of Daniel.

Through prayer and an intense time of study, while struggling with painful physical and agonizing spiritual attacks, the precious Holy Spirit opened my heart and mind to understand John' revelation as the Lord gave it to him. It was if I was "in the Spirit" with John to see what he saw and hear what he heard when the Lord opened the door of heaven to him.

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The Lord gave John a revelation to unveil and disclosed to John what he could not know without divine assistance. John saw the spiritual warfare in heaven that was being played out on the earth. He saw the outcome of the spiritual battle as well as prophetic events that would take place in the end times before the coming of the Lord. He saw prophecy being fulfilled before it happened. He saw God's people full of faith and hope victoriously overcoming satanic opposition through the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The Lord told John to write what he saw for our encouragement.

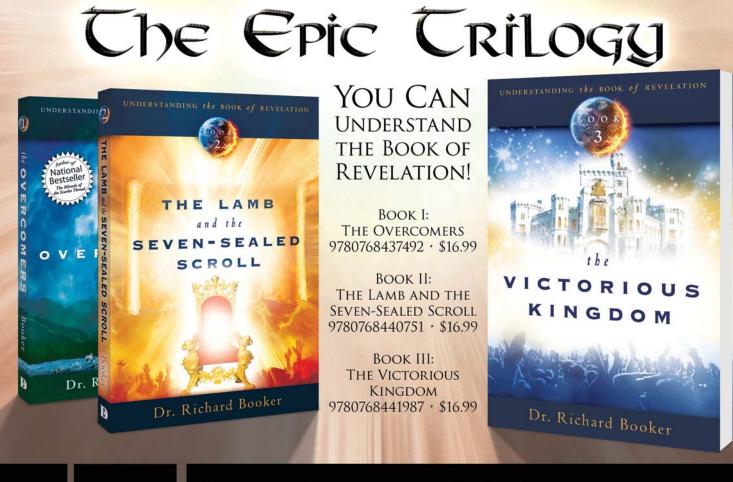
But most importantly, John saw Jesus on the throne, as King of kings and Lord of lords. He fully realized, with the "eyes of his understanding" being opened, that Jesus, not the world's corrupt leaders, is sovereign over the nations. He clearly understood that Jesus knows everything that is happening on the earth. His heart and mind were comforted with the sure knowledge that God knows the end from the beginning and that Jesus would come and establish His physical and spiritual kingdom on the earth.

John saw that God will totally and completely destroy His enemies and the enemies of God's people. Jesus will bring heaven to earth and God's people will live with Him in a glorious kingdom where all nations will worship

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Written by leading authority on Biblical studies, Dr. Richard Booker

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The Book of Revelation is not a book of doom and gloom, but rather the story of victory of the Lamb of God and those who follow Him. *Understanding the Book of Revelation* is a three-volume series that helps you see the future by examining the past.

Healing is the Children's Bread continued »

by an unclean spirit. Simply put, her daughter needed healing.

To this request Jesus responds by telling her that what she is requesting is the "Children's Bread". What does that mean? It means that it is a benefit of being in covenant relationship with God. It means that God's children are entitled to it. The word bread simply means food or sustenance. Just as a baby is entitled to his mother's breast milk, so we the children of God are entitled to divine healing. It is not a matter of if God wills; it is a matter of will we receive. God was trying to teach me that night what I have taught countless people to date: healing belongs to the New Covenant believer in Jesus Christ. All you and I have to do is place a demand on it by faith, and God will show Himself to be El Shaddai, our all-sufficient source of the "Children's Bread". ■

Morning Prayer continued »

way of life for ourselves and for everyone we are praying for. This Christian life is dynamic, compelling, and fulfilling. He has not made it difficult. He has made it as simple as possible.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

I have learned that we are the ones who make it so hard. We put burdens upon ourselves and others that God never intended. When I begin to feel that the responsibilities of life are more than I can bear, it is probably because I have taken on a burden that only He can carry.

So I try I keep my prayers in line with what God has promised, which is more than I can ever imagine and think I can handle, which is not much. I keep my heart as soft as I can, my spirit free from unforgiveness and anything else that can fog up my relationship with Him. There is nothing more certain on this earth than trusting in the goodness of God and His never-ending desire to care for us.

"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. (1 Pet. 3:8, 9)

Yes, I am not really a morning person, but meeting with Jesus first thing in the morning certainly gives me something exciting to look forward to as I wake up. Asking Him to launch my day gives me a peace and a confidence that can come no other way. ■

My Spiritual Time-Travel Experience continued »

the One true God. God's people will rule and reign with Jesus in a world free of sin, Satan and death. Regardless of the perilous times to come, our destiny is certain and sure. As believers we can joyfully commit our souls to God, who is faithful to keep His word of promise.

John saw and heard God's people ask Jesus how long they

would have to wait before He would come and judge the evil world system and establish His righteous kingdom on the earth (Revelation 6:10). When Jesus showed them His plan, God's people rejoiced and shouted to the Lord with praises and hallelujahs. They fully understood that the judgments described in the book of Revelation were actually God's answer to their own prayers.

This is why the book of Revelation is not a book of doom and gloom. It is a book about the sovereign God of the universe defeating His enemies and God's people overcoming the difficult times coming to our world. In other words, it is about The Victorious Kingdom. Covering Revelation chapters 13-22, this is the last book I wrote in a threevolume series on the book of Revelation. I wrote this series to show God's people what the Lord showed me in my spiritual timetravel to Patmos.

I pray what I have written will inspire and encourage the readers with the certain hope of victory in uncertain times. I pray that God's people will find renewed courage and strength to face the challenging days ahead with faith and not fear, knowing that we will live with our Lord forever in the full manifestation of His blazing glory and dazzling beauty in an everlasting kingdom where there are no more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, and no more pain. Even so, come Lord Jesus!