



Revelation Unveiled

Tim LaHaye

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The Biblical Foundation for the Best-selling Left Behind Series..In the twinkling of an eye, millions of people across the world vanish, resulting in highway catastrophes, plane crashes, utility breakdowns, and more. Chaos reigns. With the stage set, a dictator emerges who persecutes Christians horribly. But tribulation is about to give way to incredible joy -- for the return of the King of Kings is at hand. In Revelation Unveiled, Dr. Tim LaHaye, co-author with Jerry Jenkins of the best-selling novels Left Behind and Tribulation Force, reveals the scriptural foundation of this series. Revelation Unveiled explains such critical topics as: - The rapture of the church - The Return of Christ - The Great Tribulation - The Final Battle against Satan and His Hosts - The Seven Seals - The Millennial Reign - The Seven Trumpets - The Seven Bowls of Wrath - The Great White Throne - The Destruction of Babylon - The New Heaven and New Earth -- Previously titled Revelation: Illustrated and Made Plain, this revised and updated commentary includes numerous charts. With simple and accessible language, Revelation Unveiled will help you better understand this mysterious, final book of the Bible and its implications.

Revelation Unveiled Details

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From Reader Review Revelation Unveiled for online ebook

Nmarie says

Awesome, awesome book! One of the best books on explaining biblical prophecy I have ever come across. If you are reading Revelation and find it difficult to understand, or just are a life-long student of prophecy, this is a wonderful resource. The author takes the book of Revelation chapter by chapter and explains them, almost verse by verse.

There is a good section on the ancient history of the Roman Catholic church. The author hardly lets a chapter go by without at the end explaining man's need for salvation and asking the reader to consider it today. And, no, Revelation is NOT an easy book to understand if you do not make a habit of picking up the Word of God regularly and spending time with Him. But I DO believe that God rewards the diligent student, and if you seek to understand it, you will. The word "Revelation" (or "Apocalypse" from the Greek "Apokalipsis") means "lifting of the veil" or "uncovering". Why would God desire to make it super hard for His children to comprehend? He does not, but rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Ryan says

I am an Evangelical Christian through-and-through, and, as such, I was raised on the the Hal Lindsey/Tim LaHaye model of eschatology, including its core tenet, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. *Revelation Unveiled* is Dr. LaHaye's "official" doctrinal statement of his beliefs about the End Times, and when I read this just a few months after it was published in 1999, it inspired me to begin writing my own book series on the topic of the Last Days, *These Final Days*. However, my inspiration came from a startling realization as I read Dr. LaHaye's book that his doctrine--especially the Pre-Tribulation Rapture--is, at best, problematic from a biblical standpoint. I discuss this in great detail in my book series.

Apart from this, Dr. LaHaye--like his main inspiration, Hal Lindsey--has truly helped to bring the topic of the End Times into mainstream Evangelical thought, and LaHaye's work has even crossed over into the secular realm. For this, he is certainly to be commended.

Linda says

2.5 stars

I have read and studied eschatology since Hal Lindsey's early 1970s publication of *The Late Great Planet Earth*. I have no formal training, but I place value on the credentials of the speaker/author as well as my own discernment.

There is no question that Tim LaHaye is a learned authority on the subject. *Revelation Unveiled* (1999), published at the time when millions were following the *Left Behind* series, is a comprehensive study that is supplemented with charts and tables to increase understanding. Part 1 – Christ and the Church Age gave me an interpretation that I had never been exposed to, as did other sections such as the history of Babylon. Because it was written nearly 20 years ago, some of his conjecture has not come to pass and other information needs to be updated (ex., How has the city of Hillan fared since the destruction resulting from the war in Iraq?)

My problem with the book – and know that I read it very slowly, studying it and highlighting as I went along–is the social commentary, sometimes bordering for me as the reader on hatred and intolerance. How can I place credence in the authority of his study when he counters with repeated vitriolic attacks against institutions such as “the monstrosity that is the United Nations”, “atheists’ role in education”, and claims that social causes including “gay rights and the feminist movement” are “sounding boards for “racial agitation”? He puts down the National Council of Churches more than once. On p 322, he tells us that psychiatry is one of Satan’s evil forces and concepts. Satan is also the reason for the propagation of Islam (generalized, apparently, to all members of the faith). And, while claiming on p 269 he is not anti-Catholic, he repeatedly slams Catholicism and “liberal Protestantism” for dark periods in their past as well as their tolerance in today’s (i.e., 1999s) world. Thus, my takeaway as I balance the well-studied theology against the bias: How can I know what to trust and what to discard? Prayer and discernment.

A quick glance at my Goodreads list shows that in addition to the Left Behind series, this is the 3rd LaHaye/Jenkins book that I have documented having read. My rankings reveal a pattern. I do not expect that there will be others.

Aaron says

I do not follow dispensationalism in its entirety. I respect many believers who are dispensationalists. This is a great book to understand their position.

Einschrein says

I actually give this book 0 stars because of the numerous factual errors I encountered from the outset. I thought at the very least that I would get some insight into the "rapture" crowd, but clearly LaHaye would like readers of the Bible to stick with literal translations of the text while he goes way off the rails with his reading into the text. All-in-all, this book is for those people who fear death and cannot live in a world of ambiguity. (Anna, supposedly we've been "very close" for about 2000 years.)

Reid says

Pretty dogmatic.

I am suspicious of writers who say something like, "It's easy to understand if you..." especially a interpreting a book like Revelation.

I wouldn't recommend it.

Rick Schworer says

While writing my own book, Roadmap Through Revelation, I found this and many other books to be very helpful. As far as the much ado about being a Catholic basher, it's not bashing individuals to simply put the

truth out there about their organization. The fact is the RCC has adopted many pagan practices and is Babylon of Revelation (see The Two Babylons: Or The Papal Worship proved to be the worship of Nimrod and his wife.). She has the blood of saints all over her.

Another great book by Brother LaHaye is Charting the End Times: A Visual Guide to Understanding Bible Prophecy (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library(TM)).

I agree with brother LaHaye that the Bible should be taken as literally as possible, and I believe the biblical view of the Rapture of the church is a pre-Tribulation view. Revelation is yet to be fulfilled, and those that teach otherwise find themselves performing, as LaHaye puts it, "exegetical gymnastics" to prove their point of view.

The book is very down to Earth, personable, and most importantly it is easy to read. There are enough high-brow, dry, dusty doorstop commentaries on Revelation out there as it is!

The only thing of note that I really disagree with him on is the order of events in Revelation. I do not believe they are chronological from beginning to end. I believe that the book of Revelation contains four separate accounts of the Second Coming of Christ, just as the four Gospels contain four separate accounts of the first coming. That is the premise of my book.

Regardless, this is a good book and would make a great addition to any dispensationalist's library.

Jay D says

Ridiculous premillennial nonsense.

Bob Mimiaga says

As any reader of Tim LaHaye would know, he is most known for his Left Behind series which is a Christian fiction classic. Therefore it was interesting for me to read this commentary on the Book of Revelation from the author. In my opinion it was very well researched and written. There is no question about LaHaye's sincerity of his work and the commentary it provides.

I was concerned in one area of the book where LaHaye connects the Roman Catholic Church with the power that will rule the earth in a new religious order until Satan destroys it in the second half of the Tribulation period. Other biblical scholars are not as convinced that the Catholic Church has such a major role in deceiving humanity in such a major way. LaHaye also seemed to take literary license in several other areas of the book where his exegesis extended beyond what I believed the words of the bible to support.

But overall I found LaHaye's work to be very informative and helpful in gaining a deeper understanding of this most complex subject of end times prophecy. I would recommend it to any student of the bible as a good resource in this area.

Truitti says

I might not agree with all of LaHayes interpretation, but I find this is an excellent book to start digging into what may happen and the end times. I did find that it helped me to understand Revelation better, and has caused me to be excited about living with God. It truly doesn't matter if you are a rapture believer, or any other label. The bottom line is to accept the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your sins, and accept His death and resurrection.

Heidi says

Excellent and very understandable commentary on the book of Revelation. So many Christians seem to be afraid of Revelation. Why? Believers need not fear, only unbelievers... who should be VERY afraid. Revelation means "Reveal" which means this book is meant to be understood to those who have ears to hear and hearts open to the Holy Spirit. All Christians should read this on these last days! And non-Christians would do well to read it to... and to put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late. Behold, He will come suddenly!

Tom Lombardo says

First published in 1999, *Revelations Unveiled* is one of the main source texts for the End Times movement that has swept the United States since Hal Lindsay published *The Late Great Planet Earth* in 1970.

In it LaHaye interprets *The Book of Revelations*, the last book in the New Testament, which prophesies the return of Christ to earth. His analysis rests upon the belief that all prophecy constitutes "love letters from God." But as anyone who has read the Bible knows, prophecy in general and the *Book of Revelations* in particular is full of bizarre imagery and indecipherable ramblings. While LaHaye writes that "It simplifies Bible interpretation greatly if we accept God's word at face value and do not try to force upon it any other meaning" (p. 150), he then, somewhat tragically, confines himself to searching for God's love in hallucinogenic visions of supernatural torments unleashed by a vengeful, rampaging deity.

His efforts would be merely misguided if he were a bumpkin preacher screaming at his congregants in a shack somewhere. But he's not. In the 1990s LaHaye's fictional *Left Behind* series, which portrayed the End Times taking place in contemporary America, sold over 65 million copies in a nation of 310 million people. More than any other preacher, LaHaye succeeded at making the End Times a common Evangelical belief as that faction rose to prominence in the Republican Party.

Indeed, George Walker Bush turned to LaHaye for advice as a candidate and as President. Certain that they would soon witness the Second Coming, largely because of the analysis in *Revelations Unveiled*, Evangelicals' desire to publically prove that they were true Christians became extreme. The 2000 campaign, more than any other in modern times, was fueled by religious passions. Bush overtly sought to assure Evangelicals that he agreed with their extreme positions on issues like gay rights and abortion. He never publically declared he believed in the End Times, but he made scriptural references throughout his campaign to reassure Evangelicals that he was a believer.

It is striking that over the same years that led to Bush's election End Times preachers crisscrossed the

country to tell people that Saddam Hussein was the Antichrist. General William G. Boykin, most egregiously, did so while wearing his military uniform. When terrorists attacked on September 11, 2001, the End Times movement took a quantum leap forward. Televangelists with audiences in the hundreds of millions preached that the attack was God's punishment for America's tolerance of gay rights, abortion and other perceived moral failures. They also characterized the attack as Satan's opening End Times salvo.

End Times beliefs informed the Bush Administration's real-world response. Even when it became clear that Al-Qaeda had orchestrated the attack, Bush focused the nation's attention on counter-attacking against Iraq. For over a year President Bush never mentioned 9/11 without mentioning Iraq in practically the same sentence. I believe that he associated them because Babylon, which is mentioned by name in the Book of Revelations, is in Iraq; because Boykin and others had demonized Saddam Hussein as the Antichrist; and because Bush's Evangelical constituents understood the attack as an End Times event.

We now know that the Bush Administration intentionally lied when it came before the United Nations and presented its case for pre-emptive war. By the time attack began, in 2003, over 90% of Americans erroneously believed that Iraq was responsible for 9/11. Many Americans understood the war as a battle between Christ and Satan, and it was widely referred to as a "war of civilizations."

In this context, I think we can say that LaHaye's enormous success at convincing people to believe the End Times had begun had a direct impact on American history. Of course, he was not the only one proselytizing these beliefs, but in 2005 Time magazine named him one of the twenty-five most influential Evangelical preachers because of his leadership in this realm.

Therefore it is important to understand what he believes, and why.

Let us start with the *Book of Revelations* itself. It has a tawdry history. Since it is clearly the ranting of a mentally unstable zealot, many detractors tried to prevent it from becoming part of the Bible. At the Council of Nicea in 323 C.E., where the Christian Bible was first compiled, it was hotly debated and ultimately rejected because, as the scholar Eusebius commented, "it contained nothing of spiritual significance." It didn't become part of the Bible until 419 C.E. at the synod of Carthage. Even centuries later when Martin Luther re-organized the Protestant Old Testament, he almost excluded it from the Protestant New Testament for the same reason.

But LaHaye considers it the most important scripture of all. He says "[it] is the only book in the world that truly presents [Christ] as He really is today." (p. 247). That statement reveals a great deal about LaHaye's Christianity because even a casual reading leaves no question but that it is a hyper-violent fantasy about a jealous god wreaking bloodthirsty havoc on non-believers. Yet in LaHaye's hands the book's grotesque nature – including sadistic monsters, horrific epidemics and extensive descriptions of torture – all become secret messages revealing God's instructions to his faithful.

His interpretation – complete with charts and graphs – validates hatred towards non-believers: "Any church that preaches a gospel other than the gospel of Jesus Christ is a synagogue of Satan, regardless of what it is called" (p. 55). *Revelations Unveiled* crystalizes around this "synagogue of Satan" idea, returning to it over and over. In his analysis, all non-believers are minions of the Antichrist: "Once a person receives the Antichrist as his or her master, he or she will have made a decision for eternity" (p. 150).

Since LaHaye was one of Bush's advisors, I do not think it is a stretch to align that sentiment with Bush's black-and-white declaration, on the eve of the Iraqi war, that "you're either with us or against us."

While it is easy to establish that Jesus deplored absolutist interpretations of scripture by contemplating his eloquent *Sermon on the Mount*, LaHaye never bothers to address such an obvious criticism. Instead, he expands the “synagogue of Satan” concept into contemporary social issues.

In the *Book of Revelations* the author speaks to several churches in the ancient world, loosely following the structure of Paul’s Epistles, and the church he hates the most is the one in Laodicea. For LaHaye, the Church of Laodicea becomes a stand-in for everything progressive in American society, beginning with the Transcendentalists and continuing on to modern civil rights movements: “The church of Laodicea has the distinction of being the only one whose conduct was so reprehensible that even Christ of Glory, who knew all about her, could not find one thing on which to commend her...The Laodicean church age began around 1900 and is increasing in intensity at a breathtaking pace...[Laodicean] churches are usually more interested in social action than gospel action...Consequently, they are sickening to the Lord...[The Laodicean church] today would be at the forefront of the gay rights and feminist movements and be leaders in the ordination of women and the feminizing of the deity.” (p. 85-86)

In this way LaHaye justifies the social agenda of the Evangelicals. Since Christ hates gay people, feminists, and progressives, true Christians must be deeply conservative. “The only time Christians have the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit at their disposal is when they are obedient to the will of God,” he writes. “When they disobey God and make alliances with the world, they are entering into a powerless state that will enmesh and ruin them.” (p. 62)

Moreover, people who demand change – especially those who demand civil rights – are also in the “synagogue of Satan.” “Whenever a person rebels against God,” he explains, “whether the person be Cain, Lamech, Nimrod, Pharaoh, Judas, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, or Robert Ingersoll, one is deceived by the devil.” (p. 347). I love the reference to Thomas Paine, because Paine was adamant about individual rights and the separation of church and state. To LaHaye, freethinking itself is satanic: “The spirit of rebellion in the heart of any person signifies that he or she is a subject of the Antichrist even before he arrives.” (p. 213)

Rebelling against bigotry is even more odious: “People today demand religious tolerance for all,” he writes, “which is why Christians and the Tribulation saints cannot go along with it.” (p. 211) Moreover, “The most pitiful people in all the world are the religionists who, representing modernistic liberalism or the cults and the ‘isms,’ do not understand who Jesus Christ really is.” (p. 247) Tolerance is sinful because “...Christ is not only the truth, but the ultimate truth. No truth will be given to this world other than the truth revealed in Jesus Christ.” (p. 80)

Throughout *Revelations Unveiled* statements like the ones above are woven into interpretations of prophecy that LaHaye believes prove that the End Times are happening now. Most of these are so poorly argued they are simply silly, but I’ll review the one that has impacted American society the most to show you how just how sloppy these widely held “interpretations” of scripture actually are.

The one that “proves” we are living in the End Times is about the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. In the Book of Revelations, Jesus returns to earth at this Temple. LaHaye’s argument begins by asserting that in order for Jesus to return, the Temple must exist. It used to, but currently it does not. Moreover, the Temple must be tended by Jews, and that’s where LaHaye’s historicism comes into play. To understand it, you need to know the Temple’s history.

The Jews took over Israel around 1,200 B.C.E., and by 1,000 B.C.E. Solomon ruled over a united Jewish kingdom and built the Temple for the first time. Then Nimrod invaded Israel in 587 B.C.E., destroying the Temple and driving the Jews out of Jerusalem into slavery in Babylon. They remained there until 539

B.C.E., when Cyrus the Great allowed them to return to Jerusalem and build their Temple the second time.

Safe in Jerusalem, for the time being, by 250 B.C.E. the Jews had written down their sacred Pentateuch, or the five books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. In those stories the Jews are God's "Chosen People" and he gives them Israel, the "Promised Land." Also by that time the Roman Empire had become a force to reckon with in the Mediterranean.

The prophetically significant *Book of Isaiah* was written around 100 B.C.E. It is not a core sacred text to the Jews; its actual purpose was to revisit the concept of the "Promised Land" from the Pentateuch. Working from oral traditions about Isaiah, the authors made him a prophet who, foreseeing the Nimrod disaster, prophesied that a Messiah would come and return them to Jerusalem so they could rebuild their Temple. They made Cyrus the Great that Messiah.

It is critical to understand that the "prophecies" in the Book of Isaiah were inserted long after they had been "fulfilled."

For the next couple hundred years the Jews lived in Jerusalem and their Temple became an important trading center, which was the typical function of all temples in those days. The Romans colonized Israel, but the Jewish Pharisees in Jerusalem dealt with them so they could keep their Temple and the wealth it generated. They let the Romans dominate the poor Jews in the countryside. Needless to say, those Jews did not appreciate that their rich leaders cooperated with their colonizers.

Jesus was one of many messianic Jewish rebels who protested against the Pharisees and their alliance with the Romans (read *Zealot* by Reza Aslan). His rebellion inspired people spiritually, but political success didn't come until thirty years after he was executed. The rural Jews revolted and overthrew the Pharisees and expelled the Romans from Jerusalem.

The Romans retaliated in 70 C.E. Not only did they destroy the Temple for the second time, they also massacred all the Jews they could find and drove the rest of them out of Israel altogether.

The Gospels of the New Testament were written in that time of crisis. The writers were Jews, and the "prophecies" in the Book of Isaiah gave them an inspiration. Cyrus the Great could not have been the Messiah because the Jews were again driven out of the Promised Land. So when they wrote the Gospels they showed that the prophesied Messiah was actually Jesus. The last and most elaborate Gospel – that of John, written about eighty years after Jesus was executed – was carefully constructed to show that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies in the Book of Isaiah.

LaHaye ignores this history completely. Instead he writes, "As the Word of God, the Scriptures predictably reveal superb planning and organization." (p. 16)

So here's the End Times believer's main problem: if Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in the *Book of Isaiah*, why weren't the Jews back in the Promised Land with their Temple? Because, according to LaHaye and two thousand years worth of End Times believers like him, Jesus is going to come back again. The Second Coming. And in order for him to come back, according to the Book of Revelations, the Jews must rebuild the Temple of Solomon to welcome him.

Fast-forward nearly two thousand years. LaHaye believes that when the Jews established the State of Israel in 1948 they were beginning to fulfill the prophecy in the Book of Revelations. To him, the existence of the State of Israel is an "Infallible Sign" that Jesus is on his way. Now that the Jews have Israel, he argues,

surely they will soon rebuild the Temple. In fact, LaHaye knows that they will do so within his own lifetime. He knows this because in Matthew 24:34 Jesus says, "I tell you this: the present generation will live to see it all."

To LaHaye, that means the generation alive in 1948 will witness the rebuilding of the Temple and the Second Coming. He and others like him have convinced millions that this belief is an expression of God's love for Christians. As for everyone else, beware: "When Christ came the first time, as a Lamb, though he displayed certain powers, he did not manifest all of his power. When he comes the next time, as a Lion, at his glorious appearing, it will be in the manifestation of his omnipotence, his all-consuming power." (p. 128) He goes on to describe how "Christ the Lion" will inflict vast vengeance upon non-believers.

LaHaye says that he proselytizes this belief to bring people into his Church. He seems to truly believe that by doing so he is saving souls from eternal damnation.

However, his actual impact has been to create a modern war god. He anchors that war god in contemporary history, and he puts all non-believers into the "synagogue of Satan." In classic war god fashion, he declares that his war god is the true god, and all other gods are actually Satan. This is an ancient, primitive religiosity used by rulers throughout history to embolden their people as they set out to attack their enemies.

It's time we abandon it. Christians would better prove their spiritual attainment by proselytizing Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*, not LaHaye's *Revelations Unveiled*.

Curtis Chamberlain says

Tim LaHaye has done it this time!

Revelation Unveiled is a classic textbook-type resource, that explains in great detail, the book of Revelation.

This is a "must read," "must own" book for any serious Bible student, as well as anyone with even a passing interest in Bible prophecy.

A fantastic resource! Get a copy today!

William Dicks says

This is typical dispensationalist, pretribulational doctrine. LaHaye misinterprets, or simply misunderstands many eschatological passages and reads them out of context through his dispensational glasses. Not recommended at all!

Anna says

Very good study on the book of revelation. I think we are very close. The agenda for the North American Union is well advanced. I expect the next president will preside over the end of our country as we know it.

When America goes down we will take the world with us.

I thought Lehayes analysis was good. We are to know the season. I don't want any of my loved ones left behind. It will be awful. In the past there was a place to escape to. There will be no escape once the tribulation starts.

“The ten horns of the beast are ten kings who have not yet risen to power. They will be appointed to their kingdoms for one brief moment to reign with the beast. They will all agree to give him their power and authority. Together they will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of all lords and King of all kings. And his called and chosen and faithful ones will be with him.” Rev 17 12-14

(EU, NAU, SAU, etc.?)
