



**ROD ADAMSON**



**Overcoming in the Cycles  
of AntiChrist -  
an apocalyptic eschatology dialogue  
with secular futurology  
(Toffler, Fukuyama, Hawking, etc),  
contemporary persecution,  
global warming and climate change,  
global debt collapses,  
space colonies, false religion,  
and within contemporary Africa.**

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**INTERNET: [www.resurrectlife.co.za](http://www.resurrectlife.co.za)**

COPY FOR:

Rod Adamson is married to Colleen, they have one child. Rod has been in ministry for 25 years, with B.Theol/HED qualifications in Biblical Studies, Missions and Religions, Language and Economics. He was previously Teacher/Principal of United Church School Hillbrow-Yeoville for 7 years and minister in Rosettenville-Oakdene for 11 years, both in Johannesburg. Rod now ministers in George in the Garden Route/Southern Cape in South Africa.

**REVELATION – Resurrect Life  
Overcoming in the Cycles of AntiChrist**

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# **REVELATION – Resurrect Life**

## **Overcoming in the Cycles of AntiChrist**

**An apocalyptic eschatology dialogue with secular futurology (Toffler, Fukuyama, Hawking, etc), contemporary persecution, climate change, global credit crunches, space colonies, false religion, and within contemporary Africa.**

### STUDY SUGGESTIONS:

**Two Study Approaches:** *(The Number of sessions is in italics.)*

A **CONCISE** study approach of 20 sessions is offered by the first non-bracketed numbers listed on the contents page.

A **DETAILED** study of 36 sessions is offered by the bracketed numbers on the contents page.

### **Use of Support Resources:**

- It is recommended that those using the **CONCISE approach** also obtain and view the following background DVD resources:

An Inconvenient Truth. Gore, A. 2006. Paramount

A Vision of Paradise. SAFCEI. 2010.

Inside Job. Ferguson, C. 2010. Sony Pictures (Narrator Matt Damon)

- It is recommended that those using the **DETAILED 36 sessions approach** likewise obtain and view the the following background DVD resources:

An Inconvenient Truth. Gore, A. 2006. Paramount

A Vision of Paradise. SAFCEI. 2010.

Inside Job. Ferguson, C. 2010. Sony Pictures (Narrator Matt Damon)

and of the following or similar appropriate literature:

General futurology work or article like -

Toffler, A. Third Wave.

Economic futurology work or article like -

Fukuyama, F. The End of History and the Last Man.

Stiglitz, J. Freefall.

Space Colony futurology work or article like -

Hawking S in Time Magazine: Questions (Time, 15-11-2010)

(and other numerous Interviews/Media Articles )

Appendix 1: Checklist of Some Extra-Biblical Apocalypses on page 63.

Appendix 2 : Checklist of Solar System Space Colonies on page 66.

Good Commentary on Revelation.

## 1. REVELATION 1.1-20: REVELATION OPENED – RESURRECTION 911

Like other Biblical prophecy, Revelation's lasting power is its fulfillment. The future beast empire of Daniel 2.40-43 and 7.7-8 was contemporary reality for the writer of Revelation as he encountered the Roman empire and its persecution of Christians. For us who read two thousand years later, what the writer saw has been realised in the fall of the Roman empire and its near 2000 year replacement by the Christian Church, not just in fulfillment of Daniel 2.44-45 and 7.9-14, 23-27, but in fulfillment of Revelation. But there is also more in Revelation than that...

### Revelation 1.1-3 – Apocalyptic Eschatology

1.1a Prologue: ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* 'revelation' – the word has specialist theological use – the interface between self-revealing Spirit God and humanity by which Spirit God redeems; this book is part of that.

*'of Jesus Christ'* – Jesus the 'anointed'. God has revealed himself fully in Jesus - in his life and teaching, his once for all death for humans, his resurrection and ascension, his giving of the Holy Spirit and how Jesus continues in His Church by the Holy Spirit. The book takes this so much for granted, that its context is only understood through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ already come and his kingdom already operating for ultimate eternal consequence. If our understanding of this book's message isn't determined by the outcomes of Jesus already come, our understanding is invalid. Response to his first coming gives our place in his second coming.

*'what must soon take place'* – Jesus has come, his kingdom has come, his Holy Spirit builds his Church for God's salvation to come to all nations. What happens now with Jesus? With his Church?

1.1b-3 Authorship: The writer identifies himself simply as John. Old Testament and New Testament apocalyptic eschatology is not pseudonymous, but identified. In this case no other John fits; the author is John the apostle. "There is no book of the entire New Testament whose external attestation can compare with that of Revelation, in nearness, clearness, definiteness, and positiveness of statement." (Bacon, BW. Making of the New Testament. P190-191.) (See Appendix 1)

*'testifies' to the 'Word of God' and 'Jesus Christ'* – Common Greek usage with John 1.1,14, 1 John 1.1 and John 21.24, John's other writings.

*'this prophecy'* – the book must also obey the rules of prophecy: it must be accurate in the Old Testament-Jesus prophetic standard -

- forthtelling, exposing sin and evil to call people to God
- foretelling, opening the future vision of God's plan ahead.

The forthtelling and foretelling of Biblical revelatory prophecy has always had eschatological aspects, some included apocalyptic. Biblical Eschatology and Apocalyptic give the divine revelation of God's plans for the future.

**Discussion: Time frame relativity characterises Revelation; its author's time frame is not ours, neither 'what was to come'. Is foretelling real?**

**Why is John the apostle the likely author, and not a pseudonym?**

## **Special Focus: Prophecy, Eschatology, Apocalyptic and Futurology**

Eschatology (from *eschaton* 'last thing' and *logos* 'word') is biblical study of the last day/end times, relative to the perspective of the prophet. The prophecies of Jesus crucified were futuristic 'in that day' in a different way to us for whom Jesus crucified is past fulfilment (Zech 12.10; John 19.37, Rev 1.7). The power element of Hebrew eschatology has been its linear philosophy of history – history has a beginning and end, and God is moving history purposefully for the salvation of humankind linked to his Messiah. God overcomes evil in history. Today's secular phrase is 'futurology' with 'scenario planning' as part of it.

Apocalypse, named from the first word of Revelation, is biblically a sub-genre of eschatology. Prophets foresaw in metaphorical visions a dualistic 'good forces of light versus evil forces of darkness' struggle but apocalypse was subordinated to prophetic linear eschatology with a global scenario added. It was only ever used by Hebrews, Jew and Christian. Isaiah 24-27, Ezekiel 38-48, Daniel, Zechariah, Mark 13, 2 Thess 2, 2 Peter 2,3, and Jude have apocalyptic usage.

Hollywood and TV projected Eschatology and Apocalyptic into space fantasy. Star Trek, 2001: A Space Odyssey, even Moonraker and the Terminator trilogy use space eschatology – purposeful linear advance in history now including human expansion into space. Star Wars, Battlestar Galactica are dualistic; the struggle of the good force against the evil kingdom, till final battle with good victory, allows space action with impressive graphic special effects, but without regard to history.

Non Biblical Apocalypses: [See Appendix 1: Checklist of Some Extra-biblical Apocalypses]. Jude 1.9 refers to the non-biblical 'Assumption of Moses', Jude 1.14 to the 'Book of Enoch'. Such pseudonymous (unknown author fakes a 'Bible hero' identity to exalt his writing) apocalypses, without historical balance or time sense, flourished among the Second Temple Jewish nation from the 167 BC temple desecration to the 110 AD Jewish collapse. Failures of Second Temple practice spawned either Jewish Zealots like the Masada group, Bar Cochba and Rabbi Akiva, or ascetics of the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls Sect where unknown apocalypses were found. From the "War Scroll": "The dominion of Kittim shall come to an end and iniquity shall be vanquished, leaving no remnant; for the sons of darkness there shall be no escape. The sons of righteousness shall shine over all the ends of the earth; they shall go on shining until all the seasons of darkness are consumed, and, at the season appointed by God, His exalted greatness shall shine eternally to the peace, blessing, glory, joy and long life of all the sons of light." (Vermes, G. Complete Dead Seas Scrolls in English. Pg 163)

Second temple Jewish nation collapse saw the end of Sadducees, but also Essenes and Zealots and their apocalyptic failure, as evil crushed their nationalistic hope. Only Pharisee practice survived, introverting into Rabbinic Judaism, which with secular agnosticism, lumps all apocalyptic as esoteric pseudonymous failed mythical literature - the messiah of their nationalistic final battle never came.

**Discussion: How does science fiction appeal to you? What do you think of modern futurology and scenario planning?**

**What literature type other than apocalyptic eschatology was available for John's use in apostolic times?**