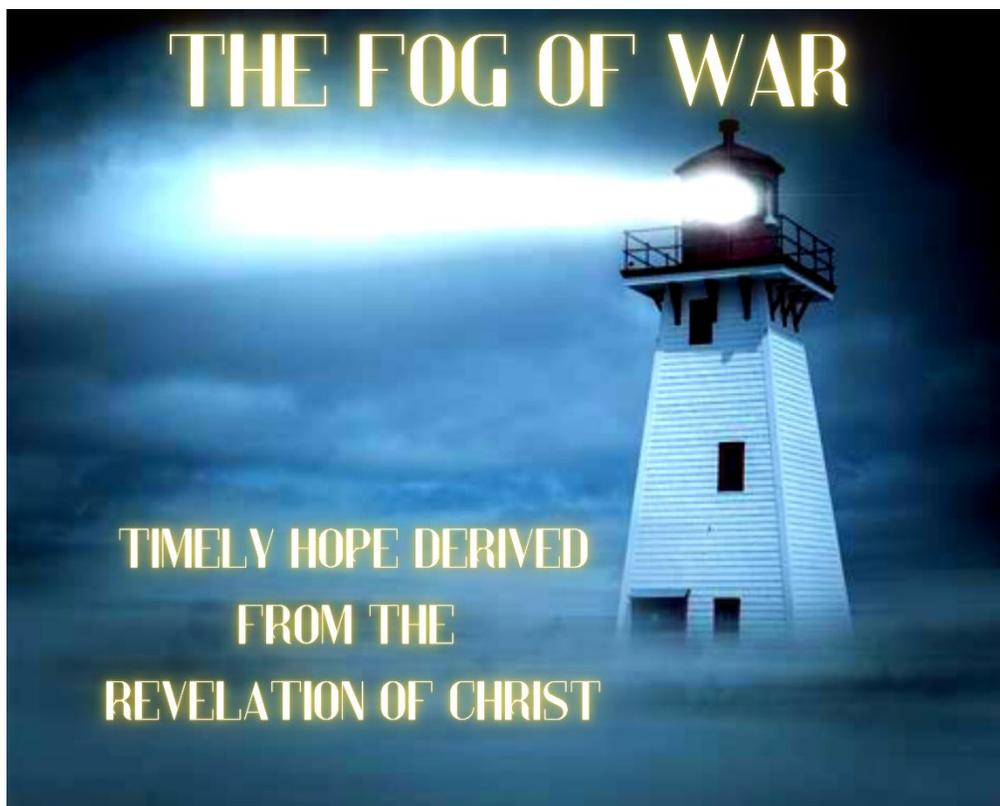


*Bread of The Word*

# Trail of Breadcrumbs

March 5, 2022

## The Fog of War: Timely Hope Derived From the Revelation of Christ



*“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*

*-Revelation 1:8 KJV*

One look at the news headlines brings a whirlwind of fear, insecurity, panic, and hopelessness. With talk of wars, famines, government oppression, government recession, there is much to captivate the human mind, and enough to propel the wisest and soundest of people into despair. But it is in this whirlwind that we ask the million-dollar question: “who is in charge of a world like *this*?”

The book of Revelation is a powerful one, a timely one, and, oftentimes, a confusing one. We often feel intimidated by the imagery, numbers, and multi-faceted themes which circumscribe that last book of the New Testament. In that sense, we can identify with how Winston Churchill described WWII-era Russia: “... a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.” The book of Revelation is a challenge for us to wrap our heads around; and yet, we often contort it to make it fit our political context. We read modern figures and events into the page of Scripture until it becomes an epic tale of an age-old battle between Russia and Israel, fighting for the Holy Land, and the blessings within the Temple. We become so fixated with making the Bible relatable that we completely pass over what GOD has revealed in this book. It was not about future wars. Revelation is not political drama; it is the Word of GOD to His people.

*“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.”*

*-Revelation 1:1-2 ESV*

John tells us what this book is about in the first sentence: Jesus Christ. The whole sum of the Scriptures is Christ. There are over 31,000 verses; and every single one of them points to Christ and the Salvation that is in Him. What Revelation does is reveal to John and to us Christ in a way that the previous 65 books do not.

*It is the revelation of Jesus Christ. The whole Bible is so; for all revelation comes through Christ and all centres in him; and especially in these last days God has spoken to us by his Son, and concerning his Son. Christ, as the king of his church, has been pleased thus far to let his church know by what rules and methods he will proceed in his government; and, as the prophet of the church, he has made known to us the things that shall be hereafter.*

*-Matthew Henry*

John continues in this piece of Scripture with an “I Am” statement of Christ. Christ made many declarations of who He was in the Gospels; making allusions to the name YHWH, or “I AM” as revealed in Exodus to Moses, and eventually the Jews. He is the GOD who simply is. He is also revealed in the Gospels as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Way (John 14:6), the Bread of Life (John 6:35), and other descriptions. Here, Jesus continues that trend by affirming in a similar manner His superiority.

*“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*

*-Revelation 1:8 KJV*

Alpha and Omega are the first and last consecutive letters of the Greek Alphabet. Christ is in essence the bookends of language in a literary culture. The foundations of our lives are sandwiched between Christ at both ends. Everything we say and do falls between Him. We cannot escape Christ.

*“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.”*

*Psalm 139:7-8*

Where can we go to find solace from the presence of GOD? To what ends of the Earth can we go to escape His Divine ordination? Nowhere. Wherever we may go, GOD upholds every subatomic particle of the universe by His mighty word. As the world descends into what appears to be chaos, and our world becomes an enormous proof for the depravity of man, GOD is still ordering the world according to His sovereign purposes. Our whole existence is bound to His Will. Apart from Him we would not exist, yet, apart from us, GOD could exist. He is not in continuity with us, we are in continuity with Him. He formed us from the dust and breathed into us a living soul, and that soul goes back to the one from whom it came. We are His, beginning to end.

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

*-Revelation 22:13*

As the world continues on its current track, we have assurance that GOD is in control. GOD has decreed that the Earth shall continue (Genesis 8:22; Ecclesiastes 1:4-5). For us to panic is to doubt the sovereignty of GOD. Do we doubt that the mighty GOD upholds the Earth entirely by His word? Is GOD the One in whom our trust is? Is it in GOD that our soul rests?

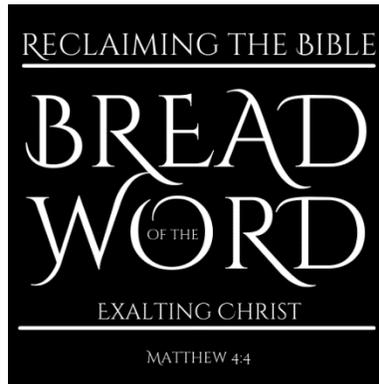
*“To the GOD of armies I look up. May He defend the right! But with no careless step do I advance to the front; neither does any doubt possess me. We are feeble, but the LORD our GOD is mighty, and the battle is the LORD’s rather than ours.”*

*-Charles Spurgeon*

Let us recommit ourselves to the LORD in these days, knowing that we serve a GOD who will bring this world to its predetermined end, at which point, He will make all things new. When life gets difficult, there is hope to push onwards. The Hope that is in Christ is a defiant joy that makes us glory in the difficulty (Job 13:15). This defiant joy is rooted in the fact that GOD is at work in the wickedness of men. GOD has a reputation for turning ashes into beauty, sorrow into rejoicing, death into life (Genesis 50:20). May we seek the LORD while He may be found; even when the world tells us all is lost. A fantastic picture of this idea is painted by C.S Lewis in an address entitled, *“Learning in War-Time.”*

*“But if anyone devoted himself to lifesaving in the sense of giving it his total attention-so that he thought and spoke of nothing else and demanded the cessation of all other human activities until everyone had learned to swim- he would be a monomaniac. The rescue of drowning men is, then, a duty worth dying for, but not worth living for. It seems to me that all political duties (among which I include military duties) are of this kind. A man may have to die for our country, but no man must, in any exclusive sense, live for his country. He who surrenders himself without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation, or a party, or a class is rendering to Caesar that which, of all things, most emphatically belongs to God: himself.”*

*C.S. Lewis, “Learning in War-Time”*



*Yet Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we all are the work of your hands.*  
**CSB ([Isaiah 64:8](#)).**

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“...Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”  
**CSB ([Matthew 4:4](#))**