

There is no greater treasure than a good friend.

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Reflections

Hillview Baptist Church

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Newsletter Date -- September 2023

Revelation - What is it Good For?

By Pastor Norm Bleick

Why study the book of Revelation? Because it is an incredibly sophisticated piece of literature with deep historical and theological implications. "But it is so hard to understand!" is the main objection, and that is true. Revelation is an amalgamation of three different genres of ancient literature: prophecy, epistle, and apocalyptic literature. We do not have the space to delve into all the nuances of apocalyptic literature, but this is where most of the symbolism comes from. Then there is the issue of repetition: the seals, the bowls, and

the trumpets. Are they one event or three? And of course, there is the main event: the millennium.

How do we begin to make sense of this? There are four schools of interpretation that people have used to interpret the contents of the Apostle John's vision:

- futurist
- historicist,
- preterist,
- spiritualist,

Futurist is what John



Hagee and Hal Lindsay promote. The futurist school tries to link the symbolism found in Revelation to current events. The weakness of this approach is that it has been consistently wrong. The appeal is

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Getting to Know Naresh

By: Bill Holmes



Naresh has been attending Hillview since the spring. You may have missed him because he is always hiding in the balcony operating the live-stream computer. To help you to get to know him he agreed to answer some questions.

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Revelation - What is it Good For?

By Pastor Norm Bleick

(Continued from page 1)

The essential message of Revelation is despite overwhelming persecution -...

that it makes sense of the symbolism. The historicist perspective tries to align the contents of the book with church history. The preterist argues that the book was written to 1st century Christians and they would have understood the hidden messages symbolism. The spiritualist sees everything as an analogy.

Something easily missed in reading the book of Revelation is the use of the Old Testament. Some scholars identify over 600 references, allusions, or quotes taken from the Old Testament. There are 56 references to the book of Ezekiel. Throughout Revelation we see references to Genesis and the

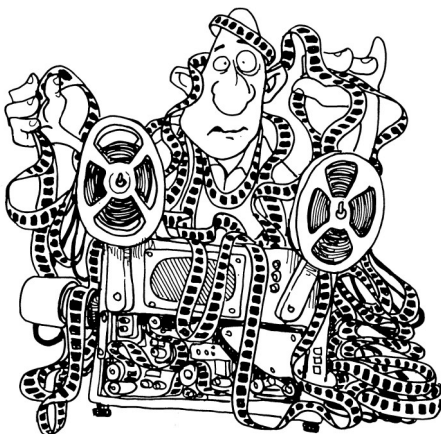
Psalms. In fact, John alludes to 28 different books of the Old Testament. What is the reason for the heavy influence of the Old Testament on Revelation? The explanation for so many references to various Old Testament books is because, like Revelation, they were written during a time of "oppression and cruel, foreign domination".

Whereas Revelation was written while the Christians were oppressed by the Romans, the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel wrote while the Jews were under Babylonian domination." The essential message of Revelation is despite overwhelming persecution - the Christian is to persevere in the faith because Jesus is Lord, He

will win the war with evil, and all of creation will worship the king or perish. Revelation, like every book of the bible has a timeless and timely message of hope for a chaotic and turbulent world; whatever world that might be. The symbolism is best understood against the backdrop of the Old Testament; let Scripture interpret Scripture. In the meantime, focus on the words of Jesus as we consider His imminent and physical return: "be ready." The end is coming, and God's decrees and desires will be done on earth as they are in heaven. And that's why we study the book of Revelation.

For some different perspectives on Revelation check out the opinions on Page 8. Ed.

Movie Night At Hillview



Date and time: **September 22 at 6PM**

Refreshments: **popcorn and drinks**

Location - **parking lot or maybe indoor - depends on weather and darkness**

Rating - **suitable for all ages**

Movie - **possibility "The Music Man" Kids can have a peek of the culture back then. Grandparents/parents can definitely reminisce and be nostalgic.**



Getting to know Naresh (cont.)

By: Bill Holmes

(Continued from page 1)

1. *The obvious question is where are you from?*

I was born and brought up in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India. After I got married to my wife in 2011 I moved to Meghalaya state in the North Eastern part of India named "Tura" and living there.

2. *Did you experience any culture shock when you arrived in Canada?*

No, I didn't experience any culture shock when I arrived because I have traveled to many parts of the world in my life, so I was already prepared for everything.

3. *What other parts of the world have you been to?*

I have travelled to many countries. Some of them are: Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, USA and others.

4. *Tell us about your wife?*

She belongs to the Garo community (*Garo people are a Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group Ed.*) from Tura, Meghalaya. She is my everything in life. Her name is Sengmitchi N Samgma.

5. *Any kids?*

God has blessed us with two sons. The elder one "Issachar" is

10 and "Jordan", our second son, is 5. I miss my family a lot. It has been difficult for me, but the people of Hillview have been very supportive and have always been there for me.

6. *What is your work/career?*

I have been working as an Administrative Officer in a PVT company.

portant than "sharing the word of God".

8. *Why are you attending Hillview? Who is to blame?*

Before coming to Canada my wife told me to look for a Christian community. When I first arrived in Canada I started going to church in Toronto. When I moved to Edmonton, because of my work, I

9. *What is your favourite Bible verse or story?*

Psalms 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd"

10. *How would you spend your time if you couldn't have any computer devices for a month?*

I like playing Billiards and Pool. I even like to play Cricket, but sometimes I feel like I'm getting too old to play Cricket.

11. *Any final words?*

I believe I'm not here by accident. Instead I am here by the Lord's will. We never know what He has in store for us. Last but not least, "trust in Him if you are going through any difficulties in your life". Don't forget "He is the living God and He knows you better than anyone else in the world". Also, I want to give special thanks to: Pastor Norm, Auntie Uma, Keith, Howard, Jonathan, Alan, Bill, Wayne, Brian, and to all the church people who have taken care of me as if I am family.

Naresh, thank you for doing this. I have enjoyed our 'talk'. And yes, you were obviously God sent! You are rescuing me and some others from the livestream curse. Ed.



7. *You have volunteered to do livestream every Sunday and we are so very grateful for that. What do you enjoy about livestream?*

I just love technology and livestream is part of it. As soon as I got to know that I will be responsible for it, I was so excited and I'm really grateful to Alan who has taught me all the procedures. More important is we are reaching out to people through the livestream. Nothing is more im-

mediately searched for a new church. I found Hillview. I believe it was "God's will" because I really feel blessed to be part of this church. I get so much love and care from people like Pastor Norm and many others. You never made me feel like an outsider; you all have made me part of your church. The best thing that has happened to me in this country is Hillview Church. I will always remember this special gift from the Lord.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By: Brian Worobec

It was the 17th day of June. The air was filled with the sounds of chirping birds and children's laughter. All this complimented by a warm golden sun, gently censored by large, puffy clouds and cool breeze. A perfect day!

The stage was set. Hillview Baptist Church would soon be saturated by the "melodic" screeches of would-be singers. This day would be...legendary? God help us... All kidding aside, to those who may not know, our awesome church hosted a fun-filled "song-stravaganza," showcasing some hidden gems amongst our congregation, along with others who did their best to belt out a tune for those in attendance. It was a night filled with laughter, merriment, songs and groans; it was filled with the good, the bad, and the ugly, and it was epic!

The evening began with our very own Pastor Norm singing a heartfelt duet with his better half, Gabby. They wowed the crowd with an adorable rendition of "I Got You, Babe." The opening act seemed to be a tough

one to follow, but the show must go on - and it did. Throughout the night, we were treated to a smorgasbord of musical delights.



The menu included: a little bit of country, thanks to the western tones of our good friend, Ralph, who is "always on our mind", a brilliant cover of a Willy Nelson tune. Our very own Hillview Angels - Gabby, Jo, Mama Mo, Evangeline, Yvonne, Sally, Maryanne, and Elaine - assembled to dazzle us with not one, but two masterfully sung covers! These "dancing queens" stopped the crowd in their tracks, all "in the name of love". As the night went on, our fair lady, Mary Anne, eloquently serenaded us with the question "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?" The audience's response confirmed it was, in fact, just that - lovely.

Shortly thereafter, the crowd was whisked

away to the sandy beaches of California, circa 1950. Right before our "lying eyes", were five of the most handsome men to grace the Hillview karaoke circuit. You could almost hear the crashing waves and feel the sea sprinkle your face - or maybe that was just the feed back of the microphones and spittle from the mouths of the Beached Boys on stage.

I know I am possibly forgetting some of the participants, or the songs they sang, and to them I extend a sincere apology, but the talent pool was deep and my memory isn't. Nonetheless, thank you for participating and entertaining us all. Bob (Elaine's husband) did a great job, but the song escapes me; sorry, my friend! As mentioned earlier, music and mer-

riment permeated the halls of our church and many a song was sung. As the end of the night approached, the entire group mustered together a powerful rendition of "Sweet Caroline" as the festivities slowly (and reluctantly for some) came to a close.

To be honest, there were no "bad" or "ugly" moments that night; everything that transpired was good. With all that's going on in the world, it's moments like these that the Lord blesses us with. It injects a bit of joy into our hearts as we remember fondly the great time we had - in fellowship - singing and laughing together, as brothers and sisters in Christ.



"WAIT A MINUTE - YOU WANT ME TO PLAY THE HARP??!
YOU DON'T HAVE KARAOKE UP HERE?
THEN WHY ARE YOU CALLING IT 'PARADISE?'"

Waiting for the Right Man

By: Arline Ippolito



When Bill asked me to write a little about Laura-Megan and her engagement I felt happy, but at the same time sad. Laura-Megan and I are very close, and she will be moving to the United States. However, I also consider myself blessed to have

had such wonderful times with Laura-Megan as an adult.

As a teenager, when someone would ask, "do you have a boyfriend?" she would respond, "No, I don't have a boyfriend. I have two brothers, I know what boys are all about, and I don't need all that drama in my life. I want to finish my schooling, and be settled into a profession or job first." Laura-Megan had a list of some things that she was looking for in a man. The top of that list was that he be a Godly man. Over the years her older brother would often suggest, "I think you need to lower your standards". Lately, she was starting to give up hope of meeting someone. But, this momma has been praying for many years, for a good and Godly man for her.

Laura-Megan met Ryan about 11 years ago on a Christian Meeting Website. Bob and I met Ryan briefly back then because he was frequently driving this way. Laura-Megan did not have a car, so we would take her to meet up with Ryan. They have talked over the years, but more frequently during the past year. Last fall she finally made a road trip down to Naches, Washington USA to visit, and go on some trail rides with Ryan. In June 2023 she returned, because Ryan was in the process of interviewing for a job at Hanford Military base. He was also getting baptized. Little did she know that Ryan was planning to propose to her!

Ryan had face-timed Bob and I beforehand asking for our blessing. Ryan's plan was to propose at Conrad Meadows. *(Conrad Meadows is located south-east of Seattle, Washington and is part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Ed.)* As they left the sky was darkening and Ryan knew the weather in this part

of the world can quickly change. However, this is one of his favorite places. As they approached the meadow on his dirt bike it started to rain. Laura-Megan told me later, she could not understand why Ryan was so upset about the rain. After 10-15 minutes he thought 'I better do this'. He told me as soon as he proposed, the rain stopped and the sun came out. He made a video of this special moment and has shared it with us.

Laura-Megan has expressed that a long distance relationship is hard, but they talk, read devotionals, and pray together. We are getting to know Ryan, and we are so happy that he recently came for a visit, even though it was very short. I am looking forward to getting to know Ryan more, and meeting his family. Good thing that I finally got a passport earlier this year!

"I have two brothers, I know what boys are all about, and ...



Conrad Meadows

Letter(s) to Editor:

Dear Editor,



I just wanted to let your readers know about the Hillview Evening Ladies' Bible study. It is where it's at! Seriously, there are so many things I love about it!

First of all, last year we started opening up the first Wednesday evening of each month as a churchwide Ladies' Fellowship Night. It was great to set aside some time to really get to know each other a little more. I would not trade our lovely Sunday coffee times for the world, but they still only give enough time to scratch the surface on a personal level. These Wednesday gatherings give us a good hour or more to chat (as we ladies love to do) about all sorts of topics, ranging from the lighthearted to the profound. Oh, and there are usually a yummy snack or two, as well. Are you hearing this, Hillview ladies? Come check it out!

Of course, the actual Bible study nights are wonderful, too. Last winter, we spent quite a bit of time delving into the lives and lessons of six of the women in Jesus' genealogy, with a study called "Significant," by Rachel Risner. We studied Sarah, Leah, Bathsheba, Ruth, Rahab, and Tamar. Now, that was interesting! I mean, Tamar? Bathsheba? I had never really given much thought about their role in the story. Not to mention what I could learn from them, as well as from the other four women.

In the spring, we continued the narrative after Easter by studying the book of Acts. What a firecracker of a history account! We went through it fairly quickly, but the study was well-balanced. A good overall view of the Holy Spirit's work in empowering the early Church was paired with ruminating on a few in-

spiring and challenging truths as well

During the summer, we have not had any studies, but different ladies have been taking turns hosting informal gatherings. I just LOVE meeting together in our homes. You know, there is something so friendly about it. Still, I am also itching to get back to our regular times of studying God's Word together. I have not heard what we will be studying yet, but a little birdie told me we will be looking at an Old Testament book this fall. Can not wait to find out!

Anyway, I hope that gives you a good idea of what we have been up to. Ladies' Bible study is great, and, Lord-willing, the best is yet to come! Do not hesitate to join us, you will be welcomed.

Faithfully,
Miranda Snook

Now, that was interesting! I mean, Tamar? Bathsheba? I had never really given much thought about ...



Now for something Complete Different

By: Bill Holmes



Dear Readers, I would like to introduce you to my neighbour, Kent. He has been our mechanic for over 30 years. I blame him that we still have a functioning 2008 Camry. Kent has a passion, a classic car, and just like all good auto enthusiasts he has agreed to answer some questions about his vehicle.

Hi Kent, thanks for doing this. Tell me about the car?

It is a Pontiac GTO – the original engine had 389 cubic inch displacement (cid), the current engine has a 428 cid, with a Tremec 5 speed

Manual Transmission. Other features include fuel injection, tilt steering wheel, console, power steering, and front disc brakes

Did you restore it? If yes, what was the biggest issue? What are you most pleased about?

It is a work in progress as are most classic cars. Bought in 1976, painted in 1980, the engine was rebuilt several times. Originally it had a manual 4 speed, which always had a vibration so when I decided to change the engine 14 years ago to the 428, I also changed the transmission, added front disc brakes and the fuel injection.

What do you like most about it?

It is somewhat unusual (not all that common). It also has a great sound when it runs!

Have you ever entered it in a classic car show?

No, but occasionally some people want to take pictures, but interestingly more so with the motorhome!?!



taken from internet

The motorhome, what is that?

Behind the shop I have, another unique vehicle: 1973 GMC motorhome 26V. In

2029 it too will be classified as a classic 21 years old, at 25 years old is considered an antique. *I have seen it, it really is different looking! ed*

What are the biggest problems or issues with owning a classic car? And/or what are the benefits?

The major challenges is they are much like Triumph motorcycles; always need tinkering. Classic cars are usually bigger money pits than everyday vehicles. The benefits, not everyone has one, so again, unique.

What does Claire, your wife, say about the car?

"Do we have to take that thing?"

"It's so loud!"

"You always park so far away from the entrance doors!"

I just had a thought, - If my church was to have a classic car show, would you consider including your car?

Sure!

Thanks Kent, this has been great. O'yea I need to book the Tucson for more servicing because Joy and I drove to the Maritimes adding 14,000 kilometers to the car! For more information concerning Kent's interview see page 10. Ed.

Revelation - What is it Good For?

By the Men's Bible Study Group



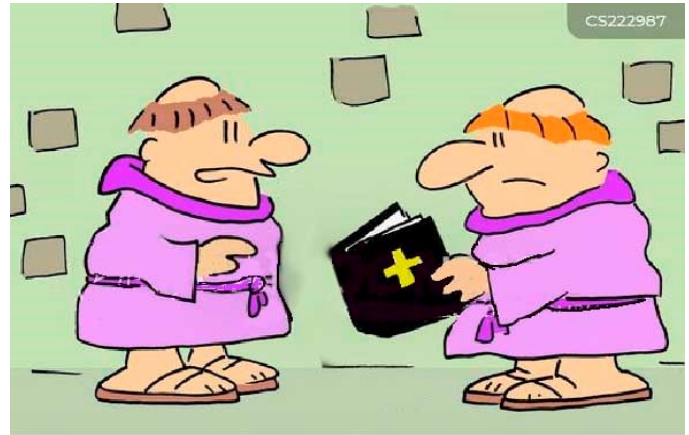
I remember being very excited about delving into the book of Revelation and having its mysteries explained; however, I got much more than I bargained for and it has been a true blessing. As the study progressed, I fluctuated between complete awe and utter confusion; the more that was explained, the more questions arose. Thankfully, I am surrounded by a great group of brothers to help me navigate this challenging and profound book. The fact that it has resulted in forming a closer bond with the men of our church has been the proverbial icing on the cake.

Brian Worobec

Pastor Norm provides great leadership as we go through a difficult book of the Bible in Revelations. He provides a stimulating and informative environment for all of the men to learn and deepen our understanding of end times prophecy.

Martin Hurst

My personal view on the Men's study of Revelation: Pastor Norm acknowledges there are several legitimate ways to interpret Revelation, he is attempting to help us understand these dif-



"The Book of Revelation is full of spoilers."

ferent views, and how our own perspective influences how we interpret this book and others of the Bible. Sometimes his personal views come out, but he does make attempts to allow for all the views to be shown. His method is to present questions making us think about the passage and challenge our views. He stresses to truly understand the book, one needs to look at the forest, then see how the meadows, the shrubs, the trees, and all the components fit in to fill and understand the forest.

Wayne Baker

I know I mentioned it but I'm really impacted by the idea that Revelation is a message of hope for all those going through tribulations past, present, and future. Even if a Christian isn't going through

the Apocalypse they might be going through their personal Apocalypse. **It is message of hope, salvation, and the assurance that all is in God's hands is a priceless comfort. Hopefully this helps!**

Bill Bruce

Here is my homework assignment. It's great to be a part of a church that is willing to take on all of scripture and to examine our place as Christians in the context of covenant, history, and prophecy. Revelation brings this all together and reminds us that God has a plan and a future for us.

Jonathan Snook

I appreciated Norm's leadership in teaching the book of Revelation. Although challenging, it is a book of the New Testament and part of the holy scripture, therefore it needs to be read and studied also. There are

... the most
important truth
of the book.
There is a
plan, and God
always wins.

Revelation - What is it Good For?

By the Men's Bible Study Group

several takeaways that I have learned, or re-learned, from this book. These are that it is full of warnings, has numerous mentions of hope, the promise of Jesus Christ's second coming, the judgement of man, Satan and his agents being cast into the lake of fire, and the coming of the new heaven and new earth where the victorious (the over comers) will spend eternity with God. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! There are many other details that could have been mentioned. For further information read the book of Revelation!

Russ Nelson

The men's Bible study on Revelation has been very enlightening to me. Although it has a reputation as one of the most intimidating and challenging books in the Bible, and although there are several ways in which this book has been interpreted, Pastor Norm has been careful to keep us focused on the most important truth of the book: There is a plan, and God always wins. It's been nice not only sharing these discussions with men of all different viewpoints on the book, but also building our fellowship around God's Holy

Word, deepening our bonds of trust and friendship.

Neil Carlberg

The problem I have with Revelation is symbolism. There is just too much of it. I learned to detest symbolism ever since high school English courses. Revelation seems to be full of incomprehensible symbolism. That being said, Pastor Norm and indeed all the guys, are very good at explaining the meaning hiding behind the symbolism and how we, as Christians, need to respond. That we have hope in Christ. That he is in control.

Bill Holmes

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The Good Samaritan at the Food Bank

By: Gloria Swain



A car pulls up to the church doors on Food Bank Distribution Monday. Out jumps a young man who says he's the driver/helper. The passenger door opens slowly and out gets a man, possibly in

this 40's. His one arm is in a sling and he uses a cane to help him walk. But, that is not the only handicap. This young man's face is literally scarred with what looks like acne. He is obviously embarrassed and keeps looking down. That is until our own, Hillview's Good Samaritan, Margaret Dolezal, appears on the scene. "Hello, How are you? Here, let's see if we can find you a new

outfit from our free clothesline."

She scurries around the "free" clothes and before you know it, the man has a beautiful blue shirt and black dress pants in excellent condition, and in his size. Then he notices the "free" Bibles, "Can I have a Bible?" He picks up the Bible and holds it close to his chest and explains how warm it feels on his body, as if it had been sitting out in the sun. In the meantime, the driver has picked up the food

hamper and is loading the car.

I am sharing this story because, observing that scene reminds me of the Good Samaritan. When was the last time someone took the time to overlook this man's handicap, his scarred face and show him such love. Not just any love, but God's love. Truly that Food Bank day, the Good Samaritan story became real in our day, in our parking lot, right here at Hillview. Thank you Margaret!

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September 10,24 - coffee's on after Church service

September 17 - is a Parking Lot Barbecue, also after church

Prescolaire des Petits Pas - non-profit French/English preschool program starting in September.
Contact: 825-865-5995 / info@petitspasyeg.ca

Men's Bible Study - restarts on **Wednesday September 13 at 6:30pm** (later weeks the start time will change to 7pm) in the library with the movie "Patterns of Evidence - The Exodus". A movie asking if the Exodus actually happened, reviewing the evidence and giving you the opportunity to discuss. The Revelation study will be resurrected in October.

Women's Evening Bible Study - restarts on **Wednesday September 13 at 7.00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is Nehemiah, his leadership and what he accomplished as a man of God.

Women's Morningside Bible Study - restarts **Wednesday September 6**. Contact Noreen at noreenwourms@icloud.com for more information.



Editorial Comment

By: Bill Holmes

Perhaps you are wondering why I included Kent's car story in our church's newsletter. Well, for a few reasons, because as Pastor Norm has indicated, I have ultimate authority as editor (I am kidding). Actually it is primarily because the story that may be of

interest to men. I want to ensure that the male species have a reason to read the newsletter and most men have this weird fascination with automobiles. In addition, I am anticipating this will be the impetus for you to submit a story about your neighbors

or friends that have an interesting hobby or activity. Next month, I am hoping to include an item about Seig Hollemeyer and his passion - building and flying model air-planes.



This is not Seig!

Antipasto recipe - Yvonne Aben's Formula



- 2 cans mushrooms - drained
- a whole cauliflower finely chopped (or I've used frozen riced cauliflower)
- 1 can black olives - drained
- 2 cans green beans - drained
- ¼ cup light olive oil
- 2 cups ketchup
- ½ - 1 cup sweet pickles chopped (I just use sweet relish)
- 3 cans flaked tuna - drained

You can coarsely chop (if you like it chunky) or use a food processor to chop everything pretty small. Boil everything together and freeze in small containers. Tastes great with stoned wheat crackers.