

THE
DOOR
TO THE
MORNING

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS



The Door to the Morning (Bible Study)

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INTRODUCTION

THE DOOR TO THE MORNING

Imagine a sculptor creates a statue for a city, and it's draped with canvas, ready for dedication, in front of city hall. A crowd gathers, and even though people don't know what's inside the canvas, they know it is worth seeing. The drawstring is pulled, the canvas falls off, and the work is unveiled.

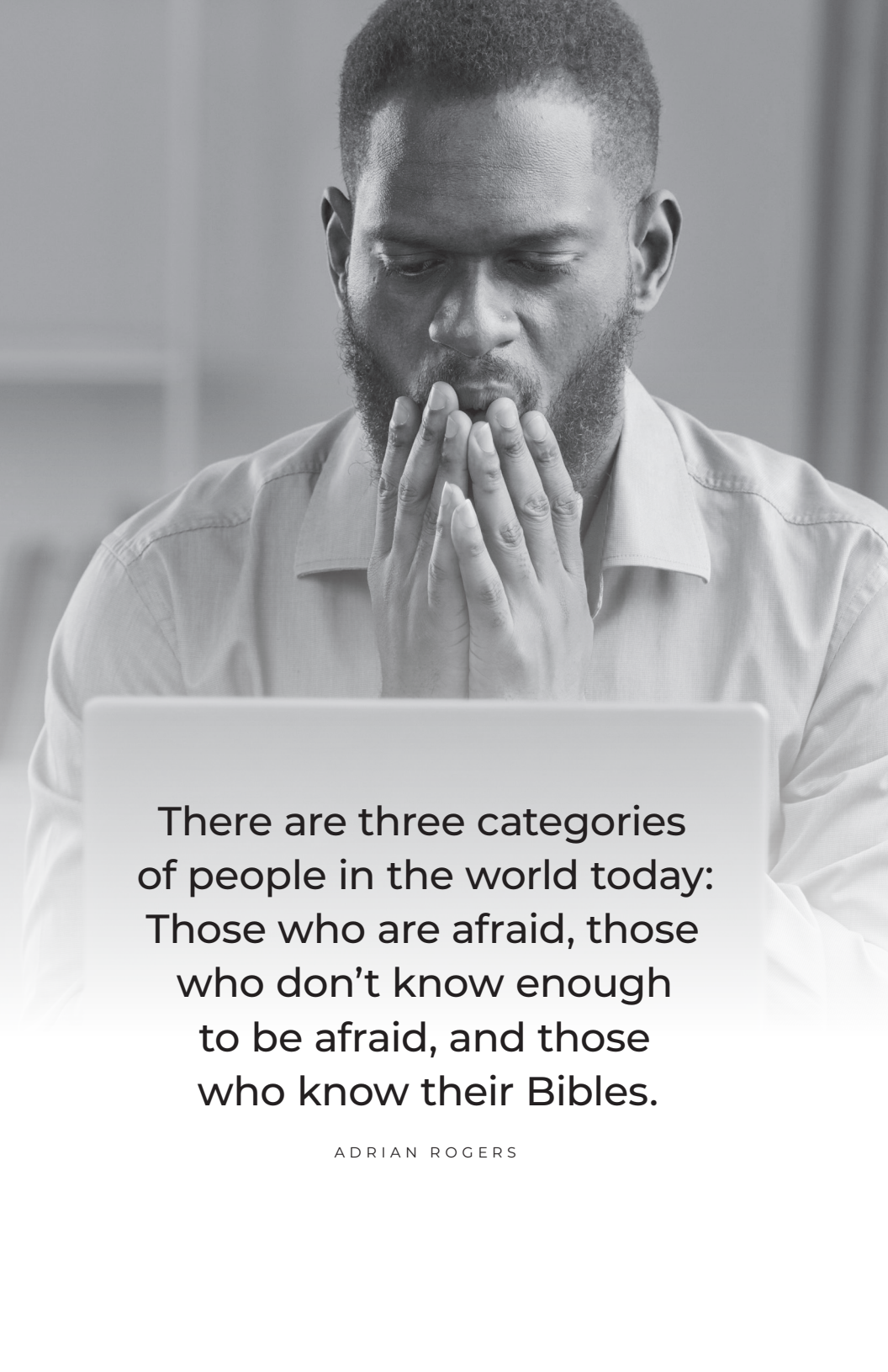
The word “revelation” means “an unveiling.” One day Jesus—the living, reigning King—will be unveiled and all will see His power and glory.

When you consider the whole Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—God is telling a complete story. What God began in Genesis finds its climax in Revelation. In Genesis, we read about the creation of the heavens and the Earth. In Revelation, we read about the creation of new heavens and a new Earth. In Genesis, paradise is lost. In Revelation, paradise is regained. In Genesis, man is driven away from the Tree of Life. In Revelation, man is invited back to the Tree of Life. In Genesis, heartache, toil, sorrow, pain, moan, groan, and woe begin. In Revelation, there is no more sickness, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more dying. In Genesis, you have the record of the first death. In Revelation, there will be no more death. In Genesis, you have the first Adam and his bride, Eve. In Revelation, you have the last Adam and his bride, the Church.

This study focuses on the events that will happen in Revelation and studies other New Testament passages that refer to this time. We will look at what we should expect in the future so we can know how to prepare. We want to live each day in the light of the blessed hope of His glorious return—the door to the morning.

WANT MORE?

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code on page 114 at the end of this study.



There are three categories
of people in the world today:
Those who are afraid, those
who don't know enough
to be afraid, and those
who know their Bibles.

ADRIAN ROGERS

WEEK 1

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

■ INTRODUCTION

It can be troubling to see all the darkness at work in the world today. As we monitor the news cycle—on traditional as well as social media—we are inundated with evil constantly blaring from our devices. It's easy to walk around with headline hysteria. But things are precisely as God said they would be. The stage is set and the curtain is about to be drawn back on the drama of the ages. We are living in the beginning of the end, and we can't afford to be ignorant. At the same time, we must not give into hysterics, but soberly serve the living God as we share the Good News of the Gospel: Jesus saves!

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you (2 Thessalonians 1:3–6).

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, when I look around at what is wrong in the world, I get worried and overwhelmed. But I know I can trust You and Your Word. Help me to grow in Your grace, knowledge, and wisdom. Help me to love and serve You more every day until I meet You in the air. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

WHO AND WHEN

■ PONDER IT

The first truth you need to know about the return of the Lord is **we don't need to be disturbed.**

...and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

If you are troubled, you can find rest. Our Lord is on His way. He was Lord then, He will be Lord when He comes again. When the text says the Lord Jesus shall be “revealed,” it literally means “unveiled.” The word “revelation” or “uncovering” is the same Greek word for “apocalypse.” When this uncovering, this apocalypse, comes, Jesus will be unveiled as Lord of all. Currently, His glory and majesty are veiled; He is hated, despised, ridiculed, cursed, and made the punchline of jokes. But one day, all people will see Him for who He is. Jesus, the one who was kicked, cursed, spat upon, beat, ridiculed, lied about, and misjudged, will be universally recognized as Lord of all Lords. His glory will be revealed.

People try to discount the truth of God's Word by offering alternative explanations of the Second Coming. Some say it was an event in history that already happened. Others teach that the Second Coming of Jesus occurred when the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. Some teach that the Second Coming of Jesus occurs to each believer individually at death. But we know from Scripture that Jesus will return.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:10-11).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the same Jesus who came the first time, is coming literally, actually, visibly, bodily back to this Earth. It is as certain as the sunrise.

The sunrise comes on time, and Jesus is the Son of Righteousness who will come again right on time. (See Malachi 4:2a.)

But when the *fullness of the time* had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4-5 emphasis added).

His Second Coming will also happen in “the fullness of time.” He will not be one millisecond early or one millisecond late; we can trust everything is on schedule. One of these days the Lord Jesus is going to step from Heaven, pull back the shades of darkness, pin them with a star, open the door to the morning, and flood the world with the sunshine of His Second Coming. Some golden daybreak, Jesus will come.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What about the current state of this world is troubling you? Go ahead and make a list.
- How will Jesus’ return impact the items on your list? How will those things change when Jesus returns?

I like the fact that His coming is like the sunrise because I’ll tell you two things about the sunrise: you can’t hurry it up and you can’t stop it.

DAY 2

WONDER AND WITNESS

■ PONDER IT

We read the analogies of Christ's return being as certain and uncontrollable as the sunrise and do our best to imagine it. We think we understand what it will be like when Jesus comes, but we don't understand one scintilla of an iota of what it will be like.

...when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

This Greek word for “admired” means “to be wondered at.” We will be dazzled when we see Him. He's coming “to be admired among all those who believe.” When He comes, the saints will **wonder** in amazement.

We will admire His transforming love. When He comes, we will be made like Him. Some of us were stubborn and unbelieving, yet reached by His grace. Some were slaves to drugs, alcohol, pride, or lust, but made righteous. Some were ignorant and blind, stumbling in darkness, but now live in the light of Jesus. He is perfect, and so will we be. He is Prophet, Priest, and King; so will we be. We will be like the Lord Jesus, and as we look at what He has done for us, the redeemed multitude, we will admire His love and be filled with wonder.

We will admire His saving grace. You won't be caught up in the Rapture by doing good works, by being baptized, or by giving your money. You get in just by believing in Jesus. That is amazing grace. The Bible says it clearly, plainly, sweetly, surely, sublimely:

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household (Acts 16:31).

We will admire His keeping power. No one ever saved will be lost. Everybody who puts his faith in Jesus is going to be in the Rapture.

The Second Coming will have a witness. The apostles in the Early Church said their testimony of Christ would be believed. Somebody was testifying about His coming. Somebody was giving a testimony that Jesus was coming again. When Jesus comes, you will want to be like the Apostle Paul and have some people in that crowd going to Heaven because you shared Christ with them—people you personally told about Jesus!

When you see somebody you've won to Jesus Christ with Jesus Christ in the Rapture, how you'll bless God that you were a soul-winner. The homeless beggar, the elderly widow, and the migrant worker with calloused hands all need someone to bring them to Jesus. Just wait until you see His redeeming love and grace, and see those you shared the Gospel with sitting with the saints of all of the ages. If you believe what you're reading about Jesus coming again, you must get your head out of the clouds of prophecy and get your feet on the pavement of soul-winning.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What causes you to wonder at Jesus? How has He amazed you?
- Who are the people you want to see in Heaven with you? How can you share your testimony with them today?

I'm looking forward to Jesus coming,
but I don't want to go by myself. I want
to take a crowd with me. Don't you?

ADRIAN ROGERS

DON'T BE DECEIVED

■ PONDER IT

The second truth is Jesus is coming, and **don't be deceived into thinking He's not.**

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3).

A devilish deception was happening in Thessalonica. Somebody posing as Paul wrote a letter to the church, saying the day of the Lord already happened and believers were living in the Great Tribulation. This forged letter said the Rapture had taken place, and the people missed it. Clearly, the Thessalonians were troubled and deceived. Paul wrote them to say he didn't write the letter and they had no reason to be troubled.

As we get closer to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, we will hear false teaching, and many of the teachers will say they are from God. In the last days, many false prophets will come and speak lies and hypocrisy. This is the reason you need to open the Book and read it so you can understand what God says, interpreted by the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Then you will be able to distinguish the truth from the lies and be ready for Jesus Christ when He comes.

Paul begins to explain what will happen in the last days. After the Rapture, Satan will fling one final insult into the face of God and the agent of this blasphemy, the Antichrist, will appear. This man will be the quintessence, the epitome, the distillation of all evil, and he will be called "the man of sin." He will be the devil's messiah. He will be the son of the devil as Jesus is the Son of God the Father.

The phrase “man of sin” is also translated as the man of lawlessness, the incarnation of wickedness, the champion of wickedness, wickedness in human form. He is also called the son of perdition. The word “perdition” means “eternal damnation” because he is headed to Hell.

In Revelation chapter 13, the Antichrist is called the beast—a man who’s coming is against Christ. Jesus said:

“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive” (John 5:43).

This Antichrist, this beast of a man, is coming, and he will be revealed and unveiled, just like Jesus in His time is going to be unveiled. When the Rapture comes, the Antichrist will be alive on Earth, waiting to be revealed, waiting to make a grand, worldwide appearance.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are some of the false teachings or rumors you have heard about the Second Coming of Christ?
- The best way to spot a counterfeit is to understand the real thing. What are you doing to spend time in God’s Word and in prayer—to be in continual relationship with the One True God?

Our trouble began with the sin of man.
It will climax with the man of sin.

ADRIAN ROGERS

THE MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS

■ PONDER IT

While we are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mystery of lawlessness is at work in our world.

And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7).

Something evil and vile is conspiring against the sons and daughters of men. A dark, demonic, devilish force is working in the world. As you scroll through social media and devour entertainment, and as you listen to the philosophies of this world, an ungodly force is seeking your heart. But something is holding it back.

The Holy Spirit's ministry has two parts: help the saint and hinder Satan. We read in the Book of Job that Satan is wearing a leash. God restrains him and holds back the mystery of lawlessness. Satan can go only so far.

The Holy Spirit indwells the Church as the Helper within us and the Hinderer who holds back the power of Satan. But when the Church leaves during the Rapture, the work of the Holy Spirit through the lives of believers will also be taken out of this world.

Even today, Bible-believing Christians who know and love Jesus Christ are looked down upon. We're minimized, spit upon, scorned, and called fundamentalists. It's easy and politically correct to mock Christians. But one of these days we'll be gone.

The Church is salt and light. Salt cleanses, decontaminates, and preserves. When the salt of this Earth is removed, the rottenness, decay, filth, and stench will be visible like never before because the restraint will be gone. When the light is taken out, unmitigated darkness will

come. Instead of light and truth, darkness and lies will encircle the globe. When the restraint is taken away, the flood of lawlessness will overtake the world as this man of sin, this wicked one, comes to rule the Earth, and nothing will be able to stop him.

The Antichrist will be an intellectual genius with overpowering authority. His hatreds will be extraordinary, and his techniques will be superb. Satan's master plan is carried out by Satan's master man. He will be Hitler, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Stalin, and Saddam Hussein all rolled into one. He will come with a rule of reward and torture, and he will turn this world into a concentration camp with all of the inmates numbered.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

The Antichrist will make people think up is down, good is bad, and light is dark. He'll make people betray their own families. Men will die for him; women will swoon at his feet. Little children will speak his name with reverence. He's coming with all unrighteousness and speaking lies; we must know the truth so we will not be deceived.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- In what ways have you suffered for your faith? What have people said about you when they find out you are a Christian?
- In what ways do you see yourself and your church holding back the darkness in your community? What can you do to help make sure people know the truth about Jesus?

Satan is on a leash, but when
the Church is taken out,
Hell will have a holiday.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

■ PONDER IT

Jesus is coming, and we will not be disappointed. The Lord Jesus Christ will destroy the Antichrist.

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ is going to consume him with the spirit of His mouth and with His word. At the battle of Armageddon, Heaven will be opened and the saints will come with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says a sharp, two-edged sword will go out of Jesus' mouth and will destroy the nations. With the spirit of His mouth, with His word, the battle will be won. The Antichrist will come with all of his militia, with all of his world forces at the battle of Armageddon. He will finally come against God's ancient people, the Jews, to destroy and take over Jerusalem. Then the Lord Jesus will say, "Drop dead." The battle will be over with the spirit of His mouth. This speaks of His coming in glory.

The Second Coming of Jesus has two phases: first He comes secretly and then He comes sovereignly. First He comes as the Bridegroom to take away His bride, the Church, in the Rapture. Then he comes back with His bride as King of kings and Lord of lords to rule and to reign forever.

The first time, Jesus came to Earth as the lowly Nazarene. When He comes again, He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords. When He came the first time, He stood before Pilate to be judged. When He comes again, Pilate will stand before Him and be judged. When He came the first time, they nailed Him to a tree. When He comes again, He will sit upon the throne and the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. The saints of God can hardly wait for Jesus to come again. If you're not excited about Jesus Christ coming again,

you're too much in love with this world and not enough in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you hear the thundering hoofbeats? The horses of the Great Tribulation are on the horizon. Perilous days are coming, but we're waiting on Jesus. We aren't looking for any signs; we're listening for a shout. He'll come in a moment. The Bible says:

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matthew 24:44).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Are you looking forward to and ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
- If Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords in the final days, is he Lord of your life today? What parts of your life do you need to give completely to Him to rule and to reign?

Praise God! It is growing gloriously dark. Before long our Morning Star will appear. Jesus Christ is on His way.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

THIEF IN THE NIGHT

■ PRACTICE IT

Jesus will come when we don't expect Him just like a thief in the night. A thief never writes a letter to let people know he's coming. Jesus has already sent word He is coming, and He will come again. Don't be disturbed and worried you have missed it. Don't be deceived into thinking His Word is not true. If you put your faith in Him, you will not be disappointed. You'll be in the crowd that looks at Him with admiration.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Now is the time for the Church to increase intercession, evangelism and instruction. We need to be praying, interceding for our world, and reaching out to the lost. We need to teach and train our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, neighbors and associates. We want to gather everyone we can into the ark of safety, Jesus Christ, before the floods of the Tribulation break upon this world. We need to get our children ready and give them an understanding of what is coming to this world so they don't stumble in the darkness. The Church is still here. We still have the Word of God. The Bible says:

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:4).

Don't be shaken or troubled. Rest with us. God cannot fail; He must prevail. What a mighty God we serve! If you've never given your heart

to Jesus Christ, if you have never trusted Him as your personal Lord and Savior, you can do so right now.

Lord Jesus, I need You. I want You. Come into my heart right now and save me. Help me to have the courage to make it public. Don't let me be ashamed of You. In Your name, I pray, Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it so we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on I BELIEVE.

Pray for those you want to take to Heaven with you. Pray God will soften their hearts and give you opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Ask God to show you how to be salt and light in your community; take steps of obedience in faith.

Many of us may not die. We're not
looking for the undertaker, we're
looking for the upper-taker.

ADRIAN ROGERS