

# Apocalypse Now!

Presented by Pastor Scott Walters on 05/10/20  
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The word 'APOCALYPSE'

-catastrophic destruction (after a hurricane/tornado)

“Apocalypse Now”

Captain Benjamin Willard on a secret mission to find a  
Col. Kurtz; discovers the horrors and insanity  
of the Vietnam War.

Jon Meacham, “Leadership in a Time of Crisis”

As a backdrop, uses John Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis – U.S. had  
photographic evidence of a Soviet

deployment of nuclear missiles 90 miles from US in Cuba.

Defense Dept./Jt. Chief of Staff/CIA pressure to take offensive action

Avoid self-righteousness – Basil Liddell

APOCALYPSE – A more theological understanding–

-complete final destruction of the created order

-a feature of our creeds

-NO EXPERIENCE – God initiated

-ULTIMATE POINT: God is in control–“God has the whole  
world in his hands”

Having the “wrapping up” of the world and cosmos is an important  
part of our faith in Christians.

+Puts life in perspective;

+Be ready for the surprising way God comes into  
this world;

+God is in control;

+I am NOT in control of all things; sense of humility

So, I don't want to diminish the idea of the apocalypse;

BUT I ALSO DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT UNDO IMPORTANCE

Unfortunately, the idea of the apocalypse has been used in destructive  
ways that gave (and give) Christianity a bad name.

The idea of “The Rapture” –

Back in the 70's “The Late Great Planet Earth”

back in the 90's “Left Behind” series

Some very conservative Christians are naïve enough to believe that they can prime the pump on  
the Apocalypse by supporting an extreme Zionism in Israel, without caring “a twit” for the Israelis.

# Apocalypse Now!

All of these operate on the fear motive; if you can use fear to scare them into heaven.

The Book of Revelation with its weird imagery wasn't designed to scare you into heaven; designed to describe with honesty what Christians may be facing; and that in spite of everything, God is in control of the world of ours.

Adam Hamilton: "So much of the anxiety we experience is a product of bringing the future into the present....We think about what could happen, what might happen. It is like cramming all of this future experience into the present. We don't allow ourselves any time in the present to feel freedom or joy or to engage meaningfully in our relationships. As a consequence of that we feel anxious, we feel worried, we feel fear."

I think that these words speak to our time as well:

One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 46. Listen carefully again to a few of its words: "God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea... The LORD of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety... Be still, and know that I am God!"

"Be still." This does not refer to going to a quiet mountain retreat. It was a call to say "enough" to our noisy inner fears, and with them silenced, to recognize God as our place of safety.

May you know that God of presence and care even now – especially now!