Revelation is an amazingly remarkable book. It is written in a way where only Christians can understand the meanings of the visions. We are not speaking only of the Christians who lived during the first century. We are speaking of Christians who live at anytime during the Christian dispensation. To state this another way; it is impossible for those who are not members of the Lord's church to understand Revelation. Only God could be the author of such a book.

In order to understand why this is true, we must first understand how Revelation is written and how to interpret it. The visions in Revelation must be interpreted by following the Old Testament parallels and patterns of the church, which was to be established by Christ at His first coming. This can easily be understood by using the following graphic, which compares the parallels of physical events in the OT to spiritual events that take place during the Christian dispensation. The top line in the graphic illustrates the major physical events in the history of Israel during Old Testament times. The bottom line shows how all Christians, whenever they live, follow this same pattern in a spiritual way. Please look at the graphic now, and a further explanation will be given below.

A Parallel Comparison of Israel and the Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Spiritual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>All Mankind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bondage in Egypt</td>
<td>Bondage in Sin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moses</td>
<td>Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nourished on Manna</td>
<td>Nourished on Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promised Land</td>
<td>2nd Promised Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>Heaven</td>
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The physical pattern begins with the Hebrew people (children of Israel) in physical bondage in Egypt. When Christ came to earth, the spiritual parallel of this physical slavery was that all people were in the bondage of sin. Joh 8:32-34 states,
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”

The truth would make all mankind free from the bondage of sin. Therefore, when Jesus came to this earth, all people were in the bondage of sin. They were in spiritual bondage, which is the spiritual parallel of physical bondage.

By the power of God, Moses freed the Hebrew people (children of Israel) from physical slavery by leading them across the Red Sea. The spiritual parallel to this event is that people are freed from the slavery of sin by crossing the blood of Christ. 1Cor 10:1-2 says,

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;”

As Moses led the people across the Red Sea, they were completely surrounded by water. Today, we are freed from sin by being completely surrounded by water through baptism. Even the name “Red Sea” is significant. The color “red” is almost always associated with blood in Scripture. When Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He created a “Red Sea” for us to cross. In order to be freed from physical slavery, the Hebrew people crossed the physical Red Sea to freedom on the other side. Today, through the act of baptism, people cross the Red Sea of the blood of Christ to spiritual freedom from sin.

After Moses led the people across the Red Sea, they went to Mount Sinai. The spiritual parallel to Mount Sinai is Mount Zion. In Heb 12:28, Christians are told they have not come unto Mount Sinai. Heb 12:18 says,

“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,“

When people cross the blood of Christ today, they come unto Mount Zion. Speaking of Christians, Heb 12:22 states, “But ye are come unto mount Sion...”

Therefore, Mount Zion (Sion) is the spiritual parallel of Mount Sinai. The Law of Moses was given on physical Mount Sinai and the Law of Christ was given on spiritual Mount Zion. Those who gathered around Mount Sinai in the Old Testament were God's people under the Law of Moses, and those who gather around spiritual Mount Zion today are Christians. Since God places us in the church when we are baptized, then those who are gathered around spiritual Mount Zion are members of the Lord's church. They are Christians.

During the 40 years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, they were nourished on physical manna or literal bread from heaven. Today, Christian's souls are nourished spiritually by the Word of God. In John 6:33, Jesus explains that He is the bread of life from heaven. John 6:33 says,

“For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”
Jesus in the one who came down from heaven; therefore, our spiritual bread of life today is the Word of God. Our spiritual lives are nourished on spiritual manna.

Please read John 1:1 & 14

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

As the children of Israel traveled from Mount Sinai to the Jordan River, they wandered in a physical wilderness. The church today is wandering in a spiritual wilderness of sin as we await the second coming of Jesus Christ.

After wandering in the wilderness 40 years, Israel crossed the Jordan River into their promised land of Canaan. When Jesus returns to this earth the second time, only those who have followed this pattern will cross our spiritual Jordan River into our promised land of heaven. The land of Canaan was described as a land flowing with milk and honey. Our promised land of heaven will be a place so great it would be impossible for us to even imagine.

The above comparison of physical Israel with the spiritual church can be used to understand the visions in Revelation. Therefore, it should be clear why only Christians can understand the book of Revelation. Christians are the only ones who believe and follow this pattern. Those in religious organizations other than the church, will not accept this pattern as truth. They develop their own pattern to follow in order to be “saved.” Therefore, it is impossible for them to understand Revelation.

One word of caution: Since only Christians can understand Revelation, please be cautious about the materials you use in order to study Revelation. Much of that material is written by those outside the church; therefore, they cannot have the proper understanding of the book.

As a final note, please consider how amazing the book of Revelation really is. It is written so that only Christians can understand it. Only God could accomplish something of this magnitude. This should also serve to solidify our understanding of God's Word and positively confirm what we teach and believe concerning salvation as the truth.

For more information about the parallels between physical Israel and the spiritual church, please read our book titled Eden To Eden, which is available on this website.