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INTRODUCTION

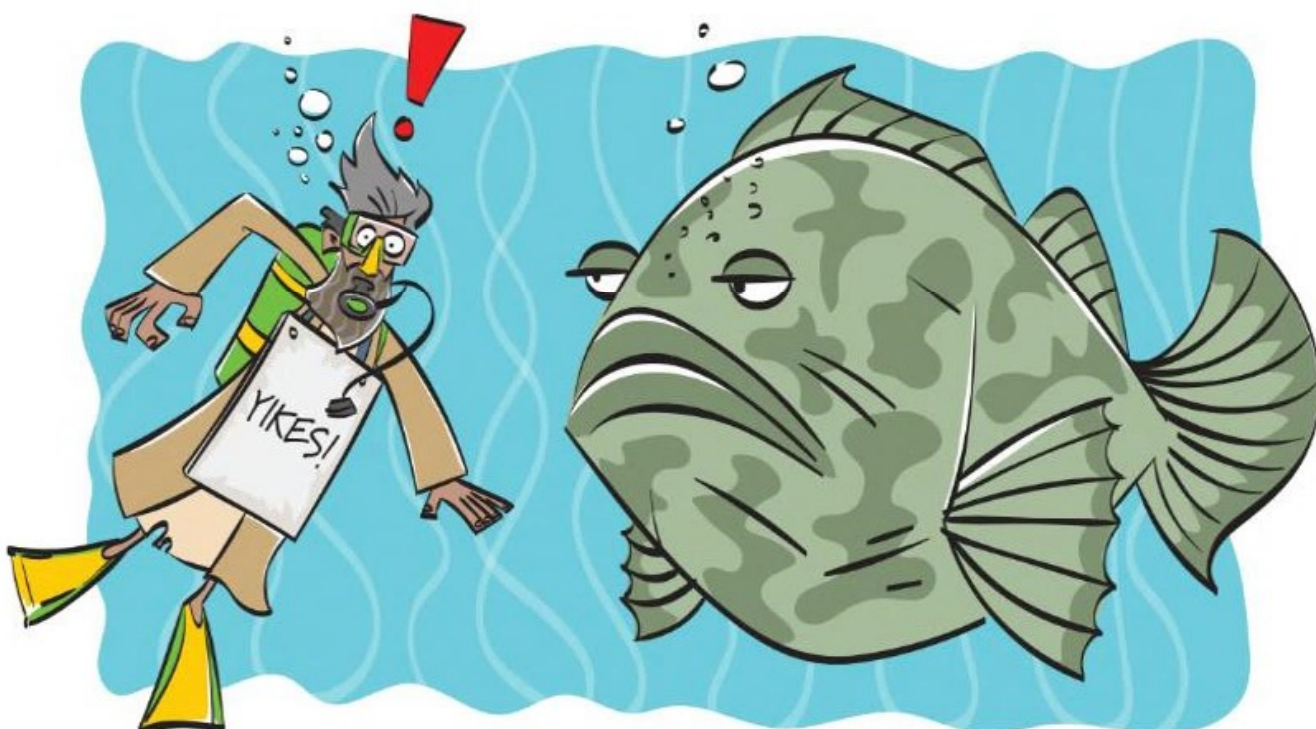
An Unexpected Adventure

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

REVELATION 1:3

As you sit on the edge of the boat with one hand on your mask and regulator and the other on the back of your head, thoughts race through your mind. You consider how far from land you are, and you wonder if the handful of sharks you just watched eating their chum a few feet away from the small charter boat are still hungry. Fear and excitement swell as you cross your legs and lean back to let gravity do the rest. Three, two, one, drop!

Splash! The cool Caribbean water engulfs you as the noise of seagulls suddenly changes to the sound of bubbles and Darth Vader-like breathing as you force air through the regulator into your lungs. You are now in the Atlantic Ocean—an hour away from land and surrounded by otherworldly sea life. Recalling your recent training, you stabilize your ears and slowly descend the diving reel to the sunken ship on the ocean floor 50 feet below.



As you descend, you take note of the cloudy spot of leftover chum above and the silhouettes of a few Caribbean reef shark hoping for more. About 20 feet further down, you come face to face with a large, ugly fish—a giant grouper—hovering in place and unintimidated by your presence. Off in the distance you

spot the complete darkness of the 6,000-foot underwater cliff known as the Tongue of the Ocean—a branch of the Great Bahama Canyon. A healthy fear is present, along with a rush of adrenaline, as your thoughts turn to the amazing beauty of the coral reefs and schools of bright-colored fish below. Words can't adequately describe the scene. Heightening the experience is the realization that just four hours ago, this adventure of a lifetime was not even on the agenda.

TONGUE OF THE OCEAN AKA TOTO

DEEP-OCEAN U-SHAPED TRENCH

NEAR THE BAHAMAS

20 MILES WIDE, 150 MILES LONG

DROPS FROM 70 FEET TO 6000+ FEET

PART OF THE GREAT BAHAMA CANYON

That was the experience my wife and I had on the last full day of our honeymoon in the Bahamas. We traveled to an all-inclusive resort featuring great dining and various activities you could enjoy without ever leaving the resort. We took a kayak to an island one day, went water skiing another, and enjoyed relaxing on the beach on yet another. Toward the end of our stay we met with the concierge to inquire about other activities, and they called our attention to the daily scuba diving excursions.

QUICK FACT: DID YOU KNOW...

that SCUBA stands for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus?

We were surprised to learn we could take a two-hour class on site, then pass a quick scuba and swimming test to be dive-certified in the Bahamas. The timing was perfect—a class was just about to start, and we discovered that there

was still room on a scuba excursion that was set to leave soon after the training. Within a short period of time our day transitioned from a fairly routine vacation morning to one of the most memorable adventures of our lives.

Your Next Adventure Revealed

Think about an unexpected adventure you have had. Some of the best experiences in life come when we don't expect them. Many Christians in our day don't realize that studying the book of Revelation is just such an adventure! Though the last book of the Bible is often seen as scary, complicated, irrelevant, divisive, confusing, or boring, the truth is that studying Revelation with the right perspective is one of the most practical, relevant, and exciting things you can do as a believer in Christ! Unfortunately, the enemy has convinced many that reading Revelation isn't worth the time—because he knows that his destruction, our ultimate redemption, and the Lord's glorification are all detailed in this breathtaking capstone of the Bible!



You are about to embark on a thrilling trek that will cause your faith in the Bible, and your excitement about the nearness of the Lord's return, to bloom with new meaning. If you long for hope, joy, clarity, and a majestic sense of your calling, you need to study the phenomenal truths awaiting you in the book of Revelation.

When it comes to everything that is happening in today's world, God's hand is still on the steering wheel. Nothing is random or accidental. Everything is falling into place exactly as God foretold. Christ's return has been nearly 2,000 years in the making, and we are on the cusp of the most astounding supernatural events of Scripture—a season that prophecy experts such as the late Chuck Missler have said the Bible talks more about than any other period of history. If you want a clear picture about what is soon to take place, get ready for your adventure!

What We'll Discover

Together on this journey, we'll see a full picture of Jesus reigning in power and glory. We'll learn what the often-overlooked letters to the churches (Revelation chapters 2–3) mean for us today. We'll uncover the fascinating details about the rapture. We'll understand—perhaps for the first time—that the book of Revelation is to be taken literally and that the symbols are meant to be understood. We'll study the various judgments, as well as the technology, culture, and current events that demonstrate we are rapidly approaching the last days—and that we are nearer than ever to the rapture of the church!

We'll discover the long-suffering patience of God as he delays his judgment as far as his holiness will allow. We'll learn how even God's wrath is designed to bring the maximum number of people into heaven. We'll see how Revelation

ties up every major theme introduced in Genesis. We'll come to understand God's purpose and plan for Israel and the Jewish people. And we'll unpack key details about the glorious future that awaits us in the millennial kingdom and the eternal state!

Revelation is the climax of God's Word, the crescendo of his redemptive plan, the magnum opus of his message. It unveils the ultimate resolution of all things. So buckle up and get ready to study one of the most thrilling—and most overlooked—books of the Bible. This is one unexpected adventure you don't want to miss. Let's dive in!

