

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST - INTRODUCTION

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

KEY VERSES: Revelation 1:18, 19

I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [hades] and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

OUTLINE:

I. The PERSON of Jesus Christ — Christ in glory, Chapter 1

- A. Title of the Book, v. 1
- B. Method of revelation, v. 2
- C. Beatitude of Bible study, v. 3
- D. Greetings from John the writer, and from Jesus Christ in heaven, vv. 4-8
- E. The post-incarnate Christ in a glorified body, judging His church (the great High Priest in the Holy of Holies), vv. 9-18
- F. Time division of the contents of the apocalypse, v. 19
- G. Interpretation of the seven stars and seven lampstands, v. 20

II. The POSSESSION of Jesus Christ — the church in the world, Chapters 2, 3

- A. Letter of Christ to the church in Ephesus, 2:1-7
- B. Letter of Christ to the church in Smyrna, 2:8-11
- C. Letter of Christ to the church in Pergamum, 2:12-17
- D. Letter of Christ to the church in Thyatira, 2:18-29
- E. Letter of Christ to the church in Sardis, 3:1-6
- F. Letter of Christ to the church in Philadelphia, 3:7-13
- G. Letter of Christ to the church in Laodicea, 3:14-22

III. The PROGRAM of Jesus Christ — the scene in heaven, Chapters 4 — 22

A. The church in heaven with Christ, Chaps 4, 5

...I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:3)

- 1. Throne of God, 4:1-3
- 2. Twenty-four elders, 4:4, 5
- 3. Four living creatures, 4:6-11
- 4. Book with seven seals, 5:1-4
- 5. Christ: the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb which has been slain, 5:5-10
- 6. A myriad of angels of heaven joins the song of praise and redemption, 5:11, 12
- 7. Universal worship of the Savior and Sovereign of the universe, 5:13, 14

Pastor Chuck: The Revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1).

And that's one of the keys to the book. The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ (No definite article in Greek - “A Revelation of Jesus Christ”) and the future of Jesus Christ. The word, revelation means unveiling. In the Greek it's apocalypse. The unveiling. There are people that say the book of Revelation is a sealed book. Nothing is farther than the truth. The name itself declares it is an opening of the truth. The unveiling of the truth and is not at all a sealed book. But it is a book that opens up the truth to the hearts and to the lives of those who are seeking truth. Throughout the Book of Revelation, the central character will be Jesus Christ. We will see Him as He relates to the church. As He oversees the church. And then we'll see Him in the future as He becomes crowned as the King of kings and as the Lord of lords. So here is the progression of how it came. It is “the revelation of Jesus Christ,” *which God gave to him, to show unto his servants the things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John (1:1):*

So throughout the book of Revelation, there is an angel that will be guiding John in many of the unveiling of some of the mysteries. There will be the elders who will be speaking to John, as well as Jesus Christ Himself. And so John is receiving this revelation. In it the angel will guide him, the elders will direct him and Jesus Christ will be speaking to him. So it is a “revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show to his servants the things which must shortly come to pass; he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”

The book of Revelation is a REVELATION of Jesus Christ (No definite article in Greek - “A Revelation of Jesus Christ”) and the future of Jesus Christ.

It is an EXALTATION - an unveiling of the glorious Person of our Lord Jesus Christ! Consider the titles in this Book -1:5, 8, 17, 18; 3:14; 5:5; 15:3; 19:16; 22:16. 28 times He is called the “LAMB”.

Warren Wiersby: The Revelation of Jesus Christ -

This is evidently a title or caption of the whole book, and is designed to comprise the substance of the whole; for all that the book contains would be embraced in the general declaration that it is a revelation of Jesus Christ. The word rendered “Revelation” - Α· π ο κ α λ υ ψ ι ς Apokalupsis, whence we have derived our word “Apocalypse” - means properly an that is, nakedness; from α· π ο κ α λ υ π τ ω apokaluptō, to uncover. It would apply to anything which had been covered up so as to be bidden from the view, as by a veil, a darkness, in an ark or chest, and then made manifest by removing the covering. It comes then to be used in the sense of disclosing or revealing, by removing the veil of darkness or ignorance. “There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed.” It may be applied to the disclosing or manifesting of anything which was before obscure or unknown.

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B. The Great Tribulation in the world, Chaps 6- 18

1. Opening of the seven-sealed book, Chapters 6 — 8:1

- a. Opening of the first seal, 6:1, 2
(Rider on a white horse)
- b. Opening of the second seal, 6:3, 4
(Rider on a red horse)
- c. Opening of the third seal, 6:5, 6
(Rider on a black horse)
- d. Opening of the fourth seal, 6:7, 8
(Rider on a pale horse)
- e. Opening of the fifth seal, 6:9-11
(Prayer of the martyred remnant)
- f. Opening of the sixth seal, 6:12-17
(The Day of Wrath has come — beginning of the last half of the Great Tribulation)

g. Interlude, Chapter 7

- (1) Reason for the interlude between the 6th and 7th seals, vv. 1-3

- (2) Remnant of Israel sealed, vv. 4-8

- (3) Redeemed multitude of Gentiles, vv. 9-17

- h. Opening of the seventh seal, 8:1
(Introduction of seven trumpets)

2. Blowing of the seven trumpets, Chapters 8:2 — 11:19

- a. Angel at the altar with censer of incense, 8:2-6
- b. First trumpet — trees burnt, 8:7
- c. Second trumpet — seas become blood, 8:8, 9
- d. Third trumpet — fresh water becomes bitter, 8:10, 11
- e. Fourth trumpet — sun, moon, stars smitten, 8:12, 13
- f. Fifth trumpet — fallen star and plague of locusts, 9:1-12
- g. Sixth trumpet — angels loosed at river Euphrates, 9:13-21
- h. Interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets, 10:1—11:14

- (1) The strong angel with the little book, 10:1-7

- (2) John eats the little book, 10:8-11

- (3) Date for the ending of “the times of the Gentiles,” 11:1, 2

- (4) Duration of the prophesying of the two witnesses, 11:3-12

- (5) Doom of the second woe — great earthquake, 11:13, 14

- i. Seventh trumpet — end of Great Tribulation and opening of temple in heaven, 11:15-19

3. Seven performers during the Great Tribulation, Chaps 12, 13

- a. The woman — Israel, 12:1, 2

- b. The red dragon — Satan, 12:3, 4

- c. The child of the woman — Jesus Christ, 12:5, 6

- d. Michael, the archangel, wars with the dragon, 12:7-12

- e. The dragon persecutes the woman, 12:13-16

Rev 1:3 - A BUILT- IN BLESSING!

Pastor Chuck: A built-in blessing is given to us in verse three, *Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (1:3).* **Blessing for reading, hearing and for then keeping the things that are written herein. As you read, you'll be blessed. As you hear, you'll be blessed. But more importantly, as you obey, you will be blessed.** The time is at hand, as we have mentioned before, the early church believed that Jesus was going to return in their time, in their generation. John is writing this in about the year 96. And there were rumors in the church that Jesus would come back again before John dies. Notice “the things must shortly come to pass” in verse one. Here in verse three, “the time is at hand.”

Vernon Mc Gee - This verse gives us the beatitude of Bible study. This is the first of *seven beatitudes* found in the Book of Revelation. This verse says, **"Blessed is he that readeth," and that means the reader, or in the church, the teacher. Both those who read this book and those who hear it will be blessed.** And both the reader and the hearer are to keep those things which are written in the book. **The threefold blessing comes from reading, hearing, and keeping.** I believe those who go through the Book of Revelation will receive a special blessing. I really believe it because that is what John says. "For the time is at hand" does not mean that the things which are mentioned at the end of the book are happening in our day, but it does mean that the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost began this movement of the Lord Jesus' ministry in heaven. We are going to see a vision of Him in this chapter, a vision of the glorified Christ. Then we will see what His ministry is, and that will move us right on into the future.

Rev 1:19 OUR DIVINE OUTLINE!

Vernon McGee:

TIME DIVISION OF THE APOCALYPSE'S CONTENTS

The following verses give us the chronological order and division of this Book of Revelation in three time series: past, present, and future. Right now I am making this division arbitrarily, and then as we progress through the book I can demonstrate that it is accurate.

1. **"Write the things which thou hast seen."(In the Past- Chap. 1)** Up to this point what had John seen? He had seen the glorified Christ. Let me remind you that this is a Christocentric book. The glorified Christ is the subject. Don't get your eyes on the horsemen or on the bowls of wrath or on the beasts—they are just passing through. Fix your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One who was, who is, and who will be. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And John is to write the vision he has had of Him.

2. **"The things which are (Presently- Chaps. 2-3)."** What are the things that are? They are the things that pertain to the church, church things. And we are still here after nineteen hundred years. The matters concerning the church are recorded in chapters 2-3.

3. **"The things which shall be hereafter."(In the future- Chaps. 4-22)** Or, as my own translation reads: the things which you are about to see after these things [*meta tauta*]. This is the program of Jesus Christ, and we shall see that the church goes to heaven, and then we shall see the things that take place on the earth after the church leaves it.

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- f. Remnant of Israel, 12:17
g. Wild beast out of the sea — a political power and a person, 13:1-10
 (1) Wild beast, description, vv. 1, 2
 (2) Wild beast, death-dealing stroke, v. 3
 (3) Wild beast, deity assumed, vv. 4, 5
 (4) Wild beast, defying God, vv. 6-8
 (5) Wild beast, defiance denied to anyone, vv. 9, 10
h. Wild beast out of the earth — a religious leader, 13:11-18
 (1) Wild beast, description, v. 11
 (2) Wild beast, delegated authority, vv. 12-14
 (3) Wild beast, delusion perpetrated on the world, vv. 15-17
 (4) Wild beast, designation, v. 18
4. Looking to the end of the Great Tribulation, Chapter 14
a. Picture of the lamb with the 144,000, vv. 1-5
b. Proclamation of the everlasting gospel, vv. 6, 7
c. Pronouncement of judgment on Babylon, v. 8
d. Pronouncement of judgment on those who received mark of the beast, vv. 9-12
e. Praise for those who die in the Lord, v. 13
f. Preview of Armageddon, vv. 14-20
5. Pouring out of the seven mixing bowls of wrath, Chaps. 15, 16
a. Preparation for final judgment of the Great Tribulation, 15:1 — 16:1
 (1) Tribulation saints in heaven worship God because He is holy and just, 15:1-4
 (2) Temple of the tabernacle opened in heaven that seven angels, having seven golden bowls, might proceed forth, 15:5 — 16:1
b. Pouring out of the first bowl, 16:2
c. Pouring out of the second bowl, 16:3
d. Pouring out of the third bowl, 16:4-7
e. Pouring out of the fourth bowl, 16:8, 9
f. Pouring out of the fifth bowl, 16:10, 11
g. Pouring out of the sixth bowl, 16:12
h. Interlude: kings of inhabited earth proceed to Har-Magedon, 16:13-16
i. Pouring out of the seventh bowl, 16:17-21
6. The two Babylons judged, Chapters 17, 18
a. The apostate church in the Great Tribulation, Chapter 17
 (1) Great harlot riding the wild beast, vv. 1-7
 (2) Wild beast destroys the great harlot, vv. 8-18

INTERPRETATION

WIERSBY: 1:19

The Outline (Rev 1:19)

To the best of my knowledge, the Book of Revelation is the only book in the Bible that contains an inspired outline of the contents. “The things which thou hast seen” refers to the vision in Rev_1:1-20. “The things which are” refers to Revelation 2-3, the special messages to the seven churches. “The things which shall be hereafter” covers the events described in Revelation 4-22. What John heard in Rev_4:1 substantiates this interpretation.

In review, we can summarize the basic characteristics of this remarkable book as follows:

It is a Christ-centered book.

To be sure, all Scripture speaks of the Saviour; but the Book of Revelation especially magnifies the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ. The book is, after all, the revelation of Jesus Christ and not simply the revelation of future events.

It is an “open” book.

John was told not to seal the book (Rev_22:10) because God’s people need the message it contains. Revelation can be understood, despite the fact that it contains mysteries that may never be comprehended until we meet at the throne of God. John sent the book to the seven churches of Asia Minor with the expectation that, when it was read aloud by the messengers, the listening saints would understand enough of its truths so as to be greatly encouraged in their own difficult situations.

It is a book filled with symbols.

Biblical symbols are timeless in their message and limitless in their content. For instance, the symbol of “Babylon” originates in Genesis 10-11, and its meaning grows as you trace it through Scripture, climaxing with Revelation 17-18. The same is true of the symbols of “the Lamb” and “the bride.” It is exciting to seek to penetrate deeper into the rich meanings that are conveyed by these symbols.

It is a book of prophecy.

This is definitely stated in Rev_1:3; Rev_22:7, Rev_22:10, Rev_22:18-19; note also Rev_10:11. The letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor dealt with immediate needs in those assemblies, needs that are still with us in churches today; but the rest of the book is devoted almost entirely to prophetic revelations. It was by seeing the victorious Christ presented that the persecuted Christians found encouragement for their difficult task of witnessing. When you have assurance for the future, you have stability in the present. John himself was suffering under the hand of Rome (Rev_1:9), so the book was born out of affliction.

It is a book with a blessing.

We have already noted the promise in Rev_1:3, as well as the six other “beattitudes” scattered throughout the book. It is not enough simply to hear (or read) the book; we must respond to its message from the heart. We must take the message personally and say a believing “Amen!” to what it says. (Note the many “Amens” in the book: Rev_1:6-7, Rev_1:18; Rev_3:14; Rev_5:14; Rev_7:12; Rev_19:4; Rev_22:20-21.)

APPLICATION

(Wiersby’s comments continues from column to the left:)

It is a relevant book.

What John wrote about would “shortly come to pass” (Rev_1:1) because “the time is at hand” (Rev_1:3). (Note also Rev_22:7, Rev_22:10, Rev_22:12, Rev_22:20.) The word shortly does not mean “soon” or “immediately,” but “quickly, swiftly.” God does not measure time as we do (2Pe_3:1-10). No one knows when our Lord shall return; but when He begins to open the seals of the scroll (Rev_6:1), events will occur with speed and without interruption.

It is a majestic book.

Revelation is the book of “the throne,” for the word throne is found forty-six times throughout. This book magnifies the sovereignty of God. Christ is presented in His glory and dominion!

It is a universal book.

John saw nations and peoples (Rev_10:11; Rev_11:9; Rev_17:15) as part of God’s program. He also saw the throne room of heaven and heard voices from the ends of the universe!

It is a climactic book.

Revelation is the climax of the Bible. All that began in Genesis will be completed and fulfilled in keeping with God’s sovereign will. He is “Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending” (Rev_1:8). What God starts, He finishes! But before visiting the throne room of heaven, we must pause to listen to “the Man among the lampstands” as He reveals the personal needs in our churches and in our own hearts. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches!”

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b. Political and commercial Babylon judged, Chapter 18

- (1) Announcement of fall of commercial and political Babylon, vv. 1-8
- (2) Anguish in the world because of Babylon's judgment, vv. 9-19
- (3) Anticipation of joy in heaven because of judgment on Babylon, vv. 20-24

C. Marriage of the Lamb and return of Christ in judgment, - Chapter 19

- 1. Four hallelujahs, vv. 1-6
- 2. Bride of the Lamb and marriage supper, vv. 7-10
- 3. Return of Christ as King of kings & Lord of lords, vv. 11-16
- 4. War of Armageddon, vv. 17, 18
- 5. Hell opened, vv. 19-21

D. Millennium, Chapter 20

- 1. Satan bound 1000 years, vv. 1-3
- 2. Saints of the Great Tribulation reign with Christ 1000 years, vv. 4-6

- 3. Satan loosed after 1000 years, vv. 7-9
- 4. Satan cast into lake of fire and brimstone, v. 10
- 5. Setting of Great White Throne where lost are judged and follow Satan into lake of fire and brimstone, vv. 11-15

E. Entrance into eternity; eternity unveiled, Chapters 21, 22

- 1. New heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem, 21:1, 2
- 2. New era, 21:3-8
- 3. New Jerusalem, description of the eternal abode of the bride, 21:9-21
- 4. New relationship — God dwelling with man, 21:22, 23
- 5. New center of the new creation, 21:24-27
- 6. River of the water of life and tree of life, 22:1-5
- 7. Promise of return of Christ, 22:6-16
- 8. Final invitation and warning, 22:17-19
- 9. Final promise and prayer, 22:20, 21

THOU ARE WORTHY!

*Thou art wor-thy, Thou art wor-thy,
Thou art wor-thy o LORD.
To receive glory, glory and honor,
Glo-ry and hon-or and power.
For Thou hast cre-a-ted,
Hast all things cre-a-ted,
For Thou hast cre-a-ted all things.
And for Thy plea-sure they are cre-a-ted.
Thou art wor-thy o LORD.*

Questions:

1. Please comment on the significance of these verses in *Revelation*: 1:1,3,19; 4:1(after these things-meta tauta); 5:9-10; 22:10,18 (According to chapter 1:1, who or what is revealed in the Book of Revelations?)
2. What are the "Preterist (past), Historical, Futurist viewpoints of the interpreting Revelation? The Amilleniist, Pre-Tribulation points of view?
3. Regarding books in the Bible that are primarily prophetic in nature, how many are there in the Old Testament? In the New Testament?
4. What Biblical author reaches the farthest back into eternity past? Reaches the farther into eternity future?
5. In how many books of the Bible is the reader promised a special blessing?
6. Was Daniel told to "seal" the Book of Daniel? Is the Book of Revelation a sealed book? What were you taught?
7. Do you believe that the symbols in Revelation should be interpreted literally, unless otherwise being told they express in symbols that which deals with reality?
8. What are a few of the great subjects in the Bible that are originated in Revelation? Are consummated in Revelation?
9. How many verses are in Revelation (404)? About how many contain references to the Old Testament? (about 20, 50, 70%) How important is the understanding of Revelation to the understanding of the Old Testament.
10. Where in the Bible does the subject of the church begin? Where does it end? What chapter?
11. Do you think the Book of Revelation is easy, moderate or hard to understand?
12. Are we given a clear outline of the Book? Can you think of a more orderly Book or one which gives a more clear outline?
13. What does Revelation say about adding or taking away from what is written in the Bible? 22:18-19