

Session 1 Overview of the Book of Revelation

I. THE BOOK OF REVELATION: JESUS' END-TIME BATTLE PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

- A. The Book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) and His specific plan to transition the earth to the age-to-come. These events require our deep involvement.
- B. There are **4 parts** in the structure of Revelation. The 4th part has **5 chronological sections** in which the events occur in sequential order. There are 7 main symbols in the Book.
- C. The main theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations. Evil governments will resist this. His End-Time battle plan is to physically destroy all the evil governments on earth by releasing His judgments on them during the Great Tribulation as described in Rev. 6-19.
- D. As the Book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church so the Book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the End-Time Church. I refer to Revelation as the "***End-Time Book of Acts***". It is a "***canonized prayer manual***" that informs us of the ways in which Jesus will manifest His power.
- E. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh by prayer (Exod 7-12), so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Antichrist by prayer. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan (Rev. 12:9; 13:2).
¹⁸ I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades (authority of hell) shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt. 16:18-19)
- F. Revelation is Jesus' battle plan to allow the sin in man's heart to fully come to the surface and then to drive evil off the planet through the praying Church. These judgment events do not happen ***to us*** as helpless victims of Satan but are released ***through us*** as participants with Jesus. Jesus' judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. He is at ***war*** to have His ***wedding***.
- G. **The 7 main symbols**: all events and numbers in Revelation are to be taken in their plain meaning (literal) unless specifically indicated not to (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18, etc.)
1) Dragon: is symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)
2) First Beast: is symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)
3) Another Beast: is symbolic of the False Prophet called "another Beast" just once (Rev. 13:11)
4) Seven Heads: are 7 empires from history that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Roman Empire of Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16)
5) Ten Horns: represents a 10-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist (Rev. 17:12-13)
6) Harlot Babylon: will be a worldwide demonically inspired religious and economic system based in the re-built city of Babylon, near Baghdad in Iraq (Rev. 17-18; Jer. 50-51)
7) Woman with a Male-child (Jesus): is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12)

II. STRUCTURE OF REVELATION: 4 PARTS AND 5 SECTIONS (IN THE 4TH PART)

Rev. 1 **Pt. 1 John's CALLING to prophesy about the End-Times:** John gave 18 truths about Jesus' majesty that formed the way he prophesied about the End-Times, which are meant to equip us.

Rev. 2-3 **Pt. 2 Jesus gave 7 LETTERS to 7 churches:** the instructions Jesus gave to these 7 churches about overcoming sin give us practical insight into what we must also overcome today.

Rev. 4-5 **Pt. 3 Jesus takes the SCROLL:** contains the earth's title deed and His battle plan to cleanse it.

Rev. 6-22 **Pt. 4 Jesus' BATTLE PLAN:** includes Great Tribulation judgments against the Antichrist. Jesus reveals His main storyline of love to cleanse the earth of evil. His battle plan is seen in **5 Chronological sections** that describe events that unfold in sequential order. Each section is followed by an **Angelic explanation** to help us understand that section.

The 5 Chronological Sections: tell us what happens to the Antichrist's followers in 21 judgment events (*7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls*). These intensify in severity as they unfold.

The 5 Angelic Explanations: function as a parenthesis, putting the storyline on "pause". They answer questions arising from the chronological sections: Why is God's wrath so severe? What will happen to us? Angels explain to John what happens to God's people including what Jesus will do to **help us** and what the Antichrist will do to **persecute us**.

Rev. 6 **Chronological section #1:** the **SEAL JUDGMENTS** against the kingdom of darkness.

Rev. 7 **Angelic Explanation #1:** we receive **PROTECTION** from judgments and falling away.

Rev. 8-9 **Chronological section #2:** the **TRUMPET JUDGMENTS** against the Antichrist's empire.

Rev. 10-11 **Angelic Explanation #2:** we receive **DIRECTION** by great increase of prophetic ministry.

Rev. 11:15-19 **Chronological section #3:** the **SECOND COMING PROCESSION** and the Rapture.

The 7th and Last Trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 10:7; 1 Thes. 4:16): Jesus replaces all governmental leaders on earth in a hostile takeover. In His Procession, Jesus first travels across the sky to rapture the saints (every eye sees Him; Rev. 1:7), then through the land of Edom (modern day Jordan; Isa. 63:1-6) then into Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives.

Rev. 12-14 **Angelic Explanation #3:** the **CONFRONTATION** against the saints by the Antichrist's system and persecutions requires that all his governments be taken over. Satan is on earth.

Rev. 15-16 **Chronological section #4:** the **BOWL JUDGMENTS** destroy evil infrastructures in society

Rev. 17-18 **Angelic Explanation #4:** the **SEDUCTION** of Babylon's evil religion will permeate and infiltrate all the structures of society, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.

Rev. 19-20 **Chronological section #5:** Jesus' **TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** to Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8)

Rev. 21-22 **Angelic Explanation #5:** the **RESTORATION** of all things Acts 3:21 (Rev. 21:9-22:5)