

Session 1. Overview of the Book of Revelation

THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS RELEVANT FOR TODAY

Well, tonight we are going to be looking at an overview of the book of Revelation and my premise is that the flow of the book of Revelation—the overall message—the flow of the book can be understood in less than an hour. A person can memorize the nine main pieces of information I highlighted earlier and learn them in less than a day.

The book of Revelation is relevant to our lives. It is relevant to your life. It is actually part of your story. It is the action plan, the very specific action plan, which Jesus gave the Church as a gift. It is written down for all to see. It is the plan which He has determined to use in order to shift history to the age to come.

YOUR STORY IS IN THIS BOOK

He will not do this without the deep involvement of His people. His people will through prayer, proclamation, and acts of obedience release the events which are necessary to prepare the nations for the coming of the Lord. This is a very relevant book for you. Your story is in this book.

Now the book of Revelation has been beneficial to the body of Christ for 2000 years, but it has a unique application for one generation. It has been useful for 2000 years, I want to say that clearly, but I also want to say clearly that there is one generation in history to whom the Lord has entrusted this mandate: to partner with Him to shift history to the age to come. The book of Revelation has a unique application for that generation. I believe that there are those in this room and this is about your life. So the point is: it is worth taking the effort to understand this book.

TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

The next point I want to make is that the book is understandable. This book was written to be understood by poor uneducated peasants throughout history. The book was not written to be only understood by academics. It was written to be understood by everyone. It means what it says and it says what it means in a very plain way. There are seven main symbols in the book and the meaning of those symbols are quite straightforward.

Now there are two points—before we get right into it—which are commonly overlooked. There are two points which are essential to grasp when people approach the book of Revelation. These are very simple points but you have to just get them and 90 percent of you already understand them.

Point number one: when Jesus comes in the sky at the rapture, and our bodies are transformed in the twinkling of an eye and we get resurrected bodies, we are then rewarded, mobilized, and dispatched to come with Him to take over the world, meaning, at the second coming.

WE DO NOT GO AWAY, JESUS COMES TO STAY

At the rapture we do not go away, Jesus comes to stay. A lot of folks, when they think of the book of Revelation, think of Jesus appearing and then leaving. That is not what the Bible teaches. He appears and we get caught up in the sky for very practical reasons: for our bodies to be transformed into a resurrection bodies, to receive our eternal rewards right there in the sky, and to be mobilized. And this takes a little time. I do not know if it takes hours or days, I do not know. The transformation of our bodies is instantaneous, but the whole mobilization is right in the sky. Then we are dispatched to our place of assignment according to our reward, some in significant roles of leadership on the earth and some in lesser roles.

The point is that when He comes we do not go away, we stay. That is point number one. It is a critical point, because if we go away to play a harp on a cloud for millions of years it makes the whole book is confusing.

HEAVEN COMES TO EARTH

Point number two: it is important to understand that when Jesus comes at the second coming and the rapture takes place, that this happens at the same time as when the New Jerusalem descends to the earth with Him. We do not go away to heaven at that time. Heaven comes to the earth. What He does is join together the two realms, the natural realm and the supernatural realm.

We all understand the supernatural realm in the resurrection but the part that many overlook is the idea that the natural realm will not be suspended or done away with. It will be enhanced by the glory of the resurrection. In other words you will have real physical material bodies with resurrection abilities—supernatural abilities. You will walk on the earth. You will eat. You will have friends. You will learn. You will teach. In the resurrection you will work on the earth with a physical, material body forever, but the devil will be in prison and then in the lake of fire after the Millennium.

The point is that you are not going away to play a harp on a cloud. You are being transformed and mobilized to govern the earth so that the garden of Eden, the dream of God, would come forth on the earth through your labors under Jesus' leadership.

The part that folks struggle with is the natural part in the age to come. They all get the supernatural part, the resurrected body but the part they trip over is how earthly—natural and physical—things will be in the age to come. That is exciting! We do not choose one realm over the other, but they both come together.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

Now the main reason why people who love Jesus do not read the book of Revelation is because they get confused by the structure. I think we can bring clarity on the structure tonight in a short amount of time. You can get clarity on the structure.

There are four main parts and the fourth part has five sections to it—five chronological sections. If you get clarity about the structure and you get these nine pieces of information clear, you will know where you are in the drama—in the storyline. You will know what is happening in

whatever chapter you are reading, and you will get the context of what is taking place, if you know these nine pieces of information.

The second reason people do not read the book of Revelation, even though they love Jesus, is that not only the structure confuses them but also the symbols confuse them. There are seven main symbols. They are really straightforward and easy to understand because the Bible tells us what they mean.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION REVEALS THE GLORY OF A PERSON

The book of Revelation reveals the glory of a person. In the book of Revelation we see the events in the battle plan to confront evil. There is a battle plan. There is a war. The war has a very clear strategy and Jesus has a very real assignment which He is giving His church to perform. The Church must fulfill her assignment in this specific battle plan.

Sometimes when we read the book we can get so captured by the events that they become an end in themselves. Events are very important to understand but the events are meant to lead us back to the discovery of the glory of Jesus' mind and heart. Whatever the events are, we look at them and we say, "What a magnificent, wise and love-filled leader is the man who thought of these events." Though we read about the events—and it is important that we grasp them—the events lead us back to the adoration of a person, of a man. He is fully God and fully man. The book of Revelation is foremost the unveiling of the glory, the wisdom, the power and the love of a man. His name is Jesus.

GOD'S ACTION PLAN

The book is a specific action plan, a very specific action plan. It describes a war. There is divine intelligence in this war. There are events which happen in precise sequence and precise timing. The Lord wants us to know the order of the events and the timing. He has given us an assignment to be involved in the release of those events. Those events do not happen just in a vacuum. The Lord doesn't just suddenly do them sovereignly. He does them in response to the Church's response to Him.

This action plan is going to transition us to the age to come. People mix up this idea regularly. They say, "I am so excited that the end of the world is coming."

I say, "No, we do not believe in the end of the world. The end of the world is never coming. We believe in the end of this age."

We are in an ungodly age right now. The age in which we live is marked by the way the earth is governed.

Right now the earth is governed by men and women who are dynamically influenced by demons. In the age to come the nations will be governed by people who are dynamically influenced by the Holy Spirit, because the Devil will be in prison.

The world never ends, the age ends. The way the world is governed will change but the earth will not be obliterated and go away. It is important to understand that. There are unique dynamics in

the generation in which the Lord returns, very unique events—very unique and powerful negative ones and very unique and powerful positive ones. These events and the information about these events have a particular application for one generation in time. I have already made that point over and over. We must know the information about the battle plan in order to be engaged in releasing it and to prepare the nations for the coming of the Lord.

FOUR PARTS, FIVE SECTIONS

Now we are going to look at the structure. There are four parts in the structure. The fourth part has five chronological sections. Now most of you know what the word *chronological* means. It just means that the events happen in order, in chronological order. So there are five sections which we call the chronological sections. It is where the events on the earth happen in a clear, discernable order one after the other, in sequential order.

The main theme of the book of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule the nations, to drive evil off the planet, and to take over the full government of the nations.

This earth has been ordained by the Father as a place of love and righteousness. It was created to be the place of love and righteousness forever. Wickedness has found a stronghold for just a minute of time, for 6000 years from Adam to the second coming. For 6000 short years—compared to the billions of years of eternity—evil has found a stronghold and that evil must be rooted out and driven off the planet so that Jesus' leadership, love, and righteousness, for which the earth was ordained, comes to fullness in all of our experiences. That is what is going on. That is the plan of the book.

JESUS WILL NOT VIOLATE OUR FREE WILL

Now Jesus is confronted with an obstacle to filling the earth with love and righteousness. This is because there are evil governmental leaders who have armies and who have powerful economies. There are armies, economies, and political structures which hate Jesus and which are rooted in evil. Jesus will not violate their free will, meaning, He will not put His hand in their heart and turn the switch and automate them like a robot to say, "I love You Jesus. I love You." He will not move in their hearts and force them to say, "I love You and I will obey You." He woos them and He warns them. He woos them with kindness and He warns them with judgments.

What we find out is that billions hate Him and they will not yield to His plan to bring righteousness and love to the earth. So it is as if Jesus says, "I will not turn a switch inside of your spirit and make you do it. I will not automate you like a robot, I will not. I will woo you and warn you and if you will not agree with My plan, I cannot put My plan aside. I will kill you and drive you off the planet. That is the only alternative."

THE END-TIME BOOK OF ACTS

The nations rise up and say, "The war is on. We want to govern the earth and we want evil to spread in the earth. We want perversion and immorality and all the ways of darkness to fill the earth. We do not want Your ways." Jesus confronts them and they confront Him.

It is a war and the praying church is at the very point of the arrow. The battle plan is the book of Revelation. As the book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit released to the praying church, through the early church, so the book of Revelation is the acts of the Holy Spirit released through the end-time Church.

In the book of Acts miracles take place, the dead are raised, there are signs and wonders, thousands are saved, and the apostles and prophets are anointed by the Spirit. They pray and the Spirit moves through them with great signs and wonders. The book of Acts is called the book of Acts because it is the acts of the Holy Spirit or the power of the Holy Spirit through people. I call the book of Revelation the end-time book of Acts. The miracles and the signs and wonders which happened in the book of Acts will happen again on a global and far greater and multiplied level through the praying church in the end times.

REVELATION: A CANONIZED PRAYER MANUAL

I call the book of Revelation a canonized prayer manual. Now *canonized* is a big word. I have two big words: *chronological* and *canonized*. Those are the only words with over two or three syllables in the whole teaching. Now if I get a chance to use a big word, hey, I use it. I only have a couple of them.

What does *canonized* mean? *Canonized* means simply that it is in the Bible. The 27 books of the New Testament are canonized books. It means that they have been approved and received as Scripture. That is what *canonized* means: they are biblical.

Here is the point I am making: Jesus does not anoint an end-time prophet to write a prayer manual and everybody says, “Wow, this prayer manual is good,” and it becomes a best seller and lots of people like it. No, it is way beyond that. He gives us a canonized prayer manual—a prayer manual which is infallible, inspired and recorded in the Word of God.

GLOBAL UNIFIED PRAYER

Beloved, this is staggering in its implications. This means that the saints in Asia, Africa, Egypt, all over Latin America, North America, and everywhere else can be following the same prayer guide, focusing on the same events at the same time—the same strategic time—because we have a prayer guide which we all agree is infallible. It directs us all, so we have global, unified prayer. We have the prayer of faith in unity on a global level because of this prayer guide.

Now imagine what would have happened if, after the resurrection of Jesus, when He came back in Acts 1 for four days—Jesus appeared in Acts 1:3, you can read it. Jesus taught them for forty days in a resurrected body. The apostles are there, wow, Jesus, resurrected body, that’s intense. It says that He taught them for forty days with a resurrected body, in person.

By the way His body was physical and material. He ate with them. He ate natural food with them with a resurrected body and then He walked through the wall. Now that is the natural and the supernatural at its highest combination. They touched His hand and they felt the scars in His hand and His side. They said, “It is really You!”

“Yes, it is Me!”

WHAT IF . . .

Anyway, He was with them for forty days. What if He had given them the 28 chapters of the book of Acts. Acts has 28 chapters. What if He had laid out the book of Acts in its entirety as a document and said, “Peter, James and John here it is. Here is the whole plan of the early church laid out, and everybody has the main points. You know what is going to happen, and when it is going to happen, so you can all be in unity if you have it ahead of time.”

Can you imagine the implications if they had known all of it: when the revivals would break out, where the persecutions would come? Well, this is what Jesus did. He gave us the book of Acts for the end time. He gave it to the whole church.

BATTLE PLAN AND PRAYER MANUAL

We have the battle plan and the prayer manual. The devil wants this prayer manual set aside. He does not want the church believing in the relevance of this prayer manual. He fears the praying church in unity with Jesus more than anything in history. The Church in prayer and in unity with Jesus terrifies him.

There is so much confusion around this very clear and direct battle plan and prayer manual. It is not an accident that most people believe it is not for today, that it is irrelevant and that they do not get it. That is the work of Satan himself in the Church. I assure you Satan does not want this battle plan and this prayer manual to become clear and in the hands of billions. This is the very thing which, together with others, we are committed to do: to see millions take hold of this battle plan and this prayer manual.

Now imagine the implications of this—this kind of clarity, this kind of unity. Moses released God’s judgments—the ten plagues of Egypt—on Pharaoh through prayer. Moses went into Egypt, stood before Pharaoh, stretched forth his rod—which was a form of prayer—and also said prayers out loud. The stretching of the rod was a form of prayer. He released the judgments one day and the next time he would stretch forth his rod or say a prayer and draw back the judgments—cause the judgments to stop.

So I have been asked, “What do we do? Do we release the judgments or stop the judgments?” The answer is that like Moses, the end-time Church will do both. Sometimes under the Holy Spirit’s direction, we will release the judgments on the Antichrist kingdom. At other times our prayers will stop the judgments. It is both. Moses knew which was which at what time, because God was operating under a very strategic, wise plan in heaven And He has given us such a plan. The end-time Church is in the same role Moses was in. We are releasing the plagues of Egypt—so to speak—not upon Pharaoh of Egypt but on the end-time Pharaoh called the Antichrist. The end-time Pharaoh has a global dominion. We release the plagues upon him like Moses did upon the ancient Pharaoh.

THE END-TIME JUDGEMENTS ARE LIKE THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT

It is not a coincidence that the seven trumpets and the seven bowls are parallel with the ten plagues of Egypt. When you compare them, most of them are the same as the plagues of Moses. They are meant to be.

I remember when I first understood this. I thought it was a great revelation. I said, “Wow!”

And then some guy said, “Well, everybody knows that.”

I said, “Are you kidding?” I thought I had the key information.

The drama Moses played out against Pharaoh is meant to be understood as the same drama played out again on a global level at the end of the age, but instead of one Moses it is the praying body of Christ worldwide in the Moses position. The miracles which were released in the book of Acts and the miracles which were released in the book of Exodus—the miracles of Exodus with Moses and the miracles of Acts with the apostles—are going to be combined, multiplied on a global level, and loosed against the end-time Pharaoh by the praying church.

The Church must know the prayer manual and they must know the battle plan because they are not arbitrary. There is a precise strategy and timing of the exact events. He wants us to pray in faith according to His perfect battle plan.

THE FINAL THREE AND A HALF YEARS

Now the greatest demonstrations of power in all of history are going to be manifest in the final three and a half years before Jesus’ return, meaning, the Devil’s greatest miracles and Jesus’ greatest miracles will be happening on the earth simultaneously. In the final three and a half years the greatest miracles in both kingdoms—the greatest ever seen in history—will emerge at the same time in total collision with each other.

It says in Revelation 12:9—this is so intense—that Satan goes to war with Michael the archangel and in the final three and a half years—this war is yet future—the devil is cast to the earth and confined to the earth together with billions of demons. All of his demons come with him to the earth and they are confined to operate on the earth. The earth—regions of the earth—will literally be hell on earth.

It says in Revelation 13:2 that Satan will give his throne to the Antichrist. Satan’s throne right now is in heavenly places, in the mid-heavens. His throne and his power will be on the earth. This has intense implications. Billions of demons will be on the earth and then the doors of hell itself will open and demons will come forth as you see in Revelation 9. They will come forth to torment multitudes on the earth. There will be so much demonic activity on the earth but at the same time there will be the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit in history.

There will be zones of the glory of God, there will be regions which will be hell on earth, and there will be other regions which will be in the balance of the prayer movement—the outcome will depend on prayer, if people prayed or not. Some regions will be regions of the glory of God

and the devil will not be able to penetrate them. Other regions will be hell on earth in the most intense way and many other regions will be in the balance of those two possibilities.

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

I am believing God for the place where I am—for this city and this region—to be a zone of glory because of prayer going on in agreement with God. In Matthew 16:18 (paraphrased) Jesus said, “I will build My church and the authority of hades—hades is hell—the gates of hell or the authority of hell, shall not prevail against My church.

Now He goes on in Matthew 16:19 and tells them how it is going to work. He describes prayer, prophetic prayer. He says, “This is how it is going to work. This is how the authority of hell will be driven off the earth: I will give you the keys of the kingdom—that is prayer, prophecy, and worship. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (v. 19, paraphrased). What Jesus is saying is that we will bind the bad things and loose the good things.

The net result of binding and loosing—which we call prayer, the prayer of faith together on a global level—will drive the gates of hell off the planet. At the end of the binding and loosing, which happens at the end of the Great Tribulation, Satan will be thrown into prison and the Antichrist will be cast into the lake of fire. That is where this binding and loosing will end up.

Jesus will appear in the sky. He is leading the global prayer movement, but He will not do it without the participation of His praying Bride. He loves us so much, it is as if He says, “I am not doing it without you. The plan is in our hands, we will do it together.” It is under His leadership but our involvement is dynamic for His plan of love to rule the nations with us.

THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL

So when Jesus says in Matthew 16:18: “The gates of hell will not prevail,” this principle has been true for 2000 years since He said it, since He went to the cross and rose from the dead, but the manifestation of it has rarely been seen. You know, only a little bit of this has been manifest in history, but there is coming a time where hell itself will be driven off the planet through the prayer movement.

Now in Matthew 16 Jesus is actually giving us an eschatological passage. “Eschatological” just means “end-time”—one of my other big words. We have got *chronological*, *eschatological* and what is the other one? Oh, yes, *canonized*, that is it. I have got three big words: *canonized*, *eschatological*—*eschatological* just means “end-time.” Everyone say: “Eschatological”. It just means “end-time.” You’ve got it. One guy says, “I do not get what *eschatological* is.” I said, “We can fix that in ten seconds.” Now you have got it forever, for the rest of your life. For billions of years you will know what it means. It means ‘end-time.

THE BATTLE PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

This passage in Matthew 16 is an eschatological passage. Jesus was actually talking about the prayer movement in the book of Revelation. John might have thought, “Wow, the gates of hell driven off the earth through prayer, wow.”

And Jesus looked at John and said,—He did not really say this but He could have—“John in about 60 years you will be in prison on the island of Patmos. I am going to visit you. It is going to be called the book of Revelation. I am going to give you the prayer manual which will bind and loose things to make all this happen.” Now He did not say that to John but He could have.

I can picture John saying, “Wow, binding, loosing, keys, the gates of hell, awesome.”

I can just see Jesus looking at him and saying, “Oh John, I am going to blow your mind. In about 60 years from now I am going to give you the prayer manual in order to get it in the Bible so that the end-time Church will have the battle plan written in advance.” Imagine the implications of that.

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Now imagine a prayer manual which unifies the praying church, so that when the fourth trumpet sounds we know what is next. What happens after the fourth trumpet? The fifth trumpet because five always comes after four, that is why the trumpets are numbered. The saints in Asia, Africa, Latin-America, Europe, and everywhere else will say after the fourth trumpet, “The fifth trumpet,” and all the prayer rooms will be praying for the fifth trumpet. Then after the fifth one, what always comes after five? We will all know what the next prayer focus is. Globally there will be no division. There will be no prophet who says, “Yes, says the Lord, ‘The sixth one is on hold.’” No, we will all know exactly.

Now what happens after the sixth trumpet is the seventh trumpet and that is when Jesus comes in the sky. Can you imagine the excitement after the sixth trumpet. Everybody knows what comes after six, it is seven. The prayer rooms of the earth will cry out, “Come Lord Jesus! Come Lord Jesus!” The Spirit and the Bride will cry, “Come!” That is the prayer we are going to pray and at the seventh trumpet He will come in the sky with the trumpet and the shout of God. He is coming in answer to the prayers.

WHY WILL NOT BE VICTIMS BUT PARTICIPANTS

Now you do not pray for the seventh trumpet during the third seal. The woman who is four months pregnant does not start pushing until nine months. We do not push in prayer for the seventh trumpet until the sixth one happens. There will be a unity and a precision of understanding worldwide, because of this amazing document called the book of Revelation.

I tell you the Devil does not want this battle plan and this prayer manual in the minds and the hearts of God’s people but we are committed to seeing the earth filled with this reality in whatever way the Lord will let us get the word out.

Then the structure of the book is actually quite simple after this. I am just giving you the background so that you understand how important this book is and why we need to have it. These judgments of the Great Tribulation do not happen *to* us, they happen *through* us. We are not victims of the judgment, we are the participants loosing the judgments. We are not helpless victims, we are anointed participants.

Some folks are waiting. They are waiting to go up. They say, “Oh rapture come, so we can go up and escape the Tribulation.” Jesus wants the very opposite. He is waiting for us to grow up to loose the Tribulation. He does not want us waiting to go up to escape. He wants us to grow up and mature in understanding, in faith and in unity in order to loose the judgements on the Antichrist.

THE FALSE PROPHET: ANOTHER BEAST

The seven symbols: the dragon is Satan—it says it clearly in the book of Revelation. The first beast is the Antichrist—36 times it says “the Antichrist.”

“Another beast” is the false prophet. He is only called *another beast* once. Every other time he is called *the false prophet*. The reason he is called *another beast* one time—because you think why not just call him *the false prophet* every single time? Why confuse it? Here is why: because this world religious leader will be a prophet, a religious leader who will give great speeches. He will be a tremendous communicator with tremendous power and presence. There will be authority and presence on his presentations. He will lead the counterfeit justice movement.

A COUNTERFEIT JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Beloved, the Devil is raising up a peace movement. He wants to establish a justice movement, not on Jesus’ terms, but on his terms. He will feed the poor. He will use the word “justice.” He will even use prayer. He will even use good works, but it will be to lead people into his kingdom and not into loyalty to Jesus. He will be very powerful. He will talk about justice and peace. He will talk about unity. He will talk about the poor. He will talk about all these things and that movement is emerging in these very hours—the beginning of the beginning of that movement. You can already hear the whispers of it. It is a counterfeit movement. It will lead men to hell at the end of the day because it will lead them away from Jesus and not into allegiance to Jesus.

Anyway this false prophet will look so winsome: peace, justice, the poor—what is there not to like about him? In the book of Revelation John says in effect, “Do not be deceived. He is a beast just like the Antichrist. He has the same cruel nature, incapable of genuine mercy. He is a beast. Do not be tricked by his winsome presentation. He is a beast.” So he is called *the beast* once, to link him to the cruelty of the Antichrist and from then on he is called *the false prophet*.

THE SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS

The seven heads are seven empires from history which persecuted Israel. The Antichrist will have all the strength of evil which these seven nations had—these seven empires—throughout the last 4000 years. Whatever evil these empires were good at, that ability will be in the Antichrist worldwide empire. The point of telling us this is: John is saying, “Do not have a trivial attitude toward the Antichrist.”

We are not afraid of him but neither do we trivialize this adversary. He is a real opponent. I have heard guys say, “Oh, I do not mind the Antichrist. In the name of Jesus I will just get rid of him.” No, he will be a formidable adversary though we do not fear him. We will triumph but he will have the same power of the evil from the seven empires which persecuted Israel.

The ten horns stand for ten nations who will unite to bring their military, their governments, their finances, their economic systems—they will bring all of their resources to the Antichrist. So the Antichrist will have ten nations and all of their military, all of their power and their resources. It will be the strongest empire in human history. John is letting us know that the adversary is real but we will defeat him.

REVELATION 1-3

The structure of the book. There are four parts and the fourth part has five sections. In Revelation 1 John tells us about his calling. In this calling in Revelation 1 he gives us 18 truths which he encounters about Jesus, which formed the way he prophesied about the end times. The point is that the same 18 truths will form our hearts and our message when we prophesy about the end times. That is the point of Revelation 1. We will break this down at another time.

Revelation 1 is the prophetic message. It is the spirit of it, it is the mindset we have and the way we encounter Jesus. It is laid out in Revelation 1 as the model. The idea is that we are going to do it like John did it.

Revelation 2-3. The second part. Jesus gave seven letters to seven churches 2000 years ago. They were real churches in Asia 2000 years ago. Jesus strategically picked them and He has used them throughout church history to bless the Church. These are strategically picked, because they will highlight the issues of compromise which will emerge in the end-time Church and which we have to resist and overcome. They were picked strategically to equip us. Yes, they blessed the early Church and the Church through history, but their greatest application is to billions of end-time believers—a billion or two end-time believers—so that we will know what will challenge us in terms of our compromise. They are laid out right there.

JESUS TAKES THE SCROLL

Revelation 4-5. The third part. It is the heavenly scene before the throne. In Revelation 4-5 God the Father has a scroll in His hand. This scroll is the title deed of the earth. This scroll is the action plan or the battle plan to cleanse the earth. Jesus comes forward and the Father offers Him the scroll. He takes it. When He takes it He is accepting the responsibility for the leadership of the earth, to cleanse it and prepare it for the glory of God and for love and righteousness. So when Jesus takes the scroll He is saying before all of creation, “I accept the responsibility to enact this plan to drive evil off the planet in partnership with My people.” Taking that scroll has massive implications.

Now the contents of the scroll itself: the battle plan. When the scroll unrolls—He breaks off the seals so He can unroll it, because the battle plan is on the inside of the scroll—the idea is that when the scroll is completely unrolled the whole plan has been enacted and now Jesus takes the ownership of the earth publicly before all people and that is at the second coming.

So the battle plan is seen in five chronological sections. These sections describe events which unfold in order, in sequential order, one after the other. So there are five sections where the story line unfolds event after event, in order. It is discernable. We know what is coming next after each

one of these chronological sections, where events are told in discernable order of how they will happen.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTIONS AND ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS

These events are so dramatic—the negative events of confronting the Antichrist are so dramatic that John is a little overwhelmed, so the angel puts the chronological story line on hold. He pauses and it is as if he says, “Wait, John, you are a little overwhelmed.”

“Whoa! The events I just saw which are going to happen on the earth are intense.”

The angel pushes the pause button. It is like a parenthesis. It is as if he says, “Sit down. Let’s talk heart to heart. Let me tell you the why behind the what. Let me tell you the behind-the-scenes information.” So I call this an angelic explanation.

The five chronological sections tell us what happens to the Antichrist. The five angelic explanations tell us what happens to believers. So in the chronological sections we find out what happens to the bad guys. And in the angelic explanations the angel puts the storyline on pause and has a heart-to-heart talk with John. It is like a parenthesis. He says, “John let me tell you what will happen to the people of God.”

In these angelic explanations which have emerged in the chronological sections, the questions are answered. “Why is the wrath so severe? What is going to happen to us?” Those are the questions we normally ask. “How could a God of love do this and what about me?” The most natural questions all get answered in these angelic explanations.

Let’s go to the first section: The seal judgments. Now they are intense. The seal judgments are intense, but the trumpet judgments are more intense and the bowls are even more intense. As those judgment events unfold they grow in severity. Each one is worse than the one before. For instance in the judgment of the fourth seal, one fourth of the earth will die. One fourth of the earth, that is like two billion people.

You know, in a couple of decades from now there will be eight billion people and two billion will die. “What? Two billion people?” We just go blank. We do not even know what to do with that.

FIRST ANGELIC EXPLANATION

John’s eyes get really big and John is thinking, “What about us, what about us, what about us?”

So it is as if the angel says, “Pause, put the storyline on hold.” John sits down. So in Revelation 7, in the first explanation, the angel says, “You are going to be protected. God is going to seal His people. They will not receive the judgments of God. Not only will they be protected from the judgments of God they will also be protected spiritually from compromising in sin or under persecution.” So the judgments of God will not touch us.

“OK, good, good. What about our hearts? What if we deny the Lord?”

The angel says, “No, you are going to be protected spiritually too if you want to be.”

So the first explanation is that you are going to be protected if you want it. Phew. We are protected from the judgments of God and we are protected from the compromise of the seductions of the world and from compromising under persecution. There will be power on our spirits to be faithful to the end.

So it is as if John says, “OK, we are going to be protected. That is good. Good, OK, I am ready.”

The angel says, “Do you want to go on with the storyline? OK, good. Let’s go to the next part of the story, the next part of the battle plan.”

SECOND CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION AND EXPLANATION

Chronological section two. The trumpets. They are worse than the seals. Now it is not one fourth of the world who die, but in the sixth trumpet one third of the world dies, that is another third. I mean, it is another two billion who die. John is picturing the demonic activity abounding on the earth. Tremendous demonic activity is released with the trumpets.

So John’s eyes are getting big—all this demonic activity. He is thinking, “Oh no, I am not worried about protection. I am worried about confusion and deception. What if we get deceived?”

The angel says, “OK John, let’s pause. I can see it in your eyes. Stop, sit down and let me talk to you. In the second explanation there is going to be a release of prophetic anointing. There is going to be such divine direction and divine revelation, that the prophetic movement will go beyond any time in history. There will be more prophets with clarity and insight you will not be confused and you will not be deceived. There is protection and there is direction coming too.”

“Oh, wow. OK, good, good, good.” John is thinking about us. He is not worried about himself. He is 90 years old. He is a prisoner already. He is thinking about the people of God.

Now I am kind of interjecting these emotions of John. When I meet him he might say, “Hey, you know, some of that was actually pretty accurate but not perfectly accurate.”

“OK John, I can live with that.”

Now the angel says, “John are you OK? Did you get it?”

“Yes, I got it. We are going to have prophetic direction. We are not going to be deceived.”

ALL EVIL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE REPLACED

“Good, let’s go to the next one: the second coming procession and the rapture.” Now this is really intense because at the very core of the second coming—the point of it is that He is coming to overthrow all the evil governments, to remove them and replace them.

You know that we are involved in the conflict in Iraq. There are some government changes and we have got so much confusion going on, I mean men are not really good at sorting out governments.

You know we are in the middle of an election. We are in a transition period and even in a peaceable election things get all confused when positions change. Jesus is going to change all 232 nations in the world at one time. All the governments will be changed and John is saying, “Are you sure you want to do all that and are you sure it is necessary? I mean that is radical. All of the governments of the earth are going to be changed?”

“Yes.”

EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM

This is when Jesus appears in the sky. When Jesus appears, He will not appear for one second like a flash of lightning and then we all disappear and we leave. That is not what will happen. When Jesus appears He will travel around the entire earth so that every single eye can see Him. The saints will be raptured but the people who are not raptured will see Him and they will mourn. That is what it says several times. They will see Him. Every eye will see Him and they will mourn. So that means that Jesus will have to be close enough to them for all of them to see Him.

I have asked people, “How do you think this happens?”

They say, “We don’t know.”

I can assure you that the earth will not go flat for one second and then everything will be flat and then we will see Him, saw Him, and then the earth will become round again. That is not going to happen. And I will tell you another thing which is not going to happen. He is not going to become a ten thousand foot Jesus standing and then people way on the edges can see Him because He is so big.

Jesus is coming back in the same resurrected body which He had, the size of a man. That means He is going to cover every part of the earth slow enough and close enough so that all people can see Him and have an emotional response of anguish. He is going to be close enough to where a man can be seen—close enough—and He will move slowly enough. He is not going to be moving a million miles an hour, so people say, “Swoosh, OK, there is lightning, I guess that was the second coming, wow, intense, you know I think I am sad now.” No, they are going to see Him. The saints will be raptured, but He will travel slowly enough and close enough for every eye to see Him and for all of them to catch the gravity of the situation of what happened.

HE WILL MARCH TO JERUSALEM

Then after He goes around the world—I do not know if it will take hours or a day or two, I do not know, but every human being has to see Him. That is going to take more than a minute or two because the natural realm will not be suspended, it will be intact. And then Jesus is going to

land on the ground. We do not know exactly where He is going to land. I have what I consider an informed opinion but it does not matter.

It says that He is going to march up through Edom—which is modern day Jordan—killing the Antichrist armies on His way to the Mount of Olives, to Jerusalem, to be received as King. He does not land in Jerusalem, but that is where He ends—in Jerusalem. It says in Isaiah 63 that He marches up through the land. It says that He will be so intimately involved in the battle that the blood will actually splash on His garments. That is how involved He will be in the conflict.

He is the greater David. He is the warrior God, the greater David and the greater Moses, loosing the plagues upon the Antichrist. Then He will go into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.

THIRD ANGELIC EXPLANATION

Jesus is going to replace all the evil governmental leaders of the earth—so John’s eyes get big—every governmental leader who is evil, and there will be some righteous ones.

There will be zones of glory which we will establish and Hebrews 12 says that whatever we do in righteousness will not be shaken when the shaking comes. If it is done in the will of God it will stand. So we are infiltrating all the seven spheres of society—which a lot of people in the body of Christ are talking about—we infiltrate them with the presence of God and the will of God and wherever there is righteousness established it will not be shaken by the judgments of God. So there will be continuity of our labors, even into the age to come. I know I lost a few of you on that, but some of you followed it. We will talk about that more at another time.

So John’s eyes get really big—angelic explanation three—and John says, “Every governmental leader on the earth who is unrighteous has to be removed?”—which is the vast majority plus some. John says, “That is extreme.”

The angel says, “No, it is not extreme, it is necessary.” He talks about the Antichrist and the false prophet and how they have been confronting righteousness, killing the saints and hating Jesus. He says, “There is no other way, John. Do you not see it? It has to be this way. It has to be a total removal of all the evil leadership.”

John says in this third explanation, “I get it, wow, I guess it really has to happen that way. Yes, it does, OK, good.”

DASHING THE NATIONS WITH THE ROD OF IRON

Chronological section number four. The bowls. Now it picks up to another level. It is not only that all the leaders will be removed and killed. By the way, these evil leaders will be killed. They have been given the chance to say, “Yes” but they say, “No! We hate You Jesus. We absolutely hate You. We hate Your ways. We hate Your righteousness. We do not like anything about what Your regime or what Your government is portraying.”

Now the bowls are going to come and destroy all the infrastructure. The book of Revelation and the Psalms call it: “Dashing the nations with the rod of iron.” He is going to dash all the

infrastructure. He is going to break the tax systems because they are financing perversion. He is going to break the educational systems. Jesus is going to release the bowls which will dash all of these infrastructures of society because all of them are permeated with the Antichrist values and his vision. I mean, the libraries will have to be redone, the educational systems, the media, the tax code, the military—of course the military will be over by then—they will all have to be redone. The agricultural systems, the water systems, the environmental systems, they will all have the marks of the Antichrist.

So it is as if Jesus says, “Here is the fast way for Me to do it: I will dash every one of them. It is quicker to break them all down and build them from scratch.” The nations will be in a complete heap of rubble. The cities will be destroyed, all the infrastructures will be broken. Jesus says in effect, “It is better, because we will fix it far better with a better result if we completely remove it.”

That is what the angel explains here in the fourth explanation. He looks at John and John says, “OK, I get the idea that the leaders are going to be gone, but all of the systems, all of them?”

He says, “Because they are evil and there is so much of the seduction of darkness in every one of those systems, they have to be destroyed.”

John says, “OK, wow, I get it.”

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

The final section. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It says in Isaiah 63 and in Habakuk 3 that Jesus is marching up from Edom which is modern day Jordan. Those are the two main passages. There are many passages which talk about this, but in Habakuk 3 and in Isaiah 63 Jesus is marching up and killing the enemies.

He gets to Jerusalem, to the unsaved remnant—if they were saved they would have been raptured, but they did not join the Antichrist. They look at Him and they say to Jesus of Nazareth, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

In the famous Psalm 24 it says—oh, Psalm 24 is a grand passage—it says that in that day they will cry, “Open up your gates, oh city of Jerusalem. Open up your gates.” And then they will cry out who is coming. Then they will answer the King of glory, mighty in battle and it is Jesus in victory over Armageddon marching into Jerusalem, mighty in battle, mighty to save. And they will open up the gates and the King will come into the city. This is the triumphal entry which never ever goes sour ever again. So John says, “Whoa, this is awesome.”

FIFTH ANGELIC EXPLANATION

Now the fifth explanation. The angel is going to explain it and he is saying, “Now let me tell you where this is going.”

When Jesus is King and when He establishes all the new infrastructure and all the new governmental positions, He is going to have resurrected people in leadership. He is going to have

the natural people of the earth, all these unsaved people who did not say “Yes” to the Antichrist. They did not get raptured because they were not saved, but they did not take the mark of the beast either—there will be millions of them. Those are the ones who will continue living on the earth with natural bodies.

So Jesus is establishing His throne and what the angel says to John is that Jesus is basically going to establish the supernatural realm and the natural realm on the earth—that is what this is about. And the garden of Eden will be back on the earth again. The whole cycle will have come to pass because back in Genesis 3 there was the protected garden of Eden and Satan came in and began to bring hell on earth. By the end of the Tribulation hell will be all over the earth in these different regions. Jesus will come to hell on earth, bring the garden of Eden back to the earth, and He will drive hell off the planet. He will reverse the entire thing.

So let's stand.