

Bible Study – Outline

REVELATION

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Author John
Date Written Approx. 95 AD from the Isle of Patmos
Audience: The Seven Churches – to Christians in all churches today.

Major Themes

Christ's return
Judgment and Hope

REVELATION

“WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN”	
Introduction	1:1-8
The revelation of Christ	1:9-20
“WHAT IS NOW” – THE LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES	
Ephesus	2:1-7
Smyrna	2:8-11
Pergamum	2:12-17
Thyatira	2:18-19
Sardis	3:1-6
Philadelphia	3:7-13
Laodicea	3:14-22
“WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE LATER”	
The Throne of God and the Lamb/Lion	4
The Sealed Book	5
Prophecies of the Great Tribulation	
The Seven Seals of Judgment	6:1-8:5
The Seven Trumpets	8:6-11:19
Prophecies of the woman, the beast, the 144,000, and the harvest judgment	12 – 14
The Seven Vials (bowls)	15-16
The great harlot overthrown	17
The destruction of mystery Babylon	18:1-19:3
Prophecies of the second coming of Jesus Christ	19:4-21
Prophecies of the Millennium, The Reign of the Saints while Satan is bound for a 1000 years, the great white throne judgment	20
Prophecies of the New Heaven, New Earth, and the New Jerusalem	21:1-22:5
Conclusion, Benediction, and Prayer – “Come, Lord Jesus”	22:6-21

WARNING

Rev. 22:18-19

¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

See also – Deut. 4:2; Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:6

Key Scriptures

Rev. 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Rev. 1:13-16

¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Rev. 4:2-5

² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

Rev. 4:11(KJV)

¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Refer to the chart of Judgments and Blessings for Rev. 6- 19

Rev. 19:6-9

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

⁹Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Rev. 21:1-3

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev. 21:22-27

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

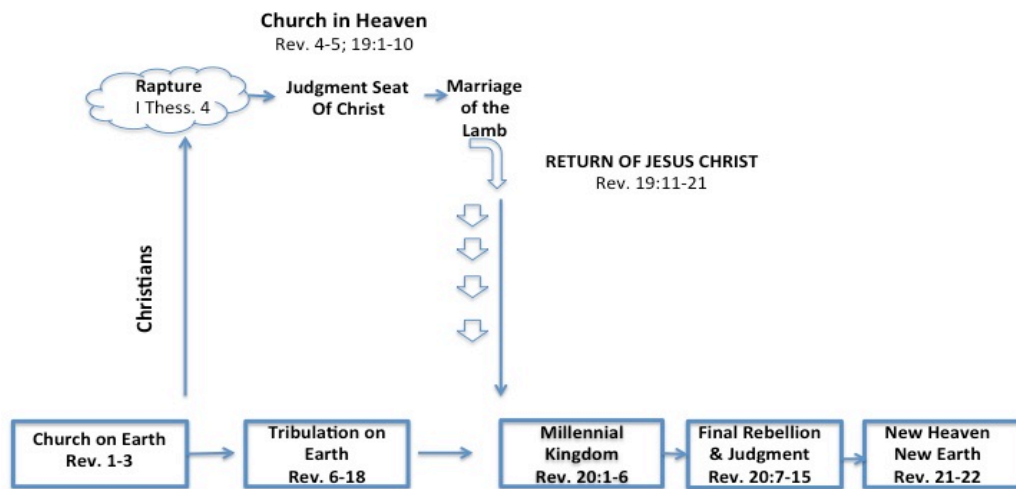
Rev. 22:20-21

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Revelation as a timeline of future events



The Seven Churches

Church	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise	Timeframe
Ephesus 2:1-7	Patience, perseveres, rejects evil	Lost fervency for Christ	Do the works you did first	The Tree of Life	AD 70 – AD160
Smyrna 2:8-11	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The Crown of Life	AD160 – AD324
Pergamos 2:12-17	Keeps the Faith	Tolerated immorality, idolatry and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a stone with a new name	AD 324 to 6 th Century when Popes began
Thyatira 2:18-29	Love, service, faith, patience,	Tolerated cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive the morning star	Dark Ages 7 th Century to 16 th Century

Sardis 3:1-6	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent, strengthen what remains	Faithful, honored and clothed in white	Reformation 16 th to 18 th Century
Philadelphia 3:7-13	Perseveres, love	None	Keep the Faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, and the New Jerusalem	19 th Century Evangelical Awakening
Laodicea 3:14-22	None	Lukewarm, indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne	

The Tribulation

Source; The John MacArthur Commentary

The Tribulation refers to the seven year time period immediately following the Rapture – the removal of the church from the earth. (John 14:103; I Thess. 4:13-18), when the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thess. 2:7-12; Rev. 16).

These judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth (Matt. 24:27-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 2:7-12).

In the Book of Revelation, the lengthy section from Rev. 6:1 to 19:21 details the judgments and events of the time of Tribulation from its beginning with the opening of the first seal through the seventh seal, trumpet, and bowl(vial) judgments of God, to the return of Christ to destroy the ungodly (Rev. 19:11-21). The passage of time during this period is tracked in Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6; 12:14; 13:5). The second half of the seven year period is specifically called in Revelation 7:14 “the Great Tribulation”.

JUDGMENTS			BLESSINGS
Seven Seals	Seven Trumpets	Seven Bowls (Vials)	On those who....
1. Antichrist Rev. 6:1-2	Vegetation Burned Rev. 8:7	Terrible Sores Rev. 16:2	Read and Heed this Book Rev. 1:3
2. War Rev. 6:3,4	Sea Life Destroyed Rev. 8:8,9	Seas Turned to Blood Rev. 16:3	Die in the Lord Rev. 14:13
3. Famine Rev. 6:5,6	Waters Made Bitter Rev. 8:10,11	Fresh Water to Blood Rev. 16:4-7	Wait for His Coming Rev. 16:15
4. Pestilence and Death Rev 6:7,8	Heavens Struck Rev. 8:12,13	Sun Scorches Men Rev. 16:8,9	Are Invited to the Supper Rev. 19:9
5. Martyrs Rev. 6:9-11	Demonic "Locusts" Rev. 9:1-12	Darkness and Pain Rev. 16:10,11	Are Resurrected to Life Rev. 20:6
6. Cosmic Disasters Rev. 6:12-17	Deadly Plagues Rev. 9:13-21	Euphrates Dries Up Rev. 16:12-16	Keep These Words Rev. 22:7
7. The Seven Trumpets Rev. 8:1-6	The Seven Bowls Rev. 11:15-19	Final Destruction Rev. 16:17-21	Do His Commandments Rev. 22:14

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the real author of this book?
2. How do the Seven Churches relate to churches today?
3. What are the 7 spirits of Rev. 4:5?
4. Who are – The Beast, The Antichrist, The Woman, the 144,000
5. What does Babylon refer to?
6. Describe God's Throne and the One sitting on it.
7. Who are Gog and Magog?
8. Does this book encourage you or do you dread what is to happen?

Resources Used

Adventuring Through the Bible by Ray Stedman
Life Application Bible (NIV) - Zondervan and Tyndale House.
Because the Time is Near – John MacArthur
The MacArthur Bible Commentary – John MacArthur
www.biblestudytools.com
www.biblegateway.com

The **preterist approach** interprets Revelation as a description of first century events in the Roman Empire. This view conflicts with the book's own often repeated claim to be prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19). It is impossible to see all the events in Revelation as already fulfilled. The second coming of Christ, for example, obviously did not take place in the first century.

The **historicist approach** views Revelation as a panoramic view of church history from apostolic times to the present—seeing in the symbolism such events as the barbarian invasions of Rome, the rise of the Roman Catholic Church (as well as various individual popes), the emergence of Islam, and the French Revolution. This interpretive method robs Revelation of any meaning for those to whom it was written. It also ignores the time limitations the book itself places on the unfolding events (cf. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5). Historicism has produced many different—and often conflicting—interpretations of the actual historical events contained in Revelation.

The **idealist approach** interprets Revelation as a timeless depiction of the cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil. In this view, the book contains neither historical allusions nor predictive prophecy. This view also ignores Revelation's prophetic character and, if carried to its logical conclusion, severs the book from any connection with actual historical events. Revelation then becomes merely a collection of stories designed to teach spiritual truth.

The **futurist approach** insists that the events of chaps. 6-22 are yet future, and that those chapters literally and symbolically depict actual people and events yet to appear on the world scene. It describes the events surrounding the second coming of Jesus Christ (chaps. 6-19), the Millennium and final judgment (chap. 20), and the eternal state (chaps. 21, 22). Only this view does justice to Revelation's claim to be prophecy and interprets the book by the same grammatical-historical method as chaps. 1-3 and the rest of Scripture.