

BOOK OF REVELATION STUDY GUIDE

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I. Both testaments can be divided into History – Instruction – Prophecy

Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament. Very important we note this and realize we cannot study Revelation in the same way we study the book of Romans.

II. Note the following keys to the book

Key Word – overcome – Nikao – victory or conquer – 2:7, 11, etc., 17: 14

Key Verses – 1:1, 1: 19, 2: 10, 22: 18 – 19

Key Phrase – Blessed are those who do HIS commandments – 22: 14

Theme – Victory in Jesus, 11: 15, 17: 14

To whom was it written? To the 7 churches and anyone who has an ear (1: 4; 2: 7)

III. 2 Categories of Language

Literal or Figurative

IV. Apocalypse

Greek word for Revelation is Apokalupsis from which we get *Apocalypse*. The meaning is an unveiling or uncovering. The style of writing in Revelation is figurative and is known as *apocalyptic literature*.

There are some characteristics of the apocalyptic style of writing:

1. Grows out of some great conflict
2. Visions
3. Has a predictive element
4. Symbolic language
5. Drama

V. Why use the apocalyptic (figurative, prophetic) style of writing?

1. John is explaining visions in terms they could understand
2. To obscure the message from the enemy
3. To evoke certain emotions

VI. 3 Principles that will help us

1. We can understand the book even though we might not understand every sign/symbol.
2. The book is presented in the form of a great drama.
3. Perhaps the most important thing is for us to determine the original meaning the book would have had to the recipients.

VII. Some critical background study

1. Bible Geography
2. AUTHOR – Jesus Christ to John (1: 1)
Which John? Most of the evidence points to the Apostle John
3. Recipients – Originally to the 7 churches of Asia, ESP TSP L, (1: 4)
Also intended for all (1: 3, 2: 7, etc)
4. Date – There are 2 dates generally suggested
AD 68 – prior to fall of Jerusalem
AD 96 – most widely accepted and the one we will use
5. Theme – Noted earlier
6. Purpose – see following page for thorough discussion

VIII. The Purpose – Why was Revelation written?

To understand this we must have some understanding of the historical events of the time. The short answer to the question is – To encourage the church during a period of Roman persecution and tribulation. The message was to remain faithful and not give up.

Biblical Historical Setting

AD 53 – Paul used Ephesus as a center in Asia – see Acts 19: 10

AD 60-62 – Paul wrote the prison epistles of Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon

AD 70-95 – John spent much time in Ephesus and the province of Asia.

Secular Historical Setting - Emperor Worship

Julius Caesar - date 45 BC statue with inscription “to the invincible god”

Augustus Caesar – 27 BC to AD 14 – 1st Emperor of Rome – called himself “the son of god”

Caligula, Nero, and Domitian – 3 of 1st Century Emperors of note in discussion of Emperor worship

Asia Minor was a hot bed for emperor worship.

World Conditions

- On the Plus side - Roman Empire ruled the world – many advantages – language, roads, peace
- On the Negative side – The Emperors assumed the role of deity. Christians were put to the ultimate test. Often had to have papers or a mark to signify they had worshipped the emperor.

Note the early persecution was from the Jews. Later the persecution was from the Romans. When the Romans finally realized Christianity was not Judaism, then it became illegal.

From Foxes’ Christian Martyrs

1st Persecution – Nero AD 64 – 67

2nd Persecution – Domitian AD 81 - 96

3rd Persecution – Trajan AD 98 – 117

See Halley’s Bible Handbook pg 761 ff

IX. The Significance of Colors and Numbers (Adapted from Bill Wheeler material)

Numbers

- 1 Unity, togetherness (One GOD)
- 2 Confirmation, strength (two witnesses)
- 3 Divine completeness, a sacred number, sometimes repeated 3 times for emphasis (Father, Son and Holy Ghost)
- 4 Earthly, completeness in nature, 4 corners of earth, 4 directions, etc
- 5 5 and multiples (5, 10, 50,etc) signify human completeness (5 fingers)
- 6 1 short of 7 implies imperfection, failure, sometimes even evil (666?)
- 7 Perfection, completeness, inclusiveness

- 10 Again completeness from a human standpoint (10 fingers)
 Multiples (100, 1000) - Perfection, fullness or long indefinite period of time

- 12 4 (earthly) multiplied times 3 (Divine) is symbolic in religion
 12 tribes, 12 apostles, 12 gates – 12 is a perfect number in Hebrew numerology
 12 times 12 times 1000 = 144,000 symbolic of the people of GOD

- 3 ½ 7 cut in half – thus incompleteness or imperfection
 1250 days = 3 ½ years
 42 months = 3 ½ years

Colors

White	purity, righteousness, innocence
Black	distress, calamity
Red	war, bloodshed
Pale	famine, death
Purple	pomp, luxury, royalty
Scarlett	color of blood thus persecution, suffering, cruelty

X. Some Key Words (Adapted from Wayne Jackson's study of Revelation material)

Almighty – *Gk pantokrator* \Rightarrow pan = all, krateo = to hold. 9 of 10 uses are in Revelation (2 Cor 6: 18). As early Christians faced death for the cause of Christ they needed to know GOD was in control.

Throne – *Gk thronos* \Rightarrow dignity, power, authority. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the uses are found in Revelation. On earth it sometimes appears that Satan occupies the throne but Deity still rules in spite of the temporary victories for evil.

Crown – 1. *Gk stephanos* \Rightarrow the victory crown – see 2: 10

2. *Gk diadem* \Rightarrow the crown of royalty – see 12: 3, 13: 1, 19: 12 – the first 2 Satan claims authority but Christ will triumph.

Lamb – 1. *Gk amnos* \Rightarrow Lamb for sacrifice – this term used in NT but not once in Revelation.

2. *Gk arnion* \Rightarrow Revelation term is Lamb which lives and is not marked for sacrifice (Jn 21: 15)

Beasts - 1. *Gk zoon* \Rightarrow merely denotes a living creature – 4: 8, 9 – inappropriate to render beast in view of our present day connotation hence the modern translations use of living creature.

2. *Gk therion* \Rightarrow a wild beast – many scholars believe these beasts are symbolic of pagan Rome and later papal Rome – see mark of the beast.

Horses – *Gk hippos* \Rightarrow almost always used as an instrument of war. In Revelation the horse is a symbol of the hostile, persecuting forces against Christianity.

Forever and Ever – *Gk eis* \Rightarrow for, *aion* \Rightarrow age, eternity. Sometimes used in OT as a limited period of time (Exo 12: 14). But always used in NT to denote that which is unending – 1: 18, 4: 10, etc.

Must shortly take place – *Gk en tachei* \Rightarrow does not mean at once or shortly but rather with speed, swiftness or quickly. Not all of Revelation would happen in the near future but it would start quickly. As a matter of fact some of the things were already happening, see chapters 2-3. *En tahei* is used twice in Revelation (1: 1, 22: 6). The latter reference is talking about the 2nd coming which clearly shows that event did not happen soon but it will happen with suddenness in the future.

XI. Approaches to the Book (Sections XI and XII adapted from Alan Highers' material)

1. **Preterist** – The term preterist means that which has gone by. The word preterist (past) is used in different ways, but here we use it to refer to one who believes the book of Revelation was written before A.D. 70 and that it was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and the fall of the Jewish state.
2. **Futurist** – Futurist is just the opposite of preterist. The preterist believes nearly all of Revelation has been fulfilled. The futurist believes that nearly all of Revelation is yet future, especially chapters 4 – 22. Many futurists believe in an earthly millennial reign to be established when Christ comes again. We call these premillennialists – pre (before) and millennium (1000).
3. **Historical** – This method views the Book of Revelation as a blueprint of history, i.e., it lays out the history of the church in symbolic form. According to this approach, much of the book deals with the apostasy of the Roman Catholic Church, followed by the Reformation and the Restoration. Many of the older brethren, and older commentaries, took this view. John T. Hinds who wrote the Gospel Advocate commentary on Revelation held this view.
4. **Idealistic** – The idealistic or “philosophy of history” method looks upon Revelation as a symbolic conflict between right and wrong. This approach to the book does not find any specific application of the signs and symbols. It sees the book as a representation of the age-old battle between good and evil and is unrelated to specific historical events.
5. **Contextual** – The contextual view holds that Revelation grew out of the context of its own time and circumstances. The churches of Asia were suffering persecution and hardship. The Roman government was powerful and cruel. Some wondered if they could remain faithful. The Book of Revelation was written to address this need. The author endeavors to encourage the persecuted saints of his own day and, by application, the church throughout the ages.

XII. Summary of the Book

This is not a comprehensive outline of the book. Rather, it is a chapter-by-chapter summary. The purpose of this section is to show *the content of the book, not its meaning*. Before we can learn and understand its meaning, we first need to know *what the book contains*.

Chapter

1 INTRODUCTION

Author (1: 1-2)
Blessing (1: 3)
Greeting (1: 4-6)
Coming (1: 7-8)
John on Patmos (1: 9-20)

2 LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Ephesus (2: 1-7)
Smyrna (2: 8-11)
Pergamum (2: 13-17)
Thyatira (2: 18-29)

3 LETTERS (continued)

Sardis (3: 1-6)
Philadelphia (3: 7-13)
Laodicea (3: 14-22)

4 GOD ON THE THRONE

24 Elders
4 Living Creatures

5 BOOK WITH SEVEN SEALS

Who could open?
Answer: Worthy is the Lamb!

6 OPENING THE SEALS

First (6: 1-2)
Second (6: 3-4)
Third (6: 5-6)
Fourth (6: 6-8)
Fifth (6: 9-11)
Sixth (6: 12-17)

7 SEALING OF THE SAINTS

[Interlude]

8 SEVENTH SEAL – SOUNDING OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

First (8: 7)

Second (8: 8-9)

Third (8: 10-11)

Fourth (8: 12)

Fifth (8: 13-9:11)

9 SEVEN TRUMPETS (continued)

Sixth (9: 12-21)

10 THE LITTLE BOOK

[Interlude]

11 MEASURING OF THE TEMPLE, THE TWO WITNESSES

[Interlude continued]

Sounding of the 7th Trumpet (11: 14-19)

12, 13 THE WOMAN AND CHILD

War in Heaven

Persecution of the Woman

Protected in the wilderness

BEAST from the sea (12: 17-13: 10)

BEAST from the land (13: 11-18)

14 THE LAMB AND THE REDEEMED

[Interlude}

15, 16 THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH

Into the earth, sea, rivers and the fountains of waters

Upon the sun, throne of the beast, the Euphrates, and upon the air

First Bowl (16: 2) – Earth

Second Bowl (16: 3) – Sea

Third Bowl (16: 4-7) – Rivers and Fountains

Fourth Bowl (16: 8-9) – Sun

Fifth Bowl (16: 10-11) – Throne of the Beast

Sixth Bowl (16: 12-16) – Euphrates

Seventh Bowl (16: 17-21) – Air

Battle of Armageddon (16: 16)

- 17 FALL OF BABYLON – THE GREAT HARLOT**
Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots
Drunk on the blood of the saints
- 18 REACTIONS TO THE FALL OF BABYLON**
Lament by kings, merchants, and sailors
In her was found the blood of the saints
- 19 REJOICING OVER THE FALL OF BABYLON (ROME)**
Avenged the blood of his saints (19: 1-5)
Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19: 6-10)
The conquering warrior (19: 11-21)
- 20 THE DEFEAT OF SATAN**
Binding of Satan (20: 1-3)
Reign of the Martyrs (20: 4-6)
Loosing of Satan and his final destruction (20: 7-10)
The Final Judgment (20: 11-15)
- 21 THE NEW JERUSALEM**
Fellowship with GOD
Destiny of the Redeemed
Description of the Heavenly City
- 22 WATER OF LIFE AND TREE OF LIFE – CONCLUSION**
Final victory of the saints (22: 1-5)
Warnings and admonitions (22: 6-21)
 Keep the sayings (22: 6-7)
 Worship GOD (22: 8-9)
 Remember judgment is approaching (22: 10-15)
 Hear the gospel invitation (22: 16-17)
 Do not add to nor take away from (22: 18-19)
 Jesus to come quickly in judgment (22: 20)
 Benediction (22: 21)

Revelation Chapter 1

I. Verses 1-3 Introduction and Benediction

Who is the writer

Things which must shortly take place – *en tachei*

Signified – *semaino*

Beatitude #1

Revelation is a book of prophecy

II. Verses 4-8 Greetings to the 7 churches

To whom it was written - 7 churches – ESP TSP L – there were others

Like Paul begins book with grace and peace

Note 3 things said of Christ

Note 5 points in verse 7

Verse 8 – Christ spans all eternity – compare to John 1: 1

Description of Christ – Compare to Daniel 7: 13 – 14

III. Verses 9-20^{1st} Vision – Christ in the midst of the churches

John is companion in _____, _____ & _____

In the spirit

α and Ω

7 lampstands, 7 stars

Note 3 “I am” statements Christ made of Himself

Keys of death and Hades

The 7 Cities

Ephesus

- Center of commerce
 - Known as the “market of Asia”
 - Located on main route from Rome to East
- Center of politics
 - The capital of Asia, the seat of the Roman government
- Center of religion
 - Pagan worship – great temple of Diana there (Acts 19: 23-29)
 - This temple 1 of 7 wonders of ancient world – larger than a football field
 - Used for ritual prostitution
- Population of 225,000 in 1st century
- Large theatre with seating capacity of 50,000
- Greeks built large stadium there (685’ x 200’)

Smyrna

- Seaport 40 miles north of Ephesus – founded by Alexander the Great
- A very beautiful town – called “the first city of Asia” or “the flower of Asia”
- Located at foot of mountain that contained many temples to Greek gods
- Widely celebrated for its schools and medicine
- Olympic games there
- Large public library there

Pergamum

- 60 miles north of Smyrna near ancient city of Troy
- Located on a hill overlooking a fertile valley
- Had library of 200,000 volumes which Mark Antony gave to Cleopatra
- Had theatre seating 15,000
- Parchment was invented there
- Known for its many temples the residents were called “the temple caregivers of Asia”
- City with many Greek gods and goddesses (Zeus, Apollo, Dionysus, Aphrodite, etc)
- When Persians captured Babylon, Babylonian priests escaped to Pergamum (ref Satan’s seat)
- Sensuality was common in Pergamum
- Center of emperor worship, first city in Asia to erect temple to worship emperor (Augustus Caesar, AD 29)

Thyatira

- On the Lycus between Pergamum and Sardis, 27 miles from Pergamum
- Smallest and most insignificant of the 7 cities
- We would call it a blue collar town
- Noted for production of dye
- Thoroughly pagan city with worship of Apollo, the sun god, common
- City also had shrine to female goddess Samba the some believe to be “Jezebel”
- Church probably started by Paul (Acts 19) or Lydia (Acts 16)

Sardis

- Oldest city of the 7 mentioned
- City fortified by mountains and built on banks of river in a fertile valley
- Gold nuggets were mined in the river
- Wool-dyeing done there and coins minted there
- 35 miles south of Thyatira and northeast of Ephesus
- Situated on Mt. Tmolus whose acropolis has only one approach
- In AD 17 ravaged by earthquake and never rose to former glory

Philadelphia

- City of brotherly love
- It was called “the little Athens” for its beauty
- Founded in 150 BC by Philadelphus for purpose of spreading Greek language
- 25 miles southeast of Sardis on a main military road
- Fertile soil made for excellent vineyards
- Its patron god was Dionysius the god of wine
- Destroyed by earthquake AD 17 and rebuilt with Roman aid

Laodicea

- Located in Lycus River Valley with Hierapolis and Colossae nearby
- Valley is a natural route of travel from east to west
- City of incredible wealth with manufacturing center of soft, black wool
- Known for production of salve for weak eyes
- 3 roads from Rome emerged into the city
- Had a repository for gold, silver and Roman currency
- Had warm, therapeutic springs nearby at Hierapolis
- Aqueduct brought water in
- Stadium with a 600’ track dedicated in AD 79 to Vespasian
- A proud and independent city – refused earthquake aid in AD 60 – self-funded its repairs

The Seven Churches of Asia

Revelation 2 - 3

	Ephesus <i>Cold</i> Rev 2: 1-7	Smyrna <i>Concerned</i> Rev 2: 8-11	Pergamos <i>Compromising</i> Rev 2: 12-17	Thyatira <i>Corrupt</i> Rev 2: 18-29	Sardis <i>Contented</i> Rev 3: 1-6	Philadelphia <i>Committed</i> Rev 3: 7-13	Laodicea <i>Complacent</i> Rev 3: 14-22
Description of Christ	-Holds 7 stars -Walks among 7 lampstands	-First and Last -Dead and came to life	-Has the sharp two-edged sword	-Son of GOD -Eyes like flame -Feet like brass	-Has the 7 Spirits of GOD and the 7 stars	-Holy and True -Key of David -Opens / shuts doors	-The Amen -Faithful and True Witness -Present at Creation
Christ knows... (the works of all)	-Labor & works -Endurance & patience	-Tribulation & poverty -Coming troubles	-Faith is not denied -that you dwell where Satan resides	-Works, love, faith, service & patience	-Name & reputation they once had	-Kept the Word -Did not deny Him	-Unsatisfactory works
Commendation	-Not weary -Test teachers -Hate Nicolaitans	-You are rich	-Holding fast -Did not deny My Name	-Later works exceed first works (growing)	-Have a few members that are worthy	-Kept My command -Did not deny Him -Have endured	-None
Criticism	-Left your first love	-None	-Idolatry -Some hold to Balaam -Sexual immorality -Some to Nicolaitans	-Controlled by Jezebel -Sexual immorality -Won't repent	-Works are imperfect -Appears alive but dead in reality	-None	-Lukewarm -Poor -Spiritually blind
Admonition	-Remember -Repent -Return	-Don't fear -Be faithful unto death	-Repent	-Repent -Hold fast	-Remember -Repent -Awake -Strengthen	-Hold fast	-Repent -Refine yourself -Open door to Me

Warning	<i>-I will remove your lampstand (destruction)</i>	<i>-None</i>	<i>-I will make war with you (destruction)</i>	<i>-Sick bed -Great tribulation -Death (destruction)</i>	<i>-I will come as a thief -Destruction</i>	<i>-None</i>	<i>-I will spit you out -Destruction</i>
Reward	<i>-Eat from tree of life -Salvation</i>	<i>-Crown of life -Not hurt by 2nd death -Salvation</i>	<i>-Hidden manna -White stone -New name -Salvation</i>	<i>-Rod to rule nations -Morning Star -Salvation</i>	<i>-White garments -Walk with Me -Confess My Name -Name not removed -Salvation</i>	<i>-Pillar in temple -Name of GOD -New city -New name -Salvation</i>	<i>-Dine with you -Sit with Me on My throne -Salvation</i>

What Makes a Great Church?

1. **Works** 2: 2, 3, 29, and all 7 letters
2. **Keep it Morally Pure** 2: 2, 20, 3: 4
3. **Identify and Correct False Teachers** 2: 2, 14, 3: 8
4. **Perseverance** 2: 2, 3, 13
5. **Keep the Passion** 2: 4
6. **Have genuine love for one another** 2: 19
7. **Strong faith** 2: 19
8. **Stay alive** 3: 1

Analysis of the 7 churches

Revelation 2 - 3

	Ephesus <i>Cold</i> Rev 2: 1-7	Smyrna <i>Concerned</i> Rev 2: 8-11	Pergamos <i>Compromising</i> Rev 2: 12-17	Thyatira <i>Corrupt</i> Rev 2: 18-29	Sardis <i>Contented</i> Rev 3: 1-6	Philadelphia <i>Committed</i> Rev 3: 7-13	Laodicea <i>Complacent</i> Rev 3: 14-22
Positive Factors of the 7 churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Works - Labor -Perseverance -Test teachers -Patience -Hate false teachers/error -Not weary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Endured tribulations -Endured poverty -Endured hardships -Rich in the faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Faith not denied -Holding fast in the faith -Resist Satan -Name of LORD upheld 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Works -Love demonstrated -Faith maintained -Service to others -Patience -Hold fast -Increase in works both in quality & quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good name -Good reputation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kept the word -Kept the name of Jesus -Kept enduring -Hold fast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -None
How we would describe these congregations	<p><i>Claimed to be church that loved the LORD. But they allow false doctrine to be taught and they never really preach salvation or a literal Hell. Sermons are mainly feel good. Focus not 100% on the Savior.</i></p>	<p><i>They believed fully in the LORD as their Savior and were willing to suffer because of it. A poor church financially but rich in faith and worship which was more important than their wealth.</i></p>	<p><i>These mix Christianity with the world and secular doctrines. They develop their own rules on worship. They attempt to live both the Christian life and the world. They just can't separate righteousness and the secular world.</i></p>	<p><i>This group seems to be doing all the right things on the outside but yet follow a wicked teacher or leader. In the eyes of the community they seem holy but to the LORD they are not acceptable.</i></p>	<p><i>This church is living on its reputation of the past. They were once on fire for the LORD but now they are floundering. The individual members just can't seem to find the time or money to get the job done now. They are busy in their own little world.</i></p>	<p><i>This church was growing, worshipping and abounding in the faith. There is some opposition that has not been handled well and they were allowing these external forces to interfere with their worship.</i></p>	<p><i>This church has been restructured as a country club. They are rich, arrogant and snobs that value their wealth over their faith. There is no tolerance for humility or poverty. It was not the wealth but rather their attitude toward the wealth.</i></p>

Grade	C-	A	D-	D-	C	A-	F
Corrective Action	<i>-Remember who loves you and why you are here.</i>	<i>-Don't fear anything – continue to keep the faith.</i>	<i>-Stop your wicked and worldly activities or you will fail.</i>	<i>-Eliminate your false doctrine or you will fail.</i>	<i>-Stop relying on your old reputation and start demonstrating true Christianity.</i>	<i>-Hold fast and improve to an A.</i>	<i>-You have failed. Repent immediately to avoid expulsion.</i>

Chapter 4 GOD the Creator

I. The door opens

v.1 Looked and Heard

II. The scene – GOD on the Throne

v.1 – 3(a) Description of the ONE on the throne

HE is King – Psa 47:2; I Tim 1: 17; 6: 15

GOD is the only ONE sitting there – No other gods before ME – Isa 45: 21; I Cor 1: 6

Like a jasper stone and sardius stone – Ezek 28: 13; Rev 21: 11

Inference – GOD sitting on a throne in regal splendor of a King who was precious to the 1st Century Christian being persecuted.

III. Description of throne and those present

v. 3(b) - 4 Rainbow – symbolic of GOD's care – Gen 8: 22; 9: 9-13

Emerald – another precious stone – Ezek 28: 13

24 elders on 24 thrones - ?? Some say 12 tribes of OT & 12 apostles of NT ??

White robes – symbol of victory – Rev 7: 9, 13, 14

Crowns of gold – literally crowns of victory

v. 5(a) Note 3 items Lightnings, Thunderings, Voices

Inference – Display of raw energy and power of GOD; A King who cares for His people and has the power to protect them.

v. 5(b) – 8(a) Note 3 things before throne

7 lamps of fire

Sea of glass

4 living creatures

IV. GOD is worthy of praise

v. 8(b) Note the 3 stanzas of praise

v. 9 – 11 Inference – GOD the Father and GOD the Holy Spirit – set apart and praised by all heavenly beings – They ALL Worship GOD.

Chapter 5 - GOD the Redeemer

I. The introduction of the sealed scroll

The scroll is full front and back

Who is worthy? No created being

ONE is worthy

Lion of Judah – 1st half of OT

Root of David – last half of OT

Lamb – that had been slain

II. The victorious LAMB

Stood – stood and remained standing

Description of the Lamb

7 horns and 7 eyes

Note 2 points

- 1.
- 2.

III. The LAMB is worthy of worship and praise

Creatures and elders from Chapter 4 here fall before the LAMB

Harp and incense explained

Count the things received in v. 12

All worship GOD and Christ

IV. Summary of chapters 4-5

Prayers of the persecuted saints will be answered.

Chapter 6

I. The prophetic visions begin – The 7's – Watch for this split

4 – The first 4 set the tone

2 –

1 – Last one transitions to the next 7

II. Overall impression of the chapter – what is the meaning?

Where are the martyrs?

III. The first 4 seals – GOD'S power – vision of the horses – Zech 1: 8

1-2 White horse/bow

3-4 Red horse

5-6 Black horse

7-8 Pale horse

All these powers are beyond the control of Rome.

The Romans were powerful BUT not compared to GOD.

These were all instruments of judgment from GOD – see “was given”

The release of these 4 horsemen is proof that all great forces of history are part of Christ's permissive will.

IV. 5th and 6th Seal

5th Seal – The reason for HIS judgment – The end of those martyred

The soul does not sleep at death – note the 6 points from vv. 10-11

6th Seal – Cosmic Disturbances – 2 schools of thought

1.

2.

No matter how out of control things may sometimes appear to be, GOD is in control!

Chapter 7

I. Following the 6th Seal there is an Interlude

“Wait until we take care of the saints”

GOD is looking out for the faithful saints

II. The 3 sets of angels

1st 4 angels holding back 4 winds (GOD’S wrath)

2nd another angel calling for a stay until the sealing of the saints

3rd all angels and all the authenticated ones praising and worshipping GOD

III. 3 discussion points

- **The 144 thousand** – the faithful followers of GOD
- **The sealing of the saints** – authentication or confirmation – see 2 Tim 2:19
- **The Reward** – The reward for all the faithful of all time is to be before the throne of GOD forever

IV. Additional Observations

vv 2/3 Earth is temporarily spared because of GOD’S people – see Gen 18: 23 ff

v 14 Washed in the blood
1 John 1: 7

Acts 22: 16

Chapter 8

I. The opening of the 7th seal

7 angels and 7 trumpets reveal visions of the fall of Rome
 Compare to Joshua 6: 6 ff and the fall of Jericho
 Remember the 4 – 2 – 1 split. Chapter 8 will have the 1st 4 trumpets
 Note that fire is associated with each
 What effect does the silence produce?

II. The 8th angel

Prayers are offered to GOD
 Incense – in OT often represented prayers – See 5: 8
 What do you suppose is the content of these prayers?

III. The 4 trumpets

Note the 1/3 in all 4 – compare to 6: 8

- **The First Trumpet - Land**

Hail – Psa 11: 6; Isa 28: 2, 17; Isa 30: 30, 31
 Fire with blood – Gen 19: 23-29

- **The Second Trumpet - Sea**

A great mountain burning – Jer 51: 24-26

- **The Third Trumpet – Inland Waters**

Exo 15: 23-25 GOD made bitter waters sweet; opposite here
 Isa 14: 3 -15 is an important reference to Nebuchadnezzar and fall of Babylon
 With 3rd trumpet another Babylon is about to fall
 Domitian – September AD 96

- **The Fourth Trumpet - Heavens**

Woe woe woe – The worse is yet to come

Chapter 9 – 5th & 6th Trumpet

I. 5th Trumpet – The 1st woe – verses 1-12

- Star fallen from heaven
- Was given – Providence at work
- Smoke – actually locusts
- Locust often represents plague from heaven – Dt 28: 15 – 19; Exo 10: 1 ff; Joel 1: 2 ff
- Suffering in store for those without the seal – i.e. those not belonging to GOD
- Not literal locusts because
 - The description found in verses 7 – 10
 - The figurative symbolic language of the book
- 5 months – a limited time
- Angel from the pit – King – Is this Satan?

- The bottom line – GOD is successfully waging a war on Rome.

II. 6th Trumpet – 2nd woe – verses 13 - 21

- The four messengers
- Euphrates – often associated with enemies in OT times
- GOD uses nations to accomplish His will
- Hour, Day, Month, Year – It is all according to GODS precise timeline – Not man's
- 1/3 killed – GOD is still granting opportunities for repentance
- No repentance – Eph 4: 19, John 8: 9

- Conclusion – GOD is demonstrating His power is far greater than that of Rome.
- And indeed – Vengeance belongs to GOD – Romans 12: 19

Chapter 10 – 11: 14 Interlude

I. Another angel

- Allos – another of same kind thus not Christ
- Clearly powerful – out of heaven
- Cloud/rainbow – protection/mercy
- As much as it may appear otherwise – GOD is in control!
- Sea/land
 - Present/future
 - Whole creation
- 7 thunders – complete – warning
- John not permitted to record the words of the thunders
- Delay no longer – mystery to be finished when 7th trumpet sounds

II. Little Book – the significance

- John told to take it, eat it, be prepared to prophesy its bitter-sweet message
- Eat – honey – sweet – mastering the content – Matt 4: 4; Heb 5: 12-14
- Compare with Ezekiel 2: 8 – 3: 3, 14
- Bitter – carrying out the mission – not pleasant – judgment, condemnation, suffering
- To prophecy again – probably referring to Chapters 12 - 22

III. Measuring the temple

- Temple is Spiritual Israel - church – 1 Cor 3: 16, 2 Cor 6: 16, Eph 2: 21
- To measure indicates a standard – GOD’S word is what we will be judged by
- Holy city will be overrun for 42 months
- Spiritual Israel will be protected in time of apostasy
- 42 months = 1260 days = 3 ½ months = time, times & ½ a time

VI. The two witnesses

- Who are the two witnesses?
- What about the significance of the “2”?
- Sodom = wickedness; Egypt = bondage; Place LORD crucified = bitter opposition
- The beast – our 1st introduction – seemingly triumphs over truth – but for a short time
- Great city – always refers to Babylon – 14: 8, 16: 19, 17: 5, all of chapter 18
- Summary of 11: 1 – 13 – Although the church is under divine protection it would be trodden underfoot, that is face persecution but GOD’S witnesses will continue to bear the truth. And will enjoy the ultimate victory.

Chapter 11: 15 – 19 7th Trumpet

I. 7th Trumpet

- As predicted the 7th trumpet calls for end of the delay for judgment
- End of the kingdoms of this world
- See Daniel 2 especially verse 44 and the fulfillment in Acts 2
- End of the kingdoms representative of fall of Roman Empire

II. 24 Elders

- Gave thanks
- LORD – Authority
- GOD – Deity as to nature
- Almighty – Limitless power
- Is, Was, Is to come – Eternal existence
- Reigns - Sovereignty

III. Angry Nations

- Roman persecutors
- Dead receive their reward = Death is not the end
- With destruction of Rome (enemies) John sees
 - Temple = church
 - Ark = symbol of GOD'S presence (Exo 25: 22)
- 7th trumpet closes like 7th seal (8:5-6)
 - Lightnings, noises, thunderings, earthquake, great hail

Transition - Introduction to Chapters 12 - 22

- I. Chapters 1 – 3 Introduction and Letters to the 7 churches
- II. Chapters 4 – 11 Announcement of GOD'S judgment on His enemies
- III. Chapters 12 -22 The spiritual causes of GOD'S judgment

Chapters 4 – 11

Focus on Christ

Christ rules over kingdoms of men

Chapters 12 – 22

Focus on the church

Church is protected during this time

Chapter 12

Identify these characters

1. Woman expecting a child
2. Male Child
3. Old Dragon
4. Beast from the Sea
5. Beast from the Land

Marginal Notes

- 12: 1 Sun, moon, stars > dispel darkness
 12: 7 Satan is defeated
 12: 10 Kingdom prevails
 12: 11 3 points of how they overcame
 12: 14 time, times, and ½ time = 1260, 42, 3 ½
 12: 15 out of his mouth > lies, false teaching, etc
 12: 17 keep, have = both present tense
 Offspring = seed > Gal 3: 26 – 29

Daniel Chapter 7

To understand Revelation 13 it is important to study Daniel 7 and note the parallels.

Book of Daniel – 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign – Babylonian Empire – 603 BC

Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Chap 2

1. Golden Head – Neo Babylonian Empire – 626 – 539 BC
2. Breast/Arms Silver – Medo Persian Empire – 539 – 332 BC
3. Belly/Thighs Brass – Greek – 332 – 63 BC
4. Legs Iron/Feet Iron & Clay – Roman Empire – 63 BC – AD 476

Dan 2: 31 – 35

Image was struck on feet by stone cut without human hands. Image destroyed and stone itself became a mountain filling all the earth. See verse 44.

Remember this dream occurred about 70 years before the fall of the Babylonian Empire.

About 50 years later – Belshazzar's reign – (Nebuchadnezzar's son)

Chap 7 – Daniel has dream – His 4 beasts correspond to the 4 parts of Nebuchadnezzar's image.

His 4 beasts are 4 kings – Dan 7: 17

Lion

With eagles wings – the wings were torn off – Babylonian Empire

Jer 4: 7 – King of Babylon called a lion

Lam 4: 19 – Reference is made to the eagles

There were rapid campaigns against Assyria, Egypt, and Palestine

But their conquest was stayed – wings plucked

Bear

Noted for its fierceness (Hos 13: 8) – Medo Persian Empire

Higher on one side than the other refers to Medo and Persians – 8: 3

3 ribs probably refers to the 3 nations this empire conquered

Lydia – 546 BC

Babylon – 539 BC

Egypt – 525 BC

Leopard

Noted for its speed – wings and 4 heads

Greeks under Alexander the Great

See 8: 5 and 8: 21

Alexander only 20 when he became King – by age 25 he ruled the world – speed
4 heads – He had no heir – at his death the kingdom divided among his 4 generals

Lysimachus – Asia Minor

Cassander – Greece

Seleucus – Syria and East

Ptolemy – Egypt and Palestine

See 8:8 and 8: 22

Ten Horned Beast

Emerged from the sea with iron teeth and nails of brass

Same as the 4th segment of Daniel 2 i.e. the Roman Empire

10 horns

Some say figurative not literal

Others note when Rome fell in 476 the result was 10 states (but see 7: 24)

Interesting to consider the 10 great persecutions listed in Foxe's Christian Martyrs

Little Horn

Uprooted 3 of the other horns

Eyes like a man and mouth may imply a personal force

1. Little Horn was a force more stout than other governments
2. Made war with the saints – tried to wear out people of GOD
3. It prevailed against the saints until LORD gave judgment
4. Spoke words against the Most High
5. Changed the times and the Law of GOD
6. Saints were given into his hand for time, times and ½ a time

Who was the Little Horn?

1. Some say Antiochus Epiphanies (175 – 164 BC)
No he was part of the Greek Empire
2. Modern thought – He is the Anti Christ that will return prior to the 7 years of tribulation and 100 year reign. The Roman Empire will be resurrected prior to this. Obviously error –
3. Some say one of the Roman rulers - Julius Caesar or Vespasian
4. But there is an obvious connection between the Little Horn and Paul's man of sin – 2 Thes 2: 3 ff
Thus it is the Papal Dynasty i.e. the Roman Catholic Church.

The Little Horn represents the Papal Dynasty

The general view of the church fathers was the little horn and the man of sin in 2 Thes 2: 3 ff were the same. Paul's man of sin previewed a falling away. The man of sin would be a great religious apostate.

Many modern scholars have left this idea. But others still think there is merit in considering the connection between the Little Horn, the Man of Sin and the Land Beast of Revelation 13. It is hard for me to believe this great apostasy discussed in 2 Thes, Acts 20: 28, etc. is completely overlooked in the Revelation.

Consider the following with reference to Daniel 7 taken from Wayne Jackson's Revelation: Jesus Christ's Final Message of Hope

1. *Whose appearance was greater than his fellows (v. 20)*
 - Prior to AD 755 the authority of the pope was limited to the church.
 - AD 755 French gave Pope Stephen III rule over Ravenna
 - AD 774 Charles the Great of France gave the Lombards to Pope Adrian I
 - AD 817 Lewis (son of Charles) gave state of Rome to Paschal I
 - Roman church had become the most powerful force in Europe
 - AD 1073 Pope Hildebrand claimed the pope should not only be the universal head of the church but should also be the ruler of the world.

2. *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High (v. 25)*

The following quote is said to be a papal claim "Our Lord God the pope; another God upon earth, king of kings, and lord of lords. The same is the dominion of God and the pope. To believe that our Lord God the pope might not decree, as he decreed, it were a matter of heresy. The power of the pope is greater than all created power, and extends itself to things celestial, terrestrial, and infernal. The pope doeth whatsoever he listeth, even things unlawful, and is more than God.

3. *Shall persecute the saints of the Most High (v. 25)*

Throughout history the Roman church has been a persecutor of those who oppose it. During the Spanish Inquisition thousands were burned alive for their heresies against the church.

4. *And shall change the times and law (v. 25)*

According to Catholic doctrine, ecclesiastical authority and tradition carry as much weight, if not more, than the word of GOD. The Roman church changes or makes laws as it sees fit.

5. *Time, times and half a time (v. 25)*

The 1260 is the most difficult part of the prophecy. It represents a time element the same as the time for the woman (the church) to be nourished in Revelation 12: 14.

6. Finally, note it will be destroyed in time (v. 26)

Chapter 13

Sea Beast – Great Power

7 heads - Wisdom
 10 horns – Power
 10 crowns – Authority

Verse 2 – see Daniel 2

- Power comes from Satan
- People worshipped dragon and the sea beast
- Make war with saints & overcome them

Land Beast – the false prophet (16: 13)

2 horns > not as much power

Lamb > Religious – spiritual influence – deception ?

“A wolf in sheep’s clothing”

- Spoke like a dragon
- Derives his power from 1st beast
- Causes people to worship 1st beast

1st Beast is the Roman Empire/Emperor

2nd Beast is the religious system that came out of that

666

Chapters 14 – 15 Another Interlude

I. Ch 13 ends with Beast from the Sea. Contrast that with Ch 14 opening with LAMB of GOD standing on Mount Zion.

Note the 144,000 represents the redeemed. Mark the various descriptions of who they are.

II. 7 Voices

3 angels with 3 messages

1st angel – preach the everlasting gospel

2nd angel – announces the fall of Babylon

3rd angel – warns against apostasy

2nd Beatitude – Happy are the dead!

Marginal notes on why we should not fear death

- Happy are the dead implies they are still conscious
- We should not fear death – Heb 2: 14-15
- To die is to gain – Phil 1: 21
- The faithful go to Paradise – Luke 23: 43
- There to be with loved ones we recognize – Matt 17: 1-5
- Escorted by angels – Luke 16: 19-22
- There to rest from your labors – Rev 14: 13
- Thus – Be faithful! – Rev 2: 10

III. Reaping the earth

3 different scenes painted of GOD'S judgment

1. Opening the 7 seals affected ¼ of the earth
2. Sounding the 7 trumpets affected 1/3 of earth
3. See 15:1 – The 7 vials – affects all, i.e. HIS judgment is complete

IV. Prelude to the 7 Bowls or Vials of Wrath

7 angels – 7 plagues

Victory, beast, image, mark, number

Song of Moses and the Song of the LAMB

Chapter 16 The 7 Bowls of Wrath

I. Comparing the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Bowls

Remember the 4 – 2 – 1 split

II. 7 Bowls – Note the similarity to the Plaques on Egypt

1st Bowl – Plaque of sores

2nd Bowl – Sea turns to blood

3rd Bowl – Waters turned to blood

4th Bowl – Men are scorched

5th Bowl – Darkness

6th Bowl – Euphrates is dried up and a battle

7th Bowl – Last one into the air

III. Some additional observations

- Reminder – Don't look for a literal fulfillment – Symbolic!
- GOD'S nature is righteous and holy and thus justice is demanded – VV 5-6
- In context vv. 14 & 16 seem to be referring to Final Judgment (2 Pet 3:12)
- The Battle of Armageddon – V. 16 – but not a literal battle
- 3rd Beatitude – watches and keeps - note present active tense implies continuous
- VV 9, 11, 21 – They continued to blaspheme GOD – Eph 4: 19
- 7th plaque completes the 4 natural elements – earth, water, fire (sun), and air
- It is said the fall of the Roman Empire was brought about by 3 major things
 - Internal Decay – Corruption
 - Natural Disasters – Earthquakes, volcanoes, etc
 - External Forces – Enemies
- ALL nations – Egyptians, Babylonians, Amorites (Gen 15: 16), Rome, etc. – fell according to GOD'S timeline. Man had no part on his own. He was simply used to accomplish the will of GOD.
- Of 19 civilizations in history – 16 have perished. It is Rome's time to fall. Her downfall began internally, read Romans 1. She was rotten to the core!

Chapter 17 Judgment of the Great Harlot

I. Contrast the 2 women from Chap 12 and Chap 17

II. The woman and the scarlet beast

Waters – multitudes of people (v. 1, 15)

Fornication – religious apostasy (Jer 2: 20-25)

7 heads & 10 horns – Who is this? Roman Empire (13: 1)

Blasphemy – Emperor called Lord God Domitian

Babylon – the Roman state

III. Woman sitting on the beast

Woman represents the great city (v. 18)

Beast - empire

IV. V. 14 is a key verse

Note the description of GOD'S people – called, chosen, faithful

V. Perhaps the hardest verses in the Bible - 17: 8-11

1. The kingdoms of this world – Isa 2: 2-4; Dan 2: 35

2. The Emperors with various ideas about where to start the numbering

3. Symbolic

Roman Emperors	
Augustus Caesar	27 BC – AD 14
Tiberius	14 – 37
Caligula	37 – 41
Claudius	41 – 54
Nero	54 – 68
Vespasian	69 – 79
Titus	79 – 81
Domitian	81 – 96
Nerva	96 - 98

Chapter 18 The Fall of Babylon

- I. **1st Voice – Another Angel**
 - Proclaims Babylon is fallen
 - CF – Isa 13: 19-22, 14: 11-12, 21:9; Jer 50: 2
 - Compare to physical Babylon falling

- II. **2nd Voice – From GOD**
 - Come out of her my people lest you share in her sins
 - Note the sins of Rome in AD 57 – Rom 1: 18-32
 - According to her *works*
 - Note the arrogance
 - Compare to fall of Babylon in Isa 47: 7-9

- III. **3rd Voice – From Kings of the Earth**
 - They are just mourning their personal loss

- IV. **4th Voice – From Merchants**
 - Mourn their loss of revenue

- V. **5th Voice – From Shipmasters, Sailors, and those who Trade on the Sea**
 - Dust on their heads is a sign of mourning – Ezek 27:30
 - For 3rd time – one hour – a short time

- VI. **6th Voice – From an Unnamed Source**
 - Think of physical Rome
 - Also think of religious element that grew out of Rome that will continue the persecution
 - ALL will fall – Rejoice!

- VII. **7th Voice – From a Mighty Angel**
 - Note the anymores
 - Note the reason for the downfall is v24

Chapter 19 Victory

The 2nd Coming of Christ and the Final Triumph of Good over Evil

I. Hallelujah – Literally Praise Jehovah

1. Praise from the great multitude
Note the 3 reasons given for the Praise
2. Praise from the 24 elders and 4 living creatures
3. Praise from an unidentified source
4. Praise from the great multitude again
No Proxy Obedience – personal preparation is necessary
 - Note the 4th Beatitude

II. Christ on a White Horse

- What the White Horse signified to 1st Century citizen
- Note His Names
- Note His description
- Discuss the Sharp Sword

III. The Decisive Battle and the Defeat of Evil

- The angel's call to the Great Supper of GOD
- The beast and his armies defeated
- Note v20 – 2 are mentioned – the beast and the false prophet

Premillennialism – A Brief Study

First understand the doctrine of Premillennialism is false. But because of its prevalence in our world we need to have some understanding of it. Thus we will examine the major tenets of the doctrine of Premillennialism. There will be minor differences from many sources but what I have attempted is to note the major themes.

The general idea is that Jesus' original plan to set up an earthly kingdom was thwarted by the Jews when they unexpectedly rejected Him. It was at this point GOD set up the church as a Plan B.

Let us observe 4 Phases

1. Christ will come in the Rapture. The righteous dead will be raised and the righteous living changed, and together they will be caught up to meet the LORD. This is the 1st Resurrection.
2. After the Rapture occurs, there will be a Tribulation period of 7 years. At the end of this period the LORD will return to the earth and this will initiate the Battle of Armageddon. When He comes this time there will be a 2nd Resurrection of the saints who died during the Tribulation.
3. Upon Jesus' victory over evil, He will return to His favored people, the Jews, and return to Jerusalem to sit on David's throne. Here He will rule for 1000 years. The Jews will be restored to Palestine. Without the presence of evil, this will be an idealistic time on earth. The curse is removed from nature; deserts bloom and wild animals are tame.
4. At the end of the 1000 year reign, Satan will be loosed for a little while. This will be followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous which is the 3rd Resurrection. Judgment will occur at this point and every soul will be assigned their eternal destiny.

Some Basic Assumptions of Premillennialism and Scripture to Review

1. Assumes Christ was rejected and the church was afterthought – It was NOT – See John 17:4; Eph 3:11; Isa 53:3; Psa 118:22
2. Assumes the Kingdom of GOD is earthly – It is NOT – It is Spiritual. See John 18: 36-37; Luke 23:3
3. Assumes the Kingdom is yet future – It is NOT – It was set up in the 1st Century. See Dan 2: 44, Mt 16:18,19; Heb 12: 28; Acts 2; Col 1: 13; Rev 1:9; Jn 3:5
4. Assumes Christ will set foot on earth again – where is the scripture? 1 Thes 4: 16,17; 1 Cor 15:20-24
5. Assumes GOD still owes Israel something. See Josh 21: 43,45; Deut 28-32;

As we study chapter 20 note what is NOT mentioned

2 nd Coming of Christ	Jerusalem
A bodily resurrection	Conversion of the Jews
Reign of Christ <i>on earth</i>	The church on earth
The literal throne of David	

I The origin of Modern Premillennialism may date back to AD 100. The following is an excerpt from Eusebius' *The Church History*.

Moreover, Cerinthus, through revelations supposedly penned by a great apostle, offers us false tales of wonders allegedly shown to him by angels. After the resurrection, he says, the kingdom of Christ will be on earth, and humanity living at Jerusalem will again be enslaved to lusts and pleasure. He is the enemy of the Scriptures of GOD and, in his anxiety to deceive, claims that the marriage festivities will last a thousand years.

Cerinthus was founder of the Cerinthian heresy named for him, since he wished to add an authoritative note to his creation. He taught that Christ's kingdom would be on earth, and, being in love with his own body and thoroughly sensual, he dreamed up a paradise for his own lusts, full of endless gluttony in eating, drinking, and marrying, or in the euphemisms for these: festivals, sacrifices, and immolation of victims.

Polycarp stated that the apostle John one day went into a bathhouse to take a bath, but when he found Cerinthus inside he leaped out of the palace and ran for the door, since he could not endure to be under the same roof. He urged his companions to do the same, crying, "Let's get out of here lest the place fall in: Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is inside!"

II Note more recent observations

The famous Presbyterian scholar, Charles Hodge, stated: "It is a sound rule in the interpretation of the Scripture that obscure passages should be so explained as to make them agree with those that are plain. It is unreasonable to make the symbolic and figurative language of prophecy and poetry the rule by which to explain the simple didactic prose language of the Bible. It is no less unreasonable that a multitude of passages should be taken out of their natural sense to make them accord with a single passage of doubtful import."

Albert Barnes, (1798-1870) His *Commentary on Revelation* has the following:

"It is admitted, on all hands, that this doctrine, if contained in the Scriptures at all, is found in this one passage only. It is not pretended that there is, in any other place, a direct affirmation that this will literally occur, nor would the advocates for that opinion undertake to show that it is fairly implied in any other part of the Bible. But it is strange, not to say improbable, that the doctrine of the literal resurrection of the righteous, a thousand years before the wicked, should be announced in one passage only."

Chapter 20 Satan's Downfall and the Final Judgment

I. V 1-3 Binding of Satan

Key, chain, pit, 1000 years – all are symbolic
4 names of Satan – cf Gen 3:1

Satan's downfall occurs in 2 stages

1. Bound – his power is limited – not powerless – 1 Pet 5:8
2. Cast into hell – note the progression of his demise – 12:9; 20:3; 20:10

II. V 4-6 Reign of Saints

V4 is fulfillment of 6:9-11
Beheaded and lived – the dead live!
Beatitude #5 of 7

1st Resurrection?

Does it refer to baptism? What is the problem with this idea?
Is it symbolic? Ezek 37:1-4 and the dry bones?

III. V 7-10 Brief Era of Terror

This may hint at a last-ditch effort by Satan to destroy the church just prior to His second coming. May be a time when Scriptures are again scarce or ignored. Verse 8 notes the deceiving of the nations will resume.

BUT what is important is that this final rebellion will fail. Satan WILL FAIL.

IV. V 11-15 Final Judgment

Dead small and great – death is the great equalizer
Books and the book
Death and Hades
Works
The 1st death and the 2nd death

Chapter 21 The Blessings that await the Faithful

I. Revelation is a book of contrasts

V 1 New Heaven and New Earth replaces 1st heaven and 1st earth

V2 Note the contrasts

Old City		New City
Babylon	vs	New Jerusalem
Harlot		Bride

V2 Prepared

V3-4 “no mores”

V8 Contrasts continue

II. The New Jerusalem

V9-21 Description of Heaven

V22-27 GOD and the Lamb are its Temple

Chapter 22 Paradise Restored

I. Connection to Genesis 3 – Paradise is Restored

II. Emphasis on Obedience – he who keeps, those who keep, those who do

1 Sam 15:22; Matt 7:21; Luke 6:46; 2 Thes 1: 7-9; Rom 6: 16-18; Ja 1: 22-25;

1 Pet 1: 22-23; Heb 5: 8-9

III. Note the various references to Christ

Lamb	v1, 3	Jn 1:29, 36; 1 Cor 5:7
Alpha and Omega	v13	Used for GOD – 1:18; 21:6
Jesus	v16	Matt 1:21
Root & Offspring of David	v16	Matt 1:1
Bright and Morning Star	v16	Num 24:17; Jn 8:12
LORD Jesus Christ	v21	

IV. The Pen of Inspiration ceases

V 18-19 See also Beginning Dt 4:2; Middle Prov 30:6; End Rev 22

NT ends with a blessing versus the OT closing with a curse

Grace – Grace and obedience are not mutually exclusive – Both in last chapter

Summary of Revelation

The approach one takes to the study of this great book will determine the interpretation of the book (see page 6 of the outline). We have noted that Revelation was written to the 7 churches of Asia which are representative of all the churches.

Much of the book was meant for the early Christians being persecuted by the Roman Empire and the Roman Emperor. The book was written about AD 95 during the reign of Domitian. Domitian demanded the people acknowledge him as god and worship him as Lord Caesar Domitian. He was the second of what would eventually be 10 Roman Emperors to persecute the church. Nero was the first. In the midst of the persecution, the message of Revelation 2:10 is to be faithful unto death and receive the crown of life. The message of Revelation is that the Roman Empire will fall. In describing how this happens the writer uses several visions of judgment that get progressively worse. The fall occurs in chapter 18.

Chapters 1 – 3 are the easiest to understand and are written in a more literal manner. It is in Chapters 4-5 that we begin to encounter most of the figurative language. Here we see a vision of GOD on His Throne and Jesus is found worthy to open the scroll. Beginning in chapter 6, we then encounter the visions of judgment that include 3 series of 7's: 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials or Bowls of Wrath.

Each of these visions of the seals, trumpets, and vials describes the judgment coming on the Roman Empire. There are several scenes associated with various times: 42 months, 1260 days, time and times and half a time, which all represent the same time, that is 3 ½ years. All these times are symbolic and may represent the period of Roman persecution. The end of the Roman persecution is represented with Satan being bound in chapter 20. The 1000 year reign that follows his being bound is the Gospel Age we now live in.

In the midst of each of these visions there is an interlude. The saints seem to ask the question, what will happen to us during all of this judgment on Rome? The interlude is meant to encourage them to be faithful.

We are also introduced to evil characters including the Dragon, identified as Satan in chapter 11. Satan uses other evil forces to help him in his attempt to destroy the woman in chapter 12. This woman represents GOD'S people. Other characters and their identity are:

- Sea Beast – or the 1st Beast also called the scarlet beast in chapter 17 – is the Roman Empire.
- Land Beast – called the 2nd Beast aka the false prophet – is the religious system forcing people to worship the Roman Emperor (or any man elevated to godly status, *which may still be with us today*).
- The harlot of chapter 17 is the city of Rome.

Revelation 17:14 is the key verse of the study. It says all these evil forces will make war with the Lamb but the Lamb will overcome them. Note, the outcome has already been decided! We know how it will all turn out. Chapters 19-20 reveal the final destination for all evil, the lake of fire and brimstone.

The book concludes with the last 2 chapters being devoted to the description of the reward for those found faithful. Chapter 22 is a description of paradise restored with an obvious tie back to Genesis 3. The closing chapter is indeed one of the great chapters of the Bible.

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