

I. Why Study Revelation

- A. It is the Revelation of Jesus - The book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus. We say, "Well, that is obvious." Actually, it's not obvious. As you read commentary on Revelation, books about the last days, and hold discussions you will find that most think the book of Revelation is about events. The events become an end in themselves, and a unfruitful distraction if you primarily view this book through the lens of events. The events are the expression of the glory of God found in the man Christ Jesus. (Eph 1:17)
1. His Identity – There are over 30 descriptions/titles of Jesus in the book of Revelation that give us great insight into who He is and reveal His glory to us. It reveals His zeal to see justice and righteousness and manifest it.
 2. His Heart – We see His zeal to establish justice and righteousness upon the earth while working in conjunction with His loving kindness and patience upon the wickedness of man. Over and over John is marveling at the divine heart of our God.
 3. His Leadership - We see His dramatic plans to bring the restoration of all things. We stand in awe at His wise and loving plans that combine God's sovereignty, human free will, and satanic rage. His plan results in a great harvest of souls, a victorious Church, and the end of sin. He will do this without violating justice or man's free will.
- B. It Prepares the Church – The prophetic nature of the book of Revelation informs the church and prepares her to be victorious in trials, participate in God's judgments, interpret the current events rightly, walk with urgency, and have confidence in who God is and what He is doing. (Mat 24:13, Dan. 11:32-34)
- C. The Bible Stresses it – There are 150 Chapters in the bible that have end time things as their main theme. All of revelation, many of Paul's letters and Jesus teaching, and many old testament books including Psalms, Daniel, Joel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah ect.
- D. It Builds Hope – Hope is highlighted over and over in the scriptures as the anchor for our hearts. The scriptures point to the return of Jesus and ushering in of the Kingdom of God as our greatest hope. The book of Revelation builds tangible details of the return of Jesus and the coming Kingdom unlike any other book of the bible. (1 Cor. 15:19)

II. Posture of our Hearts

- A. Doctrinal Stances - We must recognize varying degrees of importance regarding Biblical, end-time beliefs and themes:

1. Essential Doctrines - Those of primary importance that are essential for fellowship and continuity of saving faith.
2. Core Convictions – These doctrines are held by our leadership team. We are confident that the bible is very clear on these subjects. Every ministry has a set of core convictions that, if they compromise them, they are compromising all together. We are not open to changing our core convictions, but still respect and honor those who hold to different convictions. We don't break fellowship over core convictions.
3. Personal Opinions - Some teachings or themes we believe are Biblical, but they are opinions. Meaning we draw them as an implication from the Scripture. We believe they are informed opinions, but they are of a whole lesser level of weightiness

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; and in all things, love.”

- B. Humility - We should present the Biblical message of the end times in a humility that promotes unity without compromising important truths. We acknowledge the value of other people who have totally different views.
- C. Posture of a Berean – The Bereans received the teaching of Paul with eagerness and zeal to be taught. Then they searched the scriptures on their own under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see if what he was teaching was true. (Acts 17:10-11)
 1. I want you to search the scriptures on our views as you seek to establish your own core convictions. As a teacher, I value the process of challenging ideas and interpretations because you develop your own core convictions through that process. It is my opinion that the body of Christ must discipline themselves to develop their own core convictions on the doctrines of the scriptures. This is our best defense against deception and immaturity. (1 Jhn. 4:1)

III. Main Structure (Four Parts)

- A. The book of Revelation can be separated into Four Main Parts:
 1. John's calling to prophesy about the end times (Rev. 1)
 2. Jesus gives seven pastoral letters to seven churches (Rev. 2-3)
 3. Jesus receives the scroll from the Father in the throne room (Rev. 4-5)
 4. Jesus executes His plan to restore all things (Rev. 6-22)

IV. The Forth Part has Five Sections (Rev. 6-22)

- A. Chronological Sections – There are 5 chronological sections of Jesus’ restorative plan. “Chronological” meaning it’s a progression of sequential events from the beginning of the institution of the plan to its completion.
- B. Angelic Explanations – The chronological sections are accompanied by angels explaining to John in greater detail the events of chronological sections. A practical image of this would be putting a movie on pause to explain it to someone who just walked in the room.
1. Chronological Section of the Seal Judgments (Rev. 6)
 - a) Angelic Explanation (Rev. 7)
 2. Chronological Section of Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8-9)
 - a) Angelic Explanation (Rev. 10-11:14)
 3. Chronological Section when Jesus Returns to Earth (Rev. 11:15-19)
 - a) Angelic Explanation (Rev. 12:1-14)
 4. Chronological Section of Bowl Judgments (Rev. 15-16)
 - a) Angelic Explanation (Rev. 17-19:10)
 5. Chronological Section of Jesus sets up His Kingdom (Rev. 19:11-21:8)
 - a) Angelic Explanation (Rev. 21:9-22)

V. Inductive Outline Review (Rev. 1-14)

- A. **(Rev. 1:1-20) Part 1** – John’s Call to Prophecy about the end times
1. (Rev. 1:1-3) John’s Introduction and Benediction
 2. (Rev. 1:4-20) John unveils and emphasizes the glory and beauty of Jesus.
 - John highlights 24 different aspects of the identity of Jesus that He saw in this vision that he wants his readers to see and understand.

B. (Rev. 2:1-3:22) Part 2 – Jesus gives pastoral leadership to 7 churches.

- The letters are to be viewed historically, individually, universally, and eschatologically. The letters all have the same structure and can be broken down into 5 parts:

1. Identity of Jesus they need to meditate upon to overcome their situation.
2. Affirmation and edification of their walk with Him.
3. Correction to provoke greater love.
4. Exhortation to respond to his correction.
5. Promise of rewards to overcome

C. (Rev. 4:1-5:14) Part 3 – Jesus receives the scroll from the Father in the throne room.

1. (Rev. 4:1-11) The glory and worth of God is revealed to John at the onset of his eschatological vision.
 - This chapter gives us one of the most detailed descriptions of the majesty of God's beauty found in the scriptures. This initial throne room scene uses symbolic imagery to reveal multiple aspects of His glory and majesty that produces wonder, joy, and Holy pleasure in the worshipers who are compelled by beauty to be there.
 - We need to see all that follows in the rest of the book of Revelation in the light of the character and beauty of God seen in the temple. This chapter is our anchor to help us accept and understand the coming revelation of all that He will do in His perfect plan to bring all the inhabitants of the earth to knowledge of God. Thus radiating everything that hinders the fullness of love, that Jesus alone may have the preeminence in everything.
2. (Rev. 5:1-14) Jesus the Lamb receives the Scroll
 - Many, including myself see this scroll as representing the *title deed* of the earth and *action plan* to restore all things to God's original intent.
 - There is only one person in the entirety of all humanity's past, present, and future found with the character (worthiness) to carry such authority and power. The character of Jesus has already been proven through His incarnation and death on the cross. His identity as the Lamb is His main identity throughout the rest of the book.

D. **(Rev. 6-22) Part 4** - Jesus perfectly institutes and carries out the plan contained in the scroll.

1. (Rev. 6:1-17) Chronological Section 1 - "6 Seal Judgments" The first 6 seal judgments are the result of God's restraining hand being taken away and allowing the wickedness of man to come to maturity.
 - a) (Rev. 7:1-17) Angelic Explanation 1 - "God's protection and involvement" We are introduced to the reality of the victorious church. 144k Messianic Jews are sealed, followed by a worldwide evangelistic revival that is unparalleled in history resulting in the prayer and worship movement becoming mature.
2. (Rev. 8:1-9:21) Chronological Section 2 - "7th seal and 6 trumpet judgments" The church on the earth partners with Jesus through worldwide prayer and worship and brings supernatural judgment events in order to cause the nations to turn to Him in repentance.
 - a) (Rev. 10:1-11:14) - Angelic Explanation 2 - "Worldwide prophetic outpouring, unity, and leadership" The Lord will fulfill the Joel 2 promise of pouring out His Spirit upon the church. There will be very clear and worldwide prophetic direction and encouragement to strengthen the believers in the midst of great persecution.
- The Lord will raise up two witnesses in the city of Jerusalem who will give primary apostolic leadership to the worldwide church.
3. (Rev. 11:15-19) Chronological Section 3 - "The return of the King" Jesus returns to the earth permanently to set up His messianic government in a 3 stage progression. He comes in the clouds, He marches up through modern day Jordan waging war upon the armies of the antichrist, and then enters the city of Jerusalem in a victorious procession.
 - a) (Rev. 12:1-14:20) Angelic Explanation 3 - "Conflict of the Ages, Satanic Strategy, and Prophetic Promises" The section is meant to help us understand Satan's strategy to thwart the plan of God to restore the earth throughout human history, and also gives us great insight into His strategy in the final day leading up to the return of Jesus.

- (Rev. 12:1-17) God choose ethnic Israel to carry the unique destiny of being the people in which he uses to bring His restorative promises through. Satan's strategy to destroy them however they will be supernaturally protected by God through gentile believers.
- (Rev. 13:1-18) Satan will raise up the antichrist and the false prophet to execute his plans in the earth. These two individual's will possess the highest levels of Satanic power the earth has ever witnessed. They will use demonically empowered messaging, political genius, economic corruption, and brute force to push Satan's agenda.
- (Rev. 14:1-13) The primary weapon of warfare for the saints to overcome Satan and his strategy is worship and prayer. Jesus will strengthen His people by an unmatched outpouring of His Spirit with a strong emphasis on prophecy, encouragement, and patient endurance.
- (Rev. 14:14-20) The wicked and righteous will reach full maturity at the same time as will the harvest of righteousness and wickedness in the earth transitioning us into the eternal reign of Jesus over the earth.