

## Class on "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"

1. Title: We sometimes misname it "Revelations." The actual title is: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." It was a single revelation given to Jesus Christ from God.
2. Who gave the Revelation and to whom was it given? "The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto him to show his servants..." (Revelation 1:1) Given by God to Jesus Christ to show unto his servants. The Lord Jesus sent and signified it through his angel to his servant John. It was given by the highest authority in the universe.
3. Background on the Author: The Apostle John (John, I, II, & III John) the "Beloved Disciple" was exiled to the Isle of Patmos and was given this revelation around 95 AD. The next year he was released and was allowed to return to Ephesus from where it is believed he wrote the book.
  - a. The book was written when the church was about 66 years old. During that time Christians were persecuted by both the Jews and by the Roman government.
  - b. The Christians had undergone persecution at the hands of the Jewish establishment and had already been forced to flee Jerusalem.
  - c. Persecutions from imperial Rome first occurred under Nero in 64 — 67 AD; these were done for the pleasure of the emperor. Peter and Paul were part of that persecution.
  - d. Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD following the Jewish rebellion that began in 66 AD.
  - e. The second wave came under Domitian in 95 AD; over 40,000 were tortured and slain. John was banished to the Isle of Patmos as part of that wave.
  - f. The third wave began in 98 AD under Trajan.
  - g. The church was showing signs of apostasy and the influence of the world and this message was written to re-focus these early Christians and to give them encouragement and insight into God's sovereignty over the future and how He remains in control and will bring the affairs of this world to conclusion in His time and to His glory.
4. Servants: This book begins with a special emphasis on "servants."
  - a. Who are his servants?
  - b. Why is the revelation given to his servants?
  - c. A message to his servants that "...the time is at hand." Rev. 1:3; 22:10
5. Blessings: The book begins and ends with blessings to those that read, hear, and keep those things that are written therein. (There are seven beatitudes in Revelation)
  - a. What are the blessings to those who read and keep? (Rev. 1:3, 22:7)
  - b. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (14:13)
  - c. Blessed is he that watches (16:15)
  - d. Blessed are those bidden to the Lamb's marriage supper (19:9)
  - e. Blessed is he who has part in the first resurrection (20:6)
  - f. Blessed are they who wash their robes (22:14)
6. Key Theme focuses on Christ's Coming:
  - a. Every eye shall see Him and they that pierced Him (1:7)
  - b. Hold fast till I come (2:25)
  - c. I will come as a thief (3:3)
  - d. I will come quickly; hold fast that which you have (3:11)
  - e. Behold I come as a thief; blessed is he that watches (16:15)
  - f. Behold I come quickly (22:7); Behold I come quickly and my reward is with Me (22:12)
  - g. Surely I come quickly... Even so come Lord Jesus. (22:20)

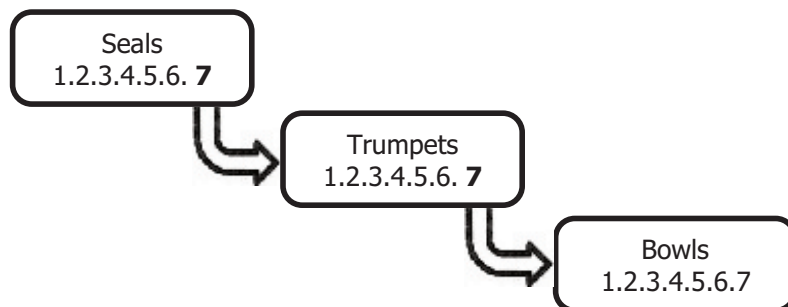
7. More Key themes of the book at are fulfilled or completed in Revelation:

Theme in Genesis	Fulfillment in Revelation
Creation of heavens and earth 1:1	Destruction of heavens and earth 20:11 Creation of new heavens and new earth 21:1
The darkness He called night 1:5	There shall be no night there 21:25
God made the two great lights (Sun and Moon) 1:16	The city has no need of the sun nor the moon 21:23
Start of Satan's reign on earth 3:1-7	Satan cast into the Lake of Fire 20:10
Entrance of Sin 3:1-7	Sin banished 21:27
Curse pronounced 3:17-19	Curse removed 22:3
In the day you eat thereof you shall surely die 2:17	Death shall be no more 21:4
Right to tree of life forfeited 3:24	Access to tree of life restored 22:2, 19
They were driven from God's presence 3:24	They shall see His face 22:4
Entrance of death into the world 2:17, 5:5	Death forever removed 21:4
Marriage of the first Adam 4:1	Marriage of the last Adam 19:7
Sorrow comes to mankind 3:16	Sorrow is eliminated 21:4
Man's first home was beside a river 2:10	His eternal home will be beside a river 22:1

8. Symbols and Numbers: The use of symbols and numbers are very important to understanding this book. The number seven is prominently used and signifies "completeness, a unit, fullness or totality."

- a. Seven Letters to Seven Churches, Seven Stars, Seven Angels, Seven Spirits of God
- b. Seven Candlesticks, Seven Lamps
- c. Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls
- d. A Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes
- e. Seven Lamps, Seven Thunders, Seven Thousand slain, Seven plagues
- f. A red dragon with seven heads and seven crowns,
- g. A leopard-like beast with seven heads, a scarlet colored beast with seven heads
- h. Seven mountains and seven kings
- i. The use of symbols such as the "seals" are important, in this case the seals are broken or opened indicating that they are revealed and not sealed up as was Daniel's prophesy.

9. Connections between the Seals, the Trumpets and the Bowls: The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet contains the seven bowls.



10. How to Interpret this book: There are a number of ways that this book has been interpreted:

- a. Preterist: Interpretation of events at the time it was written
- b. Historical: Interpretation of events over the general course of the history of the church
- c. Futurist: Clock begins after the Rapture
- d. Spiritualist: Interprets the book as a picture of God's Divine Government over all time.

## Top level Outline of the book

- a. The things which you have seen (Chapter 1)
- b. The Things which are (Chapters 2-3)
- c. The Things which are to Come (Chapters 4-22)

## Detailed Outline of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. **The Things which you have seen** (Chapter 1)
  - a. Title and Salutation (1:1-8)
  - b. The Vision of Christ in Judicial Robes (1:9-20)
2. **The Things which are** - Letters from the Lord Jesus to the seven churches (Chapters 2 and 3)
  - a. To Ephesus (2:1-7) -The church that had forsaken its first love ...REMEMBER, REPENT
  - b. To Smyrna (2:8-11) —The church that would suffer persecution...DO NOT FEAR
  - c. To Pergamos (2:12-17) — The church that had the doctrine of Balaam...REPENT
  - d. To Thyatira (2:18-29) — The church that had a false prophetess...HOLD FAST
  - e. To Sardis (3:1-6) —The church that had fallen asleep...BE WATCHFUL AND STRENGTHEN
  - f. To Philadelphia (3:7-13) — The church that had endured patiently...HOLD FAST
  - g. To Laodicea (3:14-22) — The church that had become lukewarm...GOLD & WHITE CLOTHES
3. **The Things which are to come** (Chapters 4-22). This section includes future events that will take place after the Rapture of the saints to the eternal state. **Introduced** by "...a door opened...a voice as a Trumpet...COME UP HERE and I will show you..."
  - a. **Chapters 4 —19:** Describe the Tribulation (period of seven years after Rapture) and judgments that God will bring upon apostate Israel and unbelieving Gentiles. They are described with Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls. This links to the 70th week from Daniel (Daniel 9:27)
    - i. The Vision of God's Throne (Chapter 4)
    - ii. The Lamb and the Seven-Sealed Scroll (Chapter 5)
    - iii. The Opening of the Six Seals (Chapter 6) Seals are a picture of God's sovereign working
      1. White horse and him that sat on him (The arrival of the prince that shall come)
      2. Red horse (violence and bloodshed after the prince arrives)
      3. Black horse (famine)
      4. Pale horse (Death)
      5. **Martyrs** (During first 3½ years of tribulation those who did not hear gospel may hear it and turn to the Lord Jesus, many of these will be put to death; other martyrs will also be joined to these in the second half of the tribulation because they refuse to worship the Beast (Rev 13:15) and will be raised to complete the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5).
      6. **Apostasy and Anarchy** (As the first 3 3 years of the tribulation period ends, there will be major anarchy and apostasy, indicated by the earthquake, the sun turning black, the moon turning to blood, and the stars falling from heaven; symbolically spoken of)
    - iv. **The Saved in the Great Tribulation** (Chapter 7) [The 144,000 sealed Jewish saints and the Gentile believers from the Tribulation; this chapter is set as an interlude to the seals.]
    - v. **The Seventh Seal and the Start of the Seven Trumpets** (Chapter 8 & 9) (The seventh seal is opened and the prayers of the saints still on earth and saved during the tribulation ascend to the throne. The censor bearing these prayers is cast into the earth. This is

understood to be at the middle of the tribulation period. The first six trumpets then sequentially sound.

1. The first four trumpets affect man's natural environment: the first affects 1/3 of the food supply, the second affects the sea and food from the sea as well as water commerce, the third pollutes 1/3 of the water supply and many die, the fourth affects light from the sun, moon, and stars reducing them by 1/3.
  2. The last three trumpets affect man himself: The fifth is the release of swarms of locusts who are capable of inflicting pain like the sting of a scorpion on all those who are unbelievers. Their leader is called "Destruction" and is considered to refer to Satan. Their torment will last for five months and those afflicted will desire to die but will not be allowed to do so. The sixth is the attack of 200 million riders on horses who destroy 1/3 of mankind with their mouths and tails, they issue fire, smoke, and brimstone from their mouths which kill. The survivors continue to refuse to repent. There is an interlude (Chapter 10 to 11:15) between the end of chapter 9 when the sixth trumpet sounds and when the seventh trumpet sounds.
- vi. The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll (Chapter 10). In this chapter John sees a mighty angel whose description and authority lead one to believe that it is the Lord Jesus. In the vision he cried with a loud voice and seven thunders sounded which apparently John understood. He was commanded to seal up and not write down what he heard. The Angel lifts up his hand and swears that there should be no more delay to punish all evil doers and usher in the kingdom of His Son. John was commanded to eat a little book and to prophesy again.
- vii. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14): During the last half of the tribulation God will raise up two witnesses like Moses and Elijah. They will cry out against the sins of the people and announce God's coming indignation. They will have special powers and will continue on till they finish their testimony. At the end of the tribulation period they will be killed in Jerusalem by the beast from the bottomless pit (the head of the revived Roman Empire, 13:8). They will lie in the streets for 3 1/2 days then God will raise them up and take them to heaven. This is followed by an earthquake after which the remnant gave glory to the God of Heaven.
- viii. The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19): This trumpet announces the end of the Great Tribulation and the reign of Christ has begun. "The kingdoms of this world are now become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign for ever and ever." All of these things are connected when He shall deliver the kingdom up to the Father (I Cor. 15:24-28).
- ix. The Key Figures and events during the Tribulation (Chapters 12 — 15). This section provides more detail for the span of time the seven trumpets bracketed.
1. A woman clothed with the Sun: Israel . This depicts the birth of Christ, the attempt of Herod as vassal to Rome to destroy the new born King of the Jews. During the tribulation, a portion of Israel will flee into the wilderness for protection and remain there for 3 1/2 years as indicated in this prophecy.
  2. The Great Red Dragon: Satan, same as in 13:1. In chapter 12 it indicates satanic power operating in the Roman Empire at the time of the birth of Christ.
  3. War in Heaven, Satan cast out: During the middle of the Tribulation period, God has decreed that Michael and his angels will wage a decisive battle in heaven against Satan and his angels, and they will be thrown down to the earth. Daniel 10:12-13,

20-21, Job 1:6-12, and Eph. 6:12 attest to the present situation where Satan is allowed to accuse the brethren. We are enabled to be overcomers as we put on the whole armor of God and use the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:10-17). There is great rejoicing in heaven after this victory. Satan is depicted as: the dragon (the intimidator), the old serpent (the deceiver), the devil (the accuser), and Satan (the adversary). After this he will no longer be allowed to practice his accusations before God: his activities will be confined to earth.

4. The Dragon persecuting the woman: The dragon then persecutes the godly of Israel, he uses both apostate Jews and Gentiles who follow Antichrist.
5. A Beast Coming out of the Sea: (Chapter 13) The revived Roman Empire arises out of the sea (Gentile or Western nations). He is energized by Satan and during the Tribulation received a fatal wound that he receives during the time of the sixth seal (6:17). But he will be healed by a striking recovery that will cause all the world to wonder; this appears to be related to 17:11. He will be judged by the Lord out of heaven when He judges this insolent enemy and his armies (19:11-21).
6. A Beast from the Earth: Another beast will arise from the land (Israel); he has two horns like a lamb (13:11) and is a simulation of God's Lamb. As a leader in Israel he takes the place of Christ but speaks as a dragon; there can be no doubt that this is Antichrist (I John 2:22): called the "false prophet" (Rev. 19:20), the man of sin, the son of perdition", the "lawless one" (II Thess. 2:3, 8), "a foolish shepherd", "the worthless shepherd" (Zechariah 11:15, 17), "the king who does his own will" (Daniel 11:36), and the "mighty man" (Psalm 52:1). He will claim both civil and religious authority in Israel. He will be in alliance with the Beast and will require the land (Israel) and all its inhabitants to worship the Beast. He will perform lying wonders (II Thess. 2:9). He will erect an image in Jerusalem in honor of the Beast (Sea); this image is called the "abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15). Daniel 9:27 calls this image "the wing of abominations".
7. The Mark of the Beast: The False Prophet will require the mark of the beast "666" on the forehead in order to buy or sell. This is in contrast to the 144,000 (Rev. 7) who will have the seal of God in their foreheads also at this time.
8. The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion: (Chapter 14) The godly remnant from Israel who refuse to worship the False Prophet and refuse his mark and who are sealed appear with the Lamb on Mount Zion; they are from 6:9-11, 13:15, and 20:4).
9. An Angel with the Everlasting Gospel: The everlasting gospel is different than the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is the good news that God is creator of all and that the hour of His judgment is coming , therefore bow to His authority before it is too late.
10. The Announcement that Babylon has fallen: The announcement that Babylon has fallen is introduced in Chapter 14 and expanded on in chapters 17 and 18.
11. The Beast's Worshipers: The eternal judgment of the worshipers of the Beast and his image are announced in this chapter. This is in contrast to those who refuse the mark of the Beast (verses 12, 13).
12. The Harvest Reaped and the Winepress: Two aspects of the direct judgment of the Son of Man are introduced in this chapter: the harvest reaped, and the winepress.

13. Prelude to the Seven Bowl Judgments (Chapter 15): Those who got victory over the Beast are given the special privilege of praise at the time the seven bowl judgments are announced.
- x. The Seven Bowl Judgments (Chapter 16)
  1. First Bowl: Grievous sores on those that had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.
  2. Second Bowl: The sea became as blood and all living souls died in the sea.
  3. Third Bowl: The rivers and fountains of waters are stricken and became blood.
  4. Fourth Bowl: Scorching with great heat; those afflicted did not repent.
  5. Fifth Bowl: Poured Darkness upon the seat of the Beast; gnawed their tongues for pain; repented not.
  6. Sixth Bowl: The river Euphrates was dried up that the way might be made for the kings of the east.
  7. Seventh Bowl: "It is done."
- xi. The Fall of Babylon the Great (Chapter 17 & 18)
- xii. The Coming of Christ and His Millennial Kingdom (Chapter 19:1-20:9)
- b. Chapters 20-22: Describe Christ's Second Coming, His Kingdom on earth, the Judgment of the Great White Throne, and the Eternal State.
  - i. The Judgment of Satan and All Unbelievers (Chapter 20:10-15)
  - ii. The New Heaven and the New Earth (Chapter 21:1-22:5)
  - iii. Closing Warnings, Comforts, Invitations, and Benedictions (22:6-21)

### References:

- i. Grant, Leslie M.; Exploring the Revelation; 1990; Believers Bookshelf, Inc.
- ii. MacDonald, William; Believer's Bible Commentary; 1995; Thomas Nelson Publishers
- iii. Halley, Henry H., Ph.D; Halley's Bible Handbook; 1965; Zondervan Publishing House
- iv. Smith, Hamilton; Revelation: An Expository Outline; Bible Truth Publishers
- v. Ironside, Harry Litt D.; Lectures on the Revelation; Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Bible Truth Depot
- vi. Vine, W. E.; Vines Complete Expository Dictionary; 1978; Thomas Nelson Publishers
- vii. Dennett, E.; The Visions of John in Patmos; Bible Truth Publishers
- viii. Scofield, C. I., D.D; The Scofield Study Bible; Oxford University Press