

## Revelation Summary

Revelation: "The Unveiling" The unveiling of what or whom... Jesus. The title is The Revelation of Jesus Christ **"CHRIST REVEALED"**

- The consummation of all things. Revelation will uncover how history will be concluded
- The only book promising a special blessing to the reader. **Revelation chapter 1 verse 3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- 404 verses containing over 800 allusions from the Old Testament.
- It presents the climax of God's Plan for Man.

*Revelation 1:1 "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him ..."* This book comes from God himself. And God didn't give it to just anyone – he gave it to Jesus, who gave it to his angel, who revealed it to the beloved disciple, the Apostle John. Now it is our Gift to be blessed by as we **"READ... HEAR... KEEP"**

### WHAT IS SHOWN!

John says Jesus is "the ruler over the kings of the earth." However powerful Domitian or any other ruler might be, they all answer to Jesus. He will call them to account. Jesus is the King.

**End of verse 5...** To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Notice the order: first **loved**, then **washed**. It wasn't that God washed us out of some sense of duty, and then loved us because we were then clean. He **loved us** while we were dirty, but then He **washed us**.

**Chapter 1 verse 19** Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

We call this the divine outline...

**"the things which you have seen."** This incredible vision of Jesus. "The things which are" Chapters 2-3 the 7 churches. **CHAPTERS 4-22 ARE "THE THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS."** AFTER WHAT? After the Church is raptured, **The tribulation**

## Chapter 2

Church at Ephesus... **First love is the abandonment of all for a love that has abandoned all.**



Ephesian church is muddling through without much joy, holding out with steadfastness but with faded fervor. It may be that they are slipping into a pattern of just going through the motions.

3 Rs: **Remember, repent, return.**

**REMEMBER** As Hamilton says, “That first love was passionate, fervent, diligent, disciplined, furious, all-consuming. Do you remember what made you ready to throw your life away, to sell it cheap to follow the Galilean King?”

**REPENT** change your direction... to go a different way.

**RETURN** Do the first works and you'll regain your first love. –

- Remember how you used to spend time in His Word?
- Remember how you used to pray?
- Remember the joy in getting together with other Christians?
- Remember how excited you were about telling others about Jesus? **NO MORE GOING**

**THROUGH THE MOTIONS**

**DO THE FIRST WORKS...** Obey... “Do the motion and the Emotion will follow...”

**Smyrna** Worship the godhead of Caesar or die! The Christians in Smyrna would not bow!

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. **Do not fear:** Literally, “**stop being afraid.**”

→ **God puts us through trials not because He doesn't know what is in our hearts but because we don't know what is in our hearts.**



Ending verse 10... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Smyrna means **MYRRH**. **MYRRH** was an embalming spice used in biblical times.

Myrrh has a very sweet fragrance but it **MUST**

**BE CRUSHED** in order to give off its aroma.

The More they suffered / the more they were “**CRUSHED**” the more the sweet fragrance of Christ was given off from their Lives!



**In order to be faithful unto death, the knowledge of Jesus must be bigger to us than the reality of death itself. Jesus is the First and the Last, the Conqueror over death, the Giver of the crown of life to those who are faithful unto death. Jesus must be bigger to us than death itself.**

**We need this. Not just because some of us might die as martyrs, but because all of us live. The death of the martyrs points to the life worth living, to the life worth dying for.**

*Psalm 147:6 The LORD lifts up the **humble**; He casts the wicked down to the ground. Literally for Nebuchadnezzar will find himself eating grass as he will think himself to be an ox.*

1 Cor. 10 **12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

### Confess the name of Jesus.

It means to recognize that Jesus is bigger than anything you fear... It means recognizing that he is better than anything that pleases you... It means knowing that if you have him you have everything you need... Won't you wake up to this

**ARE YOU CONFESSING HIS NAME?** Christians in Sardis were not. They needed to repent and be willing to confess their relationship with Jesus!

**In Ephesus the church was slipping from its first love. In Smyrna the church was facing persecution. In Pergamum the church had some who held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. In Thyatira the church was tolerating Jezebel. In Sardis, though the church seemed to be doing well, in reality it was dead.**

**What's the answer? Stay close to Jesus! Be vigilant and watchful and don't let your guard down!**

**Both Smyrna and Philadelphia have no criticism; both of these cities are the ones remaining still today.**

*Our faith in Jesus does not increase because we think about faith. Our faith in Jesus increases because we are made more confident in Jesus*

### God's Natural or non-moral attributes

They are unique to Him and cannot be the characteristics of man either now or in the future.

**Transcendent** God is above His creation.

**Immanent** He is actively involved **within** His creation. **indwelling the universe**

**Eternal** God has no beginning or ending. There is no past, present, nor future with God, only eternally present.

**Infinite** No limitation in space. All of His attributes are without limit.

**Immutable** God is not capable of nor susceptible to change, He is unchangeable, invariable and permanent.

**Omniscience** ALL KNOWING (Latin prefix OMNI, meaning "All") God is infinite in knowledge. **He knows things immediately... simultaneously... exhaustively... and truly**

What can we teach God? **JUST LIKE GOD CANNOT LIE, HE CANNOT LEARN....**

No such thing as oops with God or I'll get it right next time. **God doesn't learn from His mistakes because He doesn't make them.**

**Omnipotent** God is ALL POWERFUL and is able to do whatever He wills to do. **God has power over His power.**

**Omnipresent** God is everywhere present in the universe in the whole of His being. He is the creator of space therefore not subject to it. It is not **part of Him is here and part of Him is there but His whole is everywhere.**

**God's moral attributes.**

No human alive or dead has ever possessed them like God does.

**HOLY, JUST, RIGHTEOUS MERCY GRACE, GOODNESS TRUTH, LOVE**

Remember Satan will always try to get you to doubt two things. 1. His word, 2. His love for you.

**WHATEVER WE FACE IN THIS LIFE, THE MEANS WHEREBY JESUS INTENDS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE KEPT IS THEIR KEEPING OF HIS WORD.**

The auctioneer announced with a smile, **"It was in the will of the father that he who gets the son, gets it all."**

Chapter four begins with a heavenly perspective, looking down on the earth. Also, we should keep in mind the nature of symbolism: the symbol is always **less** than the **reality**. The reality of heaven is even greater than the description we have of it.

God's judgments are announced by a 7-sealed scroll, 7 trumpets, 7 signs, and 7 bowls that pour out God's wrath.

Revelation four introduces us to the place judgment comes from: **God's throne in heaven.**

We need Jesus! Revelation chapter 5 teaches us that Jesus is in control of the past, present, and future of world history. **Revelation chapter 5 teaches us that Jesus is in and has never lost control.**

Only Jesus can open the scroll... it appears that the writing on the scroll relates to the events that will bring history to its appointed conclusion.

**If the scroll was not opened,**

- 5:9, Jesus would not be worshipped as worthy to open the scroll.
- 5:9, Jesus would not be worshipped as the world's Redeemer.
- 6:10, the martyrs of the faith would not be avenged.
- 8:4-5, the prayers of the saints ("Your will be done; your kingdom com") would not be answered.
- 9:15, God's appointed plan would not come to pass.
- 11:15, the kingdom of the world not become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ.
- 16-18, the wicked would not be judged.
- 19-20, Jesus would not come back.
- 21-22, God would not reign in glory in the new heavens and the new earth.

We need Jesus!

**Jesus gives hope. JESUS WIPES AWAY TEARS. Jesus is mighty to save. Jesus lives! We need Jesus!**

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Here's the biblical scenario... First, the Church is raptured – next, the antichrist signs a covenant with Israel – that begins 7 years of “Great Tribulation” where the Earth is bombarded with God’s judgment. At the end of those 7 years Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom.

Chapters 6-19 tell us the judgments that strike the Earth come in 3 waves – 3 sets of 7 judgments each - as **broken seals**, **AS TRUMPET BLASTS**, as **poured-out bowls**.

**As Jesus breaks the seals - and takes possession of what belongs to Him - judgment reigns down. Trumpets sound a warning that God means business. Sin will be punished. Bowls brimming with God’s wrath are thrown down from heaven!**

## **GET READY TO RUMBLE**

Imagine yourself at a heavyweight boxing match... Loud music blares through the PA... The challenger - then the champ - climbs into the ring. The crowd gets worked up into a frenzy. A deep-throated announcer screams, **“Get ready to rumble!” This is the mood when we come to Revelation 6.**

Chapter 5 introduces God’s champ – **and He happens to be a little Lamb. But this little Lamb roars like a lion!** He packs a powerful punch! He carries an awful big wallop! The hammer of God’s judgment is about to fall on the rebel planet...

In chapter 5, Jesus was seen as the **ONLY one worthy**, and able, to redeem the title deed to planet earth. He took the scroll, and popped the seven seals. But remember, purchasing property and taking possession of that property are two different tasks - especially if the occupant of a parcel refuses to leave.

This is the predicament Jesus faces. After buying back planet Earth on the cross, He now has to evict the old tenants. As Jesus pops the seals, He releases catastrophic judgments on a stubborn Satan and on a Christ-rejecting humanity.

God has been allowing crimes and injustices and blasphemies and abominations for so long, and he has been tolerating such lies and **character assassinations** to be spoken about him all these years. Revelation 6 promises that one day the wrath will begin to fall. The debt finally comes due. Justice will be done. The wicked will give account. The righteous will be avenged. God will be glorified in his justice.

**God is just, and he will justly repay all the ways that His glory has been despised and his holiness defiled.**

Batman has the Joker, Riddler, Poison Ivy, Catwomen and dozens more against him. Superman has

Lex Lutor and kryptonite... **THE SAINT IS SEALED... SO IN A WAY INVINCIBLE.** Satan can't touch us unless God allows it.

**John 10:28** *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

Men raptured 30 minutes before women... **Revelation chapter 8 verse 1 says** *When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

**½ hour of silence in heaven– a hush before the crush – will be broken by the shrill blasts of 7 trumpet judgments.**

The four trumpet blasts in chapter 8 are accompanied by judgments that fall upon the natural world – the land, the sea, the rivers, and the lights in the heavens (sun, moon, stars). The two trumpet blasts in chapter 9 are accompanied by judgments that affect humanity. So in chapter 8 the created world is affected; in chapter 9 humanity is affected.

In 6:11 the martyrs are told to “rest a little longer”; then in chapter 8 their prayers come before God, and he answers those prayers.

**The end of chapter 10 depicted John eating a scroll just as Ezekiel had eaten a scroll (Ezekiel 2:8-3:4), and now the beginning of chapter 11 depicts John measuring the temple just as Ezekiel had watched the temple being measured in Ezekiel 40-48.**

Double trouble appears in Revelation 13. The Great Tribulation features a deadly, **demonic duo** with occult powers. Satan empowers the beastie boys...

The first beast John sees is the Antichrist – he's a political leader who rules the world. His 10 horns represent a 10 nation confederacy that catapults him to power.

The second beast in Revelation 13 is the False Prophet - a religious leader who gives ecclesiastical sanction and support to the ambitions of the Antichrist. **The first beast is a political leader. The second beast is a religious leader.**

The false prophet leads an apostate church, and appears to be a man of God. He constructs an image and blackmails the world into worshipping this image.

The beastie boys concoct a fiendish scheme. A one-world government creates a one-world economy. A universal number or code is required to do business. But to get the mark you have to worship the beast - and the infamous number is 666.

In the Great Tribulation people will sell their soul to buy a loaf of bread. Today, bar codes, scanners and implanted chips are setting the stage for the Scriptural scenario...

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**READING THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT YOU WILL REPEATEDLY COME ACROSS SCRIPTURES WHERE GOD IS PLEADING, BESEECHING, ALMOST BEGGING HIS PEOPLE NOT TO FORGET HIM.** This is what I wrote after reading all of God's pleas. **"God desperately desires for us to never forget Him. He, seemingly, in tears pleads for us to not forget Him. He says write my laws on your heart, write them on your foreheads, doorposts, everywhere so you don't forget me."**

## Character is forged in the small decisions in life and manifested in the big ones... If you don't live for Jesus you will never be able to die for Him.

The first time ever recorded in scripture an Angel preaching the gospel... **He gives the Final Call:** This one is "good news" for God's people—but bad news for the rebellious "earth dwellers": "Fear God..." "Judgment is come."

Remember, sin must be paid for. Either we pay for it by eternal separation from a Holy God who cannot be in the presence of sinful man or we accept the payment of Jesus. Jesus drank the whole cup. He took all God's wrath. No one who trusts in Jesus has to drink the wine of God's wrath because Jesus drank that cup for us.

**Matthew 7 verse 13** *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* Jesus cuts our choices to **2** - **2** gates, **2** ways, **2** crowds, **2**

**DESTINATIONS**... It's either **ETERNITY IN HEAVEN** or **ETERNITY IN HELL**. When you enter eternity there's just **2** sections - *smoking or non-smoking*.

**Revelation 14** is the perfect answer to **Revelation 13**. At the end of **Revelation 13**, it almost seemed like Satan and the Antichrist might win. But **Revelation 14** shows who is really triumphant, powerful, and in control: God, His Messiah, and His people; not Satan, his messiah (the Antichrist) and his followers.

We might say that **Revelation 16** is a "great" chapter.

It describes **GREAT** evil: a **GREAT** city, **GREAT** Babylon (Rev. 16:19). It describes **GREAT** tools of judgment: **GREAT** heat (Rev. 16:9), a **GREAT** river dried up (Rev. 16:12), a *great* earthquake (Revelation 16:18), *great* hail and *great* plagues (Rev. 16:21). It describes a **GREAT** God: His **GREAT** voice (*loud* is the same Greek word for *great*; verses 1; 17), and His **GREAT** day of victory (Rev 16:14).

There is only one who is truly God. He mercifully shows that everything humans worship instead of him **is bankrupt**, and he does so to display his wealth, which he offers to all who will repent and trust in Jesus. But rather than surrender their rebellion, wicked humans respond to the terms he offers by cursing him and gathering to make war upon him.

In Chapters 17 and 18 we said "Bye, bye to Babylon".

**Chapter 17** represents the *"The whore of Babylon"* as the false religious system the Antichrist uses to gain ecclesiastical sanction for his rise to power. In the Great Tribulation this naughty girl will be the spiritual system that deceives the world into worshipping Satan. In the words of Mae West, the whore of Babylon will say to the world, **"Come up and see me sometime."** And sadly, the world will accept her invitation.

The harlot of Babylon will include the institutional church once the true church has been raptured. **It'll incorporate the occult, astrology, humanism, paganism - as well as, all the world religions - into one eclectic doctrine - a universal religion.**

Revelation 18 represents commercial Babylon. Commercial Babylon has abused the nations, and she will be punished for her pride and self-indulgence.

*Still today, Babylon trades in the souls of men. Madison Avenue is also out for our souls. Don't be had by the ads. God, not gold, will satisfy your spirit.*

**BARNHOUSE** "Commercial Babylon is symbolic, like religious Babylon. When the Lord was here on earth He spoke of the great hatred that 'the world' had for Him and His own (John 15:18,19). What is this world but a combination of religion, government and commerce? In other words, Babylon in all its parts stands for that which Christ called 'the world.'"

**Both Babylon's will be judged and destroyed.**

I am convinced that the one who is coming is worth the wait

**Alleluia** This is a wonderful word, **Alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew Hallelujah: Sung for three reasons: God has judged His enemies (19:1-4); God is reigning (19:5-6); The Bride is ready (19:7-10).** *Alleluia* occurs 4 times in Revelation 19, but nowhere else in the New Testament. It belongs here - *because God's people rejoice without restraint at His victory over Babylon.*

**Spurgeon** "We ought not to worship God in a half-hearted sort of way; as if it were now our duty to bless God, but we felt it to be a weary business, and we would get it through as quickly as we could, and have done with it; and the sooner the better. No, no; 'All that is within me, bless his holy name.' Come, my heart, wake up, and summon all the powers which wait upon thee! Mechanical worship is easy, but worthless.

**In Jewish culture, the marriage supper was the best banquet or party anyone knew; it always was an occasion of tremendous joy. According to Rabbinical teaching, obedience to the commandments was suspended during a wedding celebration if obeying a commandment might lessen the joy of the occasion.**

Remember the whole book of Revelation was read aloud in early Christian worship when John sent it to the seven churches. Those early congregations would have heard in 2:10 that suffering, tribulation, imprisonment, and even martyrdom awaited them. But because they are **invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb**, they are blessed. **JESUS IS ENOUGH.** He is enough in the face of *inconvenience*. He is enough in the face of *cancer*. He is enough in the face of *persecution*. He is enough in the face of *imprisonment*, and even **death**.

Oh I am convinced that the one who is coming for us is worth the wait. I pray you are as well!



When the marriage feast is over a feast of flesh will be served up. The Prince of Peace is no pacifist! In Revelation 19 He and His bride go to war. Here's the climatic conclusion of the galactic battle between God and Satan.

**THERE'S NO DONKEY RIDE THIS TIME...VERSE 11 HAS HIM MOUNTED ON A WHITE STEED.**

The war winds up for its grand finale in the valley of Megiddo. Antichrist and his allies appear a formidable force, stretched across the floor of the theater - until heaven opens and God's gladiator appears. It's been a long time since this wicked world has seen the Lamb. ***What a surprise to hear Him roar like a lion.*** He came the first time to save. He comes the second time to slaughter.

He's "Faithful and True". His eyes are like a flame of fire. On His head sits many crowns. His robe is dipped in blood. "His name is called The Word of God".

***According to verse 15 He comes to strike the nations and rule them with a rod of iron.***

He's bringing to earth the "fierceness and wrath of Almighty God".

Verse 16 climaxes John's description. He says of Jesus, "He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

**In verse 17 an angel calls for the scavengers to feast on the corpses of the Antichrist's army. The flesh of kings and captains becomes food for vultures.**

**The battle to end all battles – the Battle of Armageddon – is not such a big deal after all.**

The Antichrist and False Prophet are captured and tossed into the lake of fire.

The war between God and Satan is finally over! Blood has been shed. Lives lost. The Earth is in ruins and in need of restoration, but this is what it took...

Jesus now not only owns the Earth, He has possession. He can restore what sin has damaged. Chapter 19 closes with planet Earth **"under new management"**.

**Building 429... Sometimes it feels like I'm watching from the outside Sometimes it feels like I'm breathing but am I alive I won't keep searching for answers that aren't here to find *All I know is I'm not home yet* This is not where I belong... Take this world and give me Jesus This is not where I belong!**

Our passage of God's glorious word brings us to the completion of the story of the world. The story of the world is ***not a tragedy*** that ends in death and shame but a comedy that ends in cosmic renewal and the

marriage of the Lamb and his bride. Those who believed on Jesus and surrendered their lives to His Lordship will now know ETERNAL Joy and fellowship with the God who made us. Yes, We will live "Happily ever after!"

Oh the wonder of the first 4 verses in chapter 21... note that in verse 1 **"the first heaven and the first earth had passed away"**, and then at the end of verse 4, **"the former things have passed away."** These two statements bracket 21:1-4 and indicate that their main thrust is that *the old is gone*. And then the next section, 21:5-8, opens with God asserting, **"I am making all things new."** So we could summarize these 8 verses with Paul's phrase, **"THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY; THE NEW HAS COME"**

**Verse 4** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

JOHN IS SAYING THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS GOING TO BECOME THE HOLY OF HOLIES THE PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS.

**Verse 21 says...** And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

**The treasure in the new heaven and new earth is God. HEAVEN WITHOUT JESUS AND THE FATHER WOULD BE NOTHING LESS THAN A GOLD-PLATED HELL. JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE HEAVEN. AND THAT IS NO LESS TRUE NOW THAN IT WILL BE THEN.**

**Romans 8:38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The best thing about your life then is the best thing about your life now. GOD... No one can take God's love from you!

**"The HEART of the human problem is the HEART of the human. Our only hope is a full transplant. Good thing Jesus is our BLOOD TYPE." GOD FORMED US, SIN DEFORMED US, CHRIST TRANSFORMED US!**

**Jesus meets all our needs... Who we are? Why are we here? Where are we going when we die? We know how things turn out... what the future holds!**

**REVELATION 22:1-9** declares that God is going to keep his word and return those who trust him to a new and better Garden of Eden.

**4** They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

**Spurgeon** "By which I understand two things: first, that they shall literally and physically, with their risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and secondly, that spiritually their mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that they shall be enabled to look into the very heart, and soul, and character of Christ, so as to understand him, his work, his love, his all in all, as they never understood him before."

HEAVEN IS MORE THAN A DESTINATION IT IS A **MOTIVATION!**

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, **HIS MESSAGE IS ALWAYS BE READY!** and My reward is with Me, **Rewards await!**

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come.

Spurgeon "It is fitting that this great invitation closes the Book of Revelation and the Bible. "All the prophets of the Bible, all the apostles of the Bible, all the threatening's of the Bible, all the promises of the Bible, gather themselves up, and focus themselves into this one burning ray, 'Come to Jesus. Come, and take the water of life freely.'"

verse 20 Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

**Are you ready?** Let us remember that this book was written not only to *inform* the believer, but was also written to *warn* the lost of their eternal doom and to bid them to seek the Savior who alone can deliver them from a godless eternity. How far away is eternity? **ONLY A HEARTBEAT, FOR ALL OF US.**



We have come to the end of the book of Revelation, the last words of the whole Bible.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. "Whatever you may miss, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you. In whatsoever points you or any of us may fail, may we never come short of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Spurgeon)

He was, at the very least, the most **remarkable person** to walk this earth. He came with words too incredible to believe, and with wonders too incredible not to. His footsteps shook the world, leaving a crevasse across the centuries, separating the ones that stretched ahead of Him from those that lay behind him. **The prints left by those steps were made not by the hobnailed boots of a soldier or by the tailored footwear of a senator.** They were made by sandals, the sandals as unaccustomed to floors of marble as they were to fields of battle. Who was the man that wore them? This man who wielded no sword, commanded no army. This man whose steps were so foreign to the corridors of power. About him we know so very little. We know next to nothing about His childhood. And comparatively little about his adulthood. For John tells us that if everything had been written down that he did, the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. Yet he himself wrote nothing, published nothing. His sermons were short. His prayers, mostly private. His ministry, a scant three-and-a-half years. Who was this man who changed the world, walking wherever he went in such ordinary sandals?

His name was Jesus. **May we all fall at His feet to love Him whose sandals the very greatest have always felt least worthy to untie.**

