

An Overview of Revelation

Part One

Part One outline:

1. Why learning Revelation is important.
2. What key “end times” events should we find in the book of Revelation?
3. Summary of Revelation chapters 1-5.

Part Two will be an outline/summary of Revelation chapters 6-19.

Part Three will be an outline/summary of Revelation chapters 20-22.

1. Why learning Revelation is important.

*Rev. 22:7 ¶ “And behold [= Look! Pay attention!], I am coming quickly [= soon]. **Blessed** [= Privileged] is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”*

1. Learning Revelation will transform our world view and our behavior.
2. Learning Revelation will give us an answer to the problem of evil.
3. Learning Revelation will give us hope and courage.
4. Learning Revelation will bring us closer to Jesus Christ.
5. Learning Revelation will move us to pursue holiness.

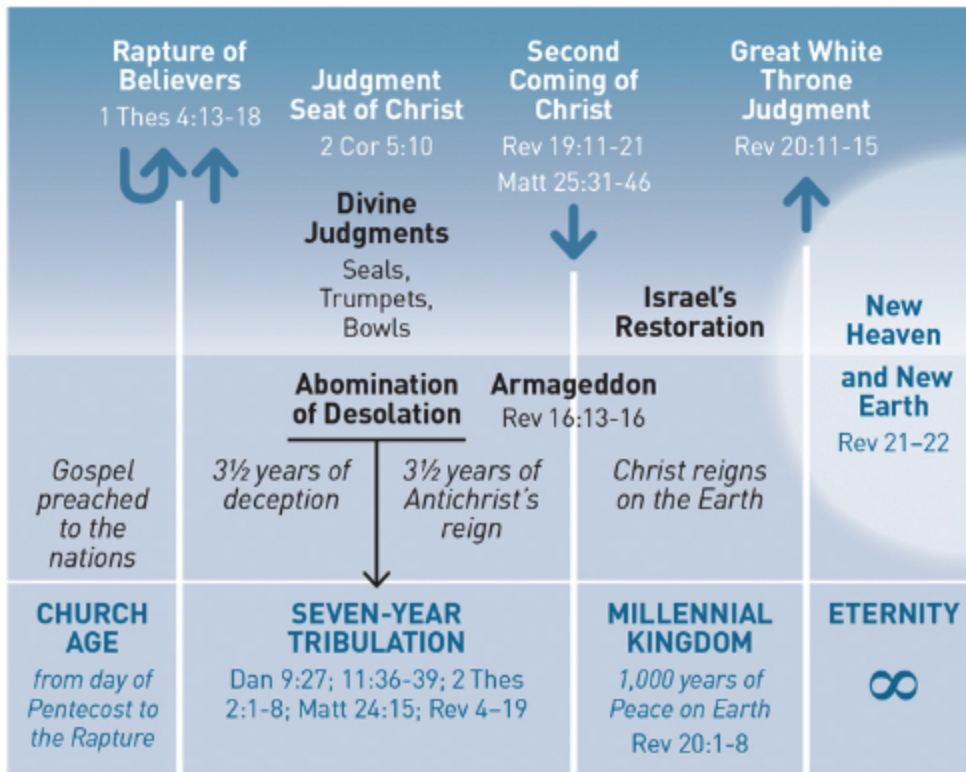
2. What key “end times” events should we find in the book of Revelation?

History will culminate in a special 7-year period coming on the earth we call the Tribulation.

*Dan. 9:24 ¶ “**Seventy weeks** [= seventy “sevens” = 490 years] have been decreed **for your people** and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place [= the holy of holies].*

This prophecy explaining the future of the nation of Israel was given around 538/539BC. Far more than 490 years of 360 days have passed since this prophecy was given (prophetic years were 12 months of 30 days in the ancient world). Daniel makes it clear that the final 7 years will be completed at some unknown time after the first 483 years.

Timeline of Future Events



Dan. 9:25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince [= Leader] there will be seven weeks [= 7 "sevens" = 49 years] and sixty-two weeks [= 62 "sevens" = 434 years] [= 49 years + 434 years = 483 years]; it will be built again, with plaza [= inner court] and moat [= trench], even in times of distress.

The Persian Emperor Artaxerxes made a second decree on March 5, 444BC. So, here's the calculation:

483 years x 360 days/year = 173,880 days

March 5, 444BC + 173,880 days = March 30, AD 33

Jesus entered Jerusalem presenting Himself as the Messiah on this day!

Dan. 9:26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks [= Monday, March 30, AD 33] the Messiah will be cut off [= die] and have nothing, and the people of the prince [= ruler] who is to come [= Roman Empire] will destroy the city and the sanctuary [note: Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70]. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations [= appalling judgments] are determined.

There is still a final 7 years left in order to “close the book” on the 490 years of Israel’s history. This time is as literal as the rebuilding of Jerusalem in 49 years, the Messiah’s appearing after another 434 years, His death, and Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem after Messiah’s death.

Central to the Tribulation revealed in Daniel is the career of a terrible world ruler, “the little horn,” “the king of the north,” who leads a weakened Roman Empire, worships “a god of fortresses,” and persecutes Israel.

Comparison of [Daniel 2](#) and [7](#)

VISION	STATUE	FOUR BEASTS
CHAPTER	Two	Seven
BABYLON	Head of Gold	Winged Lion
MEDO-PERSIA	Chest and Arms of Silver	Lopsided Bear
GREECE	Belly and Thighs of Bronze	Four-Headed, Four-Winged Leopard
ROME I	Legs of Iron	The Terrifying Beast
ROME II	Feet of Iron and Clay/Ten Toes	Ten Horns on the Terrifying Beast
THE FUTURE FALSE MESSIAH		The Little Horn
GOD’S KINGDOM	The Stone Cut without Hands	The Son of Man Given the Kingdom

*Dan. 7:8 “While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; **and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.***

*Dan. 7:23 ¶ “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and **will devour the whole earth** and tread it down and crush it.*

*Dan. 9:27 “And he [= the future proud world ruler in the end times] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week [= one “seven” = 7 years], **but in the middle of the week [= middle of the “seven” = 3.5 years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate [= appalling], even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.**”*

Jesus described this final seven years in detail in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25). He said there will be two parts. First, there will be the onset of birth pains when there are ecological disasters and wars. Second, there will be the final birth pains with terrible persecution and trials. The turning point will be obvious:

*Matt. 24:15 ¶ “Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),*

Matt. 24:16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

But when will the final seven-year Tribulation begin?

*Matt. 24:36 ¶ “**But of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

Matt. 24:37 “For the coming [= arrival] of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

Matt. 24:38 “For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

*Matt. 24:39 and they did not understand until **the flood came and took them all away**; so will the coming [= arrival] of the Son of Man be.*

Many things during the Tribulation will be predictable like wars, ecological disasters, the terrible world leader’s actions, the desecration of the Temple, anti-Jewish persecution and the glorious return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

And where is the Church?

Matt. 24:40 “Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken [= taken along with] and one will be left [= abandoned].

Matt. 24:41 “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

*Matt. 24:42 ¶ “Therefore be on the alert [= stay awake], **for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.***

Jesus was the first to prophesy the Rapture of the Church. The Rapture happens simultaneously with the start of the Tribulation, the final seven years to complete God’s prophetic plans for Israel. We should discover even more details about these things in Revelation.

2. Summary of Revelation chapters 1-5.

Revelation 1 - John has a first prophetic vision of Jesus Christ, and Jesus tells John to write down what is revealed, messages for seven churches.

*Rev. 1:19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and **the things which will take place after these things.**"*

THEREFORE WRITE...

(1) the things which you have seen,	(2) and the things which are,	(3) and the things which will take place after these things.
The vision of Christ in Revelation 1	The messages to the churches in Revelation 2-3	The visions of future things in Revelation 4-22
"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me." (1:12)	"To the angel of the church . . . write . . ." (2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14)	"Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." (4:1)

Revelation 2-3 - Messages to local churches about how to prepare for Jesus's Second Coming and the Rapture of the Church.



The Island of Patmos and the Seven Churches of Western Asia Minor (Modern Turkey)

**COMMON ELEMENTS OF EACH MESSAGE
IN REVELATION 2–3**

To	To the angel of the church in . . .
From	The pronouncement of the one who . . .
Contents	I know . . .
Commendation	I am pleased about this . . .
Concern	But I have this against you . . .
Correction	Repent! But if you don't . . .
Call	He who has ears to hear . . .
Exhortation	To the one who overcomes . . .

**COMMENDATION AND CONDEMNATION IN
THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES**

Church	Commendation	Condemnation
Ephesus	Good works, endurance, discernment	Departed from first love
Smyrna	Faithfulness in persecution	—
Perganum	Some faithfulness in persecution	Idolatry, false teaching, immorality
Thyatira	Some love, faith, service, endurance	Idolatry, false teaching, immorality
Sardis	Worthy remnant kept clean	Hypocrisy, incomplete works
Philadelphia	Good works, endurance, faithfulness	—
Laodicea	—	Pride, materialism, laziness

Jesus Christ promises the following rewards for Christian overcomers:

To eat of the tree of life (2:7)

Will not be hurt by the second death (2:11)

Give some of the hidden manna (2:17)

Give a white stone, and a new name written on the stone (2:17)

Authority to rule over the nations (2:26-27)

The morning star (2:28)

Will be clothed in white garments (3:5)

Will not erase his name from the book of life (3:5)

Will confess his name before My Father and His angels (3:5)

No one will take your crown (3:11)

Make him a pillar in the temple of My God (3:12)

Write on him the name of My God and the new Jerusalem (3:12)

To sit down with Me on My throne (3:21)

Jesus also promises the Rapture will happen before the Tribulation:

Jesus speaks to the church in Sardis:

Rev. 3:3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.'

Jesus speaks to the church in Philadelphia:

Rev. 3:8 ¶ 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.'

Rev. 3:9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie — I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.'

Rev. 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, [.] I also [= and I] will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.'

Rev. 3:11 'I am coming quickly [= soon]; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.'

What Happens to a Person After Death?

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. . ." (Heb. 9:27)

	At Death	Bodily Resurrection	Judgment	Eternal Destination
Christian	Christ's Presence SOUL BODY The Grave	Resurrection at the Rapture SOUL BODY	Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven for Rewards	Heaven
Old Testament Believer	Paradise / Abraham's Bosom SOUL BODY The Grave	Resurrection at Christ's Second Coming SOUL BODY	Judgment on Earth for Rewards	Heaven
Tribulation Believer	Christ's Presence SOUL BODY The Grave	Resurrection at Christ's Second Coming SOUL BODY	Judgment on Earth for Rewards	Heaven
Unbeliever	Sheol / Hades Torment SOUL BODY The Grave	Resurrection at the End of the Millennium SOUL BODY	Judgment at the Great White Throne for Sins	Hell / Gehenna / Lake of Fire

Revelation 4 - John immediately has a second prophetic vision of the future.

*Rev. 4:1 ¶ After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you **what must take place after these things.**"*

John sees a prophetic, symbolic vision of God the Father's throne in Heaven. There are seven lamps representing the Holy Spirit. There are four creatures, cherubim. There are twenty-four crowned elders on thrones representing leaders of the Church declaring:

Rev. 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

As the Tribulation commences, God the Father will be reigning in Heaven with holiness, justice and grace. Heaven is a realm where created beings worship God rightly.

The Earth ought to be like Heaven. How will this happen? Why doesn't God just destroy it all?

Revelation 5 - Jesus Christ is worthy and able to make the Earth like Heaven.

Rev. 5:1 ¶ I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

God has a defined, step-by-step plan for making the Earth like Heaven.

Rev. 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"

Rev. 5:3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.

Rev. 5:4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;

Rev. 5:5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

What did Jesus overcome that made Him worthy?

Rev. 5:6 ¶ And I saw between [= in the middle of] the throne (with the four living creatures) and [in the middle of] the elders a **Lamb standing, as if slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.



This resurrected Lamb has seven horns, symbolic of complete kingship. The death and resurrection of this Lamb also gave Him authority to rule and reign. This resurrected Lamb is omniscient! His “eyes” are actually the Holy Spirit here symbolized as seven spirits. This is clearly a symbolic vision of the risen Jesus Christ. His resurrected body still carries His nail-pierced hands and feet, and wounded side.

*Rev. 5:7 And **He came and took the book** out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

The work of transforming the Earth to be like Heaven will be entrusted to the resurrected Jesus Christ.

*Rev. 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are **the prayers of the saints**.*

*Rev. 5:9 And they [= four living beings and twenty-four elders] *sang a new song, saying,*

[Twenty-four elders sing:]

*“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; **for You were slain, and purchased [us] for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.***

[Four living beings respond:]

*Rev. 5:10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; **and they will reign upon the earth.**”*

Jesus Christ has redeemed human sinners through His death on the cross, overcoming sin and death. His obedience and the Father’s vindication of Him through His resurrection and ascension prove He is worthy and able to transform the Earth.

Rev. 5:11 ¶ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev. 5:12 saying with a loud voice,

*“**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.**”*

Rev. 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

Rev. 5:14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

To sum up Revelation 1-5:

- 1. Jesus Christ will make this Earth like Heaven; only Jesus Christ is worthy and able to do so because He obediently overcame sin and death.**
- 2. Jesus Christ will protect us from the judgments of the Tribulation whether we physically die and our spirits go to Heaven or through experiencing the imminent Rapture of the Church.**
- 3. Today we need to be overcomers, ready to reign with Jesus Christ in the coming Messianic Kingdom.**