

# Revelation – Intro & Chapter 1 – 7 February 2019

Before we begin: Why study the book of Revelation?

1. Jesus talked about the end times.
  - a. Called it the time w/ the most trouble ever in history – Matt 24:21
2. God desires us to know the WHOLE bible.
  - a. All scripture is inspired by God and is beneficial to us. It's designed to grow us up to become mature people. (II Tim 3:16-17)
3. God desires holiness from us, knowing end times will instill holiness in us
  - a. I John 3:3 - And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
  - b. Luke 12:45-46 - But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and

maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

- c. II Pet 3:10-11 – Seeing everything will be dissolved, what manner of man ought you to be in all holiness?

## **For Introduction: I'm going to give you 3 keys to understanding the book of Revelation?**

### **1. The 1<sup>st</sup> key: The sequence of end times events**

- a. People struggle to understand this book, b/c it only portrays one part of end times & they don't know which part.
- b. See Eze 38-38 attachment
- c. See Dan/Revelation Timeline comparison attachment
  - i. Daniel's 70 weeks – Dan 9:24-27

ii. Times of the Gentiles – Rms 11:25-26 & Luke 21:24

iii. Rapture

1. **1Co 15:51-52** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

2. **1Th 4:13-17** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word

of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

3. We're not appointed to God's wrath.

(I Thes 5:9)

a. Rev is God's wrath (Rev 6:16)

b. Matt 16:18 says gates of hell won't prevail against the church but Dan 7:21 shows Anti-Christ prevailing against someone.

4. Rev 1 itself gives us an outline that shows the church is already raptured!
- iv. All other events will be heavily developed thru our study of Revelation.
- d. *So the church isn't in the bulk of Revelation.*

**2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> key: God uses symbols and types to portray a bigger meaning.**

- a. People struggle to understand this book b/c they get hung up on not knowing all parts of all the symbols and imagery.
  - i. Read Rev 1:1 – signified means to code.
- b. “When the plain sense makes common-sense, seek no other sense.”
- c. Since the beginning God has designed to use symbols to tell a greater story.
  - i. Use of a lamb for sacrifices; points to Christ.
  - ii. Use of the Tabernacle; represents the abode and presence of God.

- iii. As in the Parable of Sower & the Seed
- d. Sometimes symbols are explicitly revealed allowing us to know what they mean.
  - i. Rev 1:16 & 20
  - ii. Sower & the Seed
- e. There's a consistency to symbols throughout the Bible so we can learn them.
  - i. What do you think "many waters" represent? Rev 17:15 & Isa 17:12 – Nations or people groups
  - ii. What do you think "stars" represent? Gen 37:9-10 & Rev 1:20 - leaders
- f. *It's not about focusing on the symbol; it's about learning the characteristics of the substance based on the symbol.*

### **3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> key: God has appointed a day to judge evil, it's not unending.**

- a. People struggle to understand this book b/c they don't understand/accept the nature of God's justice.

- b. God is the center of the universe, not us.
  - i. The heavens were created for God's glory. (Psm 19)
  - ii. Israel was created for God's glory. (Isa 43:1-7)
  - iii. All things were created for God's pleasure (Rev 4:11)
- c. God is so loving and patience. Why does He allow all the evil to go on? (Longsuffering not willing that any would perish.)
- d. If you reject the love of God, there's nothing left but God's judgment.
  - i. He will not always strive with man. (Gen 6:3)
  - ii. We need to appeal to God based on His mercy, we don't want His justice on us.
- e. *For God to be just, He must punish sin.*
  - i. He did punish sin, for those that believe, in Christ on the cross. (Rms 8:3-4)

- ii. **Joh 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

### Introduction Recap –

Three keys to understanding the book of Revelation.

- 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> key: Know the sequence of end times events.**
- 2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> key: Know how God uses symbols and types to portray a bigger meaning.**
- 3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> key: God has appointed a day to judge evil, it's not unending.**

As we study this book of Revelation, keep these keys as the framework to your thinking.

Then you'll be able to focus on glorifying God as the center thought of all creation as we see Him bringing all things to an end!



Having looked at an intro to Eschatology. Now in Chapter 1, **John will give us 3 things to specifically understand the book of Revelation!**

Read Vs 1-3

1. Vs 1

- a. Revelation = The unveiling of Jesus
  - i. God wants these things revealed (see vs 11)
  - ii. It's not a sealed book
- b. Basic format is an angel (messenger) relaying Jesus' message to John.
- c. "Shortly come to pass" – When they begin to happen, it will rev up quickly.

2. Vs 2

- a. Most of what John records is from visions.
  - i. Visions = insight into the spiritual world.
  - ii. Spiritual world isn't within time, so John sees things as if they're happening now.

### 3. Vs 3

**a. 1<sup>st</sup> thing John gives us to understand  
Revelation is the motivation: You'll be  
blessed if you learn it!**

- i. Example: Push thru a hard part of a large project b/c it's worth it!
  - ii. Vacations: the drive is hard, but worth it!
  - iii. Revelation gives us the blessing of hope!  
We know the end of the story!
- b. Time is short...so get to learning.**
- i. With limited time in your day, this is worth knowing.
  - ii. When we can say when we're going to die, then we can stop saying, "the time is short".

Read Vs 4-16

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> thing John gives us to understand  
Revelation is the center focus of the learning:  
It's worship of Jesus Christ Himself.**

### 2. Vs 4

- a. Seven churches
  - i. 7 is # of completion (Notes on scale, Days)
    - 1. Should I forgive seven times.
  - ii. There's other churches, but this written to the complete church.
  - iii. "Which is and was and is to come"
    - 1. God is timeless, outside of time
    - 2. I AM THAT I AM
    - 3. From everlasting to everlasting – from the vanishing point to the vanishing point!

### 3. Vs 5-6

- a. The Trinity's focus is Jesus
  - i. All 3 mentions but lots about Jesus
  - ii. Read John 15:26
- b. Jesus is "the Faithful witness" – You want to know what God is like, Jesus role-modeled God to us, now we follow His lead.
- c. Jesus is "the first begotten of the dead" – First one resurrected into eternal life.

- d. Jesus is the “Prince of the kings of the earth” – Chief of the leaders of the earth. The man has had more leadership influence on people down thru time than anyone!
  - e. “He loved us & washed us” – He gave us the ability to follow after Him!
4. Vs 7 – **U like end of the book, this verse is 4 u!**
- a. “Clouds” = Redeemed believers
    - i. Heb 12:1 – Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...
    - ii. Jude 14 – Behold, He comes w/ 10,000s of His saints...
  - b. “Every eye shall see Him”
    - i. Acts 1 – As He left, He will come back.
    - ii. Won’t be a private showing, it will be clear.
  - c. “They that pierced Him”
    - i. Psm 22:16 – Prophesied the piercing of crucifixion

ii. Read Zec 12:10 & 13:6 – Israel will be there at the end with eyes opened!

5. Vs 8

a. Much of Rev won't teach us directly about change of behaviors, but the focus is on **changes to our worship** of Jesus our Lord!

6. Vs 9

a. This is the year 96 AD

b. Eusebius writes, many apostles martyred by now and John himself was boiled in oil.

i. Get the book – *Ecclesiastical History* Book 3. Great read.

ii. God wanted John to write yet!

7. Vs 10

a. “in the spirit”

i. Not being controlled by the flesh.

ii. ***Or*** in the spiritual realm

b. “The Lord’s Day”

i. No reason to think this means Sunday, the day believers met together, but could be.

ii. Could be the vision took him unto the Lord's Day (and place).

8. Vs 11

a. Remember you'll be blessed to learn what God WANTS to reveal unto you!

b. We'll look extensively at these 7 churches in Chapters 2 & 3.

9. Vs 12-16

a. 4 Gospels and yet not one attempt to describe Him physically.

i. Isa 53 – His visage was so marred that He no longer looked like a man.

b. We don't need a veiled picture of a man in our heads; we need the picture of our eternally awesome King showing all his glory in our heads. Worship Him!

i. Rev 19:10 - John falls to worship the angel, "Don't do that, worship Him!".

c. Want homework? Go study out these attributes of God described here!

i. NOTE: Details of each are in Chap 2&3.

Read Vs 17-20

1. Vs 17-18

a. What was John thinking about this vision of God?

i. John: ‘God is so awesome and I am such a wretched sinner.’

ii. Then John hears God say, “Fear not...(read it)”

iii. What comfort!!!!

b. Jesus is God Himself

i. Read Isa 44:6 & Isa 48:12

ii. Next time you meet a Jehovah’s Witness, show them this one.

2. Vs 19-20

a. **3<sup>rd</sup> thing John gives us to understand Revelation is the outline of the book: the past, present and future.**

b. The Table of Contents of the whole book!

- i. “Things you’ve seen” – Chapter 1
- ii. “Things which are” – Chapter 2&3 –  
Things of the church age.
- iii. “Things that shall be hereafter” – Chapter  
4-22 – Can only be things after church age.
  1. ‘Meta tauta’ & in chapter 4:1 twice.

## Conclusion –

3 things John gave us to understand Revelation:

- 4. The 1<sup>st</sup> thing: the motivation to understand it.**
  - a. You’ll be blessed for treasuring this hope**
- 5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing: the center of the learning.**
  - a. Knowing Christ for eternity.**
- 6. The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing: the outline of the book.**
  - a. The center of Christ**
  - b. The time period of the church**
  - c. The trib, Millennium & eternity to come**

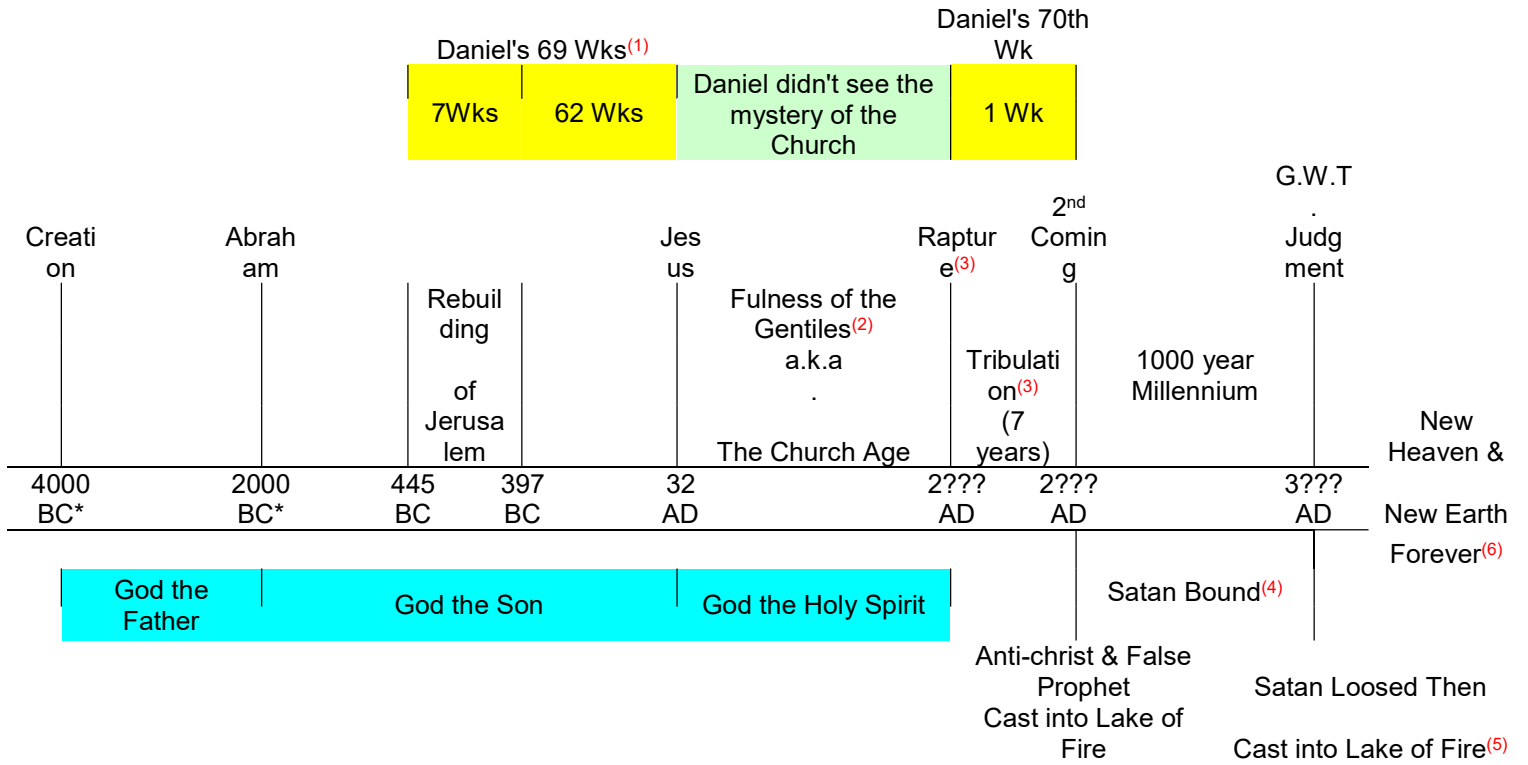
**\*\*\*Be motivated to worship Jesus for the time is short!\*\*\***

NEXT WEEK: ID ‘Defining Issue’ of the 4 churches



# Attachments -

<b>The Prophecy</b>	Ezekiel 33 The Watchman	Ezekiel 34 The Shepherd	Ezekiel 35 The Flesh	Ezekiel 36 The Fruitful Land	Ezekiel 37 The People	Ezekiel 38-39 The Last Attack
<b>Near-Term Fulfillment</b>	Ezekiel	Purging the Idols	No more Edom	Land Blooms	All Tribes Together	Russia Attacks
	586 BC	586 BC - 70 AD	70 AD - 1800 AD	1800 AD - 1948 AD	1948 AD - 2??? AD	2??? AD
<b>Long-Term Fulfillment</b>	32 AD	7 Year Tribulation	Millennium	Millennium	Millennium	Millennium
	Preaching of Jesus Christ	Acceptance of Jesus Christ	Glorification In Jesus Christ	Rivers Flow In The Desert	New Heart & Spirit In Jesus Christ	Satan Attacks



\* = not exact date

The first six chapters of Daniel are chronological, the last six fill in detail

by Daniel Shunk

The first six chapters of Daniel are a picture of the chronology of the last days events

(see superscripts in chart)

Chapter 1- Daniel is a picture of a believer in an unbelieving world, not defiling himself

Chapter 2- The 4 world ruling empires are a picture of the unbelieving world

Chapter 3- Daniel is a picture of the believer being raptured, while Shadrach,

Meshach, & Abednego are a picture of going thru the tribulation

Chapter 4- King of Babylon is a picture of Satan being bound for a time

Chapter 5- King of Babylon is a picture of Satan calling all lords unto

himself, then having their kingdom overcome for good

Chapter 6- The newly established world-ruling kingdom, with their

unchangable laws, is a picture of Jesus' everlasting kingdom