

The Three Sections of the Book of Revelation 14

Understanding the Church Age

I. In verse 19 Jesus gives the key to understanding the Book of Revelation. The Book is divided into three sections. (Rev. 1:19 NKJV) ¹⁹"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

A. Section 1: "The things which you have seen" refer to the vision of the Lord Jesus Christ in chapter 1.

1. John had just seen this vision.

B. Section 2: "The things which are" refer to the things of this present church age...the things which are.

1. Chapters 2 and 3 deal with instructions for this present church age.

2. After chapter 3, the church is always seen in heaven.

C. Section 3: "The things which will take place after this" refer to future events which will take place after the church age, or after the church caught up to heaven (raptured).

1. Chapters 4-22 deal with future events.

2. The seven-year period between the Rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ, sometimes referred to as Daniel's 70th week, or the Tribulation Period is covered in chapters 4-19.

3. The 1,000-year reign of Christ is covered in chapter 20.

4. The New Heavens and Earth are covered in chapters 21 and 22.

5. None of the events of chapters 4-22 have been fulfilled, but they are at the door.

II. The Church Age

A. (At the conclusion of the 69th week of years...7 weeks of years plus 62 weeks of years...the Messiah Jesus came to Jerusalem and died not for Himself, but for the sins of the people. Then after that, the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans. At the point of Israel's rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah, God's time clock stopped seven years short of the full 70 weeks that God had promised Israel to complete their salvation. At that point, God brought in the church age which was a mystery hidden in God from past ages and generations. It was unforeseen by the Old Testament prophets.

B. (Eph. 3:1-7 NKJV) *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.*

C. (Col. 1:24-27 NKJV) ²⁴ *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

D. (Rom. 11:1-36 NKJV) *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,³ "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.⁶ And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise, grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.⁸ Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, To this very day."⁹ And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them."¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see,*

And bow down their back always." ¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²² Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;" ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins. " ²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For
 who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"
 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him
 and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

