

The Book of Revelation

Class 7

Revelation 12 - 14

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Seven Symbolic Histories

Introduction

Four cycles describing the same time period but with different perspectives yet similar structure:

- An opening scene to introduce the cycle
- Six seals or trumpets or symbolic histories or bowls
- A promise to the church
- The seventh seal, trumpet, symbolic history, or bowl

And these cycles are all leading up to a detailed description of the return of Jesus Christ

I. Opening Scene: An Introduction of the Main Characters of History (12:1-6)

- A. The Church
- B. Satan
- C. The Messiah
- D. God

A verse to consider in light of this opening scene: 1 Peter 5:8

II. Six Symbolic Histories (12:7-14:11)

A. The Defeat of Satan (12:7-12)

A passage to consider: Zechariah 3:1-7

B. The Persecution and Protection of the Church (12:13-17)

Three promises:

1. The church will be persecuted
2. The church will be protected
3. It is for a defined and limited period of time

C. The Second Person of the Unholy Trinity (13:1-10)

1. The Beast has ten crowns on his horns (1)

- Christ has many crowns according to 19:12

2. The Beast has blasphemous names (1)
 - Christ has worthy names (19:11-13, 16)
3. The Beast has great authority (2)
 - Christ has divine power and authority (12:5, 10)
4. The Beast experiences a counterfeit resurrection (3)
5. The Beast receives worship (4)
 - Christ receives worship
6. The Beast gives a mark to his followers (16)
 - Christ gives a seal to his followers (chapter 7)

D. The Third Person of the Unholy Trinity (13:11-18)

Look at John 16:13-14 in light of this symbolic history

1. This beast's main purpose is to deceive
2. Take the mark of the Beast
 - a. Focus is not on a real physical mark
 - b. Not a seal (only a mark)
 - c. The mark has a number
 1. The number has a general symbolic value
 - As 777 would symbolically express divine completeness
 - 666 consistently falls short of the divine
 2. The number may have a further association

Take a look at 1 John 2:18-20, 23-24 in light of this Beast's attempt to deceive

E. The Victorious Church (14:1-5)

1. The church has a new song
2. The church has holiness

F. The Gracious Call of the Gospel (14:6-11)

1. The extent of the call of the gospel
2. The message of the gospel

III. The Promise to the Church (14:12-13)

- A. Promise of rest
- B. Promise of meaningfulness

Enjoy the charge of 1 Corinthians 15:58

IV. The Final Harvest (14:14-20)

- A. The Harvest of Grain
- B. The Harvest of the Grapes

Conclusion

1. Live in light of the harvest.
2. Recognize this is a spiritual battle we are in and prepare yourself accordingly.
3. Ask yourself, "Am I getting too comfortable here in the desert?"
4. Listen for and start learning the new song.