

Revelation 1-7 Recap

Intro

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John

The Revelation of Jesus

- Revelation - to unveil or reveal
- Revelation of Jesus -

It is **about** Jesus; No portrait of Jesus is complete without the brush strokes found in this book

It is **from** Jesus; He is the Revelator or revealer

Things which must shortly take place

- Revelation unveils the future as it relates to the return and reign of Jesus

Outline

Revelation 1:19

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

The things you have seen

- Chapter 1; Key word - Jesus

The things which are

- Chapter 2-3; Key word - church
- Word church is used 18 times in chapters 1-3
- Word church is not used again until the close of the book where Jesus tells John that these teaching must be proclaimed in the churches

Revelation 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

- It seems reasonable to conclude that the church is absent from the events of chapters 4 and following

The things which will take place after this

- Chapters 4 - 22; Key word - Future
- Beginning with chapter 4 the future begins to be unveiled
- All that follows will be future to John
- Because no historical event fits the description of what follows we can conclude that these events remain in our future as well

The unveiling of the future begins in chapter 4

Revelation 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

A door is open in heaven

A voice, like a trumpet, sounds

John is called up into heaven

- This is a picture of the NT doctrine of the rapture
- Rapture - a generation of believers who will enter heaven without walking through the doorway of death
- The first event revealed is the rapture of the church
- This will unleash all that follows within the book

Chapters 4-5

Once caught up into heaven John describes events that transpire in heaven

- The focal point is the throne of God and a scroll
- Jesus alone is worthy to loose the seals and open the scroll

- As the seals are loosed judgment begins to fall upon the earth

This begins what Jesus called “The Great Tribulation”

He described it as a time like no other in human history

Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Once reason this period is so unique is because the tribulation (Greek thlipsis; meaning anguish, affliction or suffering) is not a caused by sinful men or natural disaster but is caused by divine judgment.

Revelation 6:16

and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”

Revelation 6-19 provide insight into the events that will transpire during The Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation

Before we continue our journey through Revelation, we want to provide a little framework for the Biblical doctrine of The Great Tribulation

- First, it is the desire of God to save from judgment

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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.

Ezekiel 18:32

For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore, turn and live!”

Judgment is actually a foreign act for God, salvation is His desire

Isaiah 28:21

*For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim,
He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon—
That He may do His work, His awesome work,
And bring to pass His act, His unusual act.*

- **Secondly, Daniel received a vision unveiling to him future events as it relates to Israel and the coming Messiah**

Daniel 9:24-27

*“Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.
“Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.
“And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come*

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate.”

70 weeks are determined

- Weeks - a set of seven; much like a pair, a trio or a "Dekas" (a set of ten)
- Context requires this passage to refer to 70 sets of 7 years
- Or a period of 490 years

For your people and your holy city

- Passage clearly addresses the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem

To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity,

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy,

And to anoint the Most Holy.

- The purpose of this prophetic vision has everything to do with the work of redemption or God rescuing humanity from the curse of sin

The parameters of the Vision

“That from the going forth of the command

To restore and build Jerusalem

Until Messiah the Prince,

There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks”

The street shall be built again, and the wall,

Even in troublesome times.

- From - To

Command to rebuild Jerusalem until the arrival of Israel’s Messiah will be 69 seven-year periods or 483 years

March 14, 445 BC King Artaxerxes commissioned Nehemiah to rebuild restore and build Jerusalem (Which took place in troublesome times; the storyline of Nehemiah is how he overcome troubles to complete the building project)

483 years later brings us to the time of Christ’s ministry

Sir Robert Anderson converted years to days and suggests the prophecy brings us to the exact day of the Triumphal entry

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- Daniel’s vision continues explaining that the Messiah will not be received but will be “cut off” for the sake of others
- This is a clear reference to the substitutional work of Christ on the cross
- After being cut off Daniel sees the city once again being destroyed and remaining this way until the predetermined time

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate.”

- Daniel also makes reference to a person called “the prince who is to come” and brings us back to the final 7-year period previously mentioned
- This week is separated from the other 69 weeks with a wide time gap
- This week will begin with a covenant that will bring temporary peace but will be broken by something he calls an abomination that causes desolation

It is the vision of Daniel that gives us the framework of this period of time called The Great Tribulation”

But how do we know this passage refers to the Tribulation period

Matthew 24:1-3

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

- Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple
- Because of Daniel prophecy the disciples make a connection between this and future events. Consequently, they ask regarding the future; when will these events transpire and what signs should we be looking for that suggest we are getting closer?
- Jesus begins to describe much of what we see unfolding in the book of Revelation

Matthew 24:4-14

And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this

gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- Deception
- War
- Famines and Pestilence
- Earthquakes
- Persecution of believers
- The Gospel being preached to all nations

These parallel what John saw in Revelation 6

- First seal - White horse; deception
- Second seal - Red horse; war
- Third seal - Black horse; famine
- Fourth seal - Pale horse; Famine
- Fifth seal - Persecution
- Sixth seal - Environmental catastrophes

Then Jesus took the disciples back to Daniel 9 and the Abomination that cause Desolation

Matthew 24:15

"Therefore, when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

- And referred to this as part of The Great Tribulation

Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

- Which will come to an end with the return of Christ

Matthew 24:27

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So, the period of time being described in Revelation 6-9 is a 7-year period called the Great Tribulation that will begin after the church is removed and the Antichrist is revealed

This will be a period of great suffering caused by 2 things

- 1 - the removal of the church

2 Thessalonians 2:3-8

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

- Paul explains that lawlessness will run rampant once the restraining force on the earth is removed
 - We see an illusion to this in Romans 1 where Paul speaks of people reflecting God and His word and being given up to uncleanness, vile passions and given over to debased minds. What follows is a litany of sinful activities
 - When the restraining force of the church is removed mankind's sinful actions run rampant causing untold suffering.
 - The first 5 seals are all caused by man's inhumanity to man being unleashed
- 2 - the judgment of God
 - The Tribulation is judgment being released upon mankind for sin
 - Often in the Book of Revelation before judgment is released something happens to show the intensity of the judgment
 - Chapter 5 we see that no one is worthy to open the scrolls and release the judgments except Jesus

Revelation 5:4-5

So, I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion

of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

- **Jesus** alone is worthy to execute judgment on mankind for sin
- Man, himself does not have the authority to determine morality

It is not something that is voted upon or established by culture

For example

There was a time; and in some parts of the world, it is still that time, when slavery was considered morally acceptable

Popular opinion said it was morally acceptable; God disagreed

There was a time; and in some parts of the world, it is still that time, when the Jewish people were considered less than human and their extinction was called for.

Popular opinion said it was morally acceptable, God disagreed

Today it is considered by many to be morally acceptable to use abortion as a means of dealing with unwanted pregnancies; God disagrees

- **Jesus** alone has the authority to judge