

Review of the Revelation

Why was the Revelation Needed?

1. Christians were suffering at the hands of the Jews and Romans.
2. Domitian (81-96 A.D.)
3. Emperor worship. Pinch of incense on the altar and say: “Caesar is Lord.”
Or else . . .
 - a. Could be killed instantly.
 - b. Goods confiscated and family members sold into slavery.
 - c. Some forms of death:
 1. **Sword** 3. **Boiled in hot oil** 5. **Trampled under elephants**
 2. **Crucifixion** 4. **Fed to lions**
4. Those brethren needed reassuring.
 - a. **Rome cannot win and the church cannot lose!**
 - b. **Satan cannot win and Christ cannot lose!**
 - c. **Satan and the world cannot win, and Christ and His church cannot lose.**

Two Major Sections

1. **Chapters 1-11** – The **OUTER STRUGGLE** between the church and the Roman Empire.
2. **Chapters 12-22** – The **INNER SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE** between Christ and Satan.

Chapter 1 — Greetings: Christ among the churches.

1. Christ is showing “His servants—things which must shortly take place.” 1:1
2. John was exiled to the Island of Patmos.
3. “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” 1:5
4. Christ standing in the midst of the Seven Churches of Asia (candlesticks)

Chapter 2 — Letters to Four of the Seven Churches of Asia. “I know your works”

1. **EPHESUS** — The **LOVELESS** church.
 - a. Received praise mixed with blame.
 - b. “Repent and do the first works.” 2:5
2. **SMYRNA** — The **PERSECUTED** Church
 - a. Received praise but no blame.
 - b. “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” 2:10
3. **PERGAMOS** — The **COMPROMISING** Church.
 - a. Received praise mixed with blame.
 - b. Had those who held false doctrines (Balaam and Nicolaitans)

4. **THYATIRA** — The **CORRUPT** Church.
 - a. Received praise mixed with blame.
 - b. Jezebel was seducing and teaching Christians to sin.

Chapter 3 — Remaining three of the Letter to the Seven Church of Asia.

5. **SARDIS** — The **DEAD** Church
 - a. Received blame and no praise.
 - b. A name that they were alive (faithful) but they were dead (unfaithful).
 - c. A few had not defiled themselves.
6. **PHILADELPHIA** — The Faithful Church
 - a. Received praise and no blame.
 - b. “I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it.”
7. **LAODICEA** — The Lukewarm Church.
 - a. Neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm.
 - b. “I will vomit you out of my mouth.”
6. **PHILADELPHIA** — The **FAITHFUL** Church
 - a. Received praise and no blame.
 - b. “I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it.” 3:8
7. **LAODICEA** — The **LUKEWARM** Church.
 - a. Neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm.
 - b. “I will vomit you out of my mouth.” 3:16

Chapter 4 — The Great Throne Room in Heaven

1. An open door for John.
2. “Come up here and I will show you things which must take place after this.”
3. God was on His throne. A rainbow around the throne.
4. 24 thrones around it. 24 elders on the thrones. Each elder wore a golden crown.
5. The four living creatures.
6. All bowed down before the throne. They worshipped and cast their crowns before God.

Chapter 5 — Who is Worthy to Open the Sealed Book?

1. The sealed book (scroll) in the right hand of God.
2. An angel asked: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 5:2
3. John wept initially because no one was worthy to open (reveal) what was in the scroll.
4. The worth Jesus stepped forth and took the scroll from the right hand of God.
5. The 24 elders and the 4 living creatures worshipped the Lamb of God.

Chapter 6 — Breaking the First Six Seals

1. 1st Seal: White Horse — Christ going forth a conquering sinners by the Gospel.
2. 2nd Seal: Red Horse — Christians persecuted by others.
3. 3rd Seal: Black Horse — Economic oppression of the brethren.
4. 4th Seal Pale Horse — Persecution resulting in death.
5. 5th Seal: Slain martyrs under altar before the throne crying out for vengeance upon the enemy.
6. 6th Seal: Judgment of Jehovah God is announced. This is not the final judgment.

Chapter 7 - Interlude between the opening of the 6th and 7th seals.

1. Remember the sequence of the previous six seals. Six basic things have happened to Christians.
 - a. 1st Seal — They were first conquered by Christ in the Gospel.
 - b. 2nd Seal — They were persecuted.
 - c. 3rd Seal — They were economically discriminated against.
 - d. 4th Seal — They would die.
 - e. 5th Seal — We find them alive in Heaven.
 - f. 6th Seal — Judgment on the enemies is about to fall—it is announced.
2. The saints on the earth are sealed—protected.
3. The Israel of God is the Church.
4. The 144,000 in Revelation 7:4 is symbolic of all the Christians on earth at any one time.
5. The innumerable multitude is in Heaven where the throne of God is.
6. They have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” 7:14
7. They will suffer no more. Will never want for anything. All their tears have been wiped away.

Chapter 8 — Breaking of the Seventh Seal

1. Once broken, there “was silence in Heaven for about half an hour.” A real attention-getter.
2. Seven angels with seven trumpets to blow to sound to declare the warning that God’s judgment on the enemies of the Church is about to begin.
3. Smoke of the incense represents the many prayers of the saints.
4. The first four trumpets sound.
 - a. First angel sounds the 1st Trumpet — Pictures the Old Testament plagues in Moses’ day . . . judgments that struck the LAND.
 - b. Second angel sounds the 2nd Trumpet — SEA (maritime) DISASTER.
 - c. Third angel sounds the 3rd trumpet — LAND WATERS judgment.

- d. Fourth angel sounds the 4th trumpet — DARKNESS smites the sun, moon, and stars.
- 5. Then a flying angel announces in **8:13** - “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”
- 6. The last three trumpets (five, six, and seven) are many times referred to as the “woe” trumpets.

Chapter 9 —The fifth and sixth angels blow their trumpets.

- 1. Fifth angel sounds the 5th Trumpet (1st of the three woe trumpets) — Internal decay afflicting only those who are not Christians, who have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
 - a. Abaddon or Apollyon is the Destroyer (Satan).
 - b. The first woe is past and we are warned of the other two to follow.
- 2. Sixth angel sound the 6th Trumpet — External enemies. And while many were killed (one-third) it was not enough to cause the others to repent.
 - a. A great lesson here: Some people will never repent. “**And they did not repent of their murders, or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**” 9:21)
 - b. Since they would not repent, God’s judgment has to fall.

Chapter 10— Interlude.. . The Unutterable Thunders.., and the Little Book

- 1. The seventh seal, seventh Trumpet, and seventh bowl of wrath all have to do with judgment on the evildoers against our brethren.
 - a. There is an interlude between the opening of the 6th and 7th seal wherein God’s faithful were seal (protected) from the judgment on the wicked.
 - b. There is an interlude between the blowing of the 6th and 7th Trumpets wherein encouragement is given to Christians.
- 2. A might angel with a small open book in his hand cries out with a loud voice, and when he cries out seven thunders sound.
- 3. Faithful to his mission, John prepares to write down what he had just heard.
 - a. However, he is instructed not to write down what he had just heard.
 - b. The warning is over. . . judgment upon Rome is about to fall.
 - c. The angel announces “**There should be delay no longer.**” (10:7)
- 4. John is told to go and take the little book out of the angel’s hand and eat it.
 - a. He was told: “**It will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.**” (10:9)
 - b. John’s mission was to keep on prophesying. . . keep on preaching God’s will.

Chapter 11 — Measuring the Temple . . . The Two Witnesses . . . The third

Woes: The Seventh Trumpet . . . The final breaking of the Seventh Seal.

1. This is similar to Ezekiel's measuring of the glorified Temple in Ezekiel 40-48.
 - a. All of Ezekiel's measuring was essentially "to make a separation (distinction) between that which was holy and that which was common." (ASV)
 - b. The reed used for measuring was the Word of God.
 - c. In measuring the temple the idea was to draw distinction between God's people, the holy and the sinners, the profane. There is a difference.
2. The "Holy City" would be the church that God is protecting. The church would continue and it would be protected.
3. The three and one-half number is incomplete or an indefinite time which would stand as a symbol of the time for which persecution would come and go.
4. The two witnesses are God's messengers and preachers.
5. The seventh angel's sound is the 7th Trumpet which completes the third woe and the 7th seal.
 - a. Judgment falls from the throne upon those who have not severed from God.
 - b. The ark of the covenant illustrates the fact that God keeps His promises.

NOTE: With the close of the 11th chapter, the first half of the book is finished.

1. We are blessed that evil will be judged and the righteous will be saved.
2. Christ truly is reigning.
3. He has all authority.
4. Christians who remain faithful unto death will be sealed and protected by the Lord.

THE INNER SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN CHRIST AND SATAN. CHAPTERS 12-22

Chapter 12

1. The woman (God's Israel) is pregnant and brings forth a man child (Christ), and the dragon (Devil) stood ready to devour the Christ.
2. After the birth of the child, God's Israel is the Church.
3. The war in Heaven is symbolic of Christ's victory over Satan.
 - a. Satan was defeated at the cross.
 - b. As a result, salvation, power and the kingdom (church) have come.
4. All of Heaven rejoices over the defeat of Satan.
 - a. Satan is a sore loser.
 - b. Satan then turns his attention to do his worst with only a little time to afflict the brethren.

5. The war on the earth is symbolic of Satan going after the church, persecuting it as we shall see throughout the remainder of the Revelation.

Chapter 13 — The Sea Beast and the Earth Beast.

1. We are introduced to two more of Satan's trio:
 - a. Sea Beast — Represents Rome.
 - b. Earth Beast — Represents false religion and emperor worship. False prophets.
2. God's people are sealed. The beast's servants are marked.
 - a. The marks of the beast — 666
 - b. Satan could not win with the when the number was 6, 66, or 666.

Chapter 14 — Interlude . . . The Forces of Righteousness . . . Help for the Christian.

1. After the introduction of the Sea Beast and Earth Beast and all the satanic power and might in chapter 13, chapter 14 gives us encouragement, hope and strength.
2. Zion represents both the church and Heaven.
3. The 144,000.
 - a. The 144,000 in 7:1-8 represent all the saved on earth at one time.
 - b. The 144,000 in 14:1-5 represents pure, faithful Christians purchased out of the earth.
4. Four messages of good news:
 - a. First message — Good news to everyone. Worship God for His good news has come.
 - b. Second Message— Wicked Babylon has fallen.
 - c. Third message — The emperor worshippers are punished.
 - d. Fourth message — Faithful Christians will triumph.
5. Further symbols in chapter 14.
 - a. Sickles — A symbol of judgment.
 - b. Wheat — A symbol of righteous men. Matthew 13:12; 13:20
 - c. Grapes — A symbol of the unrighteous being crushed in the wine press of God.
 - d. The amount of blood — A symbol to show the awesome scope of God's judgment upon the wicked.
6. A most reassuring verse: "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit," that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (14:13)

Chapter 15 — Judgment is Announced . . . Everlasting and Without Mercy

1. The seven angels had the final seven plagues which were filled with the complete wrath of God unmixed.
2. The angels prepare themselves to out the seven bowls filled with God's wrath.
3. Nothing will now stop the complete wrath of God from being poured out. Final judgment is on the way.

Chapter 16 — Pouring Out the Seven Bowls of Wrath

1. The seven bowls of wrath will build on the seven trumpets (8:6-11:19)
 - a. The seven trumpets only touched a third part of things.
 - b. But now the seven bowls of wrath bring the complete, total, and final judgment of God on the Roman government.
2. The Seven Bowls of Wrath.
 - a. 1st Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and the land is destroyed.
 - b. 2nd Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and maritime destructions occurs.
 - c. 3rd Bowl of Wrath — Poured out on the fresh waters.
 - d. 4th Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and men blaspheme God and refuse to repent.
 - e. 5th Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and the Sea Beast's (Satan's) power base (13:2) collapses and his throne is affected.
 - f. 6th Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and there is Armageddon.
 1. The classic battle of good and evil wherein Rome would be defeated.
 2. Satan and Rome go down fighting.
 - g. 7th Bowl of Wrath — Poured out and results in the final judgment on Rome.
3. "The great city" refers to Rome.

Chapter 17 — Mystery of the Harlot and the Sea Beast

1. The "Harlot" refers to Rome.
2. Sitting on many waters — Refers to Rome being over many nations.
3. Review Note:
 - a. The **Harlot, Babylon, the great city** — represents Rome.
 - b. **Babylon** — the great city represents the worldliness of Rome.
 - c. The **Sea Beast** represents the civil persecuting power of Rome. (Emperor worship)
 - d. The **Earth Beast** represents the false prophet (Made people worship the Sea Beast).
 - e. The **Dragon** represents Satan (the Devil)

Chapter 18 — The Fall of the Harlot (Babylon, the Great City)

1. By Rome's influence all the nations were corrupted, and the business people (merchants) and commercial traders were enriched by her sins and bloodthirstiness.
2. The world will lament her passing.
 - a. Merchants everywhere will weep because there is no more business.
 - b. Because of Rome's fall, all kinds of luxuries, necessities and evil would disappear including slavery and bondage.
3. Again, more woe . . . more weeping . . . for the absence of Rome's merchandise, and all this shall come swiftly.
4. Christians will rejoice at Rome's destruction.
5. Sadly, the blood of dead Christians are in Rome. "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all who were slain in the earth." (18:24)

Chapter 19 — Hallelujah Chorus . . . Marriage Supper of the Lamb . . . Fall of the Seat Beast and the Earth Beast.

1. There are twenty figures of speech in chapters 19 and 20 alone.
2. **Revelation 19:1-2** - After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!
 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."
 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"
3. The Lord is praised for reigning now.
4. The marriage supper of the Lamb signifies the blessed union of the church with Christ.
 - a. This marriage occurs every time one is baptized into Christ, and it is therefore always in process and continuous.
 - b. Now that the persecutors were overcome, conversions to Christ would gain prevail.
5. **Verses 11-16** — The Victorious Christ
 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse (victory). And He (Christ) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire (piercing), and on His head were many crowns (diadems, symbolic of His universal rule). He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.
 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood (His own because of Calvary, or His enemies), and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses (Those faithful unto death).

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword (the Word of God), that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Judgment on Rome).

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Chapter 20 — The Binding of Satan . . . The Victory of the Saints . . . the Final Judgment (on Rome)

1. Chapter 20 contains the longest verse in the New Testament (verse 4) with 68 words and 284 letters. The longest Old Testament verse is Esther 8:9 containing 90 words and 426 letters. The OT one is 22 words and 142 letters longer.
2. Chapter 20 is also the chapter where religious errorists have misconstrued these verses in an effort to derive the false doctrine of Premillennialism.
3. Satan was not destroyed . . . he was simply bound, meaning severely restricted.
4. Those who had been slain for the cause of Christ reigned with Christ for a period of time.
5. The 1,000 years is symbolic. It is like the “x” factor in algebra.
6. Gog & Magog (Enemies of God’s people in Ezekiel 39) are symbolic of enemies of God’s people during the time of the events of the revelation. They are defeated.
7. God has a punitive end for Satan.
8. “The books were opened.” (20:12)
 - a. “And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.” (20:12)
 - b. The final judgment of these was based upon kept records. Heaven knew the facts.

Chapter 21 — The New Heaven and Earth . . . The New Jerusalem . . . The Bride of the Lord.

1. The old conditions that housed the prevailing conditions of persecuting the church had passed away.
 - a. Rome was gone.
 - b. Satan was limited.
 - c. Worship of the Roman emperor was gone.
 - d. There would be a better environment in which the church would be able to live.

2. John is permitted to see the church existing and functioning in a far less obtrusive environment than it was permitted to do so during the days of the grip of Rome.
3. The holy city, new Jerusalem symbolized the Lord's church.
 - a. The Hebrew writer spoke of the church as the "new Jerusalem."
Hebrews 12:22-23 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,
to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.
4. Brotherhood writers differ with regard to Revelation 21-22:5.
 - a. Some say the imagery refers to the church.
 - b. Some say the imagery refers to Heaven.
 - c. Perhaps some see some of both therein.
5. Listening friend:
 - a. What was . . . was.
 - b. What is . . . is.
 - c. And what will be . . . will be.
 - d. Our ability . . . or inability . . . to fully comprehend it all does not change its intended reality.
6. The happiness of the saved is described in imagery beyond the power of human comprehension.

Chapter 22 — Conclusion . . . the City of God . . . Seal Not Up . . . Warning . . . An Invitation

1. The symbolic portion of the Revelation ends with Revelation 22:5
2. Verses 18-19 contain a warning not to add to or take from what God has revealed.
3. The Lord's prescription for the hurting Christians, when filled would be filled quickly.