Hope For the Future



A Study in the Book
of the Revelation

1 – The Book of The Revelation: A Background

I. Why Study Revelation?

- There is confusion among God’s people as we find ourselves in these times.

- There is am ignorance concerning what the Bible actually says.

- There is a tendency to know the interpretations of others rather than scripture itself.

- It is our desire that you become informed of what the scriptures say.

Scripture: Daniel 12:9-10

9And he said, “Go *your way,* Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

II. A Realistic Approach

A. A diversity of views

- We need to recognize that good Christians have different views.

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Historical Note: Justin Martyr (c.100-c.165)
Justin said openly that not all Christians shared his expectation: “I and many others are of this opinion, and believe that such will take place ... but, on the other hand, many who belong to the pure and pious faith, and are true Christians, think otherwise.” Such tolerance was not given for other doctrines, such as the resurrection of the dead. “Some who are called Christians ... say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls, when they die, are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians.”

B. Flexibility in interpretation

- Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

- Recognize that the church has struggled to understand this book for centuries.

C. Understand the Purpose

- The purpose of the book is to provide hope in the midst of trials.

III. Our Approach to the Study

- We will use the literal method of interpretation.

- This study will see a distinction between the church and Israel.

- The rapture is the church meeting Jesus in the air as a distinct event at his second coming.

- This study will view the tribulation as a literal seven-year period.

- The study will view the millennium as a literal 1,000-year reign by Jesus Christ.

IV. The Author and Occasion (1:1,4)

A. The Apostle John

- The author of the book was the beloved disciple, John.

- John wrote the book while imprisoned on the island of Patmos.



B. The Recipients

- This book was written to the seven churches of Asia Minor.

- It is important to note that the churches were still made up of Jewish believers at this point.

- Although the churches were shifting to being dominated by Gentile believers.

- The book is also written to every believer and church as well.

C. The Occasion

- It is the final revelation concerning the events surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

IV. Key Verse (1:19)

A. The key verse

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19.

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

V. Key Phrase Concerning God's Wrath (9:20, 21; 16:9,11)

- In order to understand God’s wrath, you need to understand the key phrase.

Scripture: Revelation 9:20, 21; 16:9, 11

- The key phrase is that unbelievers "did not repent" in spite of the judgments.

2 – What You Have Seen (Revelation 1:1-20)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. Prologue (1:1-3)

A. The Purpose of the Book (1:1a)

1. The Subject

- The purpose is to reveal to believers the things that must take place.

- The word “shortly” means that which occurs suddenly.

- The word “shortly” is not speaking to that which will occur immediately.

2. The Source

- The source of this revelation is God the Father.

Scripture: Mark 13:32

3. The transmission

- Jesus Christ communicated the revelation through an angel.

B. The Recipient Described (1:1b-2)

1. The recipient (1:1b)

- The Revelation was revealed to the Apostle John.

**Historical Note:** John, the Apostle

John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James, the apostle. His mother was Salome (compare Matthew 27:56 with Mark 15:40), who was the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Jesus and John would have been cousins. John’s family lived Galilee, probably Bethsaida. John was a fisherman with his father and brother (see Mark 1:19-20). It is believed that John’s family was not poor since they had hired servants. Salome ministered to Jesus from her own funds (Mark 15:40; Luke 8:3). John knew the High Priest well enough to gain access to the court where Jesus was tried. John is first introduced as a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35). He refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved (see John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20). Jesus called John and his brother James, the sons of Thunder (see Mark 3:18). At Jesus crucifixion, he was instructed by Jesus to care for his mother (see John 19:25-27). After Mary’s death, John left Jerusalem for Ephesus where he served as the overseer of the churches in Asia Minor. John was plunged into boiling oil and suffering nothing from it. He was banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. John was the only apostle not to die a martyr's death. He lived to an old age, dying at Ephesus sometime after AD 98. He is the author of five books in the New Testament: the Gospel of John, First John, Second John, Third John and the Book of the Revelation.

2. The character of the recipient (1:2)

- John was a faithful witness to all that he saw and heard.

C. The Blessing (1:3)

1. The one who reads and hears

- The one who takes to heart the revelation will be blessed.

2. The one who keeps those things

- The one who responds in obedience will be blessed.

II. Salutation (1:4-8)

A. The Author (1:4a)

- The human author is the apostle John.



B. The recipients of the Revelation (1:4a)

- The Revelation was given to the seven churches of Asia Minor.

**Historical Note:** Asia

Asia was a Roman Province located in western Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). The provincial capital was Ephesus.

C. The Greeting (1:4b-8)

1. The Blessing Bestowed (1:4b)

- John wishes the readers peace and grace.

2. The source of the blessing (1:4c-8)

a. The Eternal Father (1:4c)

- The blessing is from the God who is eternal.

b. The Holy Spirit (1:4d)

- The Seven Spirits refers to the Holy Spirit.

**Biblical Note:** The Seven Spirits of God

The Seven Spirits of God is the Holy Spirit. The prophet Isaiah provides a seven-fold description of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2. Isaiah describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of the LORD, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of counsel, the Spirit of power, the Spirit of knowledge, and the Spirit of the fear of the LORD.

See: Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6

c. Jesus Christ (1:5-6)

(1) The faithful witness (1:5)

- Jesus is the Prophet.

(2) The firstborn from the dead (1:5)

- Jesus is the resurrected one.

(3) Ruler over kings (1:5)

- Jesus is sovereign over the affairs of men.

(4) Redeemer (1:5)

- Jesus’ sacrifice has given us salvation because of His love.

(5) Made us kings and priests (1:6)

- Jesus has made us royalty.

(6) Benediction (1:6)

- John praises the Lord for Christ and His work.

3. The proclamation (1:7-8)

a. The second coming (1:7)

- John proclaims that Christ will return.

- The world will mourn His coming.

b. Jesus Christ’s self-revelation (1:8)

- Jesus reveals Himself as Eternal God.

**Biblical Note:** The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End
The two-fold title proclaims that Jesus Christ as the eternal One. The in the Greek language "the Alpha and the Omega" were the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The title "the Beginning and the End" expresses the same truth in the Jesus Christ has always existed.

See: Revelation 1:11; 21:6; 22:13

III. The Patmos Vision of Christ Glorified (1:9-18)

A. John identifies Himself again (1:9)

1. Brother and Companion in Tribulation

- John identified himself as sharing in their trials.

2. Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ

- John also identified himself as sharing in their hope.

3. His Location

- John tells them that he is on Patmos because of the gospel.

**Historical Note:** Patmos

Patmos was a tiny island off the coast of Asia Minor. It is only 17 km long and 10 km wide. Because the island is volcanic in origin, it is rocky and almost treeless. It was one of the most isolated places that the Romans banished their exiles. Emperor Domitian exiled the apostle John to this lonely place from Ephesus in A.D. 95. John resided on the island for 18 months.

B. John’s state (1:10a)

- John saw the vision on the Lord’s Day while in the Spirit.

**Biblical Note:** The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is Sunday, the principal day of corporate worship. It was observed by early Christians as the weekly memorial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is said in the Gospels to have been witnessed alive from the dead early on the first day of the week.

**Theological Note:** In the Spirit

The phrase “In the Spirit” describes a special experience in the Spirit. John was probably in a state of ecstasy: the outer world being shut out and the inner and higher life or spirit being fully controlled by God’s Spirit, John was able to enter the invisible, spiritual realm.
See: Ezekiel 37:1; 2 Corinthians 12:2; Revelation 4:2; 17:3; 21:10

C. The vision of Christ Glorified (1:10b-18)

1. The voice like a trumpet (1:10b-11)

- John heard a voice like a Trumpet.

- The voice proclaimed the identity of Christ.

**Biblical Note:** The First and the LastThe title "the First and the Last" portrays Jesus Christ as the eternal one. Jesus Christ has always existed and will always exist. It is a title of deity.
See: Revelation 1:11,17; 2:8; 22:13

- The voice commanded John to write what he sees.

2. Seven golden lampstands (1:12)

- John saw the one who spoke among seven golden lampstands.

3. The one in the midst of the lampstands (1:13-16)

- John sees the exalted Christ.

**Biblical Note:** The Son of Man

The title "Son of Man" occurs many times in the New Testament referring to Jesus Christ. The title is used 82 times in the Gospels to refer to Jesus. Jesus used the title to reflect that he is the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy concerning the Messiah (see Daniel 7:13). The title also emphasized his union or identification with mankind.

See: Matthew 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8,32,40; 13:37,41; 16:13,27,28; 17:9,12,22; 18:11; 19:28; 20:18,28; 24:27,30,37,39,44; 25:13,31; 26:2,24,45,64; Mark 2:10,28; 8:31,38; 9:9,12,31; 10:33,45; 13:26; 14:21,41,62; Luke 5:24; 6:5; 7:34; 9:22,26,44,56,58; 11:30; 12:8,10,40; 17:22,24,26,30; 18:8,31; 19:10; 21:36; 22:22,48,69; 24:7; John 1:51; 3:13,14; 5:27; 6:27,53,62; 8:28; 12:23,34; 13:31; Acts 7:56; Revelation 1:13; 14:14.

**Biblical Note**: Eyes like a Flame of Fire

The description "eyes like a flame of fire" reflects that Jesus sees all and symbolizes his piercing judgment of sin.

See: Revelation 2:18

**Biblical Note:** Feet Like Fine Brass
The description "feet were like fine brass" reflects that the judgment of Jesus in purity and holiness.

**Biblical Note**: In His Right Hand

The phrase "right hand" signifies strength. It symbolizes authority and power. To hold something in one's right hand is to symbolize that the holder has authority and power over what is being held. To sit at ones right hand was have a place of prominence.

See: Matthew 20:21,23; 22:44; 26:64; Mark 10:40; 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:25,33,34; 5:31; 7:55,56; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22, Revelation 1:16,17,20; 2:1; 5:1,7

**Biblical Note:** Sharp Two-edged Sword

The description of a "sharp two-edged sword" coming out of his mouth symbolizes the power and force of the Word of God. Jesus' judgments are as sharp as swords.
See: Isaiah 49:2; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 2:12,16; 19:15,21

4. John’s response (1:17a)

- John responds by falling on the ground as dead.

5. The response of Christ (1:17b-18)

a. The affirmation (1:17b)

- Christ tells John not to be afraid.

b. Christ identifies Himself (1:17c-18)

(1) First and Last (1:17c)

- Christ describes Himself as eternal.

(2) He who Lives, Was Dead, and Now is alive (1:18a)

- Christ describes Himself as resurrected.

(3) Has the keys of Hades and Death (1:18b)

- Christ describes Himself as having authority over death and Hell.

**Bible Note:** Have the Keys

The word "keys" symbolizes that a person has authority and complete control over a certain item.
See: Isaiah 22:22; Matthew 16:19; Revelation 3:7

**Biblical Note:** Hades (Hell)

The word "Hades" is the Greek world for the realm of the dead. It refers to Hell or a place of torment. It is the New Testament word for the Hebrew word "Sheol" that is used in the Old Testament describing the place of the dead. It is not the final punishment of the wicked.

See: Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15, 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14.

IV. The Command to Write (1:19-20)

A. The command to write the Revelation (1:19)

- Christ tells John to write the Revelation.

- This is the key verse for understanding the Book of the Revelation.

B. The Seven Lampstands and Seven Stars explained (1:20)

1. The Seven Lampstands

- The Seven Lampstands are the seven churches.

2. The Seven Stars

- The Seven Stars are the seven pastors of the seven churches.

**Biblical Note:** Angel

The word "angel" means messenger. In the Book of Revelation it is used in two ways: (1) the word "angel" refers to an angelic being or messenger, and (2) the word "angel" refers to a human messenger. In Revelation 2 and 3, the word angel refers to a human messenger. Specifically, the messengers are likely the pastors of the churches.

3 – What Is Now – Part 1 (Revelation 2:1-7)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

I. Introduction to the Letters to the Seven Churches

A. Approaching the Letters

- How you approach the letters will determine your understanding of them.

- It is best to approach them as letters to distinct churches addressing the issues that they faced.

- The Letters clearly show that these churches were distinct from each other.

- Therefore, we can learn from them just as we learn from the other New Testament epistles.

B. Basic Outline of the Letters

1. The Recipient

2. The Author

3. The Commendation

4. The Condemnation / Rebuke

5. The Exhortation

6 The Promise

II. The Church at Ephesus (2:1-7)

A. The Recipient (2:1a)

- The letter is addressed to the pastor or messenger of the church in Ephesus.

**Historical Note:** Ephesus

Ephesus was an ancient Greek city on the coast of Western Asia Minor. It was built in the 10th century BC. During the Greek era it was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League. The city flourished after it came under the control of the Roman Empire in 129 BC. The city was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Library of Celsus was located in Ephesus and a theatre capable of holding 25,000 spectators. When Augustus became emperor in 27 BC, he made Ephesus the capital of the province of Asia in western Asia Minor instead of Pergamum. Ephesus then entered an era of prosperity, becoming both the seat of the governor and a major center of commerce.
See: Acts 18:19,21,24; 19:1,17,26,35; 20:16,17; 1 Corinthians 15:32; 16:8; Ephesians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:18; 4:12; Revelation 1:11; 2:1.



B. The Author (2:1b)

Scripture: Revelation 1:20

1. Holds the Seven Stars

- Christ proclaims himself as having authority over the pastors of the church.

- This description proclaims Christ’s authority in the Churches.

**Biblical Note**: In His Right Hand

The phrase "right hand" signifies strength. It symbolizes authority and power. To hold something in one's right hand is to symbolize that the holder has authority and power over what is being held. To sit at ones right hand was have a place of prominence.

See: Matthew 20:21,23,44; 26:64; Mark 10:40; 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:25,33,34; 3:7; 5:31; 7:55,56; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22, Revelation 1:16,17,20; 2:1; 5:1,7

2. Walks in the midst of the Seven Golden Lampstands

- Christ proclaims that He dwells in the midst of the churches.

- The description proclaims Christ’ presence among the churches.

C. Commendation (2:2-3)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church (2:2a)

 - Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Christ commends them (2:2b-3)

a. Their hard work

- Christ commends them for their hard work.

b. Their condemnation of the wicked

- Christ commends them because they did not tolerate sin in the church.

c. Their intolerance of false teachers

- Christ commends them because they tested and dealt with false teachers.

d. Their perseverance

- Christ commends them for continuing to persevere in spite of hardship.

Scripture: Acts 20:17, 28-36

17From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

28Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” 36And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

D. Rebuke (2:4)

- Christ rebukes the church for forgetting their love for Him in the midst of their labors.

E. Exhortation (2:5-6)

1. Remember (2:5a)

- Christ calls them to remember when they came to faith.

2. Repent (2:5b)

- Christ calls them to acknowledge and turn from their sin.

3. Do the first works (2:5c)

- Christ calls them to do their works out of love for Him.

4. The warning (2:5)

- Christ warns them that unless they repent they will no longer be useful.

5. Further commendation (2:6)

- Christ commends them for not embracing those who stressed compromise.

**Historical Note:** The Nicolaitans
The exact identity of the Nicolaitans is unclear. They appear to be a group that corrupted God’s people by suggesting compromise with the culture of the day. Rather than worship God and him alone, they suggested that it was appropriate to engage in patriotic ceremonies such as feasts associated with the worship of the emperor. They also suggested that it was appropriate to engage in cultural institutions like trade guilds and the pagan worship associated with such guilds.
See: Revelation 2:15

F. Promise (2:7)

1. The exhortation (2:7a)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

2. The Tree of Life (2:7b)

Scripture: Genesis 3:22

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”

- Those that persevere in their faith are promised eternal life.

**Biblical Note:** Tree of Life

The Tree of Life was a special tree in the Garden of Eden. The tree appears again in the Book of Revelation as a fruit bearing tree with leaves that bring healing. Those who eat of this tree will never die.
See: Genesis 2:9; 3:22,24; Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14

**Biblical Note:** Paradise of God
Paradise is only mentioned three times in the Bible. It refers to heaven each time that it is mentioned in the scripture. The exact location of Paradise is not certain. The apostle Paul refers to it as the third heaven.
See: Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 12:4

4 – What Is Now – Part 2 (Revelation 2:8-17)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

I. The Letter to the Church of Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)



A. The Recipient (2:8a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Smyrna.

**Historical Note:** Smyrna

Smyrna was an ancient Greek city. It was a seaport city and very wealthy. As one of the principal cities of the Roman Province Asia in Asia Minor, Smyrna competed with Ephesus and Pergamos for the title "First City of Asia." As of 195 BC, the city of Rome started to be deified in Smyrna, in the cult to the goddess Roma. In this sense, the city can be considered as the creators of the goddess Roma. This cult eventually became widespread through the whole Roman Empire. Smyrna was also noted for emperor worship. Refusal to worship the emperor brought martyrdom to some Christians.

See: Revelation 1:11; 2:8

B. The Author (2:8b)

1. First and Last

- Christ proclaims himself as the eternal one who has always existed.

2. Who was dead and came to life

- Christ proclaims himself as the resurrected one.

- Christ has experience death and defeated it with His resurrection.

C. Commendation (2:9)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church (2:9a)

 - Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Christ commends them (2:9b-d)

a. Tribulation

- Christ knows that they are suffering extreme persecution.

b. Poverty

- Christ knows that they are living in extreme poverty.

- Christ reminds them that they are rich in spite of their present condition.

c. The Blasphemy

- Christ knows that they are suffering at the hands of religionists.

**Biblical Note:** Jews and are NotThe phrase "Jews and are not" refers to people of Jewish descent who claimed to be descendants of Abraham but are not truly God's people. This is because they have rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
See: Romans 9:6

**Cultural Note:** Synagogue

A Jewish institution was a place of assembly for the reading and exposition of the Torah or Hebrew scriptures. It possibly originated during the Babylonian exile. It is believed that the synagogue emerged out of the spontaneous gatherings of Jewish people in the lands of their exile, where they met on the Sabbath and on special feast days. From about the second century B.C., the Pharisees assumed the leading role in the synagogues. By the time of Jesus and his disciples, the synagogue was firmly established among the Jews. Synagogues were found everywhere in the Hellenistic world.

See: Matthew 6:2,5, 9:35, 10:17, 12:9, 13:54, 23:6,34; Mark 1:21,23,29,39, 3:1, 5:22,36,38, 6:2, 12:39, 13:9; Luke 4:15,16,20,28,33,38,44, 6:6, 7:5, 8:41, 11:43, 12:11, 13:10,14, 20:46, 21:12; John 6:59, 12:42, 16:2, 18:20; Acts 6:9, 9:2,20, 13:5,14,15,42, 14:1, 15:21, 17:1,10,17, 18:4,7,8,17,19,26, 19:8, 22:19, 24:12, 26:11; Revelation 2:9, 3:9

**Biblical Note:** Synagogue of Satan

The synagogue of Satan refers to the local Jewish synagogue. Because they had rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah, they were serving Satan's purpose when they gathered to worship God. They hated and persecuted God's true people, the Christians.

See: Revelation 2:9; 3:9

D. Rebuke

- Notably is the fact that Christ did not rebuke them.

E. Exhortation (2:10)

1. Do not fear

- Christ encourages them to have courage.

2. The prediction

- Christ tells them that their suffering is only for a certain period of time.

**Biblical Note:** Ten Days
There are many views concerning the meaning of the phrase “10 days.” Some scholars have taken these words “10 days” as a symbolic representation of the entire persecution of the church. Some scholars think it refers to 10 persecutions under Roman rulers. Most feel that the phrase "ten days' refers to an anticipated limited period of time for suffering. Whichever viewpoint is selected, the point is that the church at Sardis would only endure suffering for a certain period of time.

3. Be faithful

- Christ encourages them to be faithful to the end.

- Christ promises the faithful eternal life.

**Bible Note:** The Crown of Life
The Crown of Life is one of several crowns promised to Christians (see 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 4:4). The Crown of Life is the promise to faithful that what awaits them after death is eternal life.
See: James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

F. Promise (2:11)

A. The exhortation (2:11a)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

B. No Second Death (2:11b)

- Those that persevere in their faith will not experience eternal death in Hell.

**Theological Note:** The Second Death
The Second Death refers to eternal separation from God. It is synonymous with the Lake of Fire. It is called the “second death" because it follows physical death.
See: Revelation 2:11; 20:6,15; 21:8.

II. The Letter to the Church of Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17)

A. The Recipient (2:12a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Pergamos.

**Historical Note:** Pergamos

Pergamos was a rich and powerful ancient Greek city. It was briefly the capital of the Roman province of Asia in Asia Minor, before the capital was transferred to Ephesus. Pergamos reached the height of its greatness under Roman rule and was home to about 200,000 inhabitants. It was a wicked city. People in its pagan cults worshiped Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus, and Zeus. Pergamos was famous for its university with a library of about 200,000 volumes, and for manufacturing parchment resulting in a paper called pergamena.

B. The Author (2:12b)

1. He who has a sharp two-edged sword

- The sword is a symbolic representation of the Word of God.

- It has the ability to separate believers from the world.

- It has the ability to condemn the world for its sin.

C. Commendation (2:13)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church (2:13a)

 - Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Christ commends them (2:13b-d)

a. Their difficult situation

- Christ is aware that they living where Satan was worshiped.

**Biblical Note:** Satan's Throne
Satan's Throne may refer to the great temple of Asclepius, a pagan god of healing. This pagan god was represented in the form of a serpent.

b. They were true

- Christ knew that they remained true in spite of persecution.

c. They suffered martyrdom

- Christ knew that some had suffered martyrdom for their faith.

**Historical Note:** Antipas

Antipas was an early Christian martyr in Pergamos. He was described as a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Nothing is known of his martyrdom. Nothing else is known about Antipas.

D. Rebuke (2:14-15)

1. The doctrine of Balaam (2:14)

- They were allowing compromise in their morality.

**Historical Note:** Balaam

Balaam was Gentile diviner. He was the son Beor from the city of Pethor on the Euphrates River. He was hired by Balak, king of Moab, to curse Israel. However, he pronounced three blessings on Israel as he was commanded to do by the Lord. Balaam was guilty of counseling King Balak to cause Israel to sin through idolatry and intermarriage with Balak's people. Balak will killed when Israel defeated the Midianites.

See: Numbers 22:5-41; 23:1-30; 24:25; 31:8,16; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22; 24:9-10; Nehemiah 13:2; Micah 6:6; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14.

**Historical Note:** Barak

Balak was a king of Moab who hired Balaam to pronounce a curse upon the children of Israel. He was frightened by the news of Israel's victory over the Amorite kings, Sihon and Og. He thought that God's favor could be turned from Israel to his own nation. He heeded Balaam's advice to seduce the people of Israel with idolatry and sexual immorality.

See: Numbers 22:1-41; 23:1-30; 24:10-25; Joshua 24:9-10; Judges 11:25; Micah 6:5; Revelation 2:14.

Scripture: Numbers 25:1-13; 31:1:16

2. Doctrine of the Nicolaitans (2:15)

- They were allowing compromise in their faith.

E. Exhortation (2:16)

1. Repent (2:16a)

- Christ calls them to acknowledge and turn from their sin.

2. Fight against you (2:16b)

- Christ will judge them soon with His Word.

F. Promise (2:17)

1. The exhortation (2:17a)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

2. Hidden Manna (2:17b)

- You will receive the blessings and benefits of knowing Christ, the Bread of Life.

**Biblical Note:** Hidden Manna

Hidden Manna refers to spiritual nourishment that believers will receive. The hidden manna symbolizes the promises and blessings that will come with the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Living Bread.

3. A White Stone (2:17c)

- You will receive a “new name” and acceptance by God.

**Biblical Note:** White Stone

In Roman culture, the White Stone refers the custom of awarding white stones to the victors in athletic contests. A white stone with the athlete's name served as his ticket to the special banquet honoring the victors.

5 – What Is Now – Part 3 (Revelation 2:18-3:6)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

I. The Letter to the Church of Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)



A. The Recipient (2:18a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Thyatira.

**Historical Note:** Thyatira
Thyatira was an ancient Greek city in the Roman province of Asia in Asia Minor. As a city, it had very little history and is scarcely mentioned by ancient writers. The coins from the city showed that it lay on a main road linking two river valleys. The city was the center of commerce for the area. During the Roman era, it was famous for its dyeing facilities and was a center of the purple cloth trade.
See: Acts 16:14; Revelation 1:11; 2:24

B. The Author (2:18b)

1. Son of God

- Christ reaffirms His deity.

**The Son of God**The title "Son of God" is one of the primary names for Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus' claim to this title was the main charge that the Jewish leaders made against him as they sought to kill him. The title is to be understood as a Messianic title as well as a declaration of deity through a unique relationship with God the Father.
See: Daniel 3:25; Matthew 4:3,6; 8:29; 26:63; 27:40,43,54; Mark 1:1; 3:11; 15:39; Luke 1:35; 4:3,9,41; 22:70; John 1:34,49; 3:18; 5:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4,27; 19:7; 20:31; Acts 8:37; 9:20; Romans 1:4; 2 Corinthians 1:19; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:13,14; Hebrews 4:14; 6:6; 7:3; 10:29; 1 John 3:8; 4:15; 5:5, 10, 12, 13, 20; Revelation 2:18

2. Eyes like flame of Fire

- His eyes see everything and nothing is hidden from Him.

3. Feet like fine brass

- In His purity and holiness, He will trample out impurity.

C. Commendation (2:19)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church

 - Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Love

- Christ is aware of their love for God and for each other.

3. Service

- Christ is aware of their meeting the needs of others.

4. Faith

- Christ is aware of their faithfulness.

5. Patience

- Christ is aware of their perseverance in the faith.

6. More works than at first

- Christ is aware that their works were increasing with time.

D. Rebuke (2:20-23)

1. Toleration of Jezebel (2:20a)

- They were rebuked for tolerating sin in their midst.

Scripture 1 Corinthians 5:2
And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

2. The Teaching of Jezebel (2:20b)

- They had a female teacher who led them into immorality and idolatry.

- Jezebel was not the false prophet’s real name.

**Historical Note:** Jezebel
Jezebel was a princess of the Zidonians who became the wife of Ahab, king of Israel. She was a zealous worshipper of Baal. She tried to impose worship of the deities Baal and Asherah on the Northern Kingdom. To please Jezebel, Ahab built a temple and an altar to Baal in Samaria. Jezebel persecuted the prophets of Lord and has them killed. She fabricated evidence of blasphemy against Naboth when he refused to sell his property to King Ahab, causing Naboth to be put to death. For these transgressions against the God and people of Israel, Jezebel met a gruesome death as she was thrown out of a window and the flesh of her corpse eaten by stray dogs. In the Letter to Thyatira, Jesus rebukes the church for tolerating a female false teacher who was like Jezebel.

See: 1 Kings 16:31; 18:4,13; 19:1-2; 21:5,7,11,14-15,23,25; 2 Kings 9:7,10,22,30,36-37; Revelation 2:20

3. Time for Repentance (2:21)

- Graciously the Lord gave her time to repent.

4. The Judgment of Jezebel (2:22-23a)

- Christ will judge her and those who follow her.

5. The testimony of the judgment (2:23b)

- The purpose of the judgment is to warn all churches against tolerating evil.

E. Exhortation (2:24-25)

1. Who do not hold and have not learned (2:24)

- Those who have endured false teaching will have no other burden.

**Biblical Note:** Depths of Satan
The depths of can be translated "the deep things of Satan." The deeper things probably involved so-called secret insights that were guaranteed to promote a deeper spiritual life in those who pursue them.

2. Only hold on to what you have (2:25)

- Christ tells them to hold fast until He returns.

F. Promise (2:26-29)

1. Power over nations (2:26-27)

- Christ will give us authority to rule with Him.

2. Morning Star (2:28)

- Christ will give us Himself, the Morning Star.

**Biblical Note:** Morning Star

The Morning Star is a title for Jesus Christ. A morning star appears before the dawn when the night is the coldest and the darkest. When the world is at the very darkest moment, Jesus Christ will return in all of his glory.

See: 2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 2:28; 22:16

3. The exhortation (2:29)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

II. The Letter to the Church of Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

A. The Recipient (3:1a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Sardis.

**Historical Note:** Sardis

Sardis was an ancient Greek city located in the Roman province of Asia in Asia Minor. Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. The city was the seat of a proconsul under the Roman Empire. The city was located about 48 kilometers southeast of Thyatira, on an important trade route that ran east and west through the kingdom of Lydia. Sardis discovered the secret of separating gold from silver, thereby producing both metals of a purity never known before. This was an economic revolution which made Sardis rich and synonymous with wealth itself. For this reason, Sardis is famed in history as the place where modern currency was invented. Important industries in Sardis included jewelry, dye, and textiles. From a religious standpoint it was a center of pagan worship and site of a temple of Artemis. Archeologists have located the ruins of a Christian church building next to the temple.

B. The Author (3:1b)

1. Seven Spirits

- Christ gives direction to the Holy Spirit.

Scripture John 16:13
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

2. Seven Stars

- Christ has authority over the pastors of the churches.

C. Commendation

- It is noteworthy that Christ did not commend them for anything.

D. Rebuke (3:1c)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church

- Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Their testimony

a. Their appearance

- The church had a reputation for being alive.

b. Their actual condition

- Christ exposed the church as being dead.

E. Exhortation (3:2-3)

1. Be watchful (3:2a)

- Christ tells them to be alert.

2. Strengthen (3:2b)

- Christ calls them to strengthen the few evidences of their Christian life.

3. Remember (3:3a)

- Christ calls them to remember the gospel.

4. Hold Fast (3:3b)

- Christ calls them to holdfast in obedience.

5. Repent (3:3c)

- Christ calls them to acknowledge and turn from their sin.

6. The Warning (3:3d)

- Christ tells that His judgment will come unexpectedly.

- This coming does not refer to the second Coming but rather Christ’s coming judgment.

F. Promise (3:4-6)

1. Clothed in white (3:4-5a)

- Christ promises that those who endure will be clothed in righteousness.

**Biblical Notes:** White Garments

The phrase "clothed in white" means to be set apart for God. It also pictures that a believer has been cleansed from sin. It also signifies that the believer is morally and spiritually pure. Being clothed in white is symbolic of the believer being clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

See: Revelation 3:5; 3:18

2. The Book of Life (3:5b)

- Christ promises that those who endure are assured salvation.

**Biblical Notes:** The Book of Life
The Book of Life refers to the heavenly registry of those who have experienced salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
See: Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:17,19.

3. Confession before the Father (3:5c)

- Christ promises that those who endure will be acknowledged.

4. The exhortation (3:6)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

6 – What Is Now – Part 4 (Revelation 3:7-22)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

I. The Letter to the Church of Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)



A. The Recipient (3:7a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Philadelphia.

**Historical Note:** Philadelphia

Philadelphia was an ancient Greek city that was established in 187 B.C. It was in the administrative district of Sardis. In A.D. 17, the city suffered badly in an earthquake, and the Roman emperor Tiberius relieved it of having to pay taxes. In response, the city granted honors to Tiberius. The city experienced an additional twenty years of earthquakes. It was located in an area noted for its agricultural products such as vine growing and wine production. Because of the vine production, Philadelphia became the center of the worship of Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility.

B. The Author (3:7b)

1. Holy and True

- Christ affirms His deity as Holy and True.

2. Holds the Key of David

- Christ proclaims His authority as the Son of David.

**Biblical Note:** The Key of David
The phrase “The key of David” seems to refer to the key of the house of David that was given to Eliakim. It was the highest position in the royal court. The key allowed Eliakim to have access to all the wealth of the king.
See: Isaiah 22:22

3. He who opens and shuts

- Christ describes his actions as firm which no one can interfere.

C. Commendation (3:8)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church (3:8a)

- Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. Their opportunity (3:8b)

- Christ has set before them an opportunity for service.

3. Their condition (3:8c)

- Christ notes that they had little power and resources.

4. Their obedience (3:8d)

- Christ commends them for their consistent obedience

5. Their endurance (3:8e)

- Christ commends them for not giving in to the pressure to deny Christ.

D. Rebuke

- Notably is the fact that Christ did not rebuke them.

E. Exhortation (3:9-11)

1. The acknowledgement of their enemies (3:9)

- Their enemies will acknowledge them and Christ’s love for them.

Scripture Isaiah 49:22-23
22 Thus says the Lord GOD:

 “Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations,

 And set up My standard for the peoples;

 They shall bring your sons in their arms,

 And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;

 23 Kings shall be your foster fathers,

 And their queens your nursing mothers;

 They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth,

 And lick up the dust of your feet.

 Then you will know that I am the LORD,

 For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.”

2. The promise of the rapture (3:10)

- Christ promises that they will not have to endure the coming tribulation.

**Biblical Note:** The Hour of Trial
The "hour of trail" refers to the future time of great tribulation that believers will be spared from.

**Biblical Note:** Keep You from the Hour of Trial
While believers may face difficulty and suffering at the present time, they will certainly be protected from God's wrath in the Great Tribulation. This is the promise of the rapture of the church.

See: 1 Thessalonians 4:13

3. The encouragement to endure (3:11)

- Christ encourages them to persevere to the end.

F. Promise (3:12-13)

1. A Pillar (3:12a)

- They will have a permanent place in Heaven.

2. Names of God and the New Jerusalem (3:12b)

- They will belong to God.

3. Christ’s New Name (3:12c)

- They will belong to Christ.

4. The exhortation (3:13)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

II. The Letter to the Church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

A. The Recipient (3:14a)

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Laodicea.

**Historical Note:** Laodicea
Laodicea was an ancient Greek city built on the river Lycus. It was located in the Roman province of Phrygia. The wealthy city of Laodicea was located on the road to Colosse about 64 kilometers southeast of Philadelphia. Laodicea, benefiting from its advantageous position on a trade route, became one of the most important and flourishing commercial cities of Asia Minor. Large money transactions and the extensive trade of black wool took place in the city. About 35 years before this letter was written, Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake, but it had the wealth and ability to rebuild. It received from Rome the title of free city. Many of the inhabitants of Laodicea were Jews
See: Colossians 2:1; 4:13,15,16

B. The Author (3:14b)

1. Amen

- The word "amen" means “so be it.”

- Christ affirms His sovereignty over human affairs.

**Biblical Note:** The Amen

The title "the Amen" is used for Jesus Christ. The title is an acknowledgement of something true and binding. It refers to the sovereignty of God which is behind human events.

2. The Faithful and True Witness

- Christ affirms His testimony is trustworthy and fully comprehensive.

3. The Beginning of the Creation of God

- Christ existed before God’s Creation and is sovereign over it.

**Biblical Note:** The Beginning of the Creation of God
The title "The Beginning of the Creation of God" refers to the fact that Jesus Christ existed before God’s Creation and is sovereign over it.

See: Colossians 1:16-17

Scripture Colossians 1:16-17
16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

C. Commendation

- It is noteworthy that Christ did not commend them for anything.

D. Rebuke (3:15-17)

1. Christ’s Knowledge of the church (3:15a)

- Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

2. They were lukewarm (3:15b-16)

- They were abhorrent to Christ because of their complacency in spiritual matters.

**Biblical Note:** Lukewarm
The word "lukewarm" would be known to the Laodiceans. The city of Laodicea did not have a natural source of water. The city always had a problem with their water supply. The city to the northwest of Laodicea was famous for its hot mineral springs. To aid the city with its water problem, an aqueduct was built to bring water from the hot springs to the city. When the water reached the city, it was neither hot nor refreshingly cold. It was lukewarm and filled with minerals making it impure resulting in a terrible taste.

3. Blind to their true condition (3:17)

- They were blind to their true condition because of their wealth.

E. Exhortation (3:18-19)

1. Seek spiritual riches (3:18a)

- Christ calls them to seek riches in heaven.

2. Seek righteousness (3:18b)

- Christ calls them to be clothed in righteousness.

3. Seek spiritual sight (3:18c)

- Christ calls them to seek healing for their spiritual blindness.

**Biblical Note:** Eye Salve
Laodicea prided itself on the precious eye salve that the city produced. The eye salve healed many common eye problems. Jesus counsels the Laodicean church to buy from him spiritual eye salve to heal their spiritual blindness.

4. Repent (3:19)

- Christ calls them to acknowledge and turn from their sin.

F. Promise (3:20-22)

1. Fellowship (3:20)

- Christ promises to fellowship with those who come to Him.

2. Share Christ’s throne (3:21)

- Those who persevere will share Christ’s throne with Him.

3. The exhortation (3:22)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

7 – The Throne & The Scroll (Revelation 4:1-5:14)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Throne Room of Heaven (Revelation 4:1-11)

A. The Invitation (4:1)

- John is invited to come and see that which must take place in the future.

B. The Heavenly Throne (4:2-3)

1. John state (4:2a)

- John was taken to heaven through an experience while still on the island.

2. The Throne (4:2b)

- John saw a great throne in Heaven and the One who sits on the throne.

3. The One on the Throne (4:3)

- The one on the throne had the appearance of a great diamond and ruby.

- The throne was surrounded by a rainbow that appeared like emerald.

C. The 24 Elders (4:4)

1. 24 thrones

- Around the great throne are 24 smaller thrones.

2. 24 elders

- On each throne was an elder clothed in white with a gold crown.

**Biblical Note:** The 24 Elders

The apostle John does not identify the 24 elders. Scholars have presented several possibilities concerning the identity of the elders. (1) Because there are twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and 12 apostles in the New Testament, the 24 elders represent all the redeemed of God for all time. (2) The 24 elders are the heavenly counterpart of the 24 priestly ranks who served in the temple (see 1 Chronicles 23:6; 24:7-18). (3) The 24 elders are an angelic group that provides worship around the throne.

D. The Seven Spirits of God (4:5)

1. Sounds

- From the throne came great lights and sounds.

2. The Seven Spirits of God

- John sees the presence of the Holy Spirit before the throne.

E. The Four Living Creatures (4:6-8)

1. The location of the creatures (4:6)

- These creatures were dwelling around the great throne.

2. The description of the creatures (4:7-8a)

- These creatures are not human.

- These creatures have six wings.

Scripture: Isaiah 6:2

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

**Biblical Note:**  The Four Living Creatures (Seraphim)

The four living creatures are angelic beings of high order. They serve as part of the worship around the throne and the government of heaven. Isaiah refers to them as seraphim. They surround God's Throne. They lead others in worship. They proclaim the holiness of God.
See: Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1:5-25.

3. The service of the creatures (4:7b)

- The angelic beings continually praise and worship God.

F. Worship in Heaven (4:9-11)

1. Casting of crowns by the Elders (4:9-10)

- The elders ascribe glory to God as Sovereign by casting down their crowns.

2. The praise (4:11)

- They attributed to God glory and honor and power.

- They acknowledged that He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

II. The Seven Sealed Scroll (Revelation 5:1-14)

A. The seven-sealed scroll introduced (5:1)

1. The possessor

- God the Father possesses the scroll.

2. The scroll

- The scroll contains the record of the events that will occur in the future.

**Biblical Note:** Seven-Sealed Scroll

In the apostle John's day, books were written on scrolls. Scrolls were pieces of papyrus up to 10 meters long that had been rolled up and sealed with wax. The seven seals indicate the importance of what had been written on the scroll. The number of seals indicated that the contents of the scroll are guaranteed to be secret. This scroll has writing on both sides of the scroll.

B. The question “Who is worthy?” (5:2-5)

1. A strong angel proclaims the question (5:2)

- An angel questions if one is worthy to open the scroll.

2. No response (5:3)

- No one is found who is worthy to open the scroll.

3. John’s reaction (5:4)

- John wept because there was no one to open the scroll.

4. Elder’s response (5:5)

- The elder encourages John that Jesus Christ is worthy to open the scroll.

**Biblical Note:** Lion from Tribe of Judah

The phrase "Lion from the tribe of Judah" comes from the prophecy that Jacob gave to Judah in Genesis 49:9-10 where Judah is described as a young lion. The prophecy describes how the scepter will not depart from the tribe of Judah until the time when one will come to whom it belongs. This will be the one that all nations will obey. The "Lion from the tribe of Judah" is Jesus Christ.

**Biblical Note:** Root of David

The phrase "the Root of David" alludes to Isaiah 11:1-5. The prophet predicted that Judah would be like a tree that had been chopped down. From the stump, a new shoot would grow, which is the Messiah. The shoot will be greater than the original tree. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

C. The Lamb (5:6-7)

1. The location of the Lamb (5:6a)

- Out of the midst of the throne comes the Lamb.

**Biblical Note:** The Lamb of God

Jesus Christ was called the "Lamb of God" by John the Baptist (John 1:29,36). The title expresses the redemptive character of Jesus and his work. In the Old Testament refers to the lamb as a sacrificial victim. The suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 is pictured as a lamb who died in the place of sinners (Isaiah 53:4-7)

See: John 1:29,36; Acts 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19; Revelation 5:6,8,12,13; 6:1,16; 7:9,10,14,17; 12:11; 13:8,11; 14:1,4,10; 15:3; 17:14, 19:7,9; 21:14,22,23; 22:1,3.

2. The description of the Lamb (5:6b)

a. Slain

- John sees a Lamb that appears to have been slain or sacrificed.

b. Seven Horns

- The “seven horns” represent the authority and strength of a ruler.

c. Seven eyes

- The seven eyes reflect the unity between the Holy Spirit and the Son.

3. The Lamb and the scroll (5:7)

- The Lamb is the only one who is worthy to take the scroll.

D. The worship of the Lamb (5:8-14)

1. The worship of the creatures and elders (5:8)

- When the Lamb takes the scroll, He is worshiped by the elders and creatures.

2. The song of worship (5:9-10)

- He is worshiped with a song praising His redemptive work.

3. The angelic host (5:11)

- The Lamb is worshiped by the entire angelic host.

4. Their proclamation (5:12)

- They proclaim that the Lamb is worthy of praise, glory, honor and power.

5. Creation (5:13a)

- All of creation joins in to bring glory to the Lamb.

6. The proclamation of creation (5:13b)

- Creation proclaims honor praise on God the Father and the Lamb.

7. The final proclamation (5:14)

- The creatures give one final praise with “Amen.”

8 – The Seals Are Opened (Revelation 6:1-7:17)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Opening of the Seals (Revelation 6:1-17)

A. The first seal (6:1-2)

1. The seal is opened (6:1)

- The Lamb is the only one to open the seals.

2. The white horse (6:2)

**Biblical Note:** The Four Riders of the Apocalypse

The first four seals on the scroll are four riders on horses. These riders are commonly known as the four riders of the apocalypse. The first rider on a white horse represents the Antichrist. The second rider on a red horse is war. The third rider on a black horse is famine and economic collapse. The fourth rider on a pale horse is death and Hades followed close behind him.

- The conqueror mentioned here is the future world ruler.

B. The second seal (6:3-4)

1. The seal is opened (6:3)

2. The red horse (6:4)

- The rider here represents war as he takes peace from the earth.

C. The third seal (6:5-6)

1. The seal is opened (6:5a)

2. The back horse (6:5b-6)

- The rider represents famine and economic collapse.

- It will take an entire day’s wages to pay for a meal.

D. The fourth seal (6:7-8)

1. The seal is opened (6:7)

2. The pale horse (6:8)

- The rider represents death.

- Hell is the rider’s companion.

**Biblical Note:** Hades (Hell)

The word "Hades" is the Greek world for the realm of the dead. It refers to Hell or a place of torment. It is the New Testament word for the Hebrew word "Sheol" that is used in the Old Testament describing the place of the dead. It is not the final punishment of the wicked.

See: Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15, 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14.

- They were given the power to kill a fourth of the world’s population.

E. The fifth seal (6:9-11)

1. John’s vision of the martyrs (6:9)

- John sees the souls of Christian martyrs.

2. The martyrs’ cry (6:10)

- The martyrs ask God to avenge their deaths on the wicked.

3. The call to rest (6:11)

- They are told to wait until the number of martyrs is completed.

F. The sixth seal (6:12-17)

1. Great natural disasters (6:12-14)

a. The great earthquake (6:12a)

- There will be a great earthquake.

b. The transformation of the heavens (6:12b-14a)

- The heavens are changed as the sun, moon and stars are affected.

c. The landscape shifts (6:14a)

- The great earthquake causes both mountains and islands to shift.

2. The reaction of the world (6:15-17)

a. Men try to hide themselves (6:15)

- People of all walks of life try to hide themselves from the calamity.

b. Their proclamation (6:16-17)

- The people call out for death rather than to face the wrath of God.

II. Salvation in the Tribulation (Revelation 7:1-17)

A. The Sealing of the 144,000 of Israel (7:1-8)

1. John’s vision of the four angels (7:1)

a. Their location

- These angels are located from every point of the earth.

b. Their purpose

- These angels are to insure that no wind blows on the earth and sea.

2. The angel from the east (7:2-3)

a. The angel described (7:2a)

- An angel comes from the east with the seal of God.

- The seal denotes ownership and protection.

b. The angel’s statement to the four angels (7:2b-3)

(1) The four angels’ task (7:2b)

- The four angels have been given the task to harm the earth and seas.

(2) The command (7:3)

- The angels are to withhold judgment until God’s servants are sealed.

3. The sealing of the servants (7:4-8)

a. The number of sealed servants (7:4)

- John hears the number of Jewish believers who are sealed.

b. The listing of the sealed servants (7:5-8)

- The 144,000 servants come from the twelve tribes of Israel.

B. The Multitude of Martyrs (7:9-17)

1. John’s vision of the Multitude (7:9)

- John sees a multitude of believers from every tribe and tongue.

2. The praise of the multitude (7:10)

- This multitude praises God and the Lamb for salvation.

3. The worship of the hosts of heaven (7:11-12)

- The angels and elders respond to their praises with worship.

4. The identity of the multitude (7:13-17)

a. The elder’s question (7:13)

- The elder asks John who the multitude is.

b. John’s response (7:14a)

- John responds that the elder knows the answer.

c. The multitude’s identity (7:14)

- The elder identifies the multitude as the martyrs of the tribulation.

d. The multitude’s function (7:15a)

- They serve God continually.

e. The multitude’s protection (7:15b)

- God will dwell with them.

f. The multitude’s provision (7:16-17)

- God will provide and protect them forever.

9 – The Seventh Seal & The Trumpets (Revelation 8:1-9:12)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1-12)

A. The Opening of the Seventh Seal (8:1)

- When the seventh seal is opened, there was silence in Heaven for 30 minutes.

- The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets.

B. The Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets (8:2)

- John sees seven angels who were given seven trumpets.

C. The Golden Censer (8:3-5)

1. The angel with the censer (8:3a)

- John sees another angel who stands before the altar with a golden censer.

2. The offering of the prayer (8:3b)

- The angel was given incense to offer with the prayers of the saints.

3. The offering before God (8:4)

- The angel offers the incense and prayers before God.

4. The censer is thrown to earth (8:5)

- The angel throws the censer filled with fire to the earth.

D. The First Trumpet (8:6-7)

1. The angels prepare themselves (8:6)

- The seven angels prepare to blow their trumpets.

2. The first trumpet sounded (8:7)

a. The trumpet’s affect

- With the first trumpet, hail and fire fall upon the earth.

b. The result

- The hail and fire destroy a third of all plant life on earth.

E. The Second Trumpet (8:8-9)

1. The trumpet’s affect (8:8a)

- A flaming mountain is thrown into the sea.

**Biblical Note:** Burning Mountain

Some scholars believe that the description of the burning mountain fits with a comet or meteor. The impact of this would disrupt sea life causing all living things to die. It would also cause a tidal wave that would destroy ships upon the sea.

2. The result (8:8b-9)

a. The condition of the sea (8:8b)

- A third of the sea was turned to blood.

- This parallels God’s judgment on Egypt.

Scripture Exodus 7:14-25
14 So the LORD said to Moses: “Pharaoh’s heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. 16 And you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness”; but indeed, until now you would not hear! 17 Thus says the LORD: “By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. 18 And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.” ’ ”

19 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.’ ” 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. 21 The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

22 Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said. 23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. 24 So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. 25 And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

b. The destruction (8:9)

- A third of all marine life and ships are destroyed.

F. The Third Trumpet (8:10-11)

1. The trumpet’s affect (8:10)

- A great star falls on a third of the rivers and springs.

**Biblical Note:** A Great Star

Some scholars believe that the description of the star fits with a comet or meteor. The star is called Wormwood.

2. The result (8:11)

a. The star’s name

- The star is called Wormwood.

**Biblical Note:** Wormwood

Wormwood is a bitter desert plant mentioned only once in the New Testament. It is mentioned seven times in the Old Testament where it represents sorrow and bitter judgment

See: Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15; Lamentations 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; Revelation 8:11.

b. The star’s affect on the water

- The water is contaminated resulting in the death of many people.

G. The Fourth Trumpet (8:12)

- The fourth trumpet results in a third of the lights of the sky being darkened.

II. The Sounding of the Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 8:13-9:12)

A. The Announcement of the Three Final Trumpets (8:13)

1. The flying angel

- John sees another angel that is flying through the midst of Heaven.

2. The announcement

- The angel announced woe upon the remaining inhabitants of earth.

- This is because of the nature of the remaining trumpets.

B. The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-11)

1. The fallen star (9:1)

a. The identity of the star (9:1a)

- The star is a person or angelic being.

- This person is more than likely Satan.

- Because John did not see this star fall, the text implies that the star “had fallen.”

Scripture Isaiah 14:12-17
 12 “How you are fallen from heaven,

 O Lucifer, son of the morning!

 How you are cut down to the ground,

 You who weakened the nations!

 13 For you have said in your heart:

 ‘I will ascend into heaven,

 I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

 I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

 On the farthest sides of the north;

 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

 I will be like the Most High.’

 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

 To the lowest depths of the Pit.

 16 “Those who see you will gaze at you,

 And consider you, saying:

 ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,

 Who shook kingdoms,

 17 Who made the world as a wilderness

 And destroyed its cities,

 Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

b. The key (9:1b)

- To this fallen star was given authority over the bottomless pit.

**Biblical Note:** The Bottomless Pit (The Abyss)

The bottomless pit or the Abyss refers to the prison of disobedient or fallen angels. It is full of smoke and fire. The demons have a great dread of being sent to the Abyss.

See: Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3.

Scripture: Luke 8:31

And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

2. The Bottomless Pit (9:2)

a. The pit is opened (9:2a)

- The fallen star is allowed to open the bottomless pit.

b. The smoke (9:2b)

- Out of the pit comes a smoke that affects even the light of the sun.

3. The Demonic Plague (9:3-11)

a. The Locusts (9:3a)

- Out of the smoke a great horde of locust-like creatures comes upon earth.

b. Their purpose (9:3b-5)

- They are to torment all humanity who had not been sealed by God.

Scripture: Exodus 8:20-23

20And the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 21Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms *of flies* on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms *of flies,* and also the ground on which they *stand.* 22And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms *of flies* shall be there, in order that you may know that I *am* the Lord in the midst of the land. 23I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.”’”

- They are not to harm the vegetation of the earth.

- They are not to kill anyone, but simply to torment.

c. The result (9:6)

- The torment will be so great that men will want to die, but they cannot.

d. Their description (9:7-10a)

- The picture is one of Satan’s awesome supernatural power.

e. The duration of their terror (9:10b)

- They are to afflict humanity for a period of five months.

f. Their leader (9:11)

- The leader of this demonic horde is Satan himself.

4. The proclamation (9:12)

- The writer proclaims that one woe has past but there are still two more.

10 – The Sixth Trumpet & the Mighty Angel (Revelation 9:13-10:11)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

I. The Sixth Trumpet (Revelation 9:13-9:21)

A. The Command (9:13-14)

1. The voice (9:13)

- When the sixth trumpet is sounded, John hears a voice from altar before God.

2. The command to release (9:14)

- The sixth angel is commanded to release four demons from imprisonment.

B. The Four Angels (9:15-19)

1. The timing of their release (9:15a)

- The release of these four is minutely timed.

2. Their purpose (9:15b)

- They are to destroy a third of the world’s population.

3. A Great Army (9:16-19)

a. The size of the army (9:16)

- John sees an army of 200 million mounted soldiers.

- This army can be human or demonic.

b. The description of the army (9:17)

- Whether symbolically or literally, the text implies an awesome invading force.

c. The destruction of a third of mankind (9:18)

- This army brings a plague that destroys a third of mankind.

d. The power of the army (9:19)

- This army has enormous power to bring destruction.

C. The Lack of Repentance (9:20-21)

1. The refusal to repent (9:20a)

- In spite of the judgments, men will still refuse to repent and turn to God.

2. Areas of repentance (9:20b-21)

a. Idolatry (9:20b)

- They will refuse to repent and turn from their worship of false idols.

b. Sin (9:21)

- They will refuse to repent and turn from their sins.

II. The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll (Revelation 10:1-11)

A. The Introduction of the Angel Holding the Scroll (10:1-4)

1. The description of the angel (10:1)

- This angel is described in a dramatic fashion.

- He is clothed in a cloud and wears a rainbow as a hat.

- His face shines like the sun and he has feet of fire.

2. The scroll (10:2)

- John sees that he has a little scroll in his hand.

- The angel stands upon earth signifying that the message is for all.

3. The cry of the angel (10:3)

- He shouted like the roar of a lion.

- The scene is certainly one to inspire awe.

- When this angel shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

- The identity of the seven thunders is not known.

4. The command not to write (10:4)

- John prepares to write down what the seven thunders said.

- He is commanded not to write down the utterances.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 12:1-4
1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

B. The Announcement of the Impending End (10:5-7)

1. The angel swears before heaven (10:5-6)

- The mighty angel solemnly swears by God that there will be no more delay.

2. The angel announces the intent of the seventh trumpet (10:7)

- The seventh trumpet indicates the accomplishment of the mystery of God.

- The mystery of God had been previously announced to God’s prophets.

- This refers to the fulfillment of many passages which refer to the second coming.

C. The Eating of the Scroll (10:8-11)

1. The command to take the scroll (10:8)

- John is commanded to take the scroll from the mighty angel.

2. John asks for the scroll (10:9)

- John asks the mighty angel for the scroll.

- The angel tells John to eat the scroll.

Scripture Ezekiel 2:9-3:3

9 Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, 10 which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

1 And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

3. John eats the scroll (10:10)

- John eats the scroll, which is sweet to taste but bitter to the stomach.

4. The command to prophecy (10:11)

- John is told to proclaim the contents to everyone.

11 – The Sounding of The Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:1-12:17)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Two Witnesses & the Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:1-19)

A. The Measuring of the Temple (11:1-2)

1. What John is to measure (11:1)

- The issue is not a determination of actual dimensions but a conveying of truth.

- To measure something signifies ownership of the object.

- The measurement marks Israel, represented by the Temple, as belonging to God.

2. What John is not to measure (11:2)

- This refers to the oppression of Jerusalem for 3 ½ years by the Antichrist.

B. The Ministry of the Two Witnesses (11:3-6)

1. The commissioning of the two (11:3)

- Two witnesses are commission to proclaim God’s word for 3 ½ years.

**Biblical Note:** Two Witnesses

The two witnesses are described as a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. They are described as the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth (Revelation 11:4). There has been much speculation concerning the identity of the two witnesses. There are two main views concerning their identity. (1) They are two men sent to prophesy to Jews during the tribulation. Various names of Old Testament believers have been proposed for the two witnesses. (a) Enoch and Elijah - This is because both did not experience death as they were taken to heaven (Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11). (b) Moses and Elijah - This is because the actions of the two witnesses bear much resemblance to Moses and Elijah. Moses and Elijah also appeared with Jesus at his transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-7). (2) They symbolize the witnessing church.

2. Their identity (11:4)

Scripture Zechariah 4:1-14

- John points out that they are a fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy.

3. God’s protection of the two (11:5)

- Those who wish to harm the two prophets will be killed.

4. Their power (11:6)

- They will demonstrate power through great supernatural signs.

C. The Death of the Two Witnesses (11:7-10)

1. The killing of the two (11:7)

- When their ministry is complete, the Antichrist will kill them.

2. The location of their bodies (11:8)

- Their bodies will be left to exposure in Jerusalem.

3. The world-wide witness and celebration (11:9-10)

- The world will see their bodies and celebrate their deaths.

D. The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses (11:11-12)

1. The resurrection of the two (11:11)

- Great fear grips the world as the two witnesses come back to life.

2. The ascension of the two (11:12)

- The two witnesses are called back to heaven.

E. The Resulting Judgment of God on Jerusalem (11:13-14)

1. The great earthquake (11:13)

- A great earthquake strikes Jerusalem and kills 7,000 people.

2. The proclamation (11:14)

- The writer proclaims that two woes have past but there is still one more.

F. The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)

1. The sounding of the trumpet (11:15a)

- The seventh angel sounds his trumpet.

2. The proclamation (11:15b)

- The angels proclaim the dominion of Christ over the earth.

3. The worship of God (11:16-18)

- God is worship and ascribed sovereignty as the second coming is foreshadowed.

4. The Ark of the Covenant (11:19)

- John sees the Ark which symbolizes God’s communion with the redeemed.

II. The Woman, the Dragon and the Child (Revelation 12:1-17)

A. A Woman Clothed with the Sun (12:1-2)

1. The appearance of a great sign (12:1a)

- John sees a great sign that was a symbol of what God is about to reveal.

2. The nature of the sign (12:1b)

- John sees a woman who symbolizes Israel.

3. The woman gives birth (12:2)

- The woman gives birth to a child, who is Jesus Christ.

B. The Red Dragon with Seven Heads and Ten Horns (12:3-4)

1. The nature of another great sign (12:3)

- John sees another sign of a great red dragon.

2. The actions of the dragon (12:4)

- The dragon extends his authority over a third of the angels.

- The dragon seeks to devour the Child as soon as it is born.

C. The Male-Child, Christ (12:5-6)

1. The nature of the child (12:5)

- He is described as one who will rule the nations.

- He was caught up to heaven to assume the throne of God.

2. The woman flees (12:6)

- The woman will flee from the dragon.

- She will be preserved by God for 3 ½ years.

D. Satan Cast out of Heaven (12:7-12)

1. The war in heaven (12:7)

- A war takes place between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his forces.

2. The dragon is defeated (12:8-9a)

- The dragon is defeated and cast out of heaven with his angels.

3. The dragon identified (12:9b)

- John identifies the dragon as Satan.

4. The proclamation (12:10-12)

- John hears a hymn of praise that proclaims the coming demonstration of power.

E. The Offspring of the Woman Persecuted by the Dragon (12:13-17)

1. The persecution of the woman (12:13)

- The dragon turns his attention to persecuting Israel.

2. The protection of the woman (12:14-16)

- Israel is protected by supernatural help as Satan seeks to exterminate her.

3. The dragon’s persecution of the woman’s offspring (12:17)

- The devil goes to war against the remnant of Israel.

12 – The Two Beasts & the 144,000 (Revelation 13:1-15:8)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

I. The Two Beasts (Revelation 13:1-18)

A. The Beast Out of the Sea (13:1-10)

1. The introduction of the Beast (13:1-2)

a. The beast out of the sea (13:1a)

- John sees a beast come out of the sea.

- The fact that the beast comes out from the sea indicates that he is a Gentile.

**Biblical Note:** The Beast (The Antichrist)

The title Antichrist can mean an enemy of Christ or the one who usurps Christ's name and rights. Most scholars believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the last days, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will seek world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.

See: Daniel 7:8,20-25; 11:28-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; Revelation 6:2, 13:5,7; 19:20; 20:10

b. The beast described (13:1b-2a)

- He is the ruler of a world empire.

- The ten heads are ten nations or ten regional governments.

c. The empowerment of the Beast (13:2b)

- This ruler is empowered by Satan himself.

2. The fatal wound of the Beast (13:3)

- The beast will suffer a mortal wound and it will be healed.

- The world will marvel at his healing and will follow him.

3. The worship of Satan and the Beast (13:4-6)

a. Satan and the beast is worshiped (13:4)

- The beast and Satan will be worshiped by people.

b. His role (13:5)

- The beast will assume the role of God.

c. His blasphemy (13:6)

- He will speak out and blaspheme the true God and His people.

4. The worldwide power of the Beast (13:7-8)

a. His war against the saints (13:7a)

- The beast will be allowed to make war against the saints.

b. His authority over the world (13:7b)

- The beast will have authority over the entire world.

c. The worship of the world (13:8)

- All unbelievers will worship the beast.

5. The exhortation to hear (13:9-10)

a. The call to hear (13:9)

- The writer calls us to pay attention to what has been written.

b. The call to depend upon God’s providence (13:10)

- The writer calls the readers to rest in God’s providence.

B. The Beast Out of the Earth (13:11-18)

1. The introduction of the second Beast (13:11-12)

a. The beast out of the earth (13:11a)

- John sees another beast that comes from the earth.

- Some scholars feel that he is a Jew.

**Biblical Note:** The Second Beast (The False Prophet)

The second beast is the False Prophet whose task it is to point people to the Antichrist. In Revelation 13:11, he appears like a meek and gentle lamb when in reality he has the heart of a destroyer. The focus of the False Prophet is religion as he causes the world to worship the Antichrist. The False Prophet will have the power to perform great miracles. He will have the power to counterfeit the miracles of God, such as calling down fire from heaven. He deceives the people into building an image which can be used as a focal point for worship of the Antichrist. When Jesus Christ returns in his Second Coming, the False Prophet will be immediately judged with the Antichrist and cast into the Lake of Fire.

See: Revelation 13:11-18; 16:13; 19:20; 20;10

b. The beast’s power and authority (13:12)

- This beast receives his authority from the first beast.

- He causes the whole world to worship the first beast.

2. The miracles of the second Beast (13:13-15)

a. Fire from heaven (13:13)

- He causes fire to come down from heaven.

b. His deception (13:14a)

- He deceives the entire world with great signs.

c. The image of the beast (13:14b-15)

- He creates an image of the first beast that is to be worshiped.

- He has those who refuse to worship killed.

3. The Mark of the Beast (13:16-18)

a. The imposition of the mark (13:16)

- The second beast has everyone receive a mark.

**Biblical Note:** The Mark of the Beast

The mark refers to the Roman use of a seal or mark connected with the emperor which conveyed official sanction. So, the Beast will use such a mark to identify those who are loyal to him. Those without the mark will be deemed traitors and boycotted by the commercial system the Beast controls. Those without the mark will die from exposure or starvation or illness as a result of not being able to purchase what they need. Those with the mark will suffer as well (Revelation 14:9-11). Those who receive the mark will suffer the wrath of God in eternity.

See: Revelation 13:16,17; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4

b. The purpose of the mark (13:17)

- This mark allows people to buy and sell.

c. The number of the beast (13:18)

- The writer warns us to be aware of the significance of the mark.

**Biblical Note:**  The Number of the Beast

The most complex issue regarding the mark of the beast is the number 666. Many observations have been made about this number. However, no one knows exactly what 666 means.

II. The Preparation for the Final Series of Judgment (Revelation 14:1-15:8)

A. The 144,000 on Mt. Zion (14:1-5)

1. The Lamb and the 144,000 (14:1)

- John foresees the Lamb surrounded by the 144,000 on Mt. Zion.

2. The song before the Throne (14:2-3)

- A heavenly group sings a song before the throne that only the 144,000 can hear.

3. The purity of the 144,000 (14:4-5)

- The 144,000 are marked by their purity and service for the Lamb.

B. The Message of the Three Angels (14:6-12)

1. The message of the first angel (14:6-7)

- The first angel brings an eternal message to the world.

- The “eternal” message seems to be a message of God’s righteousness and judgment rather than a message of salvation.

2. The message of the second angel (14:8)

- The second angel proclaims the fall of Babylon.

3. The message of the third angel (14:9-11)

- The third angel pronounces judgment on the beast and those with his mark.

4. The sustaining nature of the coming judgment (14:12)

- The coming judgment sustains the saints in their temporary troubles.

C. The Blessing of the Faithful Saints (14:13)

- A blessing is pronounced upon those believers who die in the tribulation.

D. The Messages of the Second Group of Three Angels (14:14-20)

1. The One on the white cloud (14:14)

- John sees Christ on the throne with a sickle in his hand.

2. The message of the first angel (14:15-16)

- The first angel calls the One on the throne to harvest with His sickle.

3. The second and third angel (14:17)

a. The second angel (14:17)

- The second angel has a sickle in his hand.

b. The third angel (14:18)

- The third angel calls the second angel to bring judgment with his sickle.

c. The actions of the second angel (14:19-20)

- The second angel brings about a great slaughter with much bloodletting.

E. The Seven Angels Introduced (15:1-8)

1. John sees the seven angels (15:1)

- John sees another sign of seven angels with seven great plagues.

2. The multitude (15:2)

- John sees the gathering of a multitude who have victory over the beast.

**Biblical Note:** The Multitude

There is a question concerning the identity of the multitude in Revelation 15:2. The scripture states that they have victory over the Beast, his image, his mark and his number of its name. Some scholars believe that the multitude are the choir of the 144,000 in Revelation 14:1-3. Scholars believe the multitude are the tribulational martyrs because they gained the ultimate victory over the Beast through their deaths.

3. The multitude’s song (15:3-4)

- The multitude sing a song of praise to the Lord.

4. The introduction of the seven angels (15:5-8)

- John sees seven angels who are given seven golden bowls of wrath.

13 – The Bowls & the Prostitute (Revelation 16:1-17:19)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

I. The Bowls of Divine Wrath (Revelation 16:1-21)

A. The Introduction (16:1)

- The seven angels are told to pour out their bowls of wrath upon the earth.

B. The First Bowl (16:2)

- The first bowl produces ugly and painful sores upon followers of the beast.

C. The Second Bowl (16:3)

- The second bowl destroys every living thing in the seas.

D. The Third Bowl (16:4-7)

1. The judgment of the bowl (16:4)

- The third bowl turns the rivers and stream into blood.

2. The praise of the angel (16:5-6)

- An angel praises the Lord for His retribution for the blood of the martyrs.

3. Affirmation of the praise (16:7)

- Another voice proclaims the justness of God’s judgments.

E. The Fourth Bowl (16:8-9)

1. The judgment of the bowl (16:8-9a)

- The fourth bowl causes the sun to scorch the earth and mankind.

2. The response of men (16:9b)

- Mankind will blaspheme God and refuse to repent.

F. The Fifth Bowl (16:10-11)

1. The judgment of the bowl (16:10)

- The fifth bowl is poured out on the beast and his kingdom.

- It causes a darkness and intense pain.

2. The response of men (16:11)

- Once again men refuse to repent and blaspheme God.

G. The Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)

1. The judgment of the bowl (16:12)

- The sixth bowl causes the River Euphrates to be dried up.

2. The gathering of the armies (16:13-16)

a. The task of the three demons (16:13-14)

- Three demons proceed to gather the armies of the world.

b. The Words of Christ (16:15)

- Christ’s promise of His return is remembered.

c. The place of the gathering (16:16)

- The armies of the world gather at Armageddon.

**Biblical Note:** Armageddon

The word "Armageddon" refers to the battleground for the final battle between forces of Jesus Christ and the forces of the Antichrist. The site of the battle has identified with the Valley of Jezreel and the Plain of Esdraelon at the foot of Mount Megiddo. This site has been the scene of many decisive incidents in the history of Israel.

H. The Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)

1. The last bowl of judgment (16:17)

- The last bowl is poured in the air.

- A voice proclaims that the judgments are done.

2. The natural disasters (16:18-21)

a. The great earthquake (16:18-20)

- The greatest of all earthquakes destroys most of the earth.

b. The response of mankind (16:21)

- Mankind will continue to blaspheme God.

II. The Fall of the Great Whore (Revelation 17:1-18)

A. The Harlot and the Scarlet Beast (17:1-6)

1. The invitation of the angel (17:1a)

- One of the angels invites John to see the destruction of the great whore.

**Biblical Note:** The Great Whore

The great whore in the Book of Revelation has provoked much discussion concerning her identity. The passage refers to the whore of Babylon as a mystery means that we cannot be completely certain as to her identity. The passage does give some clues. Revelation 17:9 explains, “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.” Some scholars link this passage with the Roman Catholic Church because in ancient times, the city of Rome was known as “the city on seven hills” because there are seven prominent hills that surround the city. However, Revelation 17:10 goes on to explain that the seven hills represent 7 kings or kingdoms, five of which have fallen, one that is and one that is to come. Therefore, the "whore of Babylon" cannot refer exclusively to Rome. Revelation 17:15 tells us, “Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.’” Therefore the whore of Babylon will have great worldwide influence over people and nations. Revelation 17:10-14 describe a series of eight and then ten kings who affiliate with the Antichrist. The whore of Babylon will at one time have control over these kings (Revelation 17:18), but at some point the kings will turn on her and destroy her (Revelation 17:16). So we can gain a partial understanding of her identity. The whore of Babylon is an evil world system, controlled by the Antichrist, during the last days before Jesus’ return. The whore of Babylon also has religious connotations – spiritual adultery with the beast being the focus of an ungodly, end-times religious system.

2. The influence of the Harlot (17:1b-2)

a. Her geographical influence (17:1b)

- This evil woman symbolizes the religious system of Babylon.

- She will have influence over peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.

b. Her political influence (17:2)

- The political systems of the world will embrace her.

3. The vision of the Harlot (17:3-6)

a. John is taken to the Harlot (17:3a)

- John is taken to see the whore in a vision.

b. The description of the Harlot (17:3b-6)

(1) Sitting on the beast (17:3b)

- The whore is supported by the Antichrist.

(2) Her apparel (17:4)

- The whore is adorned in the trappings of ritualistic religion and wealth.

(3) The name on her forehead (17:5)

- The character of the whore is revealed in her names.

(4) Drunk on blood (17:6)

- The whore is responsible for the exploitation and deaths of true believers.

B. The Significance of the Harlot (17:7-14)

1. The angel reveals the whore’s significance (17:7)

- The angel will explain the meaning of the whore and beast.

2. The beast (17:8)

- The beast will be empowered by Satan.

- He will have influence over the world.

3. The seven empires (17:9-10)

- The whore is supported by seven kingdoms or governments.

- Five empires have passed. (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persian, Greece)

- The current king is Ancient Rome.

- There is a future world empire.

4. The eighth king (17:11)

- The Antichrist is the eighth king.

5. The future ten kings (17:12-14)

- The future ten governments will support the Antichrist.

- These governments will make war on the followers of the Lamb.

C. The Punishment of the Harlot (17:15-18)

1. The waters (17:15)

- The whore will have authority over the peoples of the world.

2. The whore is betrayed (17:16-17)

- The kingdoms of the world will turn on the whore and destroy her.

3. The nature of the woman (17:18)

- The whore is a great city of influence.

14 – The Fall of Babylon & The Second Coming (Revelation 18:1-19:21)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus’ day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Fall of Babylon (Revelation 18:1-24)

A. The Announcement (18:1-3)

1. The angel from heaven (18:1)

- John sees a great angel with authority descend from heaven.

2. The angel’s pronouncement (18:2-3)

- The angel proclaims the fall of the great city, Babylon.

B. A Call to Leave the City (18:4-5)

1. The call to leave (18:4)

- A voice from heaven calls the people of God to leave the city.

2. The reason (18:5)

- The city is marked for destruction because of its sins.

C. Judgment on the City (18:6-8)

1. The principle of recompense (18:6)

- Babylon is to receive double the affliction that she gave others.

2. The scope of her judgment (18:7)

- The amount of her torment will be proportionate to her wealth.

3. The duration of her judgment (18:8)

- Her total destruction will occur in a single day.

D. Lament over the City (18:9-19)

1. The lament of kings (18:9-10)

- The kings who shared in the power of Babylon will grieve her destruction.

2. The lament of merchants (18:11-16)

- The merchants grieve the loss of commerce

3. The lament of the sailors (18:17-19)

- The sailors mourn the loss of income from the great city.

E. The Destruction of the City (18:20-24)

1. The call to rejoice (18:20)

- The righteous are called to rejoice over the city’s destruction.

2. The throwing of the great stone (18:21)

- The sudden destruction of the city is symbolized by the stone thrown into the sea.

3. The cessation of activity (18:22-23)

- No longer will the city be a place of activity and commerce.

4. The city’s sin (18:24)

- The city is guilty of the killing the people of God.

II. The Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 19:1-21)

A. The Song of Hallelujah in Heaven (19:1-10)

1. The hallelujah of the multitudes in heaven (19:1-3)

a. The basis for the praise (19:1a)

- The basis for the praise is the destruction of Babylon.

- This marks a shift in the focus of Revelation.

- Chapters 4 through 18 focused on the events of the Tribulation.

b. The praise (19:1b-3)

- The multitude praise God for His righteous judgment and retribution.

2. The hallelujah of the 24 elders (19:4-5)

- The 24 elders praise God as a general call to praise is given.

3. The prophetic Proclamation of the wedding of the Lamb (19:6-9)

- The announcement of the marriage of the Lamb and His Bride is given.

- A blessing is given to those who will be part of the marriage feast of the Lamb.

4. The command to worship God (19:10)

- The angelic being tells John to worship God only.

B. The Second Coming of Christ (19:11-21)

1. The Revelation of the Rider on the White Horse (19:11-13)

a. The heavens open (19:11a)

- John sees the heavens open and a Rider on a white horse.

b. The Rider on the White Horse (19:11b-13)

(1) His name (19:11b)

- The Rider is called Faithful and True.

(2) His authority (19:11c-12a)

- The Rider has authority as he judges and rules.

(3) His unknown name (19:12b)

- The Rider has a name that no one knows.

- The point that is being made is that Christ is indescribable.

(4) His apparel (19:13a)

- He is clothed in a robe permanently stained with blood.

Scripture Isaiah 63:1-6
 1 Who is this who comes from Edom,

 With dyed garments from Bozrah,

 This One who is glorious in His apparel,

 Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—

 “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

 2 Why is Your apparel red,

 And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

 3 “I have trodden the winepress alone,

 And from the peoples no one was with Me.

 For I have trodden them in My anger,

 And trampled them in My fury;

 Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,

 And I have stained all My robes.

 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart,

 And the year of My redeemed has come.

 5 I looked, but there was no one to help,

 And I wondered

 That there was no one to uphold;

 Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me;

 And My own fury, it sustained Me.

 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger,

 Made them drunk in My fury,

 And brought down their strength to the earth.”

- The blood points to His judgment on humanity.

(5) His name (19:13b)

- The name “the Word of God” points to His significance and supremacy.

2. The coming of the King and His armies of Heaven (19:14-16)

a. The armies of heaven (19:14)

- Johns sees a heavenly army following the Rider.

b. The Coming King (19:15-16)

- He will strike down and rule the nations.

- His victory will be complete.

- He is supreme over the entire world.

3. The destruction of the wicked (19:17-21)

a. The call to the birds (19:17-18)

- An angel calls the birds to come and feast on the dead bodies of the wicked.

b. The beast and his armies attack the Rider (19:19)

- The Beast and his armies make war against Christ and His army.

c. The capture and judgment of the two beasts (19:20)

- The Antichrist and the False Prophet are captured.

- They are immediately thrown into the Lake of Fire.

**Biblical Note:** The Lake of Fire

The Lake of Fire is only mentioned in the Book of Revelation. It is the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human (Matthew 25:41). It is described as a place of burning sulfur, and those in it experience eternal, unspeakable agony of an unrelenting nature (Luke 16:24; Mark 9:45-46). Those who have rejected Christ and are in the temporary abode of the dead in hades/hell/sheol have the lake of fire as their final destination.

See: Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14-15

d. The destruction of the beast’s armies (19:21)

- Christ destroys the armies of the Beast.

15 – The Millennium, The Judgment & Eternity
(Revelation 20:1-22:21)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)

2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)

3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don’t be dogmatic about your interpretations.

2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

I. The Millennial Reign and the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:1-15)

A. The Millennial Reign of Christ (20:1-10)

**Biblical Note:** The Millennium

The Millennium refers to the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is the title given to the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. Six times in Revelation 20:2-7, the millennial kingdom is specifically said to be 1000 years in length. When Christ returns to the earth, He will establish Himself as king in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (Luke 1:32–33). The unconditional covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant promised Israel a land, a posterity and ruler, and a spiritual blessing (Genesis 12:1–3). The Palestinian Covenant promised Israel a restoration to the land and occupation of the land (Deuteronomy 30:1–10). The Davidic Covenant promised Israel a king from David’s line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies (2 Samuel 7:10–13). It will be a time of peace (Micah 4:2–4; Isaiah 32:17–18), joy (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and comfort (Isaiah 40:1–2). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (Jeremiah 31:33), holiness (Isaiah 35:8), truth (Isaiah 65:16), and the knowledge of God (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14). Christ will rule as king (Isaiah 9:3–7; 11:1–10). Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3). The fulfillment of many of God’s covenants and promises rests on a literal, physical, future kingdom. There is no solid basis for denying the literal interpretation of the millennial kingdom and its duration being 1000 years.

1. The binding of Satan (20:1-3)

a. The great angel (20:1)

- John sees a great angel with a key to the abyss and a large chain.

b. Satan is bound (20:2a)

- The great angel takes Satan and binds him with the chain.

c. The duration and place of binding (20:2b-3a)

- Satan is bound for a thousand years and cast into the abyss.

d. The purpose of the binding (20:3b)

- Satan is bound so that he cannot deceive the nations.

2. The resurrection and reward of the martyrs (20:4-6)

a. The resurrection of the martyrs (20:4)

- John sees the resurrection of the righteous dead as they reign with Christ.

b. The time of the resurrection of the wicked (20:5)

- The wicked are not raised during this thousand year reign.

c. The blessing of the first resurrection (20:6)

- Those who take part in this resurrection will be truly blessed.

**Biblical Note:** The First Resurrection

Revelation 20:4-6 mentions a “first resurrection” and identifies those involved as “blessed and holy.” It is the raising of all believers. It corresponds with Jesus’ teaching of the “resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:14) and the “resurrection of life” (John 5:29). The first resurrection takes place in various stages. Jesus Christ Himself (the “first fruits,” 1 Corinthians 15:20), paved the way for the resurrection of all who believe in Him. There was a resurrection of the Jerusalem saints (Matthew 27:52-53) which should be included in our consideration of the first resurrection. Still to come are the resurrection of “the dead in Christ” at the Lord’s return (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and the resurrection of the martyrs at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 20:4). The event which begins the first resurrection is the millennial kingdom.

3. The final doom of Satan (20:7-10)

a. The release of Satan (20:7-8)

- Satan is released to deceive the nations against Christ.

b. The final battle (20:9)

- The nations gather against the Saints and are destroyed instantly.

**Biblical Note:** Gog and Magog

Magog was a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:2). The descendants of Magog settled to the far north of Israel, likely in Europe and northern Asia (Ezekiel 38:2). Magog seems to be used to refer to "northern barbarians" in general, but likely also has a connection to Magog the person. The people of Magog are described as skilled warriors (Ezekiel 38:15; 39:3-9). Gog and Magog are referred to in Ezekiel 38-39 and in Revelation 20:7-8. While these two instances carry the same names, they do not refer to the same people and events. In Ezekiel’s prophecy, Gog will be the leader of a great army that attacks the land of Israel. Gog is described as “of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Ezekiel 38:2-3). Ezekiel's battle of Gog and Magog occurs in the tribulation period, more specifically in the first 3 1/2 years. The strongest evidence for this view is that the attack will come when Israel is at peace (Ezekiel 38:8, 11). The description from Ezekiel is that of a nation that has security and has laid down its defenses. Possibly the battle will occur just before the midpoint of the seven-year period. According to Ezekiel, Gog will be defeated by God Himself on the mountains of Israel. The slaughter will be so great it will take seven months to bury all of the dead (Ezekiel 39:11-12). Gog and Magog are mentioned again in Revelation 20:7-8. The duplicated use of the names Gog and Magog in Revelation 20:8-9 is to show that these people demonstrate the same rebellion against God and antagonism toward God as those in Ezekiel 38-39. The book of Revelation uses Ezekiel's prophecy about Magog to portray a final end-times attack on the nation of Israel (Revelation 20:8-9). The result of this battle is that all are destroyed, and Satan will find his final place in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). Therefore in the Book of Revelation, Gog and Magog refer to all the ungodly nations of the earth who oppose the people of God.

c. The judgment of Satan (20:10)

- Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

B. The Judgment of the Great White Throne (20:11-15)

1. The resurrection and judgment of the wicked dead (20:11-13)

a. The Great White Throne (20:11)

- John sees a Great White Throne and the terrifying One who sat on it.

**Biblical Note:** The Great White Throne

The Great White Throne is the final judgment prior to the lost being cast into the lake of fire. This judgment will take place after the millennium and after Satan, the beast, and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10). The books that are opened (Revelation 20:12) contain records of everyone’s deeds, whether they are good or evil, because God knows everything that has ever been said, done, or even thought, and He will reward or punish each one accordingly (Psalm 28:4; 62:12; Romans 2:6; Revelation 2:23; 18:6; 22:12). Also at this time, another book is opened, called the “book of life” (Revelation 20:12). It is this book that determines whether a person will inherit eternal life with God or receive everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

b. The judgment of the dead (20:12-13)

- The books and the book of Life are opened.

- All of the wicked dead are judged according to their works.

2. The Lake of Fire (20:14-15)

a. The destruction of Death and Hades (20:14)

- All forces of evil cease to exist in the presence of God.

b. The destruction of the wicked (20:15)

- All who are not found in the book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire.

II. The New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21:1-22:5)

A The New Heaven and New Earth Created (21:1)

1. The new heaven and earth (21:1a)

- John sees a new heaven and a new earth.

2. The old heaven and earth (21:1b)

- The old heaven and old earth had passed away.

B. The New Jerusalem Described (21:2-8)

1. John’s vision of the city (21:2)

- John sees the emergence of the city as a bride for Christ.

2. The loud voice from heaven (21:3-4)

a. The presence of God (21:3)

- The voice announces that God Himself will dwell with the saints.

b. No more sorrow and pain (21:4)

- There will no longer be any pain or sorrow.

3. The One who sat on the Throne (21:5-8)

a. The proclamation (21:5)

- He proclaims that He will make all things new.

b. The promise (21:6-7)

- He proclaims the promise of Salvation to those who overcome.

c. The judgment (21:8)

- The wicked will experience eternal judgment.

C. The New Jerusalem as the Bride (21:9-11)

1. The angel shows John the Bride (21:9)

- An angel shows John the city as a Bride.

2. The bride described (21:10-11)

- The city is spectacular as it descends from God.

D. The New Jerusalem as the City (21:12-27)

1. The description of the city (21:12-21)

- John sees a great spectacular city.

2. No temple (21:22)

- The new city has no temple because God dwells in their midst.

3. The light of the city (21:23)

- There is no need for light because the presence of God illuminates the city.

Scripture Isaiah 60:19-20
 19 “The sun shall no longer be your light by day,

 Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you;

 But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light,

 And your God your glory.

 20 Your sun shall no longer go down,

 Nor shall your moon withdraw itself;

 For the LORD will be your everlasting light,

 And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

4. The glory of the nations (21:24-26)

- The glory and tribute of the nations is brought to the city.

5. The inhabitants (21:27)

- The saved will inhabit the city.

E. The River of the Water of Life (22:1-2a)

- John sees the river of life proceed from the throne of the Lamb.

F. The Tree of Life (22:2b)

- John sees the Tree of Life which brings healing.

G. The Throne of God (22:3-4)

- John sees the throne of God.

- The inhabitants will see the face of God.

H. The Saints’ Reign with God (22:5)

- The saints will rule with God forever and ever.

III. The Final Word (Revelation 22:6-21)

A. The Certainty of the Return of Christ (22:6-7)

1. The surety of the prophecy (22:6a)

- The angel proclaims that all that John has seen is true.

2. The purpose of the prophecy (22:6b)

- The prophecy was given to show that which will take place shortly.

3. The promise (22:7)

- Christ promises to return quickly.

- A blessing is bestowed on those who hold to the prophecy.

B. The Worship by John (22:8-9)

1. John worships the angel (22:8)

- John responds to the words by worshipping the angel.

2. The rebuke of the angel (22:9)

- The angel rebukes John and tells him to worship God only.

C. The Command to Proclaim the Prophecy of the Book (22:10-11)

1. The prophecy is not to be sealed (22:10)

- This prophecy is not to be hidden.

2. The response to the prophecy (22:11)

- Those who do not heed the prophecy will continue in their wickedness.

- Those who heed the prophecy will continue to do right.

D. The Coming Judgment and Reward (22:12)

- Christ is returning to give everyone their just reward.

E. The Eternal Christ (22:13)

- Christ proclaims Himself as Eternal God.

F. The Coming Blessing and Judgment (22:14-15)

1. The blessing (22:14)

- Those who persevere will inherit eternal life.

2. The judgment (22:15)

- The wicked will have no part in eternal life.

G. The Invitation of the Spirit and the Bride (22:16-17)

1. Jesus identifies Himself (22:16)

- Jesus identifies Himself as to one who sent His angels to proclaim the prophecy.

2. The call to salvation (22:17)

- The call is given to those who are searching to come.

H. The Final Warning (22:18-19)

- The one who reject the book by altering it will be judged severely.

I. The Prayer and Promise (22:20-21)

- Jesus promises to come quickly.