

Revelation Week 1 – An Overview

Introduction – 10 minutes Ron

Why Study Revelation? It's not an easy book to study. The storyline twists and turns and vacillates between **scenes in heaven** and **scenes on earth**.

Revelation 1:3 says, “***Blessed*** is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and ***keep those things*** which are written in it, for ***the time is near***.”

Revelation comes with a promise; the promise of blessing for those who read and keep. “**Keep what?**” **Well, we need to find out.**

Why study Revelation? Because “the time is near”. We are closer to the end than ever before. Revelation 1:7 “*Behold He is coming.*”

Scripture is the only **reliable** source we have to study for **future events**.

People are **fascinated** with the **future**. People have their palms read, read horoscopes, and watch Star Trek. Humanity is fascinated with the future.

Why study Revelation?

Revelation **warns** the church about the **danger of sin** and **compromise** with the **world**. Revelation 2:29 “*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*”

Dwight Pentecost wrote, “*We have missed the whole purpose of the study of prophecy if it does not conform us to the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily living.*”

Over the next several Sunday nights, Greg Smith and I will be working together to teach the book of Revelation.

We have a couple of goals in mind:

- Teach it at a 5th grade level
- Avoid turning the study into a **topical** study of eschatology – “oops 5th grade!” The purpose is to not just study the things that happen in the end times.

Why study Revelation?

Because many people avoid the book in their personal study and they get intimidated by its **symbolism** and **imagery**.

This opens the door for people to **misuse** the book of Revelation to support **bizarre** or **sensational** views of the end times.

We don't want to **lose** the **“truth”** God intended for us because some nut job uses the book to further their mysterious agenda.

Note: During our study, you can write down questions you have about Revelation and give them to us. If it's a hard question – address it to Greg Smith! If it's easy, address it to me. If you're a nut job with a mysterious agenda, address it to Eric Starrett!

Why study Revelation?

To give you the **framework** to hang your further studies on.

Greg's presentation – 10 minutes

Overview of Revelation

Ron – Basic Outline of Revelation

Chapter 1 – John's introduction to Revelation

We see in verse 10 that the Apostle John is imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos (the Alcatraz of his day).

Jesus commands John in verse 11 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, and what you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches...”*

The **vivid imagery** begins in chapter 1.

John **sees** seven golden candlesticks and Jesus with hair white as snow and eyes like flames. In his hand, the seven stars.

Verse 20 explains the imagery. The seven stars are the **angels** of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the churches.

Revelation was written to specific churches just as Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, etc. and were preserved for the church; the body of Christ.

Chapters 2 & 3 – The letters to the seven churches

John implores the churches to be **faithful**.

He speaks of their **strengths** and their weaknesses.

Revelation 2:3 *“You have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”*

Revelation 2:4 *“Nevertheless I have this **against** you, that you have left your **first love**.”*

Chapters 4 & 5 – John is taken before the throne of God.

Revelation 4:1 *“After these things I looked and hold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’”*

In chapter 4, John sees the 24 elders.

The **sea of glass**, like crystal.

The **four living creatures** full of eyes in front and in back.

Revelation 5:1 *“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back sealed with seven seals.”*

Chapters 6 & 7 – The opening of the first six seals

The **sealing of 144,000** servants of God

Chapters 8 & 9 – The opening of the seventh seal; the blowing of the trumpets

Seven angels are given the seven trumpets.

The first six trumpet judgments are poured out on mankind.

People will **wish** for **death** and **not** die.

One-third of mankind will be killed (a number that could be around 3 billion people)

Chapters 10 thru 14 – The two witnesses

The two witnesses will die before the eyes of mankind and rise after 3½ days.

Revelation 11:7-9

The signs of the woman and the dragon

Chapters 15 & 16 – The outpouring of the seven bowls

Seven angels with seven plagues

God's wrath poured out on mankind

Revelation 16:1b *“go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”*

No power on earth will be able to **frustrate** the **fulfillment** of **God's plan** on earth.

Chapters 17 thru 19 – The fall of Babylon

The great prostitute and the scarlet beast.

Revelation 17:1b *“come and I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”*

Revelation 17:2a *“with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication.”*

Babylon will fall in chapter 18. Many will mourn, and some will rejoice.

Chapter 19 covers the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Chapters 20 thru 22 – The 1,000 year reign of Christ

Satan's final defeat – Revelation 20:10 *“The devil, who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire...”*

The Great White Throne of Judgment

Revelation 21:1 *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”*

No more tears, no more pain, no more mourning.

Why study Revelation? Because it's awesome!

God pulled back the veil!

Jesus prayed a prayer that is familiar to us. “*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*”

That's Revelation! That's why!