

Behold the Lamb of God

*Studies in
the Book of the Revelation
of Jesus Christ*



HBC

Hillcrest Bible Church
Sunday School, Spring 2023

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Studies in
the Book of the Revelation
of Jesus Christ

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power, and riches,
and wisdom, and strength,
and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

Revelation 5:12

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Sunday School
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Introduction

God's great purpose is to "*gather together in one all things in Christ*" (Ephesians 1:10). God will fulfill every detail of this divine purpose through the ministry of Jesus Christ as Savior and King. When you come to the final book in the Bible, the Book of the Revelation, certain aspects of the plan of God are declared to be still in the future. Even in this book, the focus of the revelation is on Jesus Christ and His ministry in fulfillment of all the promises of God.

God's great plan in Jesus Christ commenced with the giving of promises in the Old Testament. For example, consider the prospect of the faithful prophets of old who revealed, proclaimed, and believed the Word of God. What did they expect from the plan of God? As the prophets faithfully studied the Word, they anticipated a coming seed of the woman who would bruise Satan's head, even as Satan bruised His heel. They believed that God would give the land of Canaan from the Egyptian River to the great Euphrates River to the Seed. They expected a kingdom, a continuation of David's throne, which would endure forever in the presence of God. This kingdom would be characterized by the righteousness of a holy God.

As the promises of old spoke of great things to come, the question then remained as to when these promises would be fulfilled. Toward the end of Old Testament history, the kingdom of Israel was facing decline and destruction. Again God spoke through His prophets. The great promises of the past would not be lost in impending judgment of the nation. For example, listen to the words of Jeremiah to the doomed nation: "*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*" (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

In addition, God declared to Jeremiah His purpose to make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and Judah, not like the Old Covenant which they broke, but a Covenant to be written upon their hearts so that they would know the Lord. As these words were heard and studied, it was seen that the promises of God were not finally fulfilled in the Old Testament, but remained for a yet future time. The teachings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the minor prophets spoke of great hope for the coming days. But the question remained as to when these promises would be fulfilled. Believing Israel awaited the coming of Messiah, anticipating the fulfillment of this hope in His day.

The Gospel writers revealed the ministry of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. He came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. He fulfilled His ministry, died on the cross, and rose again from the dead. After this, when He met with His

disciples just before His ascension, they again raised the issue that was the expectation of the Old Testament saints: "*Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" (Acts 1:6). The Lord replied, "*It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power*" (Acts 1:7). Having said that, the Lord spoke concerning the church and then ascended into heaven. On the following Day of Pentecost, He sent His Spirit to establish the church.

Perhaps it may be concluded that the promises of old are fulfilled in Christ and the church as He reigns in the hearts of His people. This would be possible were it not for the very specific nature of the Old Testament promises, the recorded teaching of Jesus Christ about the last days, and the prophetic teaching of the new Testament writers. One New Testament book which is of particular significance is the Book of the Revelation. Here we find the general answer to the disciples' question. John, writing sometime during the last decade of the first century, spoke of the Day of the Lord, the return of the Lord, a thousand-year reign of the Lord, and declared these great events to be still in the future. This places the Christian in the midst of the fulfillment of God's great promises. As the Christian points to the past, the suffering Savior is seen accomplishing our salvation. This is the spiritual foundation for the righteous kingdom of God. And yet, the Christian also looks forward to the final consummation of human history in the judgment of the nations and the reign of Jesus Christ in righteousness on the earth. It is the Book of the Revelation that places the plan of God in proper perspective for the Christian in the church.

When John began the Book of the Revelation, he immediately declared the general contents of this communication from God. It is "*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass*" (Revelation 1:1). Some believe that the outline of this revelation is indicated by the Lord when He declared to John, "*Write the things which thou hast seen* (chapter 1: the vision of Christ), *and the things which are* (chapters 2-3: the letters to the seven churches), *and the things which shall be hereafter* (chapters 4-22: the great tribulation, the coming of the Lord, the millennial reign of Christ, and the eternal state)" (Revelation 1:19).

The Book of the Revelation reaffirms for us that the promises of God will all be fulfilled in the literal return of Christ to reign upon the earth. The Christian joins with the Old Testament saints in expecting Christ to fulfill the prophetic word of the Old Testament prophets. The necessary work of redemption was accomplished in the first coming of Christ and now we await with eager expectation that Day when God will be faithful to His Word and bring all things together in Christ in His Kingdom of righteousness upon the earth.

Schedule

January 1	Lesson 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ Revelation 1
January 8	Lesson 2: Messages to the Seven Churches, part 1 Revelation 2
January 15	Lesson 3: Messages to the Seven Churches, part 2 Revelation 3
January 22	Lesson 4: The Throne in Heaven Revelation 4
January 29	Lesson 5: The Lamb Who Was Slain Revelation 5
February 5	Lesson 6: The First Six Seals Revelation 6
February 12	Lesson 7: God's Servants in the Great Tribulation Revelation 7
February 19	Lesson 8: The Seventh Seal Opened Revelation 8
February 26	Lesson 9: The Trumpets of the Fifth and Sixth Angels Revelation 9
March 5	Lesson 10: The Little Book Revelation 10
March 12	Lesson 11: The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet Revelation 11
March 19	Lesson 12: The Woman, the Child and the Dragon Revelation 12
March 26	Lesson 13: The Two Beasts Revelation 13
April 2	Lesson 14: The Lamb upon Mount Zion Revelation 14
April 9	Lesson 15: A Great and Marvelous Sign Revelation 15
April 16	Lesson 16: The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God Revelation 16
April 23	Lesson 17: The Woman on the Scarlet Beast Revelation 17
April 30	Lesson 18: The Fall of Babylon Revelation 18
May 7	Lesson 19: The Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth Revelation 19
May 14	Lesson 20: The Thousand Year Reign Revelation 20
May 21	Lesson 21: All Things New Revelation 21
May 28	Lesson 22: Behold, I Come Quickly Revelation 22

Memory Assignments

Revelation I:4-8

- ⁴ John to the seven churches which are in Asia:
Grace be unto you, and peace,
from him which is, and which was,
and which is to come;
and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;
- ⁵ And from Jesus Christ,
who is the faithful witness,
and the first begotten of the dead,
and the prince of the kings of the earth.
Unto him that loved us,
and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- ⁶ And hath made us kings and priests
unto God and his Father;
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
Amen.
- ⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds;
and every eye shall see him,
and they also which pierced him:
and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.
Even so, Amen.
- ⁸ I am Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord,
which is, and which was,
and which is to come,
the Almighty.

Revelation 3:20

- ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with him,
and he with me.

Revelation 4:11

- ¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord,
to receive glory and honour and power:
for thou hast created all things,
and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Memory Assignments (continued)

Revelation 5:9-10

- ⁹ And they sung a new song, saying,
Thou art worthy to take the book,
and to open the seals thereof:
for thou wast slain,
and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood
out of every kindred, and tongue,
and people, and nation;
- ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests:
and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 15:3-4

- ³ And they sing the song of Moses
the servant of God,
and the song of the Lamb, saying,
Great and marvellous are thy works,
Lord God Almighty;
just and true are thy ways,
thou King of saints.
- ⁴ Who shall not fear thee, O Lord,
and glorify thy name?
for thou only art holy:
for all nations shall come and worship before thee;
for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 19:6

- ⁶ And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,
and as the voice of many waters,
and as the voice of mighty thunderings,
saying, Alleluiah:
for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The Sands of Time are Sinking

Anne R. Cousin, 1857,
based upon Samuel Rutherford, 1600-1661

Arr. from Chrétien Urhan, 1834,
by Edward F. Rimbault, 1867

1. The sands of time are sink - ing, The dawn of heav - en breaks,
2. The King there in His beau - ty With - out a veil is seen;
3. O Christ, He is the foun - tain, The deep sweet well of love!
4. The bride eyes not her gar - ment, But her dear bride - groom's face;

The sum - mer morn I've sighed for, The fair sweet morn a - wakes;
It were a well - spent jour - ney Though sev'n deaths lay be - tween:
The streams on earth I've tast - ed More deep I'll drink a - bove:
I will not gaze at glo - ry, But on my King of grace;

Dark, dark hath been the mid - night, But day - spring is at hand,
The Lamb with His fair ar - my Doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
There to an o - cean ful - ness His mer - cy doth ex - pand,
Not at the crown He gift - eth, But on His pier - ced hand:

And glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth In Em - man - uel's land.
And glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth In Em - man - uel's land.
And glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth In Em - man - uel's land.
The Lamb is all the glo - ry Of Em - man - uel's land. A - men.

Lesson I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation I

MEMORY: Revelation I:4

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see how John received this revelation and the manner in which Jesus Christ revealed Himself to John.

1. How and for what reason did this revelation come to us?
2. What special blessing is pronounced?
3. How did John describe the source of his greeting of grace and peace to the seven churches?
4. What did John say about the coming of the Lord?
5. What did John say about his circumstances when this revelation came to him?
6. What did "the voice like a trumpet" say to John?
7. What did John see when he turned toward the voice?
8. How did John respond to what he saw?
9. What did this One among the seven golden lampstands tell John about Himself and about what John had seen?

Lesson 2: Messages to the Seven Churches, part I Revelation 2

MEMORY: Revelation I:4-5

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the messages from Jesus Christ to the first four of the seven churches.

1. In these first four letters, what do we learn about their Author?
2. For each of these first four churches, record what was commended, what was criticized, what they were told to do, and what they were promised.

Ephesus

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Smyrna

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Pergamos

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Thyatira

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Lesson 3: Messages to the Seven Churches, part 2 Revelation 3

MEMORY: Revelation I:4-6

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the messages from Jesus Christ to the last three of the seven churches.

1. In these final three letters, what do we learn about their Author?

2. For each of these last three churches, record what was commended, what was criticized, what they were told to do, and what they were promised.

Sardis

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Philadelphia

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

Laodicea

Commendation:

Rebuke:

Commandment:

Promise:

3. Who is invited to hear these seven messages?

Lesson 4: The Throne in Heaven Revelation 4

MEMORY: Revelation 1:4-7

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the vision of the One sitting on the throne in heaven and the response of the living creatures and elders to Him.

1. What did John see as this chapter begins?
2. What did John hear?
3. Where did this vision take place?
4. How is the throne described?
5. How is the One upon the throne described?
6. What did John say about the elders?
7. How did John describe the four living creatures?
8. What did the four living creatures do?
9. How do we know from this chapter that the One sitting upon the throne is God Himself?

Lesson 5: The Lamb Who Was Slain Revelation 5

MEMORY: Revelation 1:4-8

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the Lamb that was slain and the response in heaven to Him.

1. What was in the right hand of God?
2. What was the problem that caused John to weep much?
3. Why did the elder tell John that he should not weep?
4. How is the Lamb described in this chapter?
5. What did the Lamb do?
6. Why is the Lamb worthy to take the scroll and open it?
7. Who joined in praising the Lamb?
8. How do we know that the Lamb is truly God?
9. How do we know that the Lamb is Jesus Christ?

Lesson 6: The First Six Seals Revelation 6

MEMORY: Revelation 3:20 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: *to see what happened when the Lamb opened the first six seals.*

1. What happened when each of the first four seals were opened?

First seal:

Second seal:

Third seal:

Fourth seal:

2. What did John see when the fifth seal was opened?

3. What did the souls under the altar ask of the Lord, and how were they answered?

4. What happened in the earth and in the heavens after the sixth seal was opened?

5. Who will hide in caves and under rocks?

6. What reason did men give for hiding?

Lesson 7: God's Servants in the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7

MEMORY: Revelation 4:11 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see how God preserves His servants by sealing them on earth and what happens to the saints who come out of the great tribulation.

1. What are we told about the four angels?
2. What did the "other angel" tell the four angels?
3. Who received this seal?
4. How is the great multitude before the throne described?
5. What are the people before the Lamb saying?
6. How did all the angels, the elders, and the four living creatures worship God?
7. What did one of the elders ask?
8. What is the answer to the elder's question?
9. What will happen to the great multitude in white robes?

Lesson 8: The Seventh Seal Opened Revelation 8

MEMORY: Revelation 5:9 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: *to see the consequences of the blowing of the first four of seven trumpets which come when the seventh seal is opened.*

1. What happened first when the seventh seal was opened?
2. What did John tell us about the seven angels?
3. Why was the angel with the golden censer given much incense?
4. What did the angel do with the golden censer?
5. What happened when the first four angels blew their trumpets?

First angel:

Second angel:

Third angel:

Fourth angel:

6. What did John hear from the angel flying through heaven?

Lesson 9: The Trumpets of the Fifth and Sixth Angels Revelation 9

MEMORY: Revelation 5:9-10 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: *to see the devastation that occurs on the earth as a result of the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets.*

1. What happened when the fifth angel sounded his trumpet?
2. What power were the locusts given, and what limitations were imposed on them?
3. What will men do in the days of the locusts?
4. How are the locusts described?
5. Who is the king of the locusts?
6. What did John hear when the sixth angel sounded his trumpet?
7. What are we told about the four angels?
8. How are the horses in the army of 200,000,000 described, and what did they do?
9. How did the rest of mankind, who were not killed in the plagues, respond?

Lesson 10: The Little Book Revelation 10

MEMORY: Revelation 15:3 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see what John learned from his experience with the mighty angel with the little book as he awaited the sounding of the seventh angel's trumpet.

1. How did John describe the appearance of the angel whom he saw at the start of chapter 10?
2. What did the angel do?
3. What was John forbidden to write?
4. By whom did the angel swear, and what was his oath?
5. What will occur when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet?
6. What did the voice from heaven tell John to do?
7. What did the angel tell John about the book?
8. What did John do with the little book, and what happened when he did so?
9. What final instructions were given to John?

Lesson II: The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet Revelation II

MEMORY: Revelation 15:3-4 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the ministry of the two witnesses and the result of their ministry upon the earth, and to attend to the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

1. What was John given, and what did the angel tell him?
2. What will be the duty of the two witnesses, and what images are used to describe them?
3. What powers will be given to these two witnesses?
4. When will these two witnesses be killed, and how will it happen?
5. What will happen to the bodies of the two witnesses, and where will it happen?
6. What will be the effect of the death of the two witnesses upon the earth?
7. What will happen 3½ days after the death of the two witnesses?
8. What announcement will be made after the third woe or the sounding of the seventh trumpet?
9. How do the 24 elders express their worship of God?

Lesson 12: The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

Revelation 12

MEMORY: Revelation 19:6 and review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: *to learn of the activities of the dragon against the woman and her Child, and how he is frustrated in his devices.*

1. What great sign (wonder) appeared in heaven?
2. What other sign (wonder) appeared in heaven?
3. What happened after the birth of the Child?
4. What was the war in heaven, and what was its outcome?
5. Why did the "loud voice" in heaven call for rejoicing and give warning (woe)?
6. What did the serpent do when he found himself upon the earth?
7. What provision was made to help the woman escape the serpent?
8. Where did the flood come from, and how did the woman escape from it?
9. What happened after the woman escaped from the dragon?

Lesson 13: The Two Beasts

Revelation 13

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to learn of the activities of the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth.

1. Describe the beast that John saw coming out of the sea.
2. How did "all the world" react to this beast?
3. What are we told about the speech of this beast from the sea?
4. What authority or power is granted to the beast from the sea?
5. Who will worship this beast?
6. Describe the beast who will appear out of the earth.
7. How will this beast from the earth serve the beast from the sea?
8. What will happen when the people of the earth make an image of the beast out of the sea?
9. What is "the mark of the beast"?

Lesson 14: The Lamb upon Mount Zion Revelation 14

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the people of God rejoice as they are assured that in the hour of His judgment the Lamb of God will triumph and the wicked will be finally judged.

1. Whom did John now see standing with the Lamb upon Mount Zion?
2. What did John hear?
3. How are the 144,000 described?
4. What messages will the three angels bring?
First angel:

Second angel:

Third angel:
5. What did the voice from heaven tell John?
6. Who was sitting upon the cloud, and what did He do?
7. What will the angel with the sharp sickle do?

Lesson I5: A Great and Marvelous Sign Revelation I5

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the scene in heaven when the seven angels who will complete the wrath of God are presented.

1. What was the "great and marvelous" sign that John saw in heaven?
2. What did John see next?
3. What did John hear?
4. Consider this song as a pattern for our worship of God, and write down what is said about God.
5. Where did the seven angels come from, and what was their appearance?
6. What will be given to the seven angels, and who will give it?
7. What will happen in heaven after the seven angels are given the seven bowls?
8. In anticipation of the pouring of the seven bowls of the wrath of God, review the seven seals and the seven trumpets.

Lesson I6: The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God

Revelation I6

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the seven bowls of the wrath of God which will be poured out upon the earth.

1. Describe the effects of the outpouring of the seven bowls.

First bowl:

Second bowl:

Third bowl:

Fourth bowl:

Fifth bowl:

Sixth bowl:

Seventh bowl:

2. After the pouring of the third bowl, what testimonies will be given of God?

3. After the fourth, fifth, and seventh bowls, how will men respond?

Lesson 17: The Woman on the Scarlet Beast Revelation 17

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the nature of the abominations of the woman on the scarlet beast and her judgment by God.

1. What did one of the angels with the bowls tell John he was going to do?
2. How is the woman described which John saw in the wilderness?
3. How did the woman become drunk?
4. What did the angel tell John about the beast?
5. What do the seven heads of the beast signify?
6. What do the ten horns signify?
7. What are we told about the Lamb and those with Him?
8. What will happen to the woman?
9. What part will God have in these events?

Lesson 18: The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the fall of the great city Babylon by the avenging hand of God and its impact upon the nations.

1. What message will the angel with great authority (power) bring?
2. What will the voice from heaven say to the people of God?
3. What will the voice from heaven say about the sins of Babylon and her judgment?
4. How will the kings of the earth react to the torment of Babylon?
5. How will the merchants of the earth react to the torment of Babylon?
6. Why will the merchants weep for Babylon?
7. How will the shipmasters and sailors react to the burning of Babylon?
8. What will be the reaction in heaven to the burning of Babylon?
9. How did the mighty angel describe the fall of Babylon?

Lesson 19: The Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth Revelation 19

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see the rejoicing in heaven over the triumph of the Lord God over the great harlot and the subsequent return of Jesus Christ to the earth to reign.

1. Why did the great company of people in heaven praise God?
2. What response will the smoke of the great harlot evoke in heaven?
3. What are we told about the marriage of the Lamb?
4. What happened when John tried to worship the one who spoke to him?
5. What is the appearance of the One John saw when heaven was opened before him?
6. What are we told about the name of the One riding upon the white horse?
7. What will the One riding upon the white horse do?
8. What is the supper of the great God?
9. What is the war that will occur, and what will be its outcome?

Lesson 20: The Thousand Year Reign Revelation 20

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to see that Christ will reign upon the earth while Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and that after he is released to deceive the nations, there will be a final judgment of the wicked by God.

1. Who is the dragon, and what will happen to him?
2. Who will live and reign with Christ?
3. What is the first resurrection?
4. What will happen after 1,000 years of the Kingdom?
5. Who will come against the saints and the beloved city, and what will happen to them?
6. What will happen to the devil?
7. Who will be upon the great white throne?
8. Who will be judged before the great white throne, and how will judgment be rendered?
9. What is the second death, and who will experience it?

Lesson 2I: All Things New
Revelation 2I

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to begin to see the glory of the future state when God will make all things new and will dwell Himself among His people in the new creation.

1. In the new heaven and the new earth, what will be missing?

2. What did the great voice from heaven announce?

3. What promise of blessing did the One upon the throne announce to John?

4. What is the second death, and who will experience it?

5. Who showed John the bride of the Lamb?

6. Describe the great and holy city Jerusalem.
The glory:

The gates:

The wall:

The foundation:

The shape:

The street:

The temple:

The light:

7. Who will be permitted in the new Jerusalem, and who will not be permitted?

Lesson 22: Behold, I Come Quickly Revelation 22

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

PURPOSE: to take a final look into the new Jerusalem where the Lamb will rule forever, and to hear a final word of exhortation based upon the promise of the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

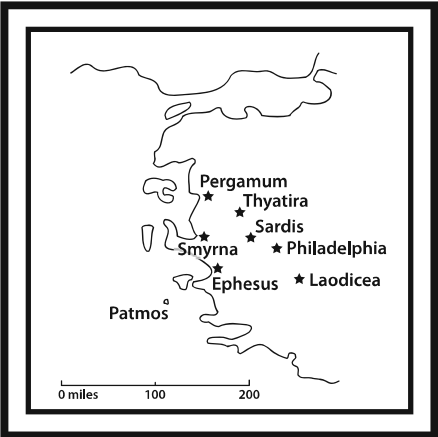
1. What did John say about the tree of life?
2. What did John say about the servants of the Lamb?
3. What did John learn about the new Jerusalem?
4. What did the angel tell John after he had seen these things?
5. How did John respond to what he had seen and heard?
6. What did the angel tell John that he should do?
7. What did Jesus tell us about Himself in this final chapter?
8. What invitation is made in this last chapter?
9. What curse is made in this last chapter?

Revelation The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"The things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things." (1:19)		1000 years	New Heaven New Earth
JC Church	The Vision of Jesus Christ	The Millennium	
	Seven Letters to Seven Churches	The Eternal State	
	The Great Tribulation		
	Seven Seals		
	Seven Trumpets		
	Seven Bowls		
1	The Throne		21
2	The Scroll		22
3			
4			
5			
6			
7	The Multitude The 144 Thousand		7
8			8
9			9
10	The Little Book		10
11	The Two Witnesses		11
12	The Six Angels The Lamb The False Prophet The Beast The Dragon The Woman		12
13			13
14			14
15	The Seven Angels		15
16			16
17			17
18	The Great Harlot		18
19	Babylon		19
20	The Second Coming		20

The Seven Epistles: Revelation 2 – 3

Historic:



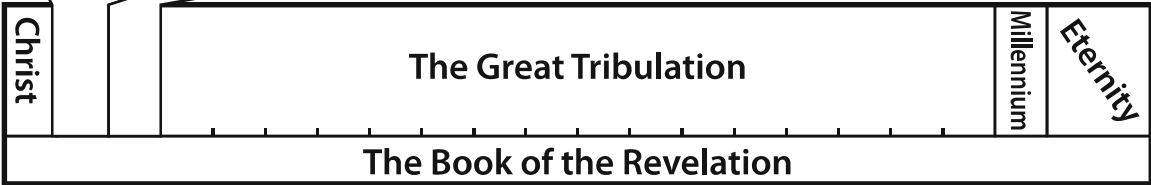
Representative:

- Ephesus:** A cooling church
- Smyrna:** A suffering church
- Pergamum:** A compromising church
- Thyatira:** A corrupted church
- Sardis:** A dying church
- Philadelphia:** A weak church
- Laodicea:** A lukewarm church

Prophetic:

Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
"Desirable"	"Bitter"	"Elevation– Marriage"	"Perpetual Sacrifice"	"Remnant"	"Brotherly Love"	"Judgment of People"
100	325	500	1517	1648	1918	
Apostolic Age	Religio Illicita	Religio Licita	Dark Ages	Reformation	Revivalism– Missions	Modern Age

The Church Age *



* Dates and periods are an interpretation of the prophetic view.

Notes on “The Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

L. Dwight Custis

October, 1984

1. The writer: the Apostle John (Rev. 1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8).
2. The place of writing: the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea where John had been exiled because his ministry of the Word of God (Rev. 1:9).
3. The time of writing: probably the last of all of the New Testament books, about 95 or 96 A.D., during the persecution by the Roman Emperor, Domitian.
4. The original destination of the book:
 - a. The seven churches of the Roman province of Asia, located in what is now the country of Turkey (Cf. Rev. 1:4, 11; 2; 3; 22:16). Note their location on the Bible lands map on page 31.
 - b. Thus, the book is primarily for believers.
5. The purposes of the book:
 - a. The primary purposes are stated in Rev. 1:1-3. They are twofold:
 - 1) “The revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - 2) Concerning “things which must shortly come to pass.” Thus it is a book in which future events are revealed.
 - b. Reassurance and encouragement.
 - 1) John wrote during a time of persecution. Persecution often produces both discouragement and even spiritual declension. People were undoubtedly asking, “What will the outcome be?”
 - 2) Note the reassurance in 1:3, 8, 11, 17, 18.
 - 3) The Lord’s commendation in the letters to the churches was reassuring.
 - 4) As one reads the book and notes the details of the coming events culminating in the return of Christ to the earth (Rev. 19), the reader realizes that in spite of all the opposition of men, nations, and even Satan himself, God’s purposes will be carried out completely, resulting in the establishing of a new heaven and a new earth. This gives great encouragement.
 - c. Warning. As noted above, persecution sometimes leads to declension. The prevalence of evil often causes believers to get careless about their lives. To prevent such declension from developing, the book contains warnings. See Rev. 2:4, 5, 14-16, 20-23 as examples of warnings.
 - d. Evangelism. Although the book is written primarily for believers, Rev. 22:17 makes it clear that some may be expected to receive Christ as Savior as a result of reading and hearing the truths of this book.

The Outline of “The Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

L. Dwight Custis

October, 1984

Revelation 1:19 gives the major divisions of the book. In a general way, these are:

1. “The things which thou (meaning, the Apostle John) hast seen” (Rev. 1).
2. “The things which are” – the letters to the seven churches (Rev. 2, 3).
3. “The things which shall be hereafter” (Rev. 4-22).

The following is a more detailed outline:

I. INTRODUCTION (Revelation 1:1-8).

- A. The title and description (1:1-2).
- B. The benediction (1:3).
- C. The salutation (1:4-8).

II. THE THINGS WHICH JOHN HAD SEEN: the vision of Christ as the Son of man and as a Judge (Revelation 1:9-20).

III. “THE THINGS WHICH ARE”: the letters to the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2:1-3:22).

- A. The church at Ephesus (2:1-7): the church that had lost her first love.
- B. The church at Smyrna (2:8-11): the suffering church, materially poor, but spiritually rich.
- C. The church at Pergamos (2:12-17): where Satan’s seat was, contaminated by the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.
- D. The church at Thyatira (2:18-29): the church where the false prophetess Jezebel was permitted to continue her evil work.
- E. The church at Sardis (3:1-6): the church which had a good name, but spiritually was dead.
- F. The church at Philadelphia (3:7-13): the church of the open door.
- G. The church at Laodicea (3:14-22): the lukewarm church, materially rich, but spiritually poor.

IV. “THE THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER” (Revelation 4:1-22:5). This includes those things that will take place from the beginning of the Great Tribulation until the Eternal State is established with the new heaven and new earth.

- A. The Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4:1-5:14).
 1. God upon His throne, worshiped by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures (4:1-11).
 2. God with the scroll with seven seals (5:1-14). The Lamb is the only One Who is worthy to open the seals. He takes the scroll from God, and then is worshiped as God was worshiped in chapter 4.
- B. The Great Tribulation (Rev. 6:1-19:10).
 1. *THE JUDGMENT OF THE SEVEN SEALS* (Rev. 6:1-8:6).
 - a. The first seal (6:1-2).
 - b. The second seal (6:3-4).
 - c. The third seal (6:5-6).
 - d. The fourth seal (6:7-8).
 - e. The fifth seal (6:9-11).
 - f. The sixth seal (6:12-17).

Paraphrase:

- (1) Rev. 7:1-8. The redeemed of Israel who are spared from death during the Great Tribulation – the 144,000.
- (2) Rev. 7:9-17. A heavenly vision of the saints who are martyred during the Great Tribulation. Both Jews and Gentiles are included in this number.
- g. The seventh seal (8:1-6). This leads to the second series of judgments.

2. *THE SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS* (Rev. 8:7-11:19).

- a. The first trumpet (8:7).
- b. The second trumpet (8:8-9).
- c. The third trumpet (8:10-11).
- d. The fourth trumpet (8:12-13).
- e. The fifth trumpet – the first woe (9:1-12).
- f. The sixth trumpet – the second woe (9:13-21).

Parenthesis:

- (1) The mighty angel with the little book (10:1-11).
- (2) The two witnesses (11:1-14).

g. The seventh trumpet – the third woe (11:15-19).

3. The woman, the child, and the great dragon, that old serpent called the Devil and Satan (12:1-17).
 4. The two beasts (13:1-18).
 5. The song of the 144,000 (14:1-5).
 6. The vision of the six angels and the Son of man (14:6-20). Three angels appear, then the Son of man, and then the last three angels. With the exception of the fifth angel, all of the rest have a message to proclaim.
 7. *THE SEVEN VIAL (OR BOWL) JUDGMENTS* (Rev. 15:1-16:21).
 - a. The preparation for the seven bowl judgments (15:1-16:1).
 - b. The first bowl (16:2).
 - c. The second bowl (16:3).
 - d. The third bowl (16:4-7).
 - e. The fourth bowl (16:8-9).
 - f. The fifth bowl (16:10-11).
 - g. The sixth bowl (16:12-16).
 - h. The seventh bowl (16:17-21). (Here the judgment of Babylon is announced.)
 8. The judgment of Babylon (17:1-19:10).
 - a. Babylon's destruction described (17:1-18).
 - b. Babylon's destruction explained (18:1-8).
 - c. Babylon's destruction mourned (18:9-19).
 - d. Babylon's destruction celebrated (18:20-19:10).
- C. The events which follow the Great Tribulation (Rev. 19:11-22:5).
1. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth (19:11-21).
 2. The Millennium (20:1-6). In verses 2 through 7, the thousand year period is mentioned no less than six times.
 3. The Release and Judgment of Satan (20:7-10).
 4. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15).
 5. The New Heaven and the New Earth with the New Jerusalem (21:1-22:5).

V. **CONCLUSION (Revelation 22:6-21).**

- A. The divine affirmation of the book (22:6-13).
- B. The final invitation (22:14-17).
- C. A solemn warning (22:18-19).
- D. The Apostle John's closing supplication and prayer (22:20-21).