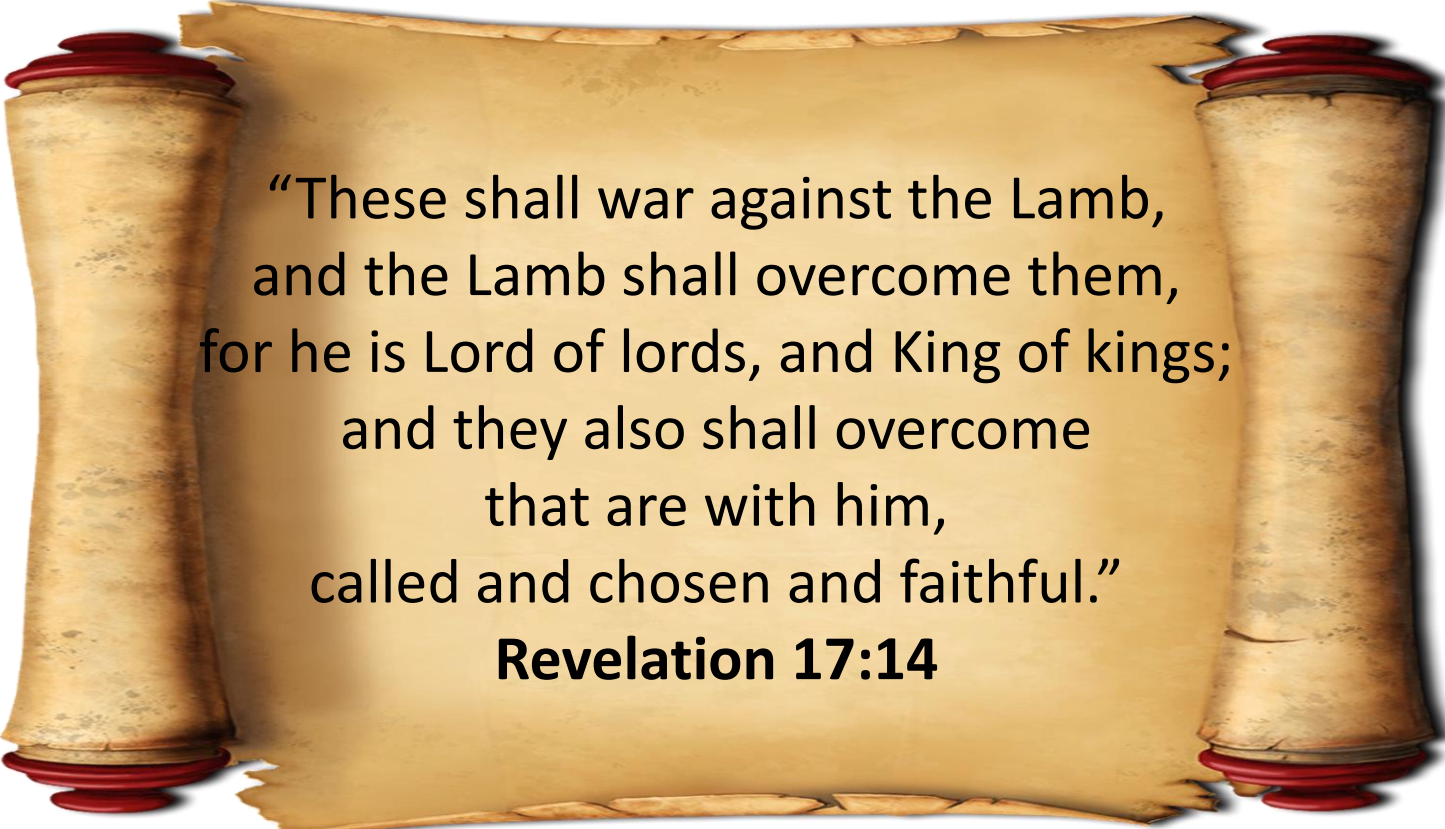


Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



“These shall war against the Lamb,
and the Lamb shall overcome them,
for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings;
and they also shall overcome
that are with him,
called and chosen and faithful.”

Revelation 17:14

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Introduction

Introduction

- **Style:** “*The revelation of Jesus Christ*” (1:1). This book, like Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah, is apocalyptic in nature (Gr. *apokalupsis* = uncover, unveil, reveal). It was delivered or “signified” (ASV; see 12:1, 3; 15:1) in signs, symbols, figures, and visions which John “saw” (1:1, 2, 11, 19; etc.). Apocalyptic literature encourages and comforts the afflicted.

Introduction

- **Recipients:** *“His servants”* (1:1, 4, 11; 22:6, 16, 21). New Testament Christians were experiencing severe persecution at the end of the first century (some were even killed, martyred) and they needed a message of comfort, consolation, and courage (1:9; 2:9-10, 13; 3:10; 6:9-11; 7:14; 11:7-10; 12:13-17; 13:7, 15; 15:2; 16:6; 17:6, 14; 18:24; 20:4).

Introduction

- Author: “*His servant John*” (1:1,4,9; 22:8-9). John, the apostle, was the author. His message is from God (1:2), it was a prophecy (1:3; 22:7,10,18), and it was revealed in the Spirit (1:10; 2:7; 4:2).

Introduction

- Time: *“Things which must shortly come to pass”* (1:1; 22:6,7,10,12,20). John also wrote, *“the time is at hand”* (1:3; 22:10). See also “a little time” in 6:11. From John’s perspective, the book deals with (1:19): the present events of persecuted Christians, c. A.D. 95-96 (Rev. 1-3), the future events of God’s judgment upon Rome (Rev. 4-20), and the end-time events of all mankind (Rev. 21-22).

Introduction

- Purpose: *“Blessed is he that reads ... they that hear ...and keep the things”* (1:3; 22:7,14). This revelation was meant to be a practical admonition to comfort persecuted Christians and encourage them to remain faithful in their obedience to Christ. It was not meant to be a book of hidden meanings or a book of strange and curious events in the far-distant future.

Introduction

- **Theme**: Overcoming with the Lamb (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 5:5; 5:10 [reign]; 12:11; 15:2 [victorious]; **17:14**; 20:4-6 [reign]; 21:7; 22:5 [reign]).

Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 6:10; 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven for the righteous described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p> <p>Hell for the wicked described (Rev. 21:8; see 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)</p>

Revelation Outlined

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

SEVEN Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

SEVEN Seals (Rev. 6-8)

SEVEN Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

SEVEN Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars (messengers) deliver (1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1)
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven candlesticks / churches exemplify (1:4, 11-12, 20; 2:1)
- The seven Spirits illuminate (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
- The seven lamps radiate (4:5)
- The seven seals reveal (5:1, 5; 6:1; 8:1)
- The seven horns / eyes show power (5:6)
- The seven angels act (8:2, 6; 10:7; 11:15; 15:1, 6-8; 16:1, 17; 17:1; 21:9)
- The seven trumpets warn (8:2, 6)
- The seven thunders announce (10:3-4)
- The seven heads / diadems / mountains / kings rule (12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9-11)
- The seven plagues curse (15:1, 6, 8; 21:9)
- The seven bowls complete (15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9)

Symbolic Numbers in Revelation

1 – unity

2 – strength, confirmation

3 – complete and ordered whole

$3^{1/2}$ – incomplete period (half of 7, 42 months, 1260 days)

4 – comprehensive, all-encompassing world

6 – the number of man, human imperfection (see also “666”)

7 – divine completion, fulfillment, and perfection

10 – human completeness, full (see also “1000”)

12 – Israel or the church (see also “144,000”)

The Seven Beatitudes of the Book of Revelation

1:3 Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words...

14:14 Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...

16:15 Blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments...

19:9 Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage...

20:6 Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection...

22:7 Blessed is he that keeps the words of the prophecy...

22:14 Blessed are they that wash their robes...

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 1

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's **Life** in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

Christ in the Book of Revelation

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)

Chapter 1 Overview

The New Testament church at the end of the first century was severely persecuted by Rome. These persecuted Christians needed reassurance and confidence. God (1:8) and Jesus (1:5-6) reassured these persecuted Christians by reminding them that they are in control. Revelation 1 introduces a triumphant, majestic, glorified, and radiant Christ (1:12-18) to a persecuted church. Jesus provided assurance (1:17-18) to his suffering saints.

Chapter 1 Overview

Christ the Triumphant Ruler (Revelation 1)

1. Christ communicates with his church (1:1-3)
2. Christ cares for his church (1:4-8)
3. Christ comforts his church (1:9-20)

Signs & Symbols

- 1:4** who is and who was and who is to come – God’s eternal nature (see 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5; Ex. 3:14)
- 1:4** the seven spirits – the H.S. (see 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
- 1:4** throne – power, authority, rule (see 4:2ff; 5:1ff; etc.)
- 1:6** kingdom and priests – under a king, Jesus (see 1:9; 5:10; 12:10) and religious service (see 5:10; 20:6)
- 1:7** he comes with the clouds – coming in judgment (see 14:14-16; Dan. 7:13)

Signs & Symbols

- 1:8** the Alpha and Omega – the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; God is the beginning and end; the source of all things (see 21:6; 22:13)
- 1:10** in the Spirit – inspired by the H.S. (see 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)
- 1:10** the Lord's day – Sunday, the day that Jesus rose from the dead (see Lk. 24:1; Acts 20:7)
- 1:10** as of a trumpet – loud and clear call (see 4:1; 8:2ff)

Signs & Symbols

- 1:12** seven golden candlesticks (lampstands) – spiritual light; the seven churches (see 1:13, 20; 2:1; 11:14)
- 1:13** like ... son of man – Jesus (see 12:5; 14:14; Dan. 7:13)
- 1:13** clothed ... golden girdle – honorable (see 15:6)
- 1:14** white as wool, as snow – wise and pure
- 1:14** eyes were as a flame of fire – penetrating, discerning (see 2:18; 19:12)
- 1:15** like ... burnished brass – strong, tempered (see 2:18)

Signs & Symbols

1:15 as the voice of many waters – attention-getting
(see 14:2; 19:6)

1:16 right hand – place of honor, favor, authority (see
1:17, 20; 2:1; 5:1; 10:5; 13:16)

1:16 seven stars – angels (messengers) of the seven
churches (see 1:20; 2:1; 3:1)

1:16 two-edged sword – execute judgment (see 2:12)

1:16 as the sun – brilliant majesty and strength (see 10:1)

Signs & Symbols

1:17 as one dead – without life or strength

1:17 right hand – see 1:16

1:17 first and the last – see 1:8; 2:8; 22:13

1:18 the keys of death and Hades – triumphant power and authority, ruling over death (see 3:7; 9:1; 20:1)

1:20 stars ... candlesticks – see 1:12, 16

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
Who God is (Rev. 1, 4) Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5) Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)	<u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2) <u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 6:10; 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4) <u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; etc.)	Heaven for the righteous described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1) Hell for the wicked described (Rev. 21:8; see 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)

Chapter 2-3 Overview

Because of systematic and widespread persecution from Rome, some Christians were forgetting their life in Christ and becoming like the world around them. These Christians were threatened with cold-heartedness, compromise, corruption, and complacency. They needed a reminder that Christ is the spiritual life of the local church; he is in their midst; he knows all (1:13,20; 2:1,23).

Chapter 2-3 Overview

Before Jesus judges the sinful world (Revelation 6-20; see 19:15), he will first judge his own sinful people (Revelation 2-3; see 1:16; 2:5, 12, 16, 22-23; 3:3). In each of the seven letters, Jesus reminded the local churches of three things: 1) the position HE holds (salutation, identification), 2) the place THEY have (commendation, condemnation, counsel), and 3) the prize BOTH share (call to hear, promise, reward).

The Main Point of Revelation 2-3



“in the midst of the candlesticks one like unto the son of man...” (Rev. 1:13)
“he that walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks...” (Rev. 2:1)

Revelation Outlined

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

SEVEN Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

SEVEN Seals (Rev. 6-8)

SEVEN Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

SEVEN Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's **Life** in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

Christ in the Book of Revelation

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)

Chapter 2-3 Overview

Christ the All-Knowing Judge (Revelation 2 and 3)

1. “I know” ... Ephesus: the lost love church (2:1-7)
2. “I know” ... Smyrna: the poor rich church (2:8-11)
3. “I know” ... Pergamum: the courageous compromising church (2:12-17)
4. “I know” ... Thyatira: the grossly tolerant church (1:18-29)
5. “I know” ... Sardis: the living dead church (3:1-6)
6. “I know” ... Philadelphia: the open door church (3:7-13)
7. “I know” ... Laodicea: the rich poor church (3:14-22)

The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars (messengers) deliver (1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1)
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven candlesticks / churches exemplify (1:4, 11-12, 20; 2:1)
- The seven Spirits illuminate (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
- The seven lamps radiate (4:5)
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- The seven horns / eyes show power (5:6)
- The seven angels act (8:2, 6; 10:7; 11:15; 15:1, 6-8; 16:1, 17; 17:1; 21:9)
- The seven trumpets warn (8:2, 6)
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- The seven heads / diadems / mountains / kings rule (12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9-11)
- The seven plagues curse (15:1, 6, 8; 21:9)
- The seven bowls complete (15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9)



Structure of the Seven Letters

- **Salutation:** “To the angel of the church...”
- **Identification:** “These things says he...”
- **Commendation:** “I know your...”¹
- **Condemnation:** “But I have this against...”²
- **Exhortation:** “Repent...”
- **Salvation:** “To him that overcomes...”
- **Invitation:** “He that has ears to hear...”³

¹ Not found in the letter to Laodicea

² Not found in the letters to Smyrna and Philadelphia

³ This precedes salvation in the first three letters

Five Repeated Phrases in Each Letter

1. To the angel of the church...
2. These things says...
3. I know...
4. He that has an ear to hear...
5. To him (he) that overcomes...

Letters to the Seven Letters

Structure	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Salutation	2:1	2:8	2:12	2:18	3:1	3:7	3:14
Identification	2:1	2:8	2:12	2:18	3:1	3:7	3:14
Commendation	2:2-3,6	2:9-10	2:13	2:19	3:4	3:8-10	None
Condemnation	2:4	None	2:14-15	2:20-23	3:1-2	None	3:15-17
Exhortation	2:5	2:10	2:16	2:24-25	3:3	3:11	3:18-20
Salvation	2:7	2:11	2:17	2:26-28	3:5	3:12	3:21
Invitation	2:7	2:11	2:17	2:29	3:6	3:13	3:22

Distinctive Threats to the Churches

External threats

- False teachers / apostles
- Trials / tribulations (from Jews and Romans)
- Imprisonment / death

Internal threats

- Lacking love
- Tolerating error
- Failing to grow
- Lukewarm indifference and self-security

Symbolic Numbers in Revelation

1 – unity

2 – strength, confirmation

3 – complete and ordered whole

$3^{1/2}$ – incomplete period (half of 7, 42 months, 1260 days)

4 – comprehensive, all-encompassing world

6 – human imperfection (see also “666”)

7 – divine perfection

10 – human completeness, full (see also “1000”)

12 – Israel or the church (see also “144,000”)

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
Who God is (Rev. 1, 4) Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5) Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)	<u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2) <u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 6:10; 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4) <u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; etc.)	Heaven for the righteous described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1) Hell for the wicked described (Rev. 21:8; see 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)

Revelation Outlined

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

SEVEN Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

SEVEN Seals (Rev. 6-8)

SEVEN Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

SEVEN Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's **Security** through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

Christ in the Book of Revelation

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)
- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)

Chapter 4-5 Overview

The Roman vengeance and persecution upon NT Christians, at this point, would cause Christians to doubt God's plan. Is God in control? Has God lost to Domitian? These persecuted Christians needed to know if they were safe and secure. They were safe and secure because the Almighty God is on his throne (4:8,11) and the saving Jesus is at his right hand (5:5,12,13; see 6:1). They are in control. Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord!

Chapter 4-5 Overview

Revelation 4:1 - 8:5 introduces a worthy Christ to a persecuted church. He will judge the world of sinners (6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16-17; 8:1) and he will secure his saints. First, there is security in heaven because God is sovereign (Revelation 4 - 5). Second, there is security on earth because Christians are sealed (Revelation 6:1 - 8:5).

Chapter 4-5 Overview

Christ the Worthy Lamb - Security in Heaven (4-5)

1. Because a reigning God is on his throne and in control (4:1-11; note that praise increases)

2. Because a redeeming Lamb is beside the throne and in control (5:1-14; praise increases)

Chapter 4-5: The Throne Scene in Heaven

Rev. 4

Who is on the throne: Almighty Creator God (v. 1-7)

What is done around the throne: worship (v. 8-11)

Rev. 5

Who is beside the throne: Worthy Redeeming Lamb (v. 1-7)

What is done around the throne: worship (v. 8-14)

The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars (messengers) deliver (1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1)
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven candlesticks / churches exemplify (1:4, 11-12, 20; 2:1)
- The seven Spirits illuminate (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
- The seven lamps radiate (4:5)
- The seven seals reveal (5:1, 5; 6:1; 8:1)
- The seven horns / eyes show power (5:6)
- The seven angels act (8:2, 6; 10:7; 11:15; 15:1, 6-8; 16:1, 17; 17:1; 21:9)
- The seven trumpets warn (8:2, 6)
- The seven thunders announce (10:3-4)
- The seven heads / diadems / mountains / kings rule (12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9-11)
- The seven plagues curse (15:1, 6, 8; 21:9)
- The seven bowls complete (15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9)

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 6

Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 6:10; 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven for the righteous described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p> <p>Hell for the wicked described (Rev. 21:8; see 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)</p>

Revelation Outlined

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

SEVEN Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

SEVEN Seals (Rev. 6-8)

SEVEN Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

SEVEN Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's **Security** through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

Christ in the Book of Revelation

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)
- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)
- Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** (6-7; 8:1-5)

Chapter 6 Overview

Revelation 4:1 - 8:5 introduces a worthy Christ to a persecuted church. He will judge the world of sinners (6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16-17; 8:1) and he will secure his saints. First, there is security in heaven because God is sovereign (Revelation 4 - 5). Second, there is security on earth because Christians are sealed (Revelation 6:1 - 8:5).

Chapter 6 Overview

Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** - Security on Earth
(6-7; 8:1-5)

1. Because the sinners are judged
(6:1-17; 8:1-5)

2. Because the saints are sealed (7) – an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal

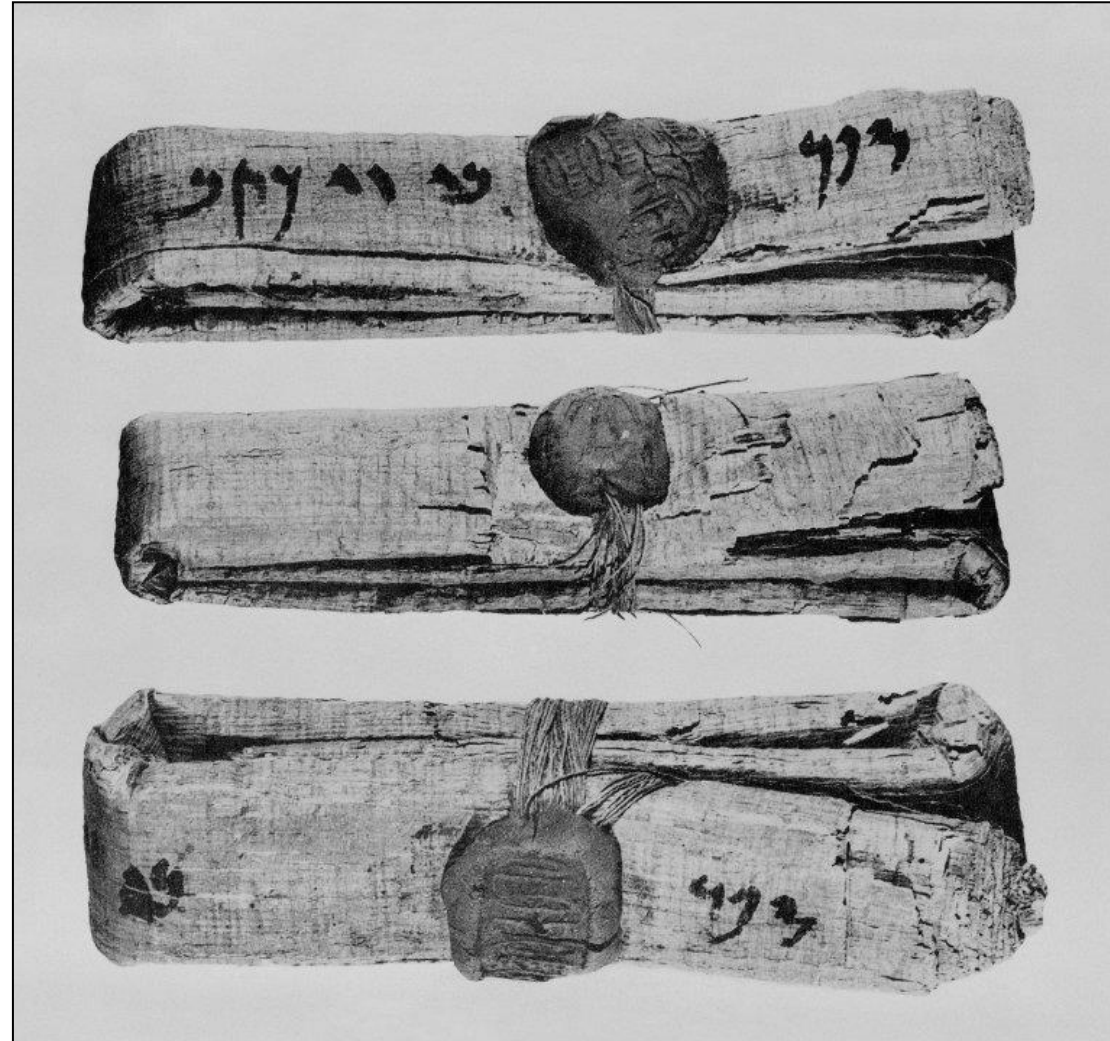
The Seven Seals



Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

Rev. 5:1 (ESV)

The Seven Seals



The Seven Seals

- **1st seal opened** – powerful military conquest (6:1-2)
- **2nd opened** – painful persecution and bloodshed (6:3-4)
- **3rd opened** – severe economic hardship and poverty (6:5-6)
- **4th seal opened** – punishment through death, famine, and wild beasts (6:7-8)
- **5th seal opened** – souls of faithful martyrs cry out (6:9-11; see 20:4-5)
- **6th seal opened** – cosmic disturbances point to partial destruction and wrath upon sinners (6:12-17)
- **7th seal opened** – silence for ½ hour, seven angels with trumpets, and a divine response to prayers (8:1-5)

Key Questions in the Book of Revelation

- Who is worthy to open the book? (5:2)
Answer: Jesus (5:5)
- How long? (6:10) Answer: A little time
(6:11)
- Who is able to stand? (6:17) Answer: The
144,000 sealed (7:1-4)
- Who are they? (7:13) Answer: They that
come out of the great tribulation (7:14-17)

The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars (messengers) deliver (1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1)
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven candlesticks / churches exemplify (1:4, 11-12, 20; 2:1)
- The seven Spirits illuminate (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
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- The seven trumpets warn (8:2, 6)
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- The seven heads / diadems / mountains / kings rule (12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9-11)
- The seven plagues curse (15:1, 6, 8; 21:9)
- The seven bowls complete (15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9)

Revelation Interpreted

1. The Futurist View

- The events of Revelation (chap. 4-19) will be fulfilled literally and just before the second coming of Jesus Christ (rapture, 7-year tribulation, the Antichrist, Jerusalem temple rebuilt, Armageddon); followed by a 1000-year reign on earth (20:1-10), the release of Satan, and the judgment: heaven and hell (20:11-15)
- Made popular by dispensationalists and premillennialists

Revelation Interpreted

1. The Futurist View

- This view 1) ignores the immediate time element (Rev. 1:1-3; 22:6); 2) does not comfort the persecuted Christians of John's day; 3) takes symbolic language and numbers and switches between literal and figurative interpretations and becomes very speculative and imaginative (see 13:18 vs. 20:4); and, 4) presents a materialistic picture of the kingdom of God on earth which does not match with the rest of scripture

Revelation Interpreted

2. The Continuous-Historical View

- The events of Revelation are symbolic of the history of the church, from its beginnings in the 1st century, to the rise of the papacy and the apostasy of the Dark Ages in the Roman Catholic Church, Mohammedanism or Islam (600-1400), and the Protestant Reformation (1500-1600)

Revelation Interpreted

2. The Continuous-Historical View

- This view 1) would not have comforted the persecuted Christians of John's day, 2) does not match with what must shortly come to pass (1:1; 22:6); 3) was not held prior to the formation of the Catholic Church, 4) requires one to know church history first and then read that history back into the book (what about modern church history after the Reformation period?)...

Revelation Interpreted

2. The Continuous-Historical View

- This view 5) does not take into account that the Catholic Church did not actually fall and Islam did not go into decline, and 6) much inconsistency exists in seeking an historical fulfillment of these events

Revelation Interpreted

3. The Philosophy of History (Idealist) View

- The events of Revelation did not occur in history, but are purely symbolic of forces at work both good (God) and bad (Satan); the forces of good eventually win out over the bad

Revelation Interpreted

3. The Philosophy of History (Idealist) View

- This view 1) does not take seriously the clear historical references in Revelation 1-3 and the language there that is used in the rest of the book, and 2) the references to prophecy and what will “come to pass hereafter” (1:3, 19; 22:7, 10-19)

Revelation Interpreted

4. The Preterist View

- The events of Revelation have been fulfilled in the past (preterist), in John's day
- Liberal: a secular, non-inspired approach; there is little value for Christians today
- Brethren: fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem

Revelation Interpreted

4. The Preterist View

- Brethren: Christians are persecuted at the time of Nero (A.D. 65) and the fall of Jerusalem is in view (Rev. 4-20); Revelation 21-22 is a picture of the NT Church, not heaven

Revelation Interpreted

4. The Preterist View

- This view, while matching with Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 (the fall of Jerusalem), 1) does not match the persecution found in the book in reason (13:15), in scope (3:10), and in action (17:3); 2) does not take seriously the references to Rome in Revelation 17-18; and, 3) does not match with the clear picture of future events in heaven in Revelation 20:11 – 22:5

Revelation Interpreted

5. The Historical-Background View

- Revelation was written to encourage NT Christians with the events being fulfilled at that time and shortly after in the fall of Rome (c. A.D. 100 – 500); the events of Revelation 20:11 – 22:5 are clearly future and take place in heaven; there is a message here for all Christians of all times

Revelation Interpreted

5. The Historical-Background View

- This view keeps the book in its original context: Christians persecuted by Rome and Rome being the one who needs to be judged for her persecution of Christians (see Dan. 7:11, 26)
- This view approaches Revelation just like we would approach any other book of the Bible

Revelation

Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 7

Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 6:10; 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven for the righteous described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p> <p>Hell for the wicked described (Rev. 21:8; see 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)</p>

Revelation Outlined

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

SEVEN Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

SEVEN Seals (Rev. 6-8)

SEVEN Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

SEVEN Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

Revelation Theme

Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's **Security** through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

Christ in the Book of Revelation

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)
- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)
- Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** (6-7; 8:1-5)

Chapter 7 Overview

Because the saints are sealed (7) – an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal (**two perspectives**):

- a) The faithful saints safe and sealed on earth (7:1-8; see 6:17; 9:4; 14:1)
- b) The faithful saints saved and serving in heaven (7:9-17; see 22:3-4)

Symbolic Numbers in Revelation

1 – unity

2 – strength, confirmation

3 – complete and ordered whole

3^{1/2} – incomplete period (half of 7, 42 months, 1260 days)

4 – comprehensive, all-encompassing world

6 – human imperfection (see also “666”)

7 – divine perfection

10 – human completeness, full (see also “1000”)

12 – Israel or the church (see also “144,000”)

Identifying the 144,000

- The J.W.s say that 144,000 (7:4) is a literal number; the only ones in the true church who go to heaven; the great multitude (7:9) are in Paradise on earth
- Note that “Israel” is listed. Is this literal? Are Jews only in heaven?
- Note that Dan is missing from the list and Manasseh takes his place (with Joseph)

Identifying the 144,000

- Note that in 7:4, John heard the number (144,000), and in 7:9, John saw a great multitude
- Note that the “great multitude” are “before the throne” in heaven (see 14:3)
- Note that the 144,000 are “purchased”, the same as those in 5:9

Identifying the 144,000

- Note that the 144,000 are (symbolically) virgin men (see 14:4)
- Who are they? Simply, “the servants of our God” (see 1:1; 2:20; 6:11; 7:3; 10:7; 11:18; 19:2, 5; 22:3, 6)

Identifying the 144,000

1. The great multitude is of every nation (7:9)
2. Every nation is purchased (5:9)
3. The 144,000 are purchased (14:3-4)
4. Therefore, the great multitude (7:9) are the same as the 144,000 (7:4)