

# 11 - Reading Revelation

## I. Introductory Notes

### A. Who/Where?

### B. What?

1. Prophetic
2. Apocalyptic
3. Epistle

### C. When?

1. Pre-70 AD
2. Post-70 AD, c95

### D. Why?

1. Comfort the outnumbered saints
2. Encourage the beleaguered saints

## II. The Prologue

### A. The Message

### B. The Messenger

### C. The Blessing

## III. Consideration of Outline

## IV. The Theme of Revelation: Jesus the triumphant Lamb will build his church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

### A. The Message of Revelation

#### 1. A Message of Triumph

#### 2. A Message of Tribulation

- Intimidation: Use force to crush/persecute, Dan 7 wear out.
- Indoctrination: Overtly godless, or covertly disastrous. Word

#### 3. A Message of Grace: 1:4, 22:21

### B. Basic Principles for Making Sense of Revelation

#### 1. Interpret book in light of the events that were occurring *when written*

- a. **Historicist:** Inspired forecast or blueprint of human history.
- b. **Futurist:** Most things are written strictly about the future, and even now still remain to occur.
- c. **Preterist:** Most events fulfilled first in the fall of Jerusalem and then in the Fall of Rome
- d. **Idealist:** Teaches general principles, not getting tied to specifics.

#### Needs

- 1) It must mean something to the original recipients
- 2) It must mean something to us today AND every single Christian who has ever read the book.
- 3) It must be understood in its context exegetically and theologically

#### 2. Understand Revelation is a tree planted in OT soil bearing NT fruit

#### 3. Recognize the focus is not primarily on Jesus' return, but present reign!

#### 4. Remember the book is intended not to overwhelm saints, but help OVERCOME

#### 5. Realize that Satan cannot destroy Christ/saints, but he will try by any means

#### 6. Read it like a **Symphony**: refrains/repetitions, emph, crescendo, dissonance, resolution.

#### 7. Believe that **Θ** is Lord of History, moving to the final, unavoidable event

## Prologue (1:1-8) Danielic Allusion: The Message of the Kingdom Inaugurated

- Compare Revelation 1:1 and Daniel 2:28, 29, 45

Daniel 2:28-29, 45 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: (29) To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be...(45) just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."	Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John
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### A. First Cycle (1:9-3:22) Christ and His Imperfect Bride on Earth, Overcoming Urged and Promised

#### B. Second Cycle (4:1-8:5) Sovereign Rule and Decreed Judgments

- 4:1-5:13 - God's Sovereign Throne of Decree
- 6:1-7:8 - Oppression and Suffering and Judgment: The Church at War
- 7:9-8:5 - Glory Anticipated: The Church at Rest (7:15-17)

#### C. Third Cycle (8:2/6-11:19) Warning of Judgments upon Earth: Seven Trumpets (8:2-5) Prayers of Saints and Incense Altar, Trumpets

1. 1/3 Earth (8:7)
2. 1/3 Sea (8:8-9)
3. 1/3 Freshwater (8:10-11)
4. 1/3 Luminaries (8:12)
5. 1st Woe: Demonic Oppression, Egypt Language, Locusts (9:1-12)
6. 2nd Woe: Euphrates Addressed
7. 3rd Woe: Final Judgment, Kingdom is Christ's, (11:15-18/19)

#### D. Center: (12:1-15:4) The Heart of the Conflict: The Dragon vs the Lamb

#### C'. Fifth Cycle (15:5-16:21) Realization of Judgments upon Earth: Seven Bowls (15:5-8) Answers to Prayers of Saints, Judgment from Sanctuary

1. All the Earth (16:2)
2. All the Sea (16:3)
3. All the Freshwater (16:4-7, altar present)
4. All the Luminaries (16:8-9)
5. Egypt-like Darkness and Sores on Throne of Beast (16:10-11)
6. Euphrates Addressed, Demonic assembly for war at Armageddon (16:12-16)
7. Final Judgement: It is done! (16:17-21)

#### B'. Sixth Cycle (17:1-19:21) Sovereign Rule and Realized Judgments (cf Rev 11:18)

- 17:1-18 - Babylon Exposed
- 18:1-24 - Babylon Destroyed
- 19:1-21 - Judgment Prepared and Executed (Proceeds from Throne, 19:4-5)

#### A'. Seventh Cycle (20:1-22:5) Christ and His Perfect Bride in Glory, Overcoming Realized (see Rev 21:7)

- 20:1-10 - The Millennium
- 20:11-15 - God's Sovereign Throne of Judgment
- 21:1-22:5 - Glory Realized, Tears Wiped Away Around God's Throne

## Epilogue (22:6-21) Danielic Allusion: The Message of the Kingdom Confirmed

- Compare Revelation 22:8-11 and Daniel 12:1-4, 8-10

# Promises Made and Kept in Revelation

Promises Made	Promises Fulfilled
<p><b>Food</b> Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' Cf 2:17 - hidden manna</p>	<p>Rev 22:2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, <i>the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit</i>, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.</p>
<p><b>Exclusion from Second Death</b> Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'</p>	<p>Rev 21:7-8 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (8) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."</p>
<p><b>Stone</b> Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'</p>	<p>Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel...</p>
<p><b>Kingdom</b> Rev 2:26-27 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him <i>I will give authority over the nations</i>, (27) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.</p>	<p>Rev 22:5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, <i>and they will reign forever and ever</i>.</p>
<p><b>Luminary</b> Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.</p>	<p>Rev 22:5 And night will be no more. <i>They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light</i>, and they will reign forever and ever.</p>
<p><b>Clothing</b> Rev 3:5 <i>The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments</i>, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.</p>	<p>Rev 19:8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.</p>
<p><b>Security</b> Rev 3:5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, <i>and I will never blot his name out of the book of life</i>. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.</p>	<p>Rev 21:27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.</p>
<p><b>Temple</b> Rev 3:12a The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it...</p>	<p>Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.</p>
<p><b>Name</b> Rev 3:12b...and I will write on him the name of my God...</p>	<p>Rev 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.</p>
<p><b>City</b> Rev 3:12c...and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.</p>	<p>Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,</p>