

SERMON 4/18/23 W “Revelation Outlines” (PDF)

Opened Book

Some people view Revelation as an inexplicable and incomprehensible mystery. Yet, God calls the book “Revelation” for a reason. God intended for Revelation to REVEAL Jesus Christ—it is not the concealing or hiding of Him. The purpose of the book of Revelation is to make known the truth. Take note of these informative indicators:

The seven seals are opened

The seven trumpets are blown

The seven vials are poured out

The Bible details each element, showing why God never intended for Revelation to be an unattainable mystery. The book ties up all the loose ends of the Bible by pointing the reader’s attention toward the preparation of the kingdom and ultimately to the kingdom itself.

Far too many Bible teachers and students open to the pages of Revelation intending to use it to prove their belief system rather than allowing the book to form their doctrine and viewpoints. American Bible teachers are the most guilty of this methodology. Many preachers force an Americanized worldview when they interpret the Bible. For Bible doctrines to be accurate, God intends them to apply to all. The interpretation must work for other nations and not be limited to the Western world mindset.

Briefest Overview of Revelation (first words of each the chapters) S

Revelation 1:1 “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ ...*”

Revelation 2:1 “*Unto the angel of the church ...*”

Revelation 3:1 “*AND ...*”

Revelation 4:1 “*AFTER THIS ...*”

Revelation 5:1 “*AND ...*” through each chapter to **Revelation 22:1** “*AND ...*”

The Churches of the Opened Door and Closed Door

Opened door (Revelation 3:8)

Closed door (Revelation 3:20)

A door opened in Heaven (Revelation 4:1)

John sees Jesus as the Son of Man (Revelation 1:13), who is the Judge (John 5:26)

Revelation 1:13 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and*

his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

As the Son of Man, the Father has given Him all authority to execute judgment.

John 5:26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him **authority to execute judgment** also, because he is the Son of man.*

The Son of Man Pronounces Judgment

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The Son of Man pronounces judgment against the *churches* in chapters 2 and 3 during the Church Age, the greater judgment against the *world* in chapters 6 through 19, and the final judgment against the *lost* in chapter 20.

Revelation chapter 1—*the vision* of the Judge (the glorified Christ)

Revelation chapters 2-3—*the vision* of the judgment against the sinful churches not yet perfected

Revelation chapter 4—*the vision* of the glorified church in Heaven

Revelation chapters 6-19—*the vision* of the judgment against the world

Revelation chapter 20—*the vision* of the judgment against the lost

High-Level Overview of Revelation

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Revelation 1:19 *Write the **things which thou hast seen**, and the **things which are**, and the **things which shall be hereafter**;*

Verse 19 offers an overview of the book of Revelation **from John's first-century perspective**. It is a high-level—past, present, and future—viewpoint. **S**

1. **PAST:** The things which thou HAST SEEN **S**
2. **PRESENT:** The things WHICH ARE **S**
3. **FUTURE:** The things which SHALL BE HEREAFTER **S**

The simplified outline: Verse 19 first points to the things which “*thou (John) hast seen,*” with verse 20 pointing to what John already SAW. Revelation chapters 2 and 3 chronicle what John SAW.

Revelation 1:20 *The mystery of **the seven stars which thou sawest** in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: **and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches**.*

- I. **THE PAST:** John writes in verse 20 that he **already** SAW the seven stars and seven golden candlesticks. He records what he saw in chapters 2 and 3, making these chapters already PAST. Verse 20 defines the CANDLESTICKS as the seven churches. It designates the seven STARS. These stars are the seven angels of each of those seven churches. The first verse of each church epistle addresses the angel of each of the seven churches.

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus” (Revelation 2:1-2:7)

“And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna” (Revelation 2:8-2:11)

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos” (Revelation 2:12-2:17)

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira” (Revelation 2:18-2:28)

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis” (Revelation 3:1-3:6)

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia” (Revelation 3:7-3:13)

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans” (Revelation 3:14-3:22)

The two words following chapter 3 in **Revelation 4:1** reveal the passage of time: “*After this.*” After what John SAW (the churches of chapters 2 and 3, the last one mentioned in **Revelation 3:22**), the Bible reveals John was transported to heaven in the PRESENT (**Revelation 4:1**). **It is essential not to miss this point: John moved from speaking of the PAST to writing concerning the PRESENT!**

- II. **The PRESENT:** the book of Revelation reveals the PRESENT as John appears in heaven. The timing indicates he has been transported thousands of years into the future. A door in heaven opens. God transports (or raptures) John from the earth and his perspective is looking back at the Church Age and looking down at the commencement of Daniel’s Seventieth Week—the “*hereafter*”—the future.

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

- III. **The FUTURE:** Notice the keyword at the end of **Revelation 4:1**—“*hereafter.*” This word links the event to the outline delineated in **Revelation 1:19**—the “*hereafter*” ending that verse. One might view HEREAFTER as AFTER HERE since John PICTURES the Rapture of the New Testament Church AFTER revealing the entire 2,000-year Church Age in chapters 2 and 3.

The “*hereafter*” divides further into three sections: These divisions run from:

II. 2nd Viewpoint—God transports John TO heaven (from **Revelation 4:2** to **Revelation 17:2**)

Revelation 4:2 *And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

From heaven, John views the 21 judgments on earth during Daniel's Seventieth Week.

III. 3rd Viewpoint—God transports John TO the wilderness (from **Revelation 17:3** to **Revelation 21:9**)

Revelation 17:3 *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

From the wilderness, John views God's destruction of the world powers and the end of all that offends God.

IV. 4th Viewpoint—God transports John TO a great and high mountain (from **Revelation 21:10** to **Revelation 22:21**)

Revelation 21:10 *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

From the mountain, John views Eternity.

I. The 1st **Viewpoint** was skipped but it was from Patmos (**Revelation 1:9**), where John views the Church Age. He describes what these seven churches are doing right and wrong and God's expectations of each. The Spirit speaking to the churches happens before God transports John to the other three locations.

Revelation 1:9 *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, **was in the isle that is called Patmos**, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Chapter-by-chapter Brief Overview

It is helpful to have an overview of any Bible book studied. With this overview, you should be able to answer the question, *“What are some of the major points in each of the chapters in Revelation?”*

Chapter 1: The Glorified Christ

Chapter 2: The letters to the first four churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, and Thyatira

Chapter 3: The letters to the three churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, and the Laodiceans

Chapter 4: The throne of God; the Lord worshipped as Creator

Chapter 5: The Lamb worshiped as Redeemer

Chapter 6: The six seals opened, and the four horsemen

Chapter 7: The sealing of the 144,000 on earth; a great multitude in heaven

Chapter 8: The seventh seal introduces seven trumpets; four of the trumpets sound

Chapter 9: The fifth and sixth trumpets sound

Chapter 10: The introduction of the seventh trumpet; John eats the little book

Chapter 11: The temple and the two witnesses; the seventh trumpet sounds

Chapter 12: The woman, dragon, and man child revealed

Chapter 13: The two beasts; the Mark of the beast (666)

Chapter 14: The 144,000 are now in heaven; two reapers

Chapter 15: Introduction of the seven vials

Chapter 16: The seven vials

Chapter 17: Judgment of Mystery Babylon

Chapter 18: Judgment of Babylon the great city

Chapter 19: The marriage of the Lamb; the second coming of Christ

Chapter 20: The millennium; the resurrection of death and hell; the great white throne judgment

Chapter 21: New heaven and a new earth; new Jerusalem

Chapter 22: Tree of life; final invitation