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Revelation Bible Study Guide

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This is a comprehensive guide meant to assist with the understanding of the book of Revelation to ensure all can better understand the meaning and obtain the promised blessing to all who read and keep the words of prophecy in the book.

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Preface

Most of America Sees Jesus like this?



What is missing?

Why does the world only focus on half of Jesus (incarnate)?

Be honest, how well do you know the other half of Jesus?

How can you help people see all of Jesus?

Generally speaking, the church and the world is focused on the Jesus that died for all in act of love to redeem all who would believe in Jesus as their savior. This is absolutely true, but the world does not want to talk about Jesus coming on a White Horse as Lord of Lord and King Kings in Judgement.

The enemy would love for you to remember Jesus as the dead man hanging on cross. However, Jesus's second coming is the very reason that we have hope in Christ. If He were not coming back to redeem us and give us eternal life, then what exactly is the value of our faith? How much do you know about your coming Savior? It is important to know what Jesus did for you on the cross so that you may be saved, but you should not stop there – that's only half the story! You do not want to fall for the strong delusion from Satan that will fool the world. Are you prepared? Do you know enough to warn your family and others? Do you know the signs and the order of events?

Introduction

What are the Top 10 Themes or Threads that are answered or completed in Revelations?

1. Lord Jesus Gen 3:15
2. Church - Matt 16:18 on this rock
3. Resurrection & Translation of the Saints (John 14, 1 Thes & 1 Corinthians)
4. Great Tribulation – Det Chapter 4
5. Satan & Evil Ezek 28
6. Man of Sin (Gen, Ezek 28)
7. Course and the End of the Apostate Church
8. Course and the End of the Gentiles
9. Coming of Christ
10. Israel's Covenants

How does Revelations fit with Genesis?

Genesis	Revelations
Marriage of Adam & Eve	Jesus and The Church
Beginning Creation	Ending
Satan's 1 st rebellion	Satan's Last Rebellion
Creation of Sun, Moon & Stars	Sun, Moon & Stars used as Judgments
Sun used for light Govern Day	No Need for the Sun
Darkness Night	No night No Darkness
Creations of Water/seas, Flood for Judge	No Seas in Heaven
Entrance of Sin	Removal of Sin
Curse of Sin	Curse is removed
Death	No Death
Sorrow	No Tears
Babylon's First Rebellion (tower of Babel)	Babylon's Last Rebellion

Jesus as in parables uses contrasts to teach biblical principles, and Revelation not only addresses all loose ends of the bible over the other 65 books but also is a study that is a contrast, completion and compliment to Genesis. Some describe Revelation as a train station because all tracks end here. John more than any other writer in the bible reaches far back in Beginning with 1 John and further in the future than anyone with Revelations.

Why is it important for you to know as a believer the connection between Revelations and the other books in the Bible?

Why should I read Revelations?

- The book is the only one in the bible that promises a blessing just for reading it - Rev 1:3. It also contains a warning in 22:18-19.
- Reach others and prevent yourself and your family from being led astray.

What type of book is Revelations?

Revelation is a prophetic book. All that was written was about the future when it was written. There are 17 prophetic books in the Old Testament and only one in the New Testament.

Can anyone even understand Revelations? Is there a key? How do you interpret it?

- This is not a random symbolic book that cannot be understood. It is the most organized and orderly book in the bible. It includes an outline in rev 1:19.
- The Bible interprets itself. A key for most all the symbols are supplied in either the Old Testament or the book itself. The book should be interpreted literally whenever possible or if no key within the bible is given.
- If a symbol is being used it has meaning in the other books. Don't go off course, or dismiss it as imagery.
- There are 404 versus and 278 have references to the Old Testament. Prominent books include: Psalms, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zachariah, Genesis, Isaiah, Joel, and Jeremiah
- Unlike Daniel, this book was not sealed, and was circulated widely at the time it was written to give encouragement to persecuted churches.

How is it organized?

This book completes the bible. 7 is the number for completion. The book is arranged in a series of 7s.

Revelation 1:19 (New King James Version) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

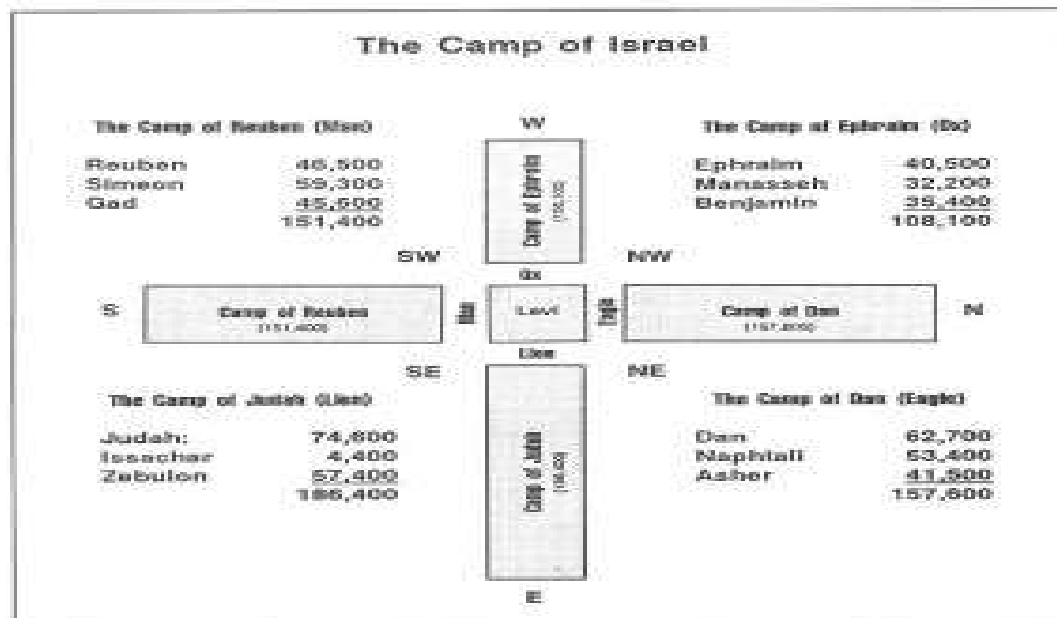
- Vision of Christ – Things you see
- Church Age - Things that are
- Future – After these things - Don't miss the road markers in the book. The Lord provided to keep you on track.
- Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."
- Revelation 2:1 "To the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:
- Revelation 4:1 "After these things I looked, and behold, 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."

How does the rapture fit into the story?

The church is mentioned 19 times up to chapter 3 and never mentioned again. I will let you draw your own conclusions. We will discuss more as we go through it. God does not change remember God saved his people prior to the flood as well. Remember that there are biblical scholars on both side of the pre/mid/post rapture debate. This is an area that is not clear and there is support for multiple viewpoints and not a tenant of the faith. The word rapture is never in the bible, but simple describes the process of believers going up to meet Jesus in the sky after the dead in Christ rise first.

The book is divided into a series of 7s.

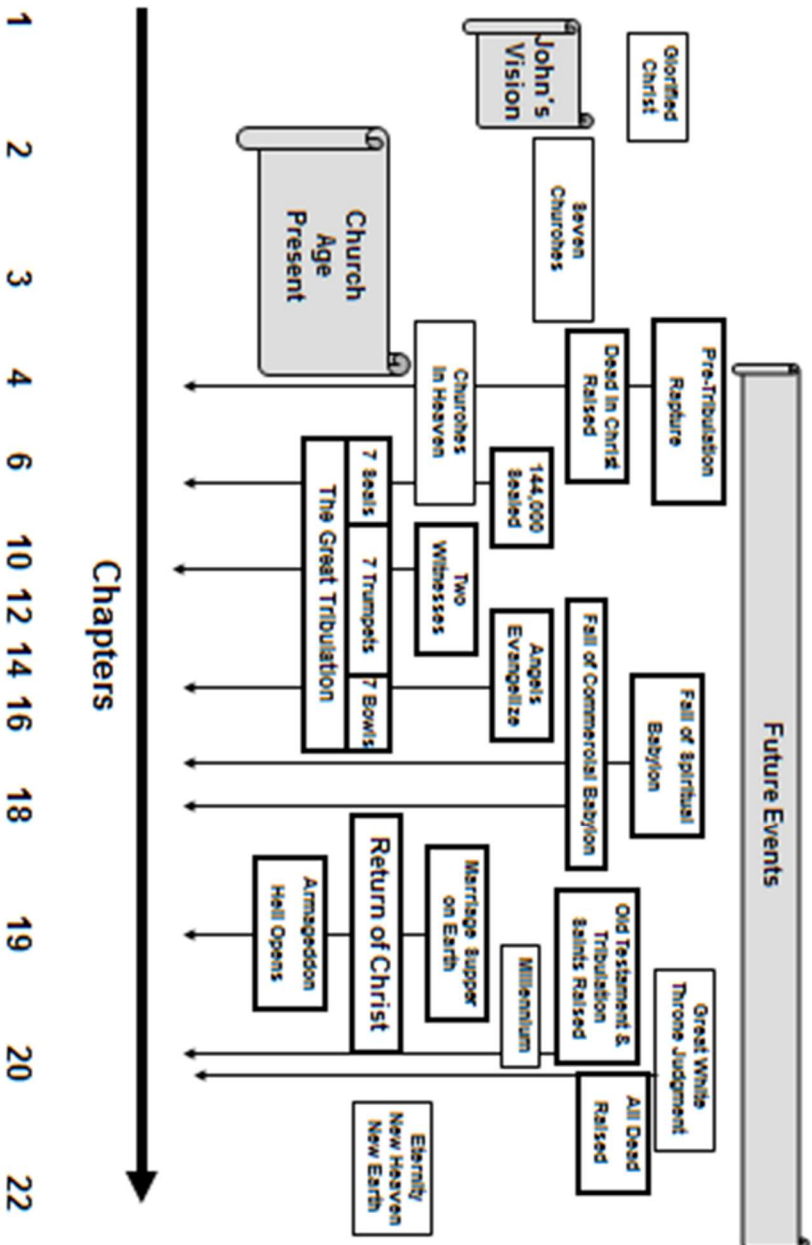
- 7 – Churches – the bride – God's people
- 7 – Seals - Denotes ownership – royalty and transfer of title
- 7 – Trumpets- Israelites used the trumpets in connection with the tabernacle to denote the people were moving out.
- 7 – Seven Bowls of wrath – You see the imagery of the atonement in the holy of Holies with the High Priest offering the blood atonement for the people.



Chapter Description:

Chapter	Description
1	John's Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees
2-3	Church Age – History - The Things that are
4	Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship (creatures worship because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what Jesus has done.)
5	Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.
6-18	The Great Tribulation: Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes), 7 trumpets (including 2 witnesses), 7 Bowls of Wrath, First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18
19	Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God
20	Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom
21	New Earth and Heaven
22	Closing

Revelations – Timeline



Assumptions: This chart is a biblical timeline based on placement in the book of Revelation and with the view of Pre-Rapture and Pre-Millennialism.

Chapter 1

This chapter focuses on the person of Jesus Christ in His full glory. The Gospels are the Wedding invitation, but this is the wedding feast.

¹The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

V1 Notice this is the Revelation not Revelations. The meaning is unveiling. Unlike the parables where He speaks where the message is hidden. Showing denotes the use of symbols. A symbol always represent something that is real and much bigger than the symbol used. A symbol has a clear meaning that is understood. “Must” is an imperative denoting certainty. “Take place soon” this does not mean near. This means when it starts it comes fast or quickly.

V2 Angel “Heavenly messenger” Notice the order. Jesus sends his Angel to John. Then John shares with the churches. The angels play a tremendous role in Revelation.



V3 Three-fold blessing – Reading, hearing and keep. This is a promise for a blessing not just for the future but also for today. Repeated in Rev 22:7.

Personal Insight/Application:

The first time I studied this I assumed this blessing was for the future for Heaven because obviously studying and knowing the signs prepares us for His coming. However, one time, when I taught class through the book of Revelation. I discussed this promising of the blessing as I always do in the opening of the series.

As we neared the end of the study, God opened an opportunity for us to adopt a beautiful 4-year-old girl who needed a home (Lola Grace). The day I was teaching the second mention of this blessing in Revelation 22:7 was the first Sunday that we got Lola Grace. Bringing her to class was an undeniable sign for all to see of that Jesus did not mean for this blessing to be spiritual only in nature or a blessing only meant for the end times.

As you begin this study, open your eyes and ask God to show you the blessing He will bring for you being faithful and completing this book.

⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To

Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

V4-7 Greetings between Jesus and John (intended for the Churches). 7 is the number of completion. 7 is the number of God. 7 days creation, 7 times circled Jericho, 7 be attitudes, 7 petitions in the Lord's prayer, 7 parables in Matthew 13, 7 loaves, 7 years of plenty, 7 years of famine, and Jesus spoke 7 times on the cross. There were hundreds of churches in that day, but the Lord chose 7 to represent all churches throughout the church age. The seven spirits refer to the Holy Spirit which is also represented as oil in the 7 lampstands. The Lord reminds His Church again of his second coming so none of His people are deceived.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

V8 – Personal and Physical coming of Christ. Rapture is not the second coming.

7 Titles for Jesus	Explanation
Faithful Witness	Jesus was a faithful witness to God John 5:19, John 12:50
First Born from the dead	He was raised first, we as believers will follow Romans 8:11 2 Cor. 4:14
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth	"every knee will bow" Romans 14:11, "King of Kings, Lord of Lords" 1 Tim 6:14-16, Rev. 17:14 & Rev. 19:16
Lord God	Jehovah, Hebrew "Yahweh" the self-existent one.
Alpha and Omega	"A to Z" External the source of Creation, In control of the divine end times plan.
The Almighty	"El Shaddai" (God Almighty – Gen 17:1 God introduces himself to Abraham)
Amen	Verily/Truly/Your Will be done, even so.. (Num. 5:22, Jer. 28:6, Isaiah 65:16)

Based on these titles for Jesus, does the book or John leave any doubt of the deity of Jesus?

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "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 which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

V9 Tribulation here refers to the persecution for teaching the word. Always expect trouble in this world when you are committed to teaching and spreading the Word.

Notice: John saw his purpose even when he was put in exile on the island of Patmos with prisoners. Mining during the day and trying to survive in a harsh barren land.

How about you? Can you stop long enough during your trials to see the Lord's purpose?

V10-11 Holy spirits guides you to the truth and will tell you of the things to come (John 16:13). Some say the Day of the Lord likely refers to the first day of the week (Sunday); however, other scholars say based on many references to the Day of the Lord that it refers to His return.

Being in exile was no deterrent for John, you see he was just doing church and meeting with God faithfully. **How about you?** We all want Jesus to show up and Holy Spirit come in a powerful and real way, but that will only happen when we are faithful and worship even in our times of trial when no one is watching. Give Jesus a chance, be faithful, try it, and see if He does not show up in a powerful way.

Notice it is not a trumpet, but a voice like that of a trumpet. Words are important don't skip past and read too fast and miss these key details. Now, read Revelation 4:1 and 1 Thes. 4:16.

The Lord is very clear. He does not want you to miss out on the joy of the rapture regardless of when it occurs. It is the world that is telling you He is not coming back and stealing your hope.

¹² Then, I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

V12-13 The Lord is clothed in the garments of the High Priest. The golden lamp in the tabernacle had three branches and seven bulbs. Now, we see instead seven separate lampstands that are the instruments of the tabernacle. Our High Priest is in constant intercession, also intervention for us (washing us), and inspecting us. The High Priest was the only one to tend the lamp stand.

How do you tend a lamp stand? What are the implications for you and me?

¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

V14-16

Characteristic	Meaning
White as snow	Eternity and dignity
Eyes like fire	Penetrating insight.
Feet like Bronze from Furnace	Judgment
Voice of many water	Authority
Sharp 2-edged sword	Word of God
Face (His Countenance)	His Glory source of Light and Life

¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

V17-18 John who is pictured reclining on Jesus in the upper room who walked with Him daily for three years is seen here falling at His feet as dead! How will you react when you see Jesus? What picture do you have in your mind of Jesus? Is it the God-man on the cross or “The Lord of Lords and King of Kings”? Notice: God does not wink at sin as the church and world does today. Remember, Jesus is coming as Judge. Be careful, with songs and familiarity like “Jesus is a friend of mine” when you sing that for it to be true who must obey. He knows. Hades – Greek word for the unseen dead.

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Revelation 1:19 (New King James Version) “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

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²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

V20 Angels are messengers and can be earthly or heavenly. Here it is likely referencing the seven pastors of the seven churches which are representative of all the churches. Seven is mentioned 735 times in the bible and speaks of completeness and perfection (physical and spiritual).

Are you certain that your pastor is one of those seven stars in Jesus’s hand?

How would you describe your church’s lampstand? How would others describe it?

Exercise:

Example: Lamp Stand Study

History:

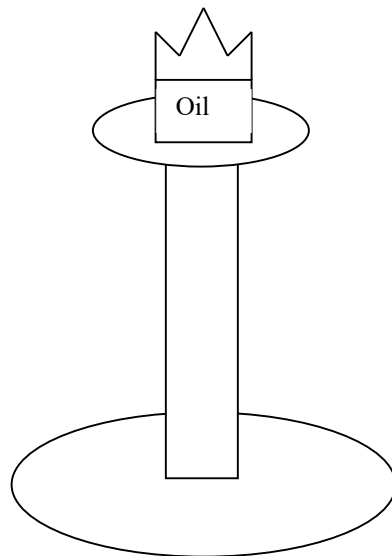
Golden Lamp stands – **Exodus 37:23** (Original Specifications), **Exodus 40:24** (placed with the ark in the Holy of Holies), **Leviticus 24:2-4** (Israel told to get oil and generations called to tend the lamps continually), 2Chr 4:7 Solomon had 10 gold lamp stands built based on specs for the Temple.

Symbolic meaning: Read:

- **Luke 11:33** – Jesus' words: - Light
- **2 Corinthians 4:6**

Oil – Read: **Matthew 25:1-13** Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Base - Psalm 119: 105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."



• Discuss:

Why do you think the churches are symbolized as lamp stands?

Knowing this, how does that change or challenge you and your Church?

Chapter 2

Introduction:

Remember our outline and key verse 1:19 ...What you have seen (Chapter 1), what is now (churches Chapter 2-3) and what will take place later (Chapter 4-22).

John wrote to local churches he knew visited, preached, intimately knew.

3 fold interpretation –

1. Contemporary – direct message to churches of that day
2. Composite – each represents a picture of church in whole. Some say parallel the 7 parables in Matthew 13.
3. Chronological – Panoramic history of the church from Apostolic to the Apostate Church

Letter Format

1. Glory
2. Address to the Angel of the Church (maybe human messenger/Pastor/Angels – Greek has two meanings Angels or messengers.
3. I Know thy Works!
4. Begins with commendation then a word of condemnation
5. Exceptions – no condemnation for Smyrna and Philadelphia
6. No commendation for Laodicea – Apostate Church
7. Warning – he who has ears let them hear what the spirit says.

Revelation lists thirteen rewards for the overcomer:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Authority over nations (2:26) | (8) Tree of life (2:7) |
| (2) Name not erased from book of life (3:5) | (9) Not hurt by second death (2:11) |
| (3) Inherits the earth (21:7) | (10) Morning star (2:28) |
| (4) New name on a white stone (2:17) | (11) White Garments (3:5) |
| (5) Eat of hidden manna (2:17) | (12) Pillar in temple (3:12) |
| (6) Name of God, City, & Christ written on him (3:12) | (13) Sits on Christ's throne (3:21) |
| (7) Name confessed before the Father and His angels (3:5) | |

The rewards and the warnings make no sense unless some believers will not receive them because of their unfaithfulness. Why warn a person about something he cannot lose? We can debate what is lost, but there is no debate that something is lost with grave consequences to follow (See I Cor. 3:16 and I John 2:28).

Those individuals in the seven churches who are not overcomers are promised:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) War with the sword from the Lord's mouth (2:16) | (5) Come like a thief (3:3) |
| (2) To be thrown into the great tribulation (2:22) | (6) Spit out of the Lord's mouth (3:16) |
| (3) Children killed with the pestilence (2:23) | (7) Reproof and discipline (3:19) |
| (4) To receive according to their deeds (2:23) | |

Note: True believers do not have to persevere to win salvation, nor must they be faithful to keep it. Any conditionality automatically removes the issue from a consideration of salvation to the issue of sanctification and rewards. Simply put mathematically, it is Jesus + 0 = Salvation. Jesus plus anything else says Jesus is not sufficient payment for your sins.