

JET TOUR THROUGH REVELATION

INTRO: Mankind has always been interested in things of the future. Global events have only heightened these interests. Why is man so interested? Eccl. 3:11 says, "...God has put eternity in man's heart..." Our Creator built us and placed an eternal interest in our hearts. Prophecy is also a fascinating subject. Sadly, because of fear and confusion many neglect the subject. Prophecy enjoys great prominence in the Bible. In fact, 27% of the Bible contains prophecy. Jesus referred to His return 21 times. There are 318 references to Jesus' coming in the NT – that's more than the number of chapters (260)! His return is mentioned in 23 of 27 NT books. So, to ignore this subject is to disregard over one fourth of Scripture. Therefore since, God has placed eternity in our hearts and made this subject so prominent in His Word, we would do well to understand it as best we can.

VISUAL OVERVIEW OF END TIME EVENTS . . .

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION – 22 Chapters, 404 Verses

Written around AD 95 by the Apostle John (vv. 1,4,9), the book of the Revelation, has as its *theme* that Jesus Christ is the conqueror who will one day return to this earth to finally defeat all evil and establish His reign forever – and all who know Him will share in that glorious victory! It is the only book that begins and ends with a blessing (1:3; 22:14).

PROLOGUE (1:1-8) Look at 1:19 for it outlines the book . . .

I. THE PAST ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

"What you have seen?" (1:9-20)

- A. Vision of Christ (vv. 9-16)
 - 1. (vv.9-11) – What John "heard"
 - 2. (vv.12-16) – What John "saw" – one of the most majestic descriptions in Scripture of Jesus Christ in the midst of His church
- B. Voice of Christ (vv.17-20) – What John "did" (v. 17 "I fell . . .")

7 Key events:

- 1. Jesus and His Church on Earth (Chs. 1-3)
- 2. The Church in Heaven (Chs. 4-5)
- 3. The Tribulation on earth (Chs. 6-18) – 3 successive judgments of 7 judgments each
- 4. The Second Coming to earth (Ch. 19)
- 5. The Millennium on earth (20:1-6)
- 6. Final Judgment and Hell (20:7-15)
- 7. New Heaven and New Earth (Chs. 21-22) - Eternity

II. THE PRESENT EXPERIENCE OF THE CHURCH

"What Is Now?" (2:1-3:22) – Jesus and His Church on Earth

These churches were *actual local* churches in Asia Minor (modern Western Turkey) during John's day. They *also represent types* of churches that exist between Pentecost and the Rapture. Some believe that the order of these seven follows that of various *periods in church history* of the churches' spiritual state, from then until the Rapture when the church will have deteriorated into an apostate condition.

- A. Ephesus (2:1-7) – *Loveless (Jumbled Priorities)* – Apostolic Era (AD 33-64)
Though commended at some points (vv.2-3 for its good works, patient endurance, and intolerance of evil), Christ condemned for neglecting its main priority, to love Christ first and foremost (v.4)
- B. Smyrna (2:8-11) – *Longsuffering (Faithful in Opposition)* – Roman Persecution (64-313)
The Smyrna church was one of only two good churches. It maintained patience and faithfulness in spite of satanic persecution, steady pressure, and severe poverty.
- C. Pergamum (2:12-17) – *Loose (Doctrinal Compromise)* – Byzantine Oppression (313-606)
This church was loose in its living because it was compromising in its doctrine. Wrong doctrine will always produce wrong living.
- D. Thyatira (2:18-29) – *Liberal (Immoral Practices)* – Middle Ages (606-1520)
Like Ephesus and Pergamum, the Thyatira church was both good and bad. Similar to the church of Pergamum, liberal doctrine had produced loose living – and repentance was in order.
- E. Sardis (3:1-6) – *Lifeless (Spiritual Apathy)* – Protestant Reformation (1520-1750)
The church at Sardis was spiritually dead and didn't know it. Spiritual apathy had become the norm because it was living on its past glories and the product was barrenness.
- F. Philadelphia (3:7-13) – *Loyal (Eternally Secure)* – Missionary Era (1750-1900)
The churches at Smyrna and Philadelphia were the only two good churches. The Philadelphian church was loyal and faithful to be evangelistic and missionary in her thrust.

G. Laodicea (3:14-22) – *Lukewarm (Material Prosperity)* – Modern Period (1900-??)

Sardis and Laodicea were the two bad churches. Due to material prosperity the church at Laodicea was blind to her own needs and unwilling to face the truth of her sin of indifference

SUMMARY: All seven of these churches had needs only Christ could meet. Only He knew all their strengths and weaknesses, and only He had the cure.

[OVERVIEW OF THE END TIMES Chart]

[RAPTURE OF CHURCH] 4:1 “After this” What’s *this*?

“How do we know the church is gone?”

1. Silence - The “church” is not mentioned between 3:22 and 22:16. It is in heaven while Tribulation is on earth.
2. Symbolic Language - The events (suddenness, trumpets, etc.) fit the things described in Rapture-related passages (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

III. THE *PROSPECTIVE EVENTS* OF THE CONSUMMATION

“What will take place later?” (Chs. 4-22)

The scenes alternate between heaven and earth, but the book begins and ends in heaven.

A. The **THRONE** in Heaven (Chs. 4-5) – Jesus and His Church in the Present Heaven

These Chapters introduce the source of the visions and judgments to follow. The setting is in heaven, the chief person is Christ (Lion of Judah and Lamb of God), and the main picture is of a “throne” (mentioned 14 times in Ch. 4 alone).

1. (4:1-11) The heavenly vision – “24 elders” (v.4) are the completed Body of Christ.
2. (5:1-5) The unopened scroll is the Father’s last will and testament containing the Son’s inheritance (Psa. 2:7-9). Title deed to all creation, containing 3 sets of successive 7 judgments over 7 years.
3. (5:6-14) The adored Lamb

B. The **TRIBULATION** on Earth (Chs. 6-18) show chart ...– Purposes of . . .

1. The seven Seals (6:1-8:5) take place the first year and half of Tribulation

Chapter 6 – The SEALS (Matt. 24:4-14 Parallels Rev. 6-7)

Seal #1 (6:1-2) – On earth: White horse – False Peace

Seal #2 (6:3-4) – On earth: Red horse – Wars

Seal #3 (6:5-6) – On earth: Black horse – Famine

Seal #4 (6:7-8) – On earth: Pale horse – Death to 25%

Seal #5 (6:9-11) – In heaven: Martyred Trib. saints observing earth (19:2) – snapshot of life in the present heaven . . .

Seal #6 (6:12-17) – On earth: Cosmic disturbances

Chapter 7 First Interlude and Respite (Parenthesis) – No chronological advance – God promises to preserve two groups of people

- (1) 7:1-8 Sealing of Israelites on earth – 144,000 Jewish evangelists. How did they get saved during early Tribulation period? By the “Two Witnesses”, later see in Ch. 11, who operate first half of Tribulation
- (2) 7:9-17 Salvation of Gentiles standing in heaven

[Telescopic View of Judgments] PPT

Chapter 8 Resumes Judgments

Seal #7 (8:1-5) – In heaven: Silence! Opens the 7 trumpets

1. The Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19)

The 7th seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments that cover the next 4 ½ years – past the midpoint and up to the final year.

Trumpet #1 (8:7) - 1/3 of earth smote by hail and fire mixed with blood

Trumpet #2 (8:8-9) - 1/3 of sea, its creatures, and ships destroyed

Trumpet #3 (8:10-11) - 1/3 waters smote by great meteorite

Trumpet #4 (8:12-13) – 1/3 darkened

Chapter 9 Mid-Tribulation

Trumpet #5 (9:1-12) - Demons loosed (near mid-point)

Trumpet #6 (9:13-21) – Four fallen angels released instigating an invasion from the East leaving 1/3 mankind dead

Chapters 10-15 No chronological advance (all in heaven but Chs. 11 & 13) – 11 Key Figures of the Tribulation

Chapter 10 Second Interlude (Parenthesis) – “from heaven”

- (1) 10:1-7 The Mighty Angel and the little scroll
10:8-11 John and the scroll

- (2) *Chapter 11* Two Witnesses (Moses & Elijah/Enoch)

Back to earth near mid-Tribulation

11:1-4 Period of their ministry

- 11:5-6 Purpose of their ministry
- 11:7-10 Persecution in their ministry
- 11:11-14 Panic after their ministry

Trumpet #7 (11:15-19) – introduces the bowl judgments coming in Chs. 15 & 16. This 7th trumpet has been on hold since 8:13. This 7th trumpet announces the inevitability of Christ's victory. More Figures (12:1-13:18)

2. More Figures -

Chapter 12

- (3) 12:1-2 The Woman (Israel) with child
- (4) 12:3-4 The Dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns
- (5) 12:5-6 The Male Child (Christ)
- (6) 12:7-12 The Angel Michael – War in heaven
- (7) 12:13-17 The Woman's Offspring (the Remnant)

Chapter 13 Still More Figures of People on Earth

- (8) 13:1-10 The Beast from the Sea – The False Prince
- (9) 13:11-18 The Beast from the Earth – The False Prophet

3. The Seven Messengers (14:1-20)

Chapter 14 (Angelic Previews of the Lamb's Victory from heaven)

- (10) The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists
 - (1) 14:1-5 Worship by Lamb's followers
 - (2) 14:6-7 Our gospel is eternal
 - (3) 14:8 Babylon will fall
 - (4) 14:9-11 The doom of the Beast
 - (5) 14:12-13 The blessed saints
 - (6) 14:14-20 Previews of Armageddon

4. The Seven Bowls (15:1-16:21) This final series of judgments. They occur in rapid succession during final year of the Tribulation.

- (11) *Chapter 15* (back in heaven) Prelude to wrath of bowl judgments – The Heavenly Choir of Martyred Tribulation saints singing Moses' Song of Deliverance (Exo. 15)

Chapter 16 The Bowls (final year)

- Bowl #1 (v.2) – Body sores
- Bowl #2 (v.3) – Bloody seas
- Bowl #3 (vv.4-7) – Ruined fresh waters
- Bowl #4 (vv.8-9) – Scorching heat

Bowl #5 (vv.10-11) – Darkness

Bowl #6 (vv. 12-16) – War from East

Bowl #7 (vv.17-21) – Earthquakes and more

5. The seven Judgments (17:1-18:24) we return again the final half of the Tribulation Period

Chapter 17 Heavenly View of Babylon – the religious system (Harlot Church) – 7 judgments

- (1) 17:1-7, 16-18 Judgment of the Harlot
- (2) 17:8-11 Judgment of the Beast
- (3) 17:12-14, 16-17 Judgment of the Ten Kings
- (4) 17:15 Judgment of the Peoples

Chapter 18 Earthly view of Babylon – the political and economic systems

- (5) 18:1-8 Judgment of Political system
- (6) 18:9-10 Judgment of Kings
- (7) 18:11-24 Judgment of Merchants

C. The **THOUSAND YEARS** of Reign (19:1-20:6)

Chapter 19 Back in heaven (vv. 1-10)

- 1. The Chorus to the King (19:1-10)
19:1-10 Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 2. The Coming of the King (19:11-21) Heading to Earth for the Campaign of Armageddon – This is **SECOND COMING!**
Beast and False Prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire

Chapter 20

- 1. The Control of His Kingdom
 - (1) 20:1-3 Binding of Satan
 - (2) 20:4-6 Reigning of Saints – The 1000-year **MILLENNIUM** on earth

D. **TRIUMPH** of Glory (20:7-22:5)

- 1. The final fling and the fatal end
 - (1) 20:7-10 Satan loosed for final fling, then thrown into Lake of Fire
 - (2) 20:11-15 The final judgment (The Great White Throne)

Chapter 21

- 1. The new heaven and the new earth
 - (1) 21:1-8 The Eternal State
 - (2) 21:9-10 The Vision of the City
 - (3) 21:11-21 The City Described
 - (4) 21:22-22:5 Life in the City

We have 7 new things in this section: heaven (21:1), earth (21:1), Jerusalem (21:2,10), people (21:3), temple (21:22), light (21:23), and Paradise (22:1-5).

EPILOGUE (22:6-21)

1. (22:6-17) Words of Comfort
2. (22:18-19) Words of Warning
3. (22:20-21) Words of Benediction

CONCLUSION to OVERVIEW: Now, Jesus is a wonderful Savior and the Lamb of God to be received and worshipped.

1. Later, He will be the Lion of Judah to Judge and to be feared.