

From the Garden to Glory

Revelation

Author: John the Apostle

Written to: To the seven churches in Asia

Timeline: c. 96 A.D.

Theme: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Purpose of writing: John wrote about the things he had seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place (1:19). He wrote to give hope to Christians in revealing that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Introduction:

John was an older man, a Roman prisoner on the Isle of Patmos when God gave him this revelation of Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation can be divided into three sections. Chapter one describes the vision John saw of Jesus Christ standing in the midst of the seven churches. Chapters two and three are letters written to the seven churches of Asia. These letters have personal application as well as application to the Church Age in which we now live. The remaining nineteen chapters relate future events following the Rapture of the Church. These events bring conclusion to the prophecies of Scripture that have yet to be fulfilled.

As you read, try and see the entire picture, don't get lost in the details. Jesus Christ has won! God is in control! One day soon we will be face to face with Him where *every tear will be wiped away, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying and no more pain* (21:4).

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

As we begin our study of the book of Revelation consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. As you read in the Introduction, a major message in the book of Revelation is that God is in control. What is one area of your life where you need the assurance that God is indeed in control of everything?

2. Look up the word *revelation* in a dictionary and write the definition. What is something you would like revealed about the Church Age?
Note: The Church Age is a term that describes the time which began at Pentecost (fifty days after Jesus was raised from the dead) and will end when the Church is raptured.

3. Let us not get bogged down with the details or timetable of this book lest we miss the basic truths concerning the Lord's infinite power, love and justice. List one way in which you have experienced each of these. What more would you like revealed about each during your study of this book?
 - the Lord's infinite power

 - the Lord's infinite love

 - the Lord's infinite justice

Christ and the Churches

Read Revelation 1:1-3:22

1. Look at 1:5-8. What do these verses reveal about Jesus Christ? Select one of these descriptions and explain why it is important to you.

2. Read 1:17. What was John's response when he saw Jesus revealed? Anne Graham Lotz said that John was "confronted with the vision of Jesus in His awesome glory, holiness and majesty." Respond to the following quote from Lotz. Have you ever so totally surrendered to Jesus? Why or why not?

To fall dead at the feet of Jesus means there is no more wrestling for His will with your life, no more pursuit of goals and plans that are your own, no more walking off in your own direction, no more running ahead of Him or lagging behind Him. Falling prostrate means that you are still before Christ. Dead still.

3. As you read chapters two and three you will see that there are similar elements in many of the messages to the churches. Read these chapters, fill in the following chart and then make application for your own life. Note: some of the elements may not be found for each church.

	How was Jesus described?	How did Jesus commend this church?	How did Jesus rebuke this church?	How did Jesus instruct this church?	How can you apply this lesson in your own life?
message to Ephesus 2:1-7					
message to Smyrna 2:8-11					
message to Pergamos 2:12-17					
message to Thyatira 2:18-29					
message to Sardis 3:1-6					
message to Philadelphia 3:7-13					
message to Laodicea 3:14-22					

Christ's Throne and the Seven Sealed Books

Read Revelation 4:1-6:17

1. Read chapter 4 and sketch the scene that John described. Write out verses 8b and 11 and make them your prayer of praise to the Lord today.

2. In chapter five John described a scroll. Read this chapter. Who is the only One who would be worthy to open and read the scroll? What do you learn about Him from this chapter? According to Pastor Chuck Smith

The scroll contains the title deed to the earth. When Jesus gave His life on the cross, He redeemed the earth back to God, but God hasn't taken possession of it yet.

3. In chapter six John described what he saw as the Lamb opened the first six seals. Briefly describe what is said about the opening of each of these and the consequences.

- first seal

- second seal

- third seal

- fourth seal

- fifth seal

- sixth seal

Christ's Trumpets Sound

Read Revelation 7:1-9:21

1. Read 7:1-8.

- What does verse 1 say that the angels were doing? What does this tell you about the power of God?
- What does verse 3 tell you about the heart of God?
- Many cults claim that they are the *one hundred and forty-four thousand*. Who do verses 4-8 say these will be?

2. Summarize 7:9-17. Read what Pastor Chuck Smith says about this great multitude.

These are the same martyrs that we saw in Chapter 6...The reasons I believe this group is not the Church: (1) John didn't recognize them. If this was the Church, John would know them, because he never had trouble recognizing the Church. He would also have recognized this group if they were the Old Testament saints, because he had seen Moses and Elijah with Christ and knew them (Matthew 17:1-8). (2) The position of this group in heaven is not that of the bride but that of servants. The Church will be the Bride of Christ and in an exalted position.

3. The seventh seal is opened in chapter eight. Seven trumpets of judgment will come out of the seventh seal and seven vials of God's wrath will come out of the trumpet judgments. This is all contained in the seventh seal. Read chapters eight and nine and briefly describe what will happen when each of the first six trumpets is sounded.

- first trumpet
- second trumpet

- third trumpet

- fourth trumpet

- fifth trumpet

- sixth trumpet

Christ and the Woes

Read Revelation 10:1-12:17

1. Read 10:1-11. The word *angel* literally means *messenger*. Many commentators believe that this other *mighty angel* is Jesus Christ. The little book is thought to be the unsealed scroll - the title deed to the earth. What was John told to do with this little book in verse 9? What happened when he did so? Can you share a time when the Lord directed you to do something that was *sweet* initially but eventually became *bitter* and required sufferings?

2. In chapter eleven John interrupted the description of the sequence of events during the seven-year Tribulation period to look at two witnesses whom God would send. Read this chapter and summarize what you learn about these two witnesses. Where and how does the Lord call *you* to be a witness for Him?

3. Read chapter twelve and record what you learn about the following.
 - verses 1-6: the woman (note: the woman is the nation of Israel)

 - verses 7-12: the war in heaven (note: the dragon is satan)

- verses 13-17: the war on earth

Christ and the Antichrist

Read Revelation 13:1-15:8

1. According to Pastor Chuck Smith the beast will rise out of the ten nations of the Common Market ("ten horns") and it will receive its power, throne and authority from satan. Read chapter thirteen and record what you learn about the beast.

2. God is merciful and long suffering but there is a limit to His patience. Read 14:9-11. What will be the end of those who worship the beast? How would you answer someone who asks how could *a good God* pour out His wrath on people?

3. Look at chapter fifteen. Read the commentary by Anne Graham Lotz. Spend some time today meditating on the Lord God Almighty. Write out the song of those who had victory over the beast from verses 3-4. Make it your song of praise today.

The awesome scene described in Revelation 15 is not one of rage or passionate anger but of solemn, holy judgment. From this historic moment on, God will no longer tolerate sin, rebellion or blasphemy among men on earth...As the plagues, represented by the bowls of wrath, are poured out on earth, those who had overcome the beast and had been faithful to Christ, even unto death, sing a song of victory. They are each given a harp by God. After weeks and months and perhaps years of torture, suffering and unspeakable persecution, they have a song! They are filled with joy! Why? Because the unrepentant wicked and their evil alliances are finally held accountable by God.

Christ's Final Triumph

Read Revelation 16:1-18:24

1. In chapter sixteen John described seven bowls. These were called *golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever* in 15:7. Record what you learn about each of these.

- first bowl

- second bowl

- third bowl

- fourth bowl

- fifth bowl

- sixth bowl

- seventh bowl

2. The *great harlot* is the false church which will be very powerful and rule over many nations during the time of the Great Tribulation. What are some of the dangers of a one world religion? What do you learn about this *great religious harlot* from chapter seventeen?

3. Chapter eighteen describes the destruction of Babylon. The commercial world is represented by commercial Babylon. Read this chapter and answer the following questions.

- What will happen to Babylon?

- How will those of the earth react to Babylon's fall?
- What will be the reaction in heaven?

Christ the Lord of All

Read Revelation 19:1-22:21

1. Read chapter twenty and record what you learn about each of the following.
 - satan's bondage
 - the millennial (thousand year) reign
 - satan's release, rebellion and final destiny
 - the great white throne judgment (note: the white throne judgment is not for the Church)
2. What do you learn about the new heaven and the new earth from chapter twenty-one? What is the most exciting aspect of this for you? Why?
3. The word *maranatha* means *our Lord comes*. Jesus said, "I am coming quickly" twice in chapter twenty-two. How does the Lord's imminent return challenge you to live your life for Him?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Revelation consider the following questions and write your answer:

- 1.** What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

- 2.** What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of these books? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?