

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

## THE APOCALYPSE UNVEILED

6-1-16

### Revelation Outline

1. The book of The Revelation has nine major chapters. They do not coincide with the chapters in the English Bible. There are nine major thoughts in the Book. Let's get these thoughts in outline form. The first is the most important: Jesus Christ is the key to history and prophecy. This is the central theme of Revelation chapter one. Let's review what we learned last week and then begin new material on page two.

1.1 The introduction to the apocalypse-verses 1-8

1.2 The occasion of the apocalypse-verses 9-11

1.3 The person of the apocalypse-verses 12-20

2. Interlaced in the book are several historical trends to be experienced by the church on earth during the Church Age. Revelation chapters 2-3

2.1 Church at Ephesus-2:1-7

2.2 Church at Smyrna-2:8-11

2.3 Church at Pergamum-2:12-17

2.4 Church at Thyatira-2:18-29

2.5 Church at Sardis-3:1-6

2.6 Church at Philadelphia-3:7-13

2.7 Church at Laodicea-3:14-22

3. The Church in heaven-Revelation chapters 4 and 5

4. The Tribulation and Second Advent with emphasis on events-Revelation chapters 6-11

5. The Tribulation and Second Advent with emphasis on the characters-Revelation chapters 12-19

6. The Millennium and the last judgment-Revelation chapter 20

7. The eternal state-Rev 21:1-8

8. The eternal Jerusalem-Rev 21:9-22:5

9. The termination of the Canon-Rev 22:6-21

10. Now I want to provide what I taught (with minor modification) on 12-29-1999. It was the first of 165 lessons.

## BOOK OF THE REVELATION

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the book of the Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Revelation represent a compilation of things learned from such men as Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Arno C. Gabelein, John Walvoord, Hal Lindsay, Dwight Pentecost, along with an exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

### Lesson 1

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The study of the book of Revelation calls for more preliminary considerations than that of any other book in the Bible.

1.2 There is something paradoxical about the book of Revelation. It is a Book of acknowledged difficulty, and yet down through the ages it has been like a magnet, irresistibly drawing to its study Christians of every school of thought, laymen, clergy, and professors.

1.2.1 But then John Calvin refused to write a commentary on Revelation and gave it very little consideration in his massive writings. Luther for years avoided its teachings.

1.2.2 And yet at the same time, the book has compelled men to give prolonged study to its prophecies, and to go back again and again for a reconsideration of its themes and for a new grasp of its truths.

1.3 It is not only the last book in the canonical arrangement of our Bible, but it is the necessary conclusion to God's revelation to men.

1.4 Of all the books of the Bible, this is the one that certainly may be considered as the book for the end of the age.

1.4.1 As we approach the end of this Millennium, the western world itself, including its statesmen, scientists, economists, and essayists, has consciously recognized its importance.

1.4.2 This is especially true in regard to the use of the word apocalypse. This word has come to stand for an age of upheaval and a world fraught with fearful consequences.

1.4.3 The word apocalypse communicates an unleashing of vast powers which man himself is helpless to control and yet the word itself technically only means "a revelation of things to come."

1.5 Whenever there is a world crisis, whenever the State exalts itself and demands an allegiance which Christians know they cannot pay, we are reminded of the Revelation to John on the Island called Patmos.

1.5.1 Patmos is located off the coast of Greece in the Aegean Sea.



1.6 This is supremely a book which warns of one world, and surely now, at the end of the twenty-first century, as we see approaching a one world condition, i.e., global this and global that, a new world order, ecumenical overtures etc. the book of the Revelation declares a special warning.

1.7 Frequently in the Apocalypse we come upon such ominous phrases as: "many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings," "kings of the whole world," "nations commit fornication with the harlot," "an economic boycott is enforced by the beast," "the beast from the sea having authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation" and concerning the Beast of the Sea.

1.8 Now with all that who could deny that the spirit of the Antichrist is in the world today and were it not for you and me his programs would abound and proliferate with a fury and success.

1.9 This is preeminently a book for a troubled age (the Tribulation), in which the darkness deepens, fear spreads over all mankind, and monstrous powers, godless and evil, appear on the stage of history but there is at the end comfort and encouragement.

1.10 God knows all things from the beginning, even the tribulations of his own people. However, the ultimate end of this conflict is determined by Christ, when He, is finally victorious.

1.11 Sin and Satan and all Satan's cohorts will be eternally defeated; and believers will be with the Son of God in glory forever.

1.12 This is the only book in the Bible that pronounces a blessing for hearing, reading, and obeying of its words: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein." Rev 1:3; Rev 22:7.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

1.13 It is in this book we have the final doom of Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet and all the enemies of God. All peoples and principalities shall fall at the feet of the Lamb of God.

1.14 The author is John inspired by the Holy Spirit but revealed directly by the Father first to Christ and then to John by Jesus Christ Himself.

1.14.1 Four times in this book the author's name is inserted. (Rev 1:1, 4, 9 and Rev 22:8

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John ...

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne ...

Rev 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. . .

Rev 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

1.14.2 As early as the first half of the second century, it was the conviction of the Church that John was the author.

1.14.3 Whatever may be the grammatical peculiarities of this book, there are innumerable similarities between the vocabularies of John's Gospel and the Apocalypse.

1.14.4 There have been different convictions concerning the time that this book was written. The unanimous verdict of the early church was that the Apostle John while banished to the Isle of Patmos by the emperor Domitian (A.D. 81 to 96), penned this final Revelation in about A.D. 95.

1.15 The word Revelation is derived from the Latin Revelare, ("to reveal or unveil that which has previously been hidden"). This was the title assigned to the book in the Latin Vulgate. As earlier seen the Greek title is Apocalypse, taken directly from the first word in the Greek text, **Apokalupsis**.

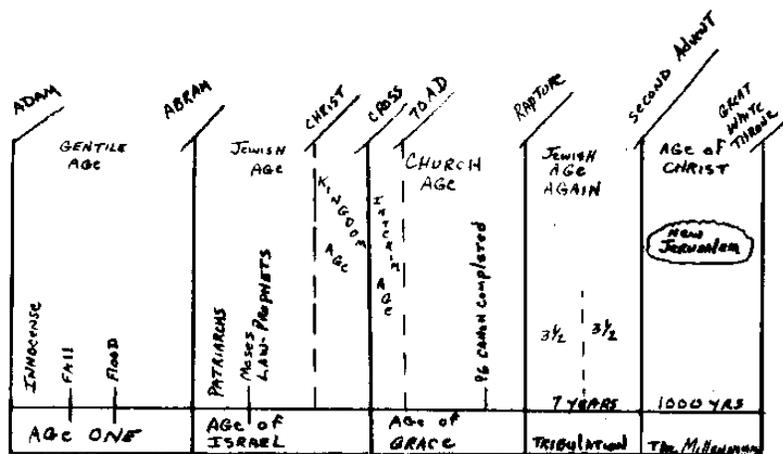
1.16 The Apocalypse is a book of prophecy.

1.17 In its unfolding of the future, it particularly emphasizes the repeated and increasingly violent worldwide attempts of earthly personalities and peoples to foil the plan of God.

1.17.1 The Book makes clear that this conflict is certain to end in the complete overthrow of these evil forces and the establishment of the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

1.17.2 This age long conflict, even involving war in heaven, is made up of a series of plots on the part of the enemies of Christ to defeat the King of kings.

1.17.3 Each plot ends in failure, followed by fearful divine judgment. And the long conflict terminates in the final judgment of the Great White Throne and the beginning of eternity.



1.18 The book of The Revelation, above every other book of the Bible, is a record of what the author had revealed in visions. All of us know how difficult it is at times to record what we have seen, especially when the sight is spectacular.

1.19. The many different Greek verbs meaning, "to see," "behold," or "perceive," occur 140 times in this book, beginning with "what thou seest write in a book." Rev 1:11.

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

1.19.1 Immediately afterwards, John says: "I turned to see the voice that spoke with me and having turned, I saw," etc. (v. 12).

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks (verse 1:20 tells us the seven golden candlesticks are the seven churches of Asia);

1.19.2 At the beginning of chapter 4, a voice is heard from heaven saying to John, "Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass hereafter" (4:1).

1.19.3 From this point on, there are numerous paragraphs, right down to the end of the book, beginning, "And I saw." Not only do we have here a series of visions, but the book is saturated with symbolic language.

2. Let's again review what we have learned about the nine major themes or thoughts found in the Book of Revelation.

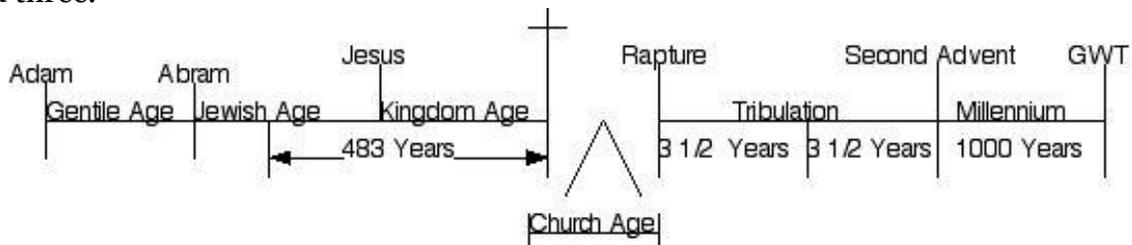
3. The book of The Revelation has nine major chapters. They do not coincide with the chapters in the English Bible. There are nine major thoughts in the Book. Let's get these thoughts in outline form and then study the Book under each such heading.

3.1 The first is the most important. Jesus Christ is the key to history and prophecy. This is the central theme of Revelation Chapter One.

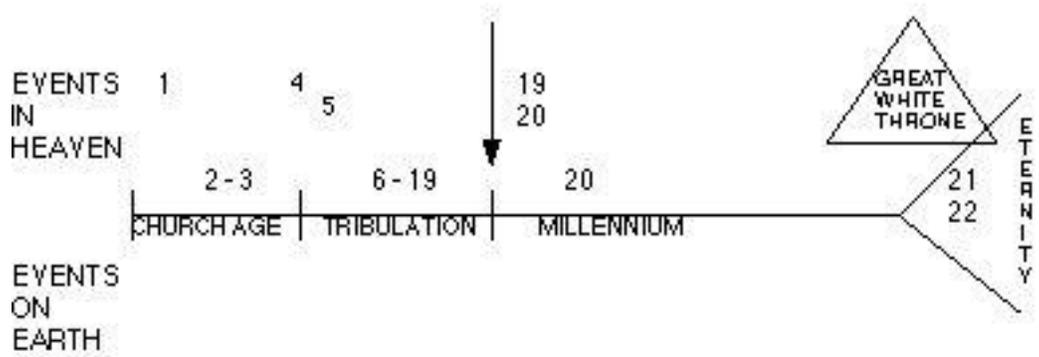
4. The historical trends of the church on earth and the fact that the age of the church is a dead spot as far as prophecy is concerned is established in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

4.1 Let's take a look at our dispensation chart which emphasizes the intercalation feature of the Church Age in between two Jewish ages.

5. The historical trends of the church on earth and the fact that the age of the church is a dead spot as far as prophecy is concerned. This is established in Revelation chapters two and three.



## AN OVERVIEW OF REVELATION



6. The Church Age is represented by seven churches “The Seven Churches of Asia Minor which represent four periods the Church Age will experience.

- 6.1 Church at Ephesus – 32 A.D. – 100 A.D.
- 6.2 Church at Smyrna – 100 A.D. – 300 A.D.
- 6.3 Church at Pergamum – 300 A.D. – 800 A.D.
- 6.4 Church at Thyatira – 800 A.D. – 1517 A.D.
- 6.5 Church at Sardis 1517 A.D. - Rapture
- 6.6 Church at Philadelphia – Church at the Rapture
- 6.7 Church at Laodicea Church at the beginning of the Tribulation



End Lesson Taught 6-1-2016

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