

## **The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ**

### **I. Introduction (1:1-8).**

- A. The title and description of the book (1:1-2).
- B. The benediction (1:3). Cf. 22:7.
- C. The salutation (1:4-8).

### **II. The Things Which John Had Seen (1:9-20).**

This was the vision of Christ. Rev. 1:19 gives us the divisions of the book.

### **III. “The Things Which Are” – Our Lord’s letters to the Seven Churches of Asia (2:1-3:22).**

- A. The letter to the church at Ephesus (2:1-7): the church that had lost her first love.
- B. The letter to the church at Smyrna (2:8-11): the suffering church, materially poor, but spiritually rich.
- C. The letter to the church at Pergamos (2:12-17): where Satan’s throne was, contaminated by the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.
- D. The letter to the church at Thyatira (2:18-29): the church where the false prophet Jezebel was permitted to continue her evil work.
- E. The letter to the church at Sardis (3:1-6): the church which had a good name, but which was spiritually dead.
- F. The letter to the church at Philadelphia (3:7-13): the church of the open door.
- G. The letter to the church at Laodicea (3:14-22): the lukewarm church, materially rich, but spiritually poor.

### **IV. “The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter” (4:1-22:5).** This includes everything that will take place from the rapture of the Church until the Eternal State is established with its new heaven and new earth. This section deals with the Great Tribulation.

#### **A. The throne in heaven (4:1-5:14).**

- 1. The worship of the one God Who sits upon the throne (4:1-11). He is worshiped by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures.
- 2. The book with the seven seals (5:1-14). The book is held in God’s right hand. Christ alone, as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and as the Lamb, is worthy to open the seven seals. Then He is worshiped as God was worshiped in chapter 4.

#### **B. The Great Tribulation (6:1-18:24).**

- 1. THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS (6:1-17; 8:1-6).
  - a. The first seal (6:1-2). A white horse and its rider.
  - b. The second seal (6:3-4). A red horse and its rider.
  - c. The third seal (6:5-6). A black horse and its rider.
  - d. The fourth seal (6:7-8). A pale horse and its rider.
  - e. The fifth seal (6:9-11). The martyred saints.
  - f. The sixth seal (6:12-17). Disasters in nature.

#### Parenthesis:

- (1) The redeemed of Israel who are spared from death during the Great Tribulation – the 144,000 (7:1-8).

- (2) A heavenly vision of the saints who are martyred during the Great Tribulation (7:9-17). Both Jews and Gentiles are included in this number.
- g. The seventh seal (8:1-6). The seven angels with seven trumpets, and another angel with a golden censer.
- 2. THE SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS (8:7-9:21; 11:15-19).
  - a. The first trumpet (8:7). Hail and fire mingled with blood cast out into the earth. A third of the trees burned up, and all green grass.
  - b. The second trumpet (8:8-9). A great burning mountain cast into the sea, and a third of the sea becomes blood.
  - c. The third trumpet (8:10-11). A burning star falls from heaven contaminating a third of the fresh water supply.
  - d. The fourth trumpet (8:12-13). A third of the light from the sun, moon, and stars darkened.
  - e. The fifth trumpet – the first woe (9:1-12). The last three trumpet judgments are called *woes* because this “implies a solemnity and fearfulness beyond anything we have previously considered” (Ironsides, *Lectures on the Revelation*, p. 155). This first woe is five months of judgment out of the bottomless pit when men will seek death, but not find it.
  - f-1. The sixth trumpet – the second woe (9:13-21). A third of the population of the world will die.
- Parenthesis:
  - (1) The mighty angel with the little book (10:1-11).
  - (2) The two witnesses (11:1-12).
- f-2. The end of the second woe (11:13-14).
- g. The seventh trumpet – the third woe (11:15-19). The scene is projected to the end when the kingdoms of the world are taken over by “our Lord, and of His Christ” (11:5).
- 3. The woman, the great dragon, and the child (12:1-17).
- 4. The two beasts (13:1-18).
  - a. The beast out of the sea (13:1-10).
  - b. The beast out of the earth (13:11-18).
- 5. The song of the 144,000 (14:1-5). Cf. Rev. 7:1-8.
- 6. The vision of the six angels and the Son of man (14:6-20). Three angels appear, then the Son of man, and then the last three angels. With the exception of the fifth angel, all of the rest have a message to proclaim, a revelation.
- 7. THE SEVEN VIAL, OR BOWL, JUDGMENTS (15:1-12, 17-21).
  - a. The preparation for the bowl judgments (15:1-8).
  - b. The execution of the bowl judgments (16:1-21).

- (1) The command to pour out the bowl judgments (16:1).
- (2) The first bowl judgment (16:2). A terrible sore is inflicted upon those who had the mark of the beast and had worshiped his image.
- (3) The second bowl judgment (16:3). The sea becomes as blood, and all creatures in the sea die.
- (4) The third bowl judgment (16:4-7). The fresh water again is turned to blood as a judgment for the martyrdom of the saints and prophets.
- (5) The fourth bowl judgment (16:8-9). Men scorched by the fire and the heat of the sun.
- (6) The fifth bowl judgment (16:10-11). The throne and kingdom of the beast judged with darkness and pain.
- (7) The sixth bowl judgment (16:12). The river Euphrates is dried up preparing the way for the kings of the east.

Parenthesis:

Satanic preparation for “the battle of the great day of God Almighty” (16:13-16).

- (8) The seventh bowl judgment (16:17-21). Judgment upon the nations and particularly upon Babylon, accompanied with thunders, lightnings, a great earthquake, and great hail.

8. The judgment of Babylon (17:1-18:24).
  - a. Babylon’s destruction described (17:1-18).
  - b. Babylon’s destruction explained (18:1-8).
  - c. Babylon’s destruction mourned (18:9-19).
    - (1) By the kings (18:9-10).
    - (2) By the merchants (18:11-19).
  - d. Babylon’s destruction celebrated (18:20-24).

**C. The Events which follow the Great Tribulation (19:1-22:5).**

1. The marriage of the Lamb (19:1-10).
2. The second coming of Christ to the earth (19:11-21).
3. The Millennium (20:1-6). In verses 2 through 7 the millennium, or a thousand year period, is mentioned no less than six times.
4. The release and final judgment of Satan (20:7-10).
5. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15).
6. The New Heaven and the New Earth with the New Jerusalem (21:1-22:5). This is the beginning of the Eternal State.

**V. The Conclusion (22:6-21).**

- A. The divine affirmation of the book (22:6-13).
- B. The final invitation (22:14-17).
- C. A solemn warning (22:18-19).
- D. Our Lord’s promise, the Apostle John’s closing supplication and prayer (22:20-21).