

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 1 – Say That Again...Say More!

September 12, 2017

[www.jewishrootsofchristianity.org](http://www.jewishrootsofchristianity.org) – lessons link...Revelation pt. 1 and Revelation pt. 2 – handouts and audio.

The phrase “obsessed with prophecy” is so misunderstood. The Bible is a book of prophecy. 27% of the Bible is devoted to prophecy. If you love the Bible – you’d better love prophecy.

There are three non-negotiables re: end times events:

- The literal, physical, visible return of Jesus Christ to the earth (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11; Acts 3:19-21; I Cor. 1:7; I Cor. 11:26; Phil. 3:20; II Thess. 1:6-7; II Thess. 2:8; Rev. 14:14ff; Rev. 19:11-16...) Jesus came literally the first time. Why wouldn’t He come – literally – the second time? In other words, we cannot relegate His Second Coming to some type of spiritual happening!
- The bodily resurrection of the dead (Job 19:26; I Cor. 15:42-44, 50-52; I Thess. 4:15-17)
- The final judgment of all people (Rev. 20:11-15)

These three truths are in the word of God – they are clear – they carry no other meaning. Though we may disagree within the Evangelical Church re: other end time events and the timing of such events, we can label these truths as the three immovable pillars in our eschatology – in our study of end times. I believe that those things which *must shortly take place* (Rev. 1:1) are definitely to take place in the future.

### Daniel 9

In Daniel 9 we see Daniel reading the portion of the scrolls of Jeremiah which speak to the years that the Jewish people would be in exile in Babylon beginning in 605 BC (Dan. 9:1-2). In fervent prayer, Daniel pours out his heart to God with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. He confesses his sins and the sins of his people, Israel (Dan. 9:20). Daniel knew that Israel’s restoration (Israel being restored to its unique place in God’s plan; the Kingdom of God being established) depended on national repentance (Jer. 29:10-14 – given to corporate Israel). Therefore, Daniel personally intercedes for Israel and confesses his sins as well. As Daniel is in prayer, God sends the angel, Gabriel...

### DANIEL 9:20-27

*Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup> yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your supplications*

*the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: 24 Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. 25 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. 26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*

This prophecy in Daniel holds the key to all prophetic events – those events that will happen in the future. Daniel gives us the understanding about end time prophecy. Dan. 9:24-27 has been labeled “the backbone of prophecy.” “The backbone of prophecy” means that all Scripture about end times that we read in the Bible, must fit into the outline of this prophetic revelation in Daniel. Dan. 9:24-27 is one of the most dramatic examples of prophecies already fulfilled and prophecies yet to be fulfilled. Re: already fulfilled prophecy, Dan. 9:24-27 points to the exact moment in history when the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, would present Himself to the Jewish people at His first coming – at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week prior to His crucifixion! And, this prophecy was written more than five hundred years before Jesus’ death on the cross! This prophecy teaches that the Messiah would come, at His first coming, before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD! NOTE: This is WHY Jesus told the Jewish people that the Temple would be destroyed in 70 AD because - *you did not know the time of your visitation (Luke 19:44).*

As well as establishing the timing of the first coming of Jesus, this prophecy prophesies the covenant that the antichrist will make with Israel which will begin the Tribulation. This prophecy speaks of the consummation, the Second Coming of Jesus, and the destruction of the antichrist!

Dan. 9:24-27 revolves around Israel. In v. 24 we read that God determined – He carved out - 490 years to RESTORE Israel.

- One week equates to 7 years.
- After the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (the street and the wall will be built) 49 years will have elapsed (7 weeks).
- After 434 years (62 weeks), Messiah the Prince will come on the scene; Messiah will die but not for Himself (approx. 30 AD).
- At this point 483 years will have passed. In approx. 30 AD, one week of 7 years is remaining!

- Next we read of the city, Jerusalem, and the sanctuary, the Temple, being destroyed in 70 AD by “the people of the prince who is to come”. We know that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans.
- The 70 AD timeframe is beyond the 490 years. We realize that there is a gap between the 483 years and the 490 years.
- The prince who is to come is the antichrist – in the future.
- We then read of the antichrist signing a covenant/peace treaty with Israel which will launch the Tribulation – “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7), “the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.” This is yet to occur.
- The Church is not mentioned in this “backbone of (end times) prophecy” passage.
- It appears that within this covenant, the antichrist allows the Jewish people to offer sacrifice.
- After 3.5 years, the antichrist puts an end to the sacrifices.
- The antichrist causes to spread an abomination (Strong’s - a detestable idol); the antichrist will sit in the temple and the false prophet will promote those on the earth to worship the antichrist. This abomination causes horror and at its completed end (God’s determined end), the abomination will mutilate and be poured out on the one causing horror.

Gabriel tells Daniel to “Seal the book....” (Dan. 12:4). Daniel was commanded to “conceal” and “seal up” the words of this prophecy. This does not mean that Daniel was to keep the message hidden from God’s people. Jesus exhorted the disciples to come to an understanding of the prophecy of Daniel (Matt. 24). Jesus told the Jewish people that they missed the time of His visitation. The time they should have known from Daniel 9:25-26. Rather, the command to “seal up” the words of the prophecy concerned the protection and preservation of the prophecies...to keep them intact so as to help those living in the future days. A sealed text was not to be tampered with or changed

*Dan. 12:9-10 - And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.’<sup>10</sup> Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.’* If God had intended to keep the meaning of the visions hidden, then the wise would not be able to understand it. Daniel was given visions/prophecies that covered so much territory and expanded over such a long period of time that he was unable to understand much of what he wrote. Thus – the sealing of the scroll...until the time when many of the prophecies would be explained and clarified.

The Apostle John, in contrast to Daniel, was told not to seal up the book, for all prophecy can now be understood and its fulfillment could begin at any time. In Revelation, the scroll is OPENED! Revelation is an unveiling, a disclosing of Jesus. Revelation brings together the big picture of God’s unfolding plan of redemption. Revelation contains approx. 550 references from the Hebrew Scriptures.

#### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS:

- The plot of Scripture can be summed up in four words: CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

- The overarching theme of the Bible: the glory of God
- The subtheme “The glory of God in salvation through judgment” is repeated throughout the Bible.
- The underlying principle of the Bible: the character of God
- We need to remember that God’s will can NEVER be thwarted! These Bible study tools will help us come to grips with, to grasp, to understand the book of Revelation!

A few truths to once again layout and truths from which we move forward...

Revelation 1:1 - *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place.*

*Shortly* - lit. certainly....Jesus’ return is a certainty...

AND, we’ve been promised a BLESSING!

Rev. 1:3 - *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

*Time* – ERA/EPOCH/SEASON – the next great epoch of God’s redemptive history – the next great event in God’s end time program.

*Near* – Gk *eggys* (engus) – lit. at hand; of times imminent – it’s expected...NOT soon – but at any moment. *Imminent* means approaching, coming, on the way, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, in the air, just around the corner, coming down the pike...imminent means UPON US! Jesus’ return can occur at any moment. Which return? Jesus will return at the Rapture in the air and believers will be caught up to meet Him at the Rapture. AND, Jesus will return physically to set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem.

Jesus’ physical second coming, when His feet will touch the Mt. of Olives (Zech. 14:4) is preceded by SIGNS: the 7-year Tribulation, the antichrist being revealed, 144,000 Jewish male virgins being sealed and used by God as His servants (for the purpose, it strongly appears, of evangelism), the two Jewish witnesses coming on the scene and preaching, angels proclaiming the Gospel. . . . We read of all these events before Jesus returns physically on a white horse followed by the redeemed on white horses (Rev. 19:11).

Therefore, Jesus’ physical second coming CANNOT be imminent; it cannot be at any moment – because of all the events that must take place before Jesus’ feet touch the Mount of Olives.

BUT, Jesus’ return for us – His followers – Jewish and Gentile believers in Him – His return when we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air – the Rapture of the Church (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:15-18), when we’ll be gathered together to Him (II Thess. 2:1) can be at any moment! No sign is noted in Scripture signaling the Rapture. Signs are noted for Jesus’ physical return not for the Church’s meeting Him in the air!

What are we seeing today? God is now setting the stage for the drama of the end of the age! The props are in place, and the actors have been selected. Yet, the curtain has not risen. But God is allowing world events to take place and players to assume their roles for the drama to begin. Before the curtain goes up, the Church will rise to meet the Lord

in the air at the Rapture. Sometime after the Rapture, the antichrist will arrive on the world scene. **THUS, the Rapture does NOT launch the Tribulation!** The antichrist brokering a peace treaty with Israel begins the Rapture. There could be a gap of time between the Rapture and the Tribulation!

This book of Revelation which has been viewed as fearful, torturous, foreboding to so many, opens with Jesus in His glory. At His first coming He came humbly – to die. At His Second Coming He will come in His glory to judge and conquer and establish His kingdom on earth! In the book of Revelation, we are seeing GOD vindicated! God is proving for all time Who HE is. The culmination of God’s plan for the world and the vindication of God is how we must understand the book of Revelation! Revelation not only looks forward to the future consummation of all things under Christ, it also looks back and weaves together all the threads from the first 65 books of the Bible.

Revelation gives us a three-fold outline in Rev. 1:19:

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

*The things which you have seen* (Rev. 1 – John’s vision of the glorified Christ)

*The things which are* (Rev. 2-3 – Jesus’ letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor [modern day Turkey])

*The things which will take place after this* (Rev. 4-22)

#### STUDY HELPS FOR REVELATION

Revelation reveals four different ages:

<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Revelation 2-3	Church Age	? years
Revelation 4-19	Tribulation	7 years
Revelation 20	Millennial Kingdom	1,000 years
Revelation 21-22	Eternal State	Forever

In the book of Revelation we will see the initiation of a dramatic, cataclysmic intervention on the part of God to cast out Satan and those who are in rebellion against God and to cleanse the earth.

We need to know that to bring the Kingdom of God to the earth, the kingdom of Satan must first be completely overthrown. Much of what follows in this book of Revelation must be understood in the context of the overthrow of Satan’s kingdom prior to the setting up of God’s kingdom on earth. Jesus will receive the Kingdom of God that has been promised to Israel throughout the OT. This is the Kingdom that the Church, Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus, will be living in along with redeemed Israel. How does Jesus receive this Kingdom? Through judgment!

J.I. Packer in his book, *Knowing God*, wrote the following about God and judgment: “The reality of divine judgment...is set forth on page after page of Bible

history. God judged Adam and Eve, expelling them from the Garden and pronouncing curses on their future earthly life (Gen. 3). God judged the corrupt world of Noah’s day, sending a flood to destroy mankind (Gen. 6-8). God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, engulfing them in a volcanic catastrophe (Gen. 18-19). God judged Israel’s Egyptian

taskmasters, just as He foretold He would (Gen. 15:14), unleashing against them the terrors of the ten plagues (Ex. 7-12). God judged those who worshipped the golden calf, using the Levites as His executioners (Ex. 32:26-35). God judged Nadab and Abihu for offering Him strange fire (Lev. 10:1ff), as later God judged Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, who were swallowed up in an earth tremor. God judged Achan for sacrilegious thieving; he and his family were wiped out (Josh. 7). God judged Israel for unfaithfulness to Him after their entry into Canaan, causing them to fall under the dominion of other nations (Judges 2:11ff; 3:5ff; 4:1ff).”

God is a God of love, but He also continues to be a God of judgment in the NT. God is eternal; His attributes are eternal. CONSIDER: The cross of Christ is THE most graphic picture of God’s judgment and love! And, consider a few accounts of judgment that we find in the NT: (Matt. 11:20-24; Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira; I Cor. 11:29-32; Rev. 20:11). In Rev. 19 and 20 we read of the central purpose and theme of Revelation – the authority of God over the entire universe!

There are those who teach that the key to the book of Revelation is the heavenly scene in Revelation 5. Our focus is on God’s throne. We are privy to understanding God’s perspective for the events that will transpire on earth. We cannot comprehend this book with all of its horrific judgments pouring forth on the earth without viewing it from God’s perspective! In Revelation 5, Jesus – the Lamb (suffering Servant) Who is also the Lion (conquering King) – is the only One worthy to take the scroll from the hand of God the Father. There are many interpretations regarding this scroll. I’ve strongly suggested that the scroll is the title deed to the universe. Jesus came to redeem mankind and to redeem the earth! This scroll reveals the judgments of God which will be poured out on mankind and on the earth during the Tribulation. Following the outpouring of God’s wrath, His judgments, at His Second Coming, Jesus will rightfully inherit the earth and implement the title deed of redemption to planet earth (Rom. 8:21). It will be in the throne room of God where GOD initiates the judgments because of His holiness and justice. And, the curse on man and on the earth will be reversed, and man and the earth will be restored. Eventually, the curse will be removed in the Eternal State – in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-5). All of history is moving toward this grand climax – the Kingdom of God on earth!

Chuck Swindoll: “Only one Person in heaven and earth was found worthy to take the scroll, to open its seals, and to begin the step-by-step process of snatching control of the world from evil and forever vanquishing sin and death: Jesus Christ. The steps necessary for preparing the world for His kingdom on earth, however, involve a period of unparalleled judgement.” AND, during the Tribulation there will be unparalleled evangelism!

NOTE: the audio and handouts are available for Rev. 1 through Rev. 8:1-6 on [www.jewishrootsofchristianity.org](http://www.jewishrootsofchristianity.org) – lessons link.

During the Tribulation where are believers in Jesus? I believe that we'll be with God in heaven during those seven years – coming before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ and participating in the Marriage of the Lamb.

If you're interested in a lesson re: why I believe Scripture teaches that the Rapture will take place before the Tribulation (pre-Trib), check out online: *End Times As Pictured in the Fall Feasts* – Week 3 – “Are We in End Times?” which included an addendum on the Rapture.

### SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN REVELATION 6-20

Main Action: Revelation 6 (six seals)

Intermission: Between the sixth and seventh seals – Revelation 7 – 144,000 sealed...multitudes saved from every tongue, tribe, nation

Main Action Returns: Revelation 8-9 (seventh seal, which contains the seven trumpets)

Intermission: Between the sixth and seventh trumpets – Revelation 10-15

Main Action Resumes: Revelation 16 (seven bowls)

Intermission: Describing the destruction of Babylon the Great – Revelation 17-18

Main Action: Revelation 19-20 – Second Coming and Millennial Kingdom

Why do the scenes alternate between heaven and earth in Revelation 4-20? While we are reading of chaos on earth, we are continually assured that all is controlled by God Who is on His throne in heaven.

#### IN HEAVEN

The heavenly throne (Rev. 4)

The Lamb on the throne (Rev. 5)

The fifth seal judgment (6:9-11)

The great multitude (7:9-17)

Preparations for the trumpet judgments (8:1-5)

The announcement of the seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)

The expulsion of Satan (12:1-12)

The announcement of the seven

#### ON EARTH

The first 4 seal judgments (6:1-8)

The sixth seal judgment (6:12-17)

The sealing of the 144,000 (7:1-8)

The first six trumpet judgments (8:6-9:21)

The little book (Rev. 10)

The ministry of the two witnesses (11:1-4)

The activity of Satan (12:13-17)

The activity of the two beasts (Rev. 13)

Judgment at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 14)

The seven bowl judgments

### IN HEAVEN

Last judgments (Rev. 15)

Praise for judging (19:1-10)

### ON EARTH

(Rev. 16)  
Babylon's destruction  
(Rev. 17-18)

The Second Coming of  
Christ (19:11-21)  
The Millennial reign of  
Jesus (Rev. 20)

How do we understand Scripture, including Bible prophecy?

Access Week 5 – How Can I Understand the Book of Revelation? (Revelation - first semester – fall 2016) Biblical prophecy is heavily symbolic, which often makes interpreting it seem difficult, if not impossible. REMEMBER – prophecy was given to be understood. Dan. 9:22 - *O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand*. God desires for us to understand His word. He communicates with us (Heb. 1:1-2).

How do we understand Scripture, including the book of Revelation? Simply stated: take a literal approach to Scripture; understand the Bible as the unfolding of God's plan; understand that God has a plan for Israel and that He has a plan for the Church...there is a distinction between Israel and the Church...the Church is not spiritual Israel.

### EVENTS IN HEAVEN

- The Rapture of the Church (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-58; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:10).
- The Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:9-15; I Cor. 4:1-5; I Cor. 9:24-27; II Cor. 5:10).
- The Marriage of the Lamb (II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-8).

### EVENTS ON EARTH

Following the Rapture

- Psa. 83 – Arab-Israeli
- Eze. 38-39 – Gog and Magog War

### SEVEN-YEAR TRIBULATION

#### The Beginning of the Tribulation

- The seven-year Tribulation begins when the antichrist signs a covenant with Israel, bringing peace to Israel and Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27; Eze. 38:8, 11).
- The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem might be rebuilt at this time esp. since the covenant has been made with Israel, and sacrifices will be offered (Dan. 9:27; II Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1).

- The reunited Roman Empire emerges in a ten-nation confederation – the “group of ten” (Dan. 2:40-44; Dan. 7:7; Rev. 17:12). As the antichrist appears on the scene with the first rider on the white horse (Rev. 6:2), we note his origin in Dan. 7:23-25 (note: another horn/other horn/little horn – vv. 8 & 20).

#### First Half (3.5 Years) of the Tribulation

- The seven seal judgments are opened (Rev. 6 – 8:1).
- The 144,000 – 12,000 from twelve tribes of Israel - Jewish male virgins (Rev. 14:1-4) – are sealed as servants of God (note Isa. 43:10 – ...*you are My witnesses...and My servant....*). These are Jewish believers who did not go into the Tribulation as believers!
- The two witnesses begin their 3.5 year ministry (much speculation regarding the timing. Some scholars put the two witnesses in the first half of the Tribulation; others put the two witnesses in the second half of the Tribulation).

#### Midpoint of the Tribulation

- The antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and invades Israel (Dan. 9:27; Dan. 11:40-41, 44).
- Satan is cast down from heaven and begins to make war with the woman, Israel (Rev. 12:7-13).
- The antichrist appears to die and to rise from the dead (Rev. 13:3); the earth is amazed.
- The antichrist takes his seat in the Temple of God, displaying himself as God. This is the abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27; Dan. 11:45a; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5, 15-18).
- The two witnesses are killed by the antichrist and are resurrected by God 3.5 days later (Rev. 11:7-12).
- Satan empowers the beast from the sea – the antichrist (Rev. 13).
- The beast from the earth – the false prophet (Rev. 13) demands worship of the antichrist (Rev. 13:14-15) and causes mankind to receive the mark of the beast (the name of the beast or the number of his name) (Rev. 13:16-17).
- The mark of the Beast (666) is introduced and enforced by the false prophet (Rev. 13:16-18).

#### Last Half (3.5 Years) of the Tribulation

- The false prophet performs great signs and lying wonders and promotes false worship of the antichrist (Rev. 13:5, 11-15).
- Totally energized by Satan, the antichrist dominates the world politically, religiously, and economically (Rev. 13:4-5, 15-18)
- The trumpet judgments are unleashed (Rev. 8-9; Rev. 11:15-19).
- Knowing he has only a short time left, Satan intensifies his relentless, merciless persecution of the Jewish people and Gentile believers on earth (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:12; 13:15; 20:4).

### The End of the Tribulation

- The bowl judgments are poured out in rapid succession (Rev. 16).
- The campaign of Armageddon begins (Rev. 16:16).
- Commercial Babylon is destroyed (Rev. 18).
- Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and slays the armies gathered against Him throughout the land, from Megiddo to Petra (Rev. 19:11-16; Isa. 34:1-6; 63:1-5).
- The birds gather to feed on the carnage (Rev. 19:17-18).

#### QUESTIONS:

Why did you sign up for this class?

Have you read the book of Revelation? Studied Revelation?

What do you want to learn from this class?

Any V8 moments?

#### STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the Week 1 handout. Note your questions.

Acquaint yourself with the charts within the Week 1 handout.

Acquaint yourself with the Bible Study Tools.

Read the Week 2 handout when you receive it via Email.

Access past lessons online if you're so inclined.