

**The Letters to the Churches:
The Revelation Of Jesus Christ the Judge.....*Revelation***

The journey we set out on many STEPs ago comes to an end with this STEP. The journey however is only beginning. I trust this study has inspired you to search the scriptures and has equipped you to see the big picture of God's Word tying together.

Our final step is ***The Revelation***. It is often called the Revelation of John but we see it as the Revelation of Jesus Christ the Judge.

This book is one that is shrouded with mystery and dreaded by a lot of people. What we have however is the judgment of God poured out on this earth. We could call it the wrath of the Lamb as well.

John the Apostle writes from the island of Patmos where he is exiled for the faith. This is commonly accepted as being the last book written in the Bible.

Outline:

The book has a natural outline found in ***Rev 1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."*** We will use this outline to study this book.

I- ***"...the thing which thou hast seen..." 1:1-20***

II- ***"...the things which are..." 2:1-3:22***

III- ***"...the things which shall be hereafter." 4:1-22:21***

I- ***"...the thing which thou hast seen..." 1:1-20***

This book promises a blessing to those who read it or even hear it read. **(1:3)** John was told these things must shortly come to pass. John wrote the

greatest prophetic vision ever given to mankind by the self-revealing God.

1:4 tells us the recipient of this letter were the churches of Asia. This letter is to the churches of today as well.

The thing that John saw was a vision of Christ Jesus. Notice the reading of **1:10-16**. John saw Jesus Christ in His glory.

II- *"...the things which are..." 2:1-3:22*

The seven churches of Asia were seven literal churches that existed during this time. They were many churches at this time but these seven were symbolic of all that were and that are today.

Each of the seven messages to the seven churches begins with, ***"I know thy works"*** and ends with, ***"He that has an ear let him hear..."*** All are offered a promise to ***"him that overcometh..."*** All make reference to the description of Christ of chapter one. All but one, Laodicea, has words of praise, and all but Smyrna and Philadelphia contain rebukes.

These churches give us a picture of the churches that exist today and have a message to us that we should heed.

III- *"...the things which shall be hereafter." 4:1-22:21*

The major portion of this book is found in the third part of the outline. While some see the events of this book as already past many see them as yet future.

Allow me to give more of a chronological oversight to this book.

The Rapture:

The first event in this chronology that will happen will be the rapture. **4:1-11**. The wrath of the Lamb will not be poured out on the saved but only on the God rejecting sin cursed world.

The word church does not appear from **Rev 4:1-Rev 22:15**. During this judgment the church is absent.

The Sealed Book:

The Lamb of God, Christ Jesus, alone is worthy to take the book of judgment and open it. Inside this sealed book is the wrath of God that will be poured out on the earth. This book is a scroll that has seven seals. As these seals are broken the judgments come to the earth.

Seven Seals:

After the rapture the seven seals are broken and judgment is poured out. The first seal is a white horse. This is seen as the Anti-Christ who is to come. The second seal is a red horse and is a symbol of hot war. The third seal is a black horse and is famine, which follows war. The fourth seal is a pale horse and is death. The fifth seal is the martyrs that are killed during the tribulation. Next the sixth seal is catastrophic physical disturbances.

The seventh seal is opened and inside this seal is seven trumpets which are seven more judgments.

The Trumpets:

The first trumpet sounds and one third of the vegetation is destroyed. The second trumpet sounds and one third of the ocean life and ships are destroyed. The third trumpet brings destruction of one third of the fresh water. The fifth

trumpet brings the first of two invasions of hellish demons. The sixth trumpet brings another invasion of hellish demons. The seventh trumpet is the trumpet of the Second Coming of Christ Jesus. This seventh trumpet in effect ends the chronology of the wrath.

The Seven Thunders:

The seven thunders are seven judgments that are sealed and not revealed to us. **10:1ff**.

The Seven Vials:

It seems that before the seventh trumpet sounds there are seven vials of judgment that are poured out on the earth. These are distinctly different from the seven seals and seven trumpets.

The final seven judgments on this earth will be more intense and horrible than the first. First there are the sores upon man when the first vial is poured out. The second vial is the sea is cursed and the third the fresh water is cursed. The fourth vial results in the sun being intensified and the fifth brings darkness over the beast's entire kingdom. The sixth vial dries up the Euphrates River for the invasion from the east. In the seventh vial we see earthquakes and hailstorms.

The Parenthetical Events:

While the trumpets, vials and other judgments are happening there are several major events that occur with them.

One of these is the sealing of the 144,000, which will preach the gospel to the world (**Rev 7**). Another of these is the Beasts that rise out of the sea and the earth. This is the false prophet and the Anti-Christ. Included in this is the

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most talked about mystery of the Revelation, the mark of the beast. **13:18**

The fall of the false world religion and the destruction of the worlds political and commercial system are given to us in chapter **17-18**.

The marriage supper and the return of Christ are found in **19:1-21**.

The Millennial Reign **20:1-15**

After all of the judgments are over and the fall of the worlds systems there will be a time when Christ returns and sets up a millennial reign upon this earth. The word millennial means 1,000. This will be a 1000-year rule of Christ.

While Eternity Rolls: **21:1-22:21**

The Bible makes it plain that after the destruction that will take place, when the Lamb of God judges this world, there will be a new heaven and new earth. This is the final event that happens before eternity rolls.

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- The judgments revealed in Revelation should move us to make sure that we are in Christ and safe from the wrath of the Lamb.
- 2- God's Word has a message to us today not just to the churches of the past.
- 3- The wrath of God is certain even though it may seem like He is delaying.
- 4- The Second Coming of Christ will result in the earth experiencing peace.
- 5- Heaven will be worth it all.

Retracing our Steps:

- 1- Who wrote the books of the Revelation? _____

- 2- What is opened that contains the judgments of the Lamb of God upon the earth? _____

- 3- What are the first six seals? _____

- 4- What does the seventh seal contain? _____
- 5- What are these? _____

- 6- What will be the fate of the worlds systems? _____

- 7- The final judgments are the vials. What events happen when each vial is cast into the earth? _____

PATH FOUR SOURCES CITED

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