

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Chronological Outline

The first thing we need to acknowledge when studying or teaching the Revelation of Jesus Christ is that the end times prophecies given for the instruction of the church have not all been unsealed to us. Therefore, intellectual speculation, no matter how thorough, may result in error. It is important, then, to acknowledge those specific parts where we do not, yet, have revelatory confirmation.

Note: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” exemplifies the Hebrew (Jewish) style of writing a chronological synopsis, followed by details of that synopsis that confuse readers used to the western tradition of writing in strict chronological order. Therefore, some care needs to be used in determining the chronological order of events. The seven seals are opened progressively, giving us the order of events.

Ch. 1 – Given to John for the churches in a vision concerning things that soon must take place. John is commanded to write down the things he had seen, things that are (the current church at that time), and the things that are to come. Seven is the number of Christ (man is 6 + God is 1 = 7). Seven churches, seven lampstands (the spiritual body of Christ) with a single lampstand (Jesus Christ) supporting the seven candle holders, and we see the theme repeated consistently throughout the revelation. Note: the Jewish Menorah is a seven branched lampstand, and at the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Menorah was no longer a symbol of national, ethnic Israel but of spiritual Israel, the ‘Israel of God.’

Important: Blessing to those who read and respond to the required repentance now and warnings about things to come for the church. (Compare with the Olivet prophecy, also given by Jesus as recorded in Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13, Luke 21 – The Olivet prophecy divides the events of Revelation into “*not yet the end*,” “*the beginning of birth pains*,” “*tribulation*,” and “*great tribulation*.” – Matthew 25 gives parables related to events experienced by the end times church and individual believers.)

Ch. 2 and 3 – The Lord’s commendations and condemnations of the seven churches, both then and now, along with the required response of repentance (without which the “blessings” will not apply) and the stated or implied judgments for failure to repent and obey will apply.

IMPORTANT to note that the required repentance and response determines the church’s and the individual’s experience of the things to come, which is extremely important for the generation of believers (the end times church) who will experience the final events of the age. (The parable of the ten virgins, Matthew 25:1-13 relates the details concerning the end times church’s response to the Lord’s condemnations and required repentance of the “sleeping” virgins (unmarried kinsmen of the Lord). Error: the “foolish” virgins are not the nominal church. All the “virgins” are regenerated believers. The parable of the ten virgins is about the event called “the great apostasy,” and it is important to note that those who become apostate are those who fail to repent. This is confirmed five (5) times in Matthew 24 and 25, and again five (5) times in the message to the seven churches.

The Lord's message to the seven churches (the church) is to prepare them (us) for the things to come during which the church and individual Christians will be severely tested. TEACHING SUGGESTION: Leave the message to the churches to the last when those who have heard will potentially acknowledge the need to repent.

Special note: the "Synagogue of Satan" – are the Jews who have resisted the gospel and are persecuting the church ("they say they are Jews, but they are not..."). Note: At this time the Lord has already revealed to Paul that one is not a "Jew" if one is a Jew outwardly of the flesh. The "Synagogue of Satan" will ultimately include the foolish virgins of the harlot church who say they are spiritual "Jews" but are not and have become persecutors of the end time Philadelphian Church (the wise virgins).

Ch. 4 and 5 – The heavenly origin of the scroll that is sealed within which the prophetic future is contained, and the worthiness of the Lamb to open the scroll (initiating the events of each seal).

“...the beginning of birth pangs...” Matthew 24:4-8

Ch. 6 – The first four seals (the four horsemen of the apocalypse).

The order of the horsemen parallels the order of the beast kingdoms in Daniel 7.

1st seal – The white horseman (lion) – expansion of the British empire

(Daniel 7 – America the final dominant form as the upright lion given the heart of a man).

2nd seal – The red horseman (bear on its side with three ribs in its mouth) - Communism

3rd seal – **Present day** The black horseman (leopard with four wings and four heads) – Islam (ends with the Gog-Magog war of Ezekiel 38 and 39)

4th seal – The pale green (*chloros*) horseman – the Antichrist (diverse from all the rest) (Daniel 7 – the devouring beast with iron teeth).

“...tribulation...” Matthew 24:9-20

5th seal – The church is persecuted worldwide. Many are martyred.

6th seal – Earthquake, sun turned to darkness, the moon turned to blood

Ch. 7 - The sealing and ministry of the 144,000.

144,000 are sealed in the forehead for protection. (Also **Ch. 14:1-9**) The 144,000 are redeemed as a “firstfruits” unto God and the Lamb. (Also **Ch. 12**) – The 144,000 are the woman, spiritual Israel, “the Israel of God” i.e. the body of Christ, protected supernaturally but not removed from the world who brings in the harvest of an uncountable number from every nation, tribe, and tongue – i.e. the multitude. (Important: the 144,000 are also the “wise virgins” of the Philadelphian type of church who have been tried and tested by the events of the first six seals). Scriptural proof of this event is found in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord.

Ch. 8 – The Antichrist is revealed (Chapter 12 and 13 provide details)

“...great tribulation...” Matthew 24:21-31

7th seal - The golden censer filled with the prayers of the saints is brought before the altar of God and then the censer is filled with fire from the altar, which is then thrown down to earth (God’s trumpet judgments in response to the prayers of the saints).

1st Trumpet – 1/3 of the earth burned up.

2nd Trumpet - sea turns to blood; 1/3 of creatures of sea die; 1/3 of ships on the sea destroyed.

3rd Trumpet – the asteroid, “Wormwood,” and 1/3 of the rivers and springs turn “bitter” (poisonous); many die from drinking the water.

4th Trumpet – 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars struck so that both the day and the night are darkened (symbolic of the spiritual state of men on earth).

The three “woes” are announced.

The two witnesses do not make their appearance until the beginning of “Great Tribulation” after the Antichrist is declared to be the Messiah, and the Jews receive him as “Messiah.” (“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.” John 5:43. The two witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, the only two men taken into the heavenly presence in their natural bodies. Thus, they can be killed when they are returned to earth for this presence. But they raised on the third day like their Lord before them to the shock of those who are participants in the beast kingdom.

Ch. 9 – 5th and 6th trumpet judgments.

1st Woe –

5th Trumpet – Satan cast out of heaven, but given the keys to the abyss. The fallen angels ruled by an archangel, (Abaddon in Hebrew, Apollyon in Greek (meaning “destroyer”) is released from the abyss along with his host (the locusts from hell); These are those fallen angels that impregnated the daughters of men from which came the Nephilim (giants) of whom Goliath was a descendent (**Genesis 6:2-4**); See also Jude 1:6. They are allowed to torment men without killing them for five months.

2nd Woe –

6th Trumpet – Four angels (fallen) bound to the Euphrates River (ancient Babylon) are released with a host of 200 million to kill another 1/3 of mankind; Fire, smoke, and sulfur coming out of the mouths of the “horses” (description of the demonic host) are plagues.

Ch. 10 – (Interim before the 7th Trumpet) - The little scroll (scroll within a scroll) is given to John by an “angel” whose description is that of the Lord. The little scroll contains the prophetic events of the seven thunders, but John is told to seal up the little scroll. The seal will be opened by the Lord at the appropriate time, and the prophets of God living at that time will be given the revelation. John is given the scroll to eat. It is sweet as honey in his mouth (regarding the elect – the first resurrection) and bitter in his stomach (regarding the lost – the last resurrection); The **7th Trumpet** is announced as being the fulfillment of the mystery of God and coincides with the resurrection of the living and dead on “the last day.”

Ch. 11 – The outer court being given to the nations who will “trample” Jerusalem for 3 ½ years is the length of time that the Antichrist rules the fourth beast kingdom from Jerusalem after the fall of Babylon (America and the UN) where he formerly ruled. **The two witnesses are present for the same 3 ½ prophetic years** (a prophetic year is 360 days), the exact length of time prophesied in Daniel 9:27 after the revealing of Antichrist.

Enoch and Elijah are the only two prophets to be taken up into heaven in their natural bodies, and they are, therefore, likely to be the two witnesses. Their witness appears to be primarily in Jerusalem to contradict the Antichrist’s claim to be the Messiah, and in opposition to the fourth beast kingdom’s world rule from Jerusalem, which began when the Antichrist was declared by the false prophet to be the Messiah. Unlike the 144,000, their witness is unto judgment. The beast from the bottomless pit (the same Abaddon or Apollyon of the 5th Trumpet judgment) is given authority by God to kill the two witnesses. The world rejoices as the bodies of the two witnesses are allowed to lay where they are in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days. Then they are given the “breath of life” and are called up into heaven as living men. Note: This is potentially the same moment as the 7th Trumpet resurrection of living and dead saints on the last day.

7th Trumpet – The “last trump” on “the last day” resurrection of the living and dead saints. (This will take place on Rosh HaShanah – 1 Tishri on the Jewish calendar) - followed by the “ten days of awe” that end with Yom Kippur – 10 Tishri, the great and terrible day of the Lord). Thus, there are ten literal, calendar days between the last day resurrection of living and dead saints and the “day of the Lord” judgment that climaxes with the Lord destroying His enemies at Har-Magiddo. (Armageddon)

Ch. 12 – Details of other events that take place in the final 3 ½ years. Satan and his host are cast out of heaven, meaning that their activity is restricted to the earthly realm. They lost their heavenly authority prior to the creation of man. **The “woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars”** is national, ethnic Israel at the time Christ is born, but becomes spiritual Israel, the Israel of God upon His resurrection. The woman being given two wings of a great eagle (the Holy Spirit) and protected in the wilderness describes the spiritual protection of the metaphorical 144,000 whose sealing (as the 144,000) took place prior to the Trumpet judgments. The “rest of her children” are the multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue whom the Antichrist can and does persecute. (The woman, the 144,000, the Philadelphian church, and the “wise virgins” all describe the same group of remnant believers who have responded to the Lord’s demand of repentance and His warning to persevere and endure **Ch. 2, 3**).

Ch. 13 – Details of the first and second beasts, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

Ch. 14 – A heavenly scene giving details about the metaphorical 144,000 who were sealed for protection and received their complete redemption as “firstfruits unto God and the Lamb,” the ultimate fulfillment of Pentecost. The heavenly scene is not associated with a time frame. The 144,000 are still present in the earth until the last day. Three

angelic messages take place in the final 3 ½ years, but, other than the second angel's message that Babylon the great has fallen, we are not given specific clues concerning the timing of the messages.

First Angelic Message – (to the whole earth and all men) – Fear God and worship Him.

Second Angelic Message – (to the whole earth and all men) – Babylon the great is fallen. (This is the world system headquartered at this time in New York – the UN).

Third Angelic Message – (to the whole earth and all men) – A warning not to take the mark of the beast. (a covenant with the beast kingdom).

The saints are called to endure the final 3 ½ years (Thus ending any argument for a mid-trib rapture). The Lord orders the harvest of the earth to begin, and Har-Maggido (Armageddon) is prophesied.

Ch. 15 – The final judgment of seven angels with seven plagues (seven bowls of wrath). No one is allowed to enter the heavenly sanctuary until the seven plagues are finished.

Ch. 16 – Details of the seven bowls of wrath:

1st bowl of wrath – sores or boils on all who have taken the mark of the beast.

2nd bowl of wrath - sea turns to blood and everything in the sea is killed.

3rd bowl of wrath – the springs and rivers are turned to blood.

4th bowl of wrath – scorched by the sun (no atmospheric protection from UV rays).

5th bowl of wrath – the throne of the Antichrist is plunged into darkness.

6th bowl of wrath – the Euphrates dried up to make way for the king of the east (China?). The frog-like unclean spirits from the beast and the false prophet go out performing miraculous signs to gather the nations for battle at Har-Maggido (Armageddon). A warning to the saints to “stay awake!”

7th bowl of wrath – the greatest earthquake of all time (the previous most powerful earthquake is the earthquake God used to deliver Israel from the Islamic Jihad of the fourth seal (**Ezekiel 38 and 39**). New York (Babylon the great) is divided into three parts. Islands disappear, mountains fall, giant hailstones, all of which are seen as Babylon the great draining the cup of the wine of God's wrath. Chapters 17 and 18 following provide details.

Ch. 17 – Babylon the great is both the world system and the false religion (the whore of Babylon), which is a perverse form of occult Judao-Christianity full of demonic empowerment (false signs and wonders). The two aspects of Babylon the great are inseparable. The world systems are ruled by “the whore of Babylon” (the false religion), and “the whore of Babylon” receives its authority and power from the beast kingdom ruling the world politically from Babylon the great.

Ch. 18 – Babylon the great is represented by a city. The judgment against the city is that it will be found no more. The city is Jerusalem, the world capital of the antichrist man of sin's rule over the world Jerusalem at the time that the two witnesses are killed is referred to metaphorically as “Sodom” and “Egypt.” “Babylon the Great” will be found no more at the return of the Lord on the day of the Lord, but Jerusalem as a city will be found. And the Lord will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years with his saints of all time.

- Ch. 19** – Celebration in heaven, and the announcement that the marriage of the Lamb is soon to come, and blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. The Lord on a white horse followed by the armies of heaven wearing white linen, also on white horses follow Him. The beast (the man who has become “Antichrist”) and the false prophet are instantly thrown into the lake of fire. All others, including Satan, are scheduled for judgment.
- Ch. 20** – Satan is bound for one thousand years in the bottomless pit. The saints of all time reign with the Lord for one thousand years. Satan is released for a final rebellion at the end of one thousand years. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. The last resurrection (the resurrection of the lost, which includes the “foolish virgins” who failed to repent and endure as they were warned in Revelation 2 and 3) results in the great white throne judgment. This is the second death, and all those whose names are not found in the Lamb’s book of life are thrown into the lake of fire.
- Ch. 21** – A description of the new heaven, new earth, and the new Jerusalem, the City of God, “the bride” adorned by the righteousness of the saints. The new earth corresponds with Peter’s description in 2 Peter 3:10. Thus we learn that “the day of the Lord” begins on Yom Kippur but extends for one thousand years to the beginning of the eternal age.
- Ch. 22** – The river of life. The Lord’s two proclamations of conditional blessings: 1) blessed are those who keep (obey) the words of the prophecy; 2) blessed are those who wash their robes (walk in His righteousness by faith). The warning of a curse on anyone who adds to the book or takes away from the book. (This warning is not about leaving out words or sentences or adding words or sentences that were not in the original script. It is about taking away from or adding to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God). Fortunately for many I believe this curse does not apply to those who have unknowingly taught erroneous interpretations. It applies to those who are specifically inspired by Satan to teach interpretations that deny the *rhema* truth of God at the time ordained by the Lord for the revelatory truth to be “opened” to the body of Christ who will experience those events.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

These seven churches, while they were literal congregations, they are also understood to be a description of a spectrum of seven conditions any church can find itself in. They are also considered symbolic for seven consecutive periods of time, from the Apostolic church to the time of the second coming as follows:

Ephesus ("desirable"), Rev. 2:1-7 — The Apostolic church of the 1st century.

Smyrna ("sweet smelling"), Rev. 2:8-11 — Persecuted by Ancient Pagan Rome.

Pergamos ("elevated by marriage"), Rev. 2:12-17 — Apostate church-state union.

Thyatira ("sacrifice of contrition"), Rev. 2:18-29 — The church of the middle ages.

Sardis ("escape of the remnant"), Rev. 3:1-6 — The Reformation era.

Philadelphia ("brotherly love"), Rev. 3:7-13 — The early 19th century to 1844.

Laodicea ("a people judged"), Rev. 3:14-19 — From 1844 to the second coming.

“Judgment begins at the house of God.”

Some form of all seven types exist in the body of Christ today. The those who conform to the Philadelphian type of believer are the **ONLY** ones to receive a promise of protection during “great tribulation.” These are those who are sealed immediately before the opening of the 7th seal. The parable of the ten virgins is applicable to all the types of believers who are awakened at the same time during the early part of tribulation (probably coincides with the Gog-Magog war of Ezekiel 38 and 39).

The “wise virgins,” then, are the Philadelphian church. The “foolish” virgins are those who begin to respond to the repentance and perseverance required by the Lord in **Ch. 2,3** but do not go all the way with it. Proof that these were born-again, regenerated believers who ultimately rejected their faith in Jesus Christ is in the Lord’s condemnation, “I do not know you.” This is different than His condemnation of nominal believers when He says, “I never knew you.” The Lord did know the “foolish” virgins at one time, but at the judgment He no longer knows them.