

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chronological Summary of Revelation

INTRODUCTION:

There is an outline inserted in your bulletin. The scripture references show just one example of the event. I will not always read the entire scripture in the outline, but I put it in the outline so you can do a more thorough study at home. This is my best attempt of trying to put the major events from the book of Revelation into a chronological order and summarize in interpretive language what Revelation is trying to tell us. I will occasionally use scripture outside of Revelation to show why I sequenced them in that order.

As you know, Revelation was not written in chronological order. Instead John wrote the book in the order that the vision was revealed to him. Revelation is apocalyptic which means it is symbolic and cannot be interpreted literally. Many of the symbols are actually interpreted for us in the book.

The purpose of this effort is to try to interpret the symbols and sequence them as they have or will occur in history. This is impossible to do in some respects because a very large portion of Revelation is spanning the same period of time by looking at the same events from a different perspective and often with a different name. This is referred to as **recapitulation**.

This book was written to reveal why bad things are happening in this world and what is happening spiritually behind the scenes. When we realize that God is allowing this to happen and why He is allowing it to happen, we can see that He truly is in control. Thus are encouraged to trust in God's promises and do our best to remain steadfast to Him. Hopefully, this study will help you to understand this Revelation more clearly.

Since this is a summary of the entire book of Revelation, we will not have a scripture reading this morning.

Prayer

BODY:

A. Fall of Satan and His Angels.

Revelation 12:7-9 (NASB)

⁷And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

B. Birth of Christ.

Revelation 12:1-6 (NASB)

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ² and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

...^{4b} And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. ⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

C. Satan Bound for 1000 Years. (This is referred to as the **Millennium**).

Revelation 20:1-3 (NASB)

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

This happened when Christ died on the cross. It is when Christ officially defeated Satan. This event triggered the "**last days**". The thousand years refers to the time Satan was bound until he is released just before Christ's return. Satan's "binding" was God preventing him from wiping out the church.

D. Last Days.

Acts 2:14-17 (NASB)

...¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;...

Peter is telling the Jews on the Day of Pentecost that they are seeing Joel's prophecy being fulfilled right in front of them. He tells us that they are already in the "Last Days". The last days are the period of time between Christ's ascension and His return.

1. Seven Churches of Asia Minor.

Rev. 1-4. Revelation was written to the seven churches in Asia Minor, but the messages apply to the church throughout the last days as well.

2. The Judgments.

a. Seal Judgments.

Revelation 6:8 (NASB)

...Authority was given to them over **a fourth of the earth**, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Satan was limited on how much of the earth he could affect. He is given more control during each series of judgments.

b. Trumpet Judgments.

Revelation 8:7 (NASB)

⁷The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The plagues are getting progressively worse...now 1/3 of the earth.

c. Bowl Judgments.

Rev. 16. The plagues are now poured out upon the whole earth. (Rev. 16). Satan is released for a short time at the end. His goal will be to wipe out the entire church.

d. I noticed three types of plagues that were poured out on mankind.

1). All of Mankind and Creation were Plagued Due to Sin in the World.

Revelation 8:7 (NASB)

⁷The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

2). Those Who did not have the Seal of God were Plagued Due to Their Own Sin.

Revelation 9:4 (NASB)

⁴They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but **only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

3). Christians were Persecuted by the Beast (who represents worldly governments) and tempted by the Harlot (who represents the desire for the lusts of the flesh).

Revelation 6:9-11 (NASB)

⁹When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the **souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God**, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"...

3. The Great Tribulation.

Rev. 1:9 says John was a fellow partaker in the tribulation.

Revelation 1:9 (NASB)

⁹I, John, your brother and **fellow partaker in the tribulation** and kingdom and

perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 7:14 reveals the saints who overcame the great tribulation.

Revelation 7:14 (NASB)

¹⁴I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "**These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

4. The Beast from the Sea.

Rev. 13:1-10. Represents worldly governments who will persecute the church.

5. The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet).

Revelation 13:11-18 (NASB)

¹¹Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he **had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon**. ...The beast from the earth imitated Christ but did not speak truth.

Revelation 16:13 (NASB)

¹³And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**, three unclean spirits like frogs; ...The beast is identified as **the false prophet**.

6. The Harlot.

Rev. 17:1-6. The harlot is also called "**Babylon the Great**". She tempts mankind to desire the lusts of the flesh. Her goal is to pull men away from God.

7. The 3 1/2 Years. These all represent the "Last Days".

- a. 1260 Days. Rev. 12:6.
- b. 42 Months. Rev. 13:5.
- c. Times, Time and 1/2 Time. Rev. 12:14.

E. At the End of the Last Days.

1. Satan Released for a Short Time.

Revelation 20:7-8 (NASB)

⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,
⁸and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,...

2. The Destruction of the Harlot Babylon the Great.

She will be destroyed by "the ten horns" which are described as ten Kings on earth.

Revelation 17:12 (NASB)

¹²The ten horns which you saw are **ten kings who have not yet received a**

kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

This will happen near the end of the last days. The kings will be also be assisted by the beast from the sea who both hate her.

Revelation 17:16-18 (NASB)

¹⁶And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. ...

F. Second Coming of Christ.

1. The Seventh Seal. Rev. 8:1-5.
2. The Seventh Trumpet. Rev. 11:19.
3. The Seventh Bowl.

Revelation 16:18 (NASB)

¹⁸**And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder;** and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and so mighty.*

The seventh event of each judgment refers to **flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake**, etc. All referring to the return of Christ.

4. The Battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:13-16; Revelation 19:19-21 (NASB)

¹³And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the **dragon** and out of the mouth of the **beast** and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**, three unclean spirits like frogs;...

...¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their **armies assembled to make war** against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ...

These verses show that the beast and the false prophet are at the battle of Armageddon.

5. The Doom of the Beast from the Sea and the False Prophet.

Revelation 19:20 (NASB)

²⁰And the **beast was seized**, and with him the **false prophet** who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; **these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.** ...

6. The Doom of Satan. We know that Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone after the two beasts.

Revelation 20:7-10 (NASB)

⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ...¹⁰And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, **where the beast and the false prophet are also**; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

G. The Resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the*

archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

H. Destruction of the Heavens and the Earth.

Revelation 6:12-14 (NASB)

¹² I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Revelation 21:1 (NASB)

²¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

I. The Judgment. Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 25:32-33; II Cor. 5:10.

1. Sheep Inherit Eternity with God in Heaven. Matt. 25:34.
 - a. Names and Descriptions for the Saved.
 - 1). 144,000. Rev. 7:4.
 - 2). Those Having the Seal of God on Their Foreheads. Rev. 7:2-3; Rev. 14:1-3.
 - 3). The Woman. Rev. 12:6. She represents the church.
 - 4). Bride of Christ. Rev. 21:2.
 - 5). New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:2.
 - 6). Those with Their Names in the Lamb's Book of Life. Rev. 21:27.
 2. Goats are Cast into Eternal Punishment. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:11-14.
 - a. Names and Descriptions for the Unsaved.
 - 1). Worshipers of the Beast. Rev. 14:9
 - 2). Those Having the Mark of the Beast. Rev. 14:9.
 - 3). Earth Dwellers. Rev. 6:10; Rev. 18:23.

J. New Heaven and New Earth. Rev. 21:1.

K. The Marriage of the Lamb. Rev. 19:7-9.

L. Eternal Life in Heaven. Rev. 21:3-4, 7.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus is coming quickly. Are you ready? How we respond to God's word will dictate our future. The two destinations are vast and they are both eternal. One life is in eternal **glory**. The other is eternal **torment**.

Our decision to follow Christ or reject Him during our short stay in this sinful world will dictate how we live for eternity. **ETERNITY! Do you really believe and understand that? CHOOSE TO OVERCOME!**

This is the Day!