

End Time Bible Study Series 2:

Overview of the Book of Revelation

- I. Introduction
 - A. Book of Revelation is about the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1)
 - B. Book of Revelation is written for an average person to understand
 1. Misconception is that it is written for scholars or fervent believers
 2. It is to be understood in its plain meaning. Events and numbers are to be understood literally unless the Scripture indicates that they are symbolic
 - C. The seven main symbols of Revelation:
 1. Dragon: Symbolic of Satan
 2. First Beast: Symbolic of Antichrist
 3. Another Beast: Symbolic of the false prophets
 4. Harlot Babylon: A global, demonically-inspired religious and economic system
 5. Seven heads: Represent 7 empires that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, a still future revived Roman Empire)
 6. Ten horns: Represent a ten-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist
 7. Woman with a male-child (Jesus): Is the faithful remnant of Israel through history or the Church of Jesus Christ in final days
- II. Structure of the Book of Revelation: Four Main Parts
 - A. Part 1 (Rev. 1): John's **CALLING** to prophesy about the end times.
 - B. Part 2 (Rev. 2-3): Jesus gave 7 **LETTERS** to 7 churches.
 - C. Part 3 (Rev. 4-5): Jesus takes the **SCROLL** containing the earth's title deed and Jesus' plan to cleanse it.
 - D. Part 4 (Rev. 6-22): Jesus' **BATTLE PLAN** reveals His main storyline of love in the book of Revelation.
- III. Outline
 - A. Chapter 1 – John's Calling
 1. Chapter 1:7 – He is coming with the clouds... Every eye will see Him...everyone will mourn
 2. Jesus coming to judge the churches
 - B. Chapter 2 & 3 – Letters to 7 churches
 1. Ephesus
 - a. Was able to discern false teachers
 - b. Persevered hardship
 - c. Forsook the love
 2. Smyrna
 - a. Poor but rich
 - b. Warned about 10 sufferings to come
 3. Pergamum
 - a. Satan has power over the city yet maintained true to Jesus' name
 - b. Did not renounce their faith in Jesus
 - c. Some held teachings of Balaam & Nicolaitans

4. Thyatira
 - a. Deeds, love, & faith
 - b. Service and perseverance
 - c. Tolerated Jezebel, the prophet
 5. Sardis
 - a. Reputation of being alive but dead
 6. Philadelphia
 - a. Had little strength but have kept the word and did not deny Jesus' name
 7. Laodicea
 - a. Lukewarm
 - b. God is about to spit them out
- C. Chapter 4 & 5
1. Throne of God
 - a. Surrounded by 24 thrones of elders
 - b. 4 living Creatures
 2. Scroll & Seals
 - a. Who is worthy to open the seal? Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David
 - b. He was the Lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes
 3. Harps & Bowls: songs and prayers of God's people
- D. Chapter 6: Seal Judgments
1. 1st Seal – White horse: *Antichrist's political aggression (Rev. 6:1-2)*
 2. 2nd Seal – Fiery red horse: *Bloodshed and world war (Rev. 6:3-4)*
 3. 3rd Seal – Black horse: *Famine & Economic Crisis (Rev. 6:5-6)*
 4. 4th Seal – Pale horse: *Diseases and death to 1/4 of earth (Rev. 6:7-8)*
 5. 5th Seal – Souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimonies: *Spiritual Atmosphere – releasing of God's judgment (Rev. 6:9-10)*
 - a. They were requesting God to pour judgment on the earth
 - b. God dressed them white and told them to wait until the full number of martyrs be filled
 6. 6th Seal – Great earthquake. Sun will turn black, moon will turn blood red, and stars will fall to the earth. Every mountain and island removed: *Cosmic Crisis (Rev. 6:12-17)*
- E. Chapter 7: Angelic Explanation #1(Parenthetical section): **Two Peoples**
1. Jews
 2. Christians
- F. Chapter 8-9: Trumpet Judgments
1. 1st Trumpet – Hail and fire mixed with blood (Rev. 8:7)
 2. 2nd Trumpet – Huge mountain like thrown into the sea (Rev. 8:8-9)
 3. 3rd Trumpet – Great star, blazing like a torch fell from the sky (Rev. 8:10-11)
 4. 4th Trumpet – 1/3 Sun, 1/3 moon, & 1/3 stars struck (Rev. 8:12-13)
 5. 5th Trumpet – Star fallen from sky causing an opening of the Abyss (Rev. 9:1-12)

6. 6th Trumpet – Release of 4 angels bound at the great river Euphrates (Rev. 9:13-21)
 - a. People still do not repent
- G. Chapter 10 & 11: Angelic Explanation #2: **Two Witnesses**
 1. Second Coming and Rapture (Rev. 11:15-19)
 2. At the seventh and last trumpet, a terrifying heavenly announcement is made that Jesus will replace all evil leaders on earth in government, economics, etc. It will be a hostile takeover that includes a great war and the execution of the wicked leaders (Rev. 19:19)
 3. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the Church will be raptured.
 4. Two witnesses
 - a. 2 Prophets will prophesy for 1,260 days with power
 - b. Beast from Abyss will overpower and kill them
- H. Chapter 12-14: Angelic Explanation #3: **Two Beasts**
 1. Woman and the Dragon
 - a. Woman – The Church
 - b. Son – The New Converts
 - c. Birth pain (Matthew 24:4-8)
 2. Dragon wages war against heaven (Michael and his army)
 3. Beast coming out of the sea (Chapter 13): He is the Antichrist (World Political Leader)
 4. Another Beast – False prophet who will stir people to worship the Antichrist (World Religious Leader)
 5. Chapter 14: Lamb & 144,000 will stand on the Mount Zion
 - a. 1st Angel – Eternal gospel to proclaim to people on earth
 - b. 2nd Angel – Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great
 - c. 3rd Angel – Anyone worshiped Beast and received the mark of the Beast will be judged
 6. Jesus' Harvest with his angels – Matthew 13:38-39
- I. Chapter 15-16: the Bowl Judgments: Out from the Tabernacle of the Covenant Law, seven angels with seven plagues came out
 1. 1st Bowl: Ugly, festering sores for people with the mark of the Beast (Rev. 16:1-2)
 2. 2nd Bowl: Poured into the sea, causing it to turn to blood (Rev. 16:3)
 3. 3rd Bowl: Poured out on river and springs of water (Rev. 16:4-7)
 4. 4th Bowl: Poured on sun, causing sun to scorch people with fire (Rev. 16:8-9)
 5. 5th Bowl: Poured on the throne of Beast and its kingdom was plunged into darkness (Rev. 16:10-11)
 6. 6th Bowl: Poured on the river of Euphrates and the water dried up to prepare the way for the kings from East (Rev. 16:12-16)
 - a. At this point the evil spirits came out from the Dragon & the Beast to the kings of the world
 - b. All kings gathered for the battle of Armageddon
 7. 7th Bowl: Poured into the air. It will cause flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and severe earthquakes (Rev. 16:17-21)

- J. Chapter 17-18: Angelic Explanation #4: Punishment and judgment on Babylon the Great
- K. Chapter 19-20: Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem
 - 1. Chapter 19: Three-fold Hallelujah over Babylon's fall
 - 2. The Great Supper of God
 - 3. Chapter 20: the Millennial Kingdom
 - a. Beast bound for 1,000 years
 - b. 1st Resurrection of saints who were murdered because they refuse to take the mark of the Beast and refuse to worship the Beast
 - c. They will rule with Jesus
 - 4. After 1,000 years, Satan will be released and will deceive the nations once again (Gog and Magog)
 - 5. The judgment of the dead
 - a. Book of Life opened
 - b. Judged according to what they had done
- L. Chapter 21-22: Angelic Explanation #5
 - 1. The New Heaven and New Earth
 - a. No more sea
 - b. Holy City (New Jerusalem) will come down from heaven
 - c. God will dwell in this Holy City
 - d. No more death or mourning or crying or pain: the old order of things passed away
 - e. God will make everything new
 - 2. To cowardly, the eternal fiery lake awaits
 - 3. New Jerusalem is the Bride of the Lamb
 - 4. Eden restored
 - a. Each side of river, there will be the Tree of Life
 - b. God in this city, servants will serve God and also reign with God.