

# ***IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION:***

## **OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION:**

Church Age -- Rapture ---Tribulation (seals, trumpets, bowls, judgments) ---  
Glorious Appearing --- Millennial Reign ---- Judgment --- Eternity...

### Overview/Outline:

1. Church Age (Revelation 1-3)
  - a. Introduction to the Letter – (Rev. 1:1-8)
  - b. Christ (Rev. 1:9-20)
  - c. Seven Churches (Rev. 2-3) – Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.
  - d. RAPTURE – End of Church Age – RAPTURE (Church is no longer spoken of beyond chapter 3)
2. Christ on His Throne in Heaven
  - a. John’s vision of the Throne room in Heaven(Revelation 4)
3. Seven Sealed Scrolls (Revelation 5)
4. Glory in Heaven (Revelation 5)
5. Tribulation Time: 7 years (Rev. 6-18)
  - a. 7 seals (Revelation 6:1-17) (144,000 Jews, 2 Witnesses)
  - b. 7 trumpets (Revelation 8:1-9:21)
  - c. Israel and Satan (Revelation 12)
  - d. Beast, Anti-Christ, False Prophet (Revelation 13)
  - e. Heavenly Visions (Revelation 10, 11:15-19; 12:7-12; 14; 17) (Not sure where these plug in)
  - f. 7 bowls (Revelation 16:1-21)
6. Christ’s Return to Earth
  - a. Marriage & Hallelujah Chorus (Revelation 19:1-10)
  - b. Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 12:1-17)
  - c. Glorious appearing (Revelation 19:11-21)
  - d. Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-19)
  - e. Millennial Reign (Revelation 20:1-11)
7. Christ’s Judgment seat (Revelation 20:11-15)
8. Christ’s Restoration - New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21-22)

## CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN GENESIS AND REVELATION:

### Comparison of Genesis and Revelation

#### GENESIS

Early Paradise  
Tree of Life (Lost – Gen 3:22-24)  
Sin (Gen 3-4)  
Sorrow, pain  
First death (Gen 4:8)  
Curse (Gen. 3:15-18)  
Satan's beginning (Gen. 3:1-18)  
Satan bruised (Gen. 3:15)  
God's Word – "Did God really say"

Creation – a beginning (Gen 1)

#### REVELATION

Paradise to come  
Tree of life (Rev. 22:2)  
No more sin  
No more sorrow or pain (Rev. 21:4)  
No more death (Rev. 21:4)  
Curse Lifted (Rev. 22:3)  
Satan's End (Rev. 20:10)  
Satan's defeated (Rev. 19:20)  
God's Word – "Do not take away"  
(Rev. 22:19)  
Behold I make all things New (Rev  
22) New earth, Heaven, Jerusalem.

### THE BOOK OF REVELATION

#### 1. Author – John – the beloved disciple of Christ.

- Beloved disciple John 21:20-24
- On of the sons of Zebedee. Mark 3:17
- Sons of Thunder Mark 3:17
- Wrote the Gospel of John, Epistles of John, and Revelation.
- Imprisoned to the rocky island of Patmos in old age.
- Written around 95 A.D. After the Fall of Rome in 70 A.D. \* Important
- Original Audience: Persecuted church that was spread throughout Asia and beyond.

#### 2. Types of Interpretation of the book of Revelation (LaHaye, McKim, EDT)

- a. Preterist – Already fulfilled...the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This view states that John was writing about events that had already happened or happening as he was writing the book of Revelation; therefore, the book is not about future events.
- b. Historic – Major events that have taken place over the history of the church.
- c. Futuristic – Predictions to come true in the future.
- d. Symbolic – Story of good verses evil, not necessarily literal or events.

#### 3. Common Theories and Thoughts pertaining to the book of Revelation

- a. PROPHECY: What is prophecy?
  - i. Proclaiming God's message
  - ii. Predictions or declarations of things to pass.
  - iii. Spiritual gift of prophecy.
  - iv. End Times prophecy is about things that will happen to usher the return of Christ.

- v. The Second Coming will bring the church age to an end and usher in the End Times up to the final day of Judgment and the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem.
- vi. The second coming of Christ is the last Key Event of History...
  1. Creation – God created it all and it was good.
  2. Fall & Flood – Man disobeys God and inherits a fallen nature...God sends a flood to destroy the earth because of their sinfulness.
  3. Chosen People of God – Israel, the Law.
  4. First Coming of Christ – the Cross & Resurrection.
  5. Church Age – establishing God’s presence on earth.
  6. Second Coming of Christ – ushers in the end times.
  7. New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem and the Lake of Fire.
- NOTE: Lake of Fire – Gehenna in the Greek – dump place for garbage that was constantly being consumed by flames.

**b. LAST DAYS: Biblical view of last days....what does it mean/imply?**

- i. Last days, end times, latter days, the end of time etc. all pertaining to the same thing.
- ii. Matthew 24:1-8 – The end shall come.
- iii. Matthew 14 & 15 – Millennial Reign is real.
- iv. Biblical view of Last Days is pertaining to the days immediately leading up to the Rapture, the tribulation, the Glorious appearing of Christ, ushering in the Millennial Reign up unto the final judgment.

**c. SIGNS OF THE TIMES: What are the signs of His return?**

- i. Jesus said, “These Things” – What are “these things”?
  1. Matthew 24:32 -33 “We can know the Season”
  2. Matthew 24:36 – “We cannot know the hour”
- ii. Matthew 24 & 25 & Mark 13 & Luke 21
  1. Signs of Deception
    - a. Modern Day Deception: False Prophets, False teachers, Cults, other religions, philosophies, Ideologies, New Age, Politics.
    - b. Anti- Christ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
    - c. What can we do? Know your Bible, Test the Spirits 1 John 4:1; Seek God, Avoid immorality, share your faith, walk in the Spirit Eph. 5:17-21
  2. Signs of Wars - Matthew 24:6-8
    - i. The Great War – WWI – 1914?...all but 7 nations joined the War...was this it?
    - ii. “Beginning of Sorrows” refers to labor pains. This is to tell us He is coming.

#### **4. Biblical Doomsday: What is this about?**

- It is about the end of time as we know it here on earth.
- It is about the fall of mankind coming to a conclusion...
  - The tree in the Garden
  - The Flood
  - Moral Decay
  - Day of the Lord.
- Look at the Situation we face today: Abortion, Homosexuality, Terrorism, Genocide, ethnic cleansing, moral relativism, Aids, Population issues, Science as god, world hunger, nuclear weapons, dictators, wars, cancer, divorce, domestic violence, crime rates, hate crimes, murder, molestation, slavery, sex slaves, sexual abuse, pornography, government anti-God, naturalism (evolution), economic failures, Greed, secularism and so much more.
- WE NEED THE PRINCE OF PEACE!!!!!!

#### **5. Millennial Theology (EDT & McKim)**

- a. Millennial Kingdom: A thousand year reign of Christ...what does it mean? Revelation 20:1-10 it is a time period in which Satan is bound, Christ reigns with the resurrected martyrs. All of mankind will know the peace and prosperity of Christ's righteous rule. There are three views of the millennial theory: Amillennialism, Post and Pre. All contain aspects that we believe. They all take a perspective and emphasize it.
  - i. Amillennialism – Augustine thought the millennial reign of Christ was symbolic not literal. There is not literal period of time in which Christ reigns on earth. Good and evil will always exist on the earth until the second coming of Christ then there will be the resurrection and the judgment. They emphasize that Christ's reign on earth is now. The Kingdom of God is upon us through the rule of Church by the Word and the Spirit.
  - ii. Post millennialism – This view of the millennial reign focuses on the aspects of the Kingdom of God that are among us now will get better in the future and come to fruition someday. Emphasis on preaching and teaching to transform lives and doing good works to change our world. The age of the millennial will not be much different than now. Evil will not be eliminated, but reduced and Christian principles and morality will be embraced by most. The church will play a great role in the millennial age. The millennial age ends with the second coming of Christ then the final judgment.
  - iii. Pre millennialism – Literal reign of Christ on earth. Teaches that Christ will establish an earthly Kingdom ruled by His Divine power. The natural will be connected to the supernatural in a way never before experienced by fallen mankind. The return of Christ precedes the millennial reign. The reign will follow the tribulations spoken of in the book of Revelation. It is more of an abrupt rule in which Christ reigns, rather than gradual. The Jews

will play a significant role. The curse will be removed from the earth. Evil will be restrained by Christ's presence and power. Despite the ideal earthly rule of Christ there will be a final rebellion against God after the millennial time is up. Some believe that during this time period the resurrected martyrs will receive glorified bodies and inhabit the earth with all of its inhabitants.

- b. **WHAT DO I BELIEVE:** I believe the Kingdom of God is upon us...Jesus said that and we cannot deny that among God's people it is present. But the Amillennialists fail to capture the literal writings about the millennial reign of Christ as a time period on earth and is literal. I believe that the millennial reign will be a literal 1,000 year period of time. I agree that we need to do our best to make our world a better place to live. Preaching and teaching about holiness and righteous living are worthy causes. Standing up for morality is a must to promote God's Kingdom on earth. But I do not believe that the earth is going to get better and usher in the millennial reign of Christ. I believe mankind will get worse most likely. I believe the Church is supposed to be the example of what can be accomplished when fallen mankind attempts to live in a relationship under the reign of Christ. I believe the millennial reign will come after the tribulations of Revelation. I do believe that it is possible that the martyr's are resurrected and reign with Christ among all the inhabitants. I also believe that the earth will prosper like never before and mankind will flourish. But there will still be lasting effects of sin and evil, but the more Christ literally reigns the less and less this will be. At the millennial's conclusion we will face the final rebellion, the judgment and then the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

## **6. Tribulational Theology (EDT & McKim)**

- a. **The Great Tribulation:** refers to the eschatological time period of tribulations. In general tribulation simply means "the suffering of God's people." But what Jesus and the book of Revelation reveal are something so great that no one has ever witnessed anything like it before. This tribulation will be worldwide and impact all of mankind.
  - i. **SCRIPTURES:**
    1. Matthew 24:21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, the kind that hasn't taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again!
    2. Revelation 2:22; Look! I will throw her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her practices.
    3. Revelation 7:14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

4. Daniel 12:1; At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.

ii. **TRIBULATION TIME PERIOD:**

1. Indicates a dispensation (sequence of events) over a seven year period of suffering that will occur prior to the second coming of Christ and the beginning of the millennial reign.

iii. **TRIBULATION VIEWS:**

1. Pretribulation – Rapture takes place prior to the 7 years of the great tribulation.
2. Midtribulation – Rapture takes place midway through the 7-years of the great tribulation. Church is not fully exempt.
3. Posttribulation – Church is not exempt. The Great Tribulation is simply an intensification of the tribulations the church has experienced throughout the Church Age. The rapture is after the Tribulation is over. Another view is that the Rapture may occur at any moment and we will view history and see the tribulations were fulfilled throughout the history of the church.

**7. THE CHURCH: What is the role of the church?**

- i. My view is the church is raptured by the time of the tribulation.
- ii. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 also the silence after Revelation 3...the church is no longer mentioned.
- iii. The church will encounter the signs and the things associated with leading up to the Second Coming tribulations.
- iv. The Anti-Christ will be born and on the scene during the last days leading up to the tribulation period...although the church may or may not be aware of who the Anti-Christ is, we should be vigilant for indicators, but not false accusations.

## 8. ISRAEL & JERUSALEM: What role does Jerusalem/Israel play in End Times?

- a. Jerusalem and Israel being the focus of world attention is another sign.
- b. Fall of the nation of God in 70 A.D. Jerusalem and Israel ceased to exist.
- c. November 2, 1917 – Balfour Declaration – Israel grew under the oversight of the British empire...this declaration declared the Palestine region (Israel) the national home for Jewish people. This was all made possible because Dr. Chaim Weizmann came up with a way to rapidly make TNT that led to the end of WWI...the Great War. Weizmann as for his homeland restored. And the rest is history.
- d. May 14, 1948 – Israel becomes a sovereign nation...ever since they have been the center of attention. Even now!
- e. Why have the Jews after 70 A.D. fall of Jerusalem and after being totally driven out of Israel in 135 A.D. by the Romans survived to this day...BECAUSE GOD PROMISED and it is PAR OF HIS PLAN.
- f. 1967 Israel took charge of Jerusalem.
- g. “Knowing the Season” – referring to the Generation it will happen is what most believe. So if we can identify particular signs – “War, famines, earthquakes, and Israel becoming a nation” you are close at hand...so are we that generation? Matthew 24:34 “This generation will not pass away...”
  - i. So what generation could it be?
    1. Disciples Generation – obviously not. But they were always ready. Some thought it would be in their generation.
    2. WWI - 1914
    3. Israel as a Nation 1948
    4. Jerusalem in 6 day War – 1967
      - a. You pick...but it seems like the writing is on the wall. Again, we can only know the season...not the hour. Are we close? Does this make since? I think the “evidence” or “signs” look real.
      - b. What is a generation? Lot of room for debate here. He could return in our lifetime. The world setting and situations sure do look align up with key historical events.
- h. TEMPLE MOUNT?
  - i. The Original Temple (King David & King Solomon) – Herod’s Temple -destroyed 70 A.D....3<sup>rd</sup> Temple established during End Times?
  - ii. Daniel 7:13-14 – Son of Man...bulk of Daniel deal with the end of human history.
  - iii. Daniel 11; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev 11:1-2; Rev 13:4-5...will the lawless one, beast, Anti-christ built it?

- i. Is modern day Israel connected with Ancient prophecies about Israel? Does God still look at Israel and the promised land in a unique way? If the answer is yes...then Israel plays a key role in the end times.
- j. Ezekiel 36 and Isaiah 11
  - i. Ezekiel – First Jewish Dispersion
  - ii. Ezekiel 36:8 – Israel shall return even though (36:20)
  - iii. Assyria @721 BC; Babylon @587 BC – Took the temple mount from Israel.
  - iv. In this situation God wanted to restore His people and He did for the Messiah to return.
  - v. Ezekiel 36:34-31
    - 1. Restoration of the Land. God promise this land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So is this land still special to God?
  - vi. Ezekiel 37 – Dry Bones – God will give life to Israel
    - 1. The spiritual condition of modern day Israel is not the question...for they are far from God...they are secular, missed their messiah, and have multiple religions in the land.
    - 2. God can raise up life to the dry bones. Instead the issue is does God still hold a covenant with His people Israel or is his concern only the church or are they connected? Is the promised land key or not? I think it is! I think Israel will play a role in the end times...the region is special to God.
    - 3. Believing in the a sovereign God and seeing how Israel has regathered as a nation from all over the world in our generation is unbelievable. It could be the beginning of bringing life to dry dead bones. I believe it was God's hand that made this happen. He is responsible for Israel becoming a nation in the late 1940's.
- k. Is Israel as a nation a sign of Prophecy?
  - i. 1948 – United Nation declared Israel a sovereign nation.
  - ii. 1967 – Israel took control of the Temple Mount.
  - iii. Matthew 24:32 – are we “in the season”? Are we the “Generation”? The question is if...? If we are in the season then what? What does a generation mean?
  - iv. Psalm 102 – Holocaust possibly...Shoah – Sacrifice...like the Temple with a burnt sacrifice. Did the h9olocaust get God's attention? Just a thought...Just a question? Did it play into the end times picture?
    - 1. Was God's perceived silence over His people actually part of His plan?
    - 2. I realize that Psalm 102 is a radical interpretation...but it is a possibility that the Holocaust set things into motion and God knew it would come and even foretold of it.

3. If Psalm 102 is about the Holocaust of His Chosen people that is amazing prophecy....could it be?
4. HOLOCAUST – Day of distress, in smoke, shrouded, willowed away (starvation), forget to eat, bones cling to flesh, they will use my Name as a curse against Me.
  - a. Does this kind of bring Holocaust pictures to mind?
5. Vr. 12 -13 – Bring hope.
6. Vr 16-18 – God’s rebuttal...final generation of history and literally a last generation.

v. Jeremiah

1. Jeremiah 32:27
2. God will bring back Israel as a nation.
3. Jeremiah 44 – to Restore the Promised Land.
  - a. Land f Benjamin
  - b. Judea
  - c. Samaria
  - d. Jerusalem
  - e. Coastal Planes
  - f. Negev Desert.

vi. PSALM 83 – Enemies of Israel

1. In biblical days this alliance of enemies did not exist...so is this futuristic? Does it reflect modern day alliances of the middle east Arab nations?
2. Where are the 10 people groups in modern days? Is this the Arab Muslim nations that surround Israel? Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran etc.)

9. **RAPTURE:**

- a. Definition – Greek word (Raptus)...meaning “carried off” (MCKIM)
  - i. We believe that this means we will be “carried off” into the sky when Christ returns...literally “raised” from the earth.
- b. **SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE:**
  - i. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
  - ii. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
  - iii. Acts 1:11
  - iv. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 13) – address this as well but more discretely.
- c. We have to believe there is a LITERAL, PHYSICAL RETURN – also CAUGHT UP (Rapture) RETURN...Acts 1:11...this is great evidence. As Jesus went, He will return, and so shall we be with Him.

- i. CAUGHT UP: Daniel 7:13; Matt 24:29-31; 1 Thess 4:17; Acts 1:11
  - ii. When this happens we must know He has come back!
- d. The Rapture has some issues:
  - i. Great Mandate - This earth will not be destroyed.
  - ii. Reconciling the Second Coming into the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing.
    - 1. The attempt to reconcile the rapture and the Glorious Appearing is difficult because the Scriptures do not speak of two separate events or at least the distinction is not clear. Does the Rapture and Glorious Appearing represent the Second Coming one in the same or as two separate events?
    - 2. Does the church age end before the tribulation? This is an important question to help us figure out the sequence of events.
    - 3. Does the Rapture occur between Revelation 3& 4? I believe so for the church is never mentioned again. The church age has come to an end and the End Times have begun. This is my view. Therefore, the Rapture ushers in the tribulation time period and the Glorious Appearing concludes it and begins the Millennial reign on earth.
    - 4. Or is the Glorious Appearing and the Rapture one event? If so, then post-tribulation doctrine is the correct position; possibly mid-tribulation.
  - iii. Regardless, we need to be ready for the rapture. We will meet our Lord in the air, it will be physical and literal.
  - iv. Let us also be prepared to be persecuted, even martyred for our faith. His Kingdom is bigger than our lives. Christ is worthy for the Lamb was slain for us. Suffering is a part of following Christ. (This is hard for me to reconcile, but we must acknowledge the possibility that we might live through the tribulation.)
  - v. The timing is a tough question...but this does not take away from the Biblical evidence that Christ will return and all believers can agree and embrace this truth.

**NOTES by PASTOR CHRIS McCOMBS, Summer 2009**