

# Why is the Book of Revelation Important?

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*And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (Revelation 21:22-23 ESV)*

## The Purpose of the Book of Revelation

- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants **the things that must soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who **reads aloud the words of this prophecy**, and **blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written** in it, **for the time is near**. (Rv1:1-3 ESV)
- Grace to you and peace from **him who is and who was and who is to come**, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, **and from Jesus Christ** the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, **to him be glory and dominion forever and ever**. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (Rv1:4b-7 ESV)
- **The message is from God the Father and from Jesus** – Jesus came to reveal the Father (see Mt11:27//Lk10:22)
- The Book of Revelation is about the **Plan of God**: it is the capstone of all prophecy; it is a filter through which we can look back at all Bible Prophecies and make sense of them
- The Book of Revelation is about the **Nature of God**: it shows us the depths of the Love of God for his Creation; it demonstrates that God is all powerful and will take control of this planet away from Satan the Devil and his agents
- **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”** says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rv1:8 ESV)
  - Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning?  
I, the LORD, the first,  
and with the last; I am he. (Is41:4 ESV see also Is43:10-11, 44:6, 48:12 )
  - for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done (Is46:9b-10a ESV see also Is41:26, 45:11, 48:3)
- John to the **seven churches that are in Asia**: I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the **[Day of YHWH]**, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to **the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.**” (Rv1:4a, 9-11 ESV)

## The Message to the Churches

- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers ... (Rv2:7, 11, 17 ESV)
- The one who conquers ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Rv2:26, 28, 3:5, 6, 12, 13, 21, 22 ESV)
- The message to each individual Church is specific to that Church given its circumstances at the time John wrote the Book of Revelation
- But, more generally, the overall message to the seven Churches is applicable to all Churches and to all Christians during all times (see Rv22:16)
- The word “conquers” is from νικάω (nikaō) - Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says  
The word group denotes “victory” or “superiority,” whether in the physical, legal, or metaphorical sense, whether in mortal combat or peaceful competition ... the basic sense of genuine superiority and overwhelming success generally remains ... it is also generally ... demonstrated by action ... the victory ... is victory because it is God’s victory ... does not rest on the achievement of man, but on that of Christ ... the word ... is in the NT a word of promise ... (TDNT IV page 942-945)
- Other places it is used are:
  - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (Jh16:33 ESV)
  - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Rm8:37 ESV)
  - For everyone who has been [begotten] of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1Jh5:4-5 ESV)
  - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for a they loved not their lives even unto death. (Rv12:11 ESV)
  - The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and she will be my son. (Rv21:7 ESV)
  - See also Lk11:22, 1Cr15:55, Rv5:5, 15:2, 17:14
- The victory is God’s victory – it does not rest on our effort, but on the effort of Christ through faith

## A Glimpse into Eternity

- After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you **what must take place after this.**” At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with **one seated on the throne.** And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were **twenty-four elders**, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rv4:1-6 ESV)
- Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne **a scroll** written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered,** so that he can open **the scroll** and its seven seals.” (Rv5:1-5 ESV)

At the time of the end ... At that time ... there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake ... And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, **shut up the words and seal the [scroll],** until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase.** (Dn11:40, 12:1-5 ESV)

- And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a **Lamb** standing, as though it had been slain ... And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the **Lamb** ... And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
and **you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,**  
and **they shall reign on the earth.**” (Rv5:6-10 ESV)
- **This is the objective of salvation – the purpose of our calling, the reason we are alive.**
- Then the book goes through the apocalyptic flow: seals, trumpets, seven last plagues (See handout)

## The Last Trumpet

- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying,  
“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
who is and who was,  
for you have taken your great power  
and begun to reign.  
The nations raged,  
but your wrath came,  
and the time for the dead to be judged,  
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,  
and those who fear your name,  
both small and great,  
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.” (Rv11:15-18 ESV)
- Once the vision of the resurrection has been given, God opens up the understanding of the prophecies of Daniel which he could not understand:
  - Then Daniel ... was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. (Dn4:19 ESV)
  - As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. (Dn7:15 ESV)
  - When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. (Dn8:15 ESV)
  - And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it. (Dn8:27 ESV)
  - I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” (Dn12:8 ESV)
- Revelation chapter 12 reveals the working of Satan the Devil behind the world powers.
- Revelation chapters 13 reveals the Beast Power – the final incarnation of the fourth Beast which troubled Daniel so much:  
After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet ... (Dn7:7, 19-20 ESV)

## The Final Victory

- The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. (Rv16:17-19 ESV)
- Then in Revelation chapter 17, God explains the zeitgeist of Western Civilization for the last two and half millennia – the corrupt religion from Satan in its many forms – collectively called ‘Babylon’ by God
- Revelation chapter 18 describes the final eradication of ‘Babylon’
- Then Revelation chapters 19, 20, and 21 give a brief glimpse into “eternity future”:  
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God ... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rv21:1-4 ESV)

## Conclusion

- First the angel delivers a final message to John:

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." (Rv22:6-11 ESV)

- Then Jesus speaks directly to John:

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." (Rv22:12-20a ESV)

- Final doxology:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (Rv22:20b-21 ESV)