

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An Introduction...

“I am Alpha and Omega,’ says the Lord God,  
‘the one who is, who was, and who is to come,  
the Almighty.’”

Dr. Mark Alan Langner



## Welcome

I am Mark Langner and would like to welcome our in-person group here at Rocky Mount Church, and anyone who may be watching our Livestream.

We will study one section at a time. If you are here in person, we will accept questions after we leave our livestream about tonight's teaching.

My prayer for you is that God will reveal to you His intent for His Revelation, and that you will understand that God is in control from the beginning to eternity. He has a purpose for His people, Israel, his Church, and for you!

PDF of slides will be available soon and we will walk through how to get those next week. But I also recommend taking your own notes as we go along. We will also have this presentation tonight available later this week.

David Platt story.

*Apokalupsis* (unveil, disclose, reveal).

Three types of literature:

1)Apocalypse; 2) Prophecy; 3) Letter.

Must understand Old Testament prophecy to understand Revelation. At least 278 of 404 verses are drawn from the Old Testament, although not one is directly quoted. Prophecy is abundant in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Jeremiah, Joel, Malachi, Matthew & the Gospels, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.



Revelation (no “s” on the end!) means to unveil, to disclose, to reveal.

Revelation is complex, but it is not impossible. Randall Price once observed, “To be a student of the prophetic scriptures is to be a student of the Scriptures in their entirety.”

It is important that we get Revelation right. The consequences of missing the message in Revelation can even be severe, e.g., Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons have greatly erred in their understanding of Revelation. The Seventh Day Adventists have rather unique views of this great Book too.

Vernon Wayne Howell, born in 1959, took a special interest in the Book of Revelation, particularly the Seven Seals. His teaching on the subject eventually led to a following of at least 130 people, and Howell changed his name to David Koresh. David believed himself to be the incarnation of the sacrificed Lamb in Revelation and convinced many others to believe the same. 80 community people, including 21 children, in addition to six ATF agents, eventually died near Waco in 1993 in two separate raids at the Mount Carmel compound.



Although some later scholars may claim otherwise, the best evidence is that Revelation was recorded by the Apostle John in 95 A.D. Some people note differences in the style of Revelation and that of John's Gospel and Epistles, but I would liken that to John Grisham's writing of various genres.

Additionally, the similarities of John's writing are overwhelming, including his phrasing such as "True," "Lamb," "I signify," "Tribulation," "Out of," "Witness," "Thunder," "Life," and "the Word," among others.

John was also and known and recognizable Pastor to the churches in this area.

And the most convincing of all: Polycarp was a direct disciple of the Apostle John, and *he* told Irenaeus, his own disciple, that John was the author.

Think about John and all he had witnessed...

## Timing of the Events

**Preterists** – believe the book is primarily for believers of the first century. Virtually ignore all futuristic aspects of Revelation, including judgment.

**Historicists** – believe Revelation is about the Church Age. Essentially replaces the Abrahamic Covenant and is highly metaphorical.

**Idealists** – believe Revelation is a metaphor for the battle between good and evil. Requires an allegorical interpretation of the book.

**Futurists** – believe Revelation is a literal revealing to the Seven Churches and the Ecumenical Church; the consummation of the Abrahamic Covenant to Israel (the Seventieth Week of Daniel); prophetic beginning in Chapter 4.



Preterists' views about judgment are problematic: Romans 3:5c-6 notes: "...Is God unrighteous to inflict wrath? Absolutely not! Otherwise, how will God judge the world?" But with that judgment comes a way of escape as we see in Romans 4:7-8: "Blessed are those whose lawlessness acts are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the person the Lord will never charge with sin." In other words, all of us who have accepted the grace and forgiveness of – and only through! – Jesus Christ.

Historicists are notorious for attaching people throughout the Church Age with the various figures in the Revelation.

Idealists seemingly disagree with the views of the New Testament authors, including Jesus's emphatic statements found in Matthew 24-25.

Robert L. Thomas notes, "The futurist approach to the book is the only one that grants sufficient recognition to the prophetic style of the book."





## TWO KEY VERSES

“Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this” (1:19).

“After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this’” (4:1).

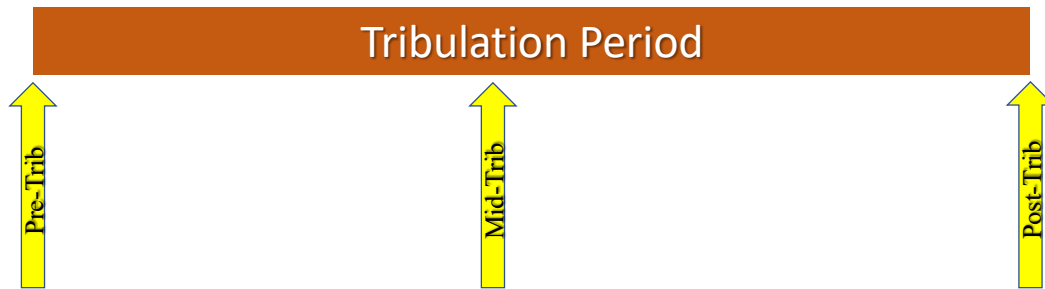


The key phrasing, “after this,” is integral to one’s own understanding of the Book of Revelation. These words, to me, make it obvious that Revelation is generally prophetic: it is mostly about future events!

Remember when studying all Scripture, including Revelation:

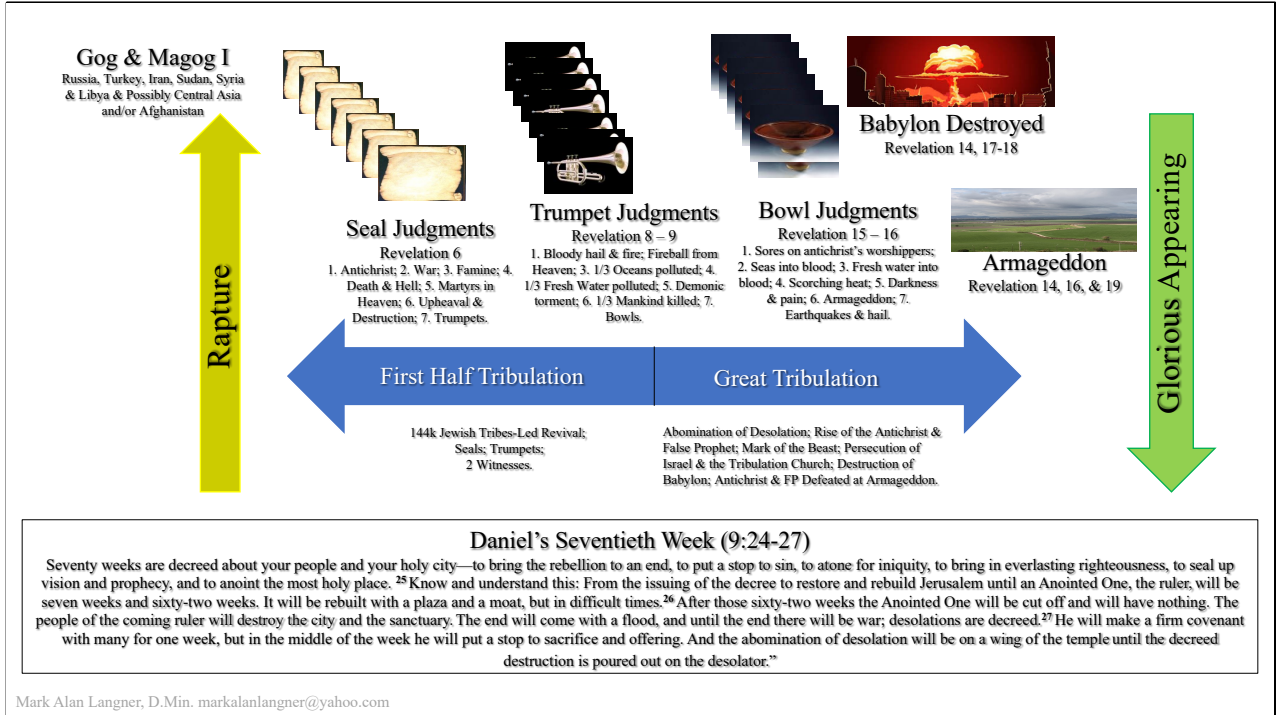
- 1) When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.
- 2) It is important in Revelation, specifically, to note where the action is taking place (on Earth, in Heaven, under the Earth, etc.).
- 3) Revelation is generally chronological (it goes in order) except for perhaps chapters 12 and 17 which are parenthetical chapters (they fill in what is going on).
- 4) Know what is literal and know what is symbolic. The entirety of Scripture, and the witness of the Holy Spirit, help us to do just that. Even symbolic images convey actual people, events, situations, items, etc. Some of these symbols are actually explained in the text itself including the identification of the “Alpha and Omega,” the “seven lampstands,” the “144,000,” etc.

## Futurists Timing of the Rapture



Futurists – typically believe in a Rapture (a snatching away) of the Current Church (which is notably absent in Revelation from Chapters 4-19). We will discuss this in detail in Chapter 6 (I will take a Pre-Trib perspective).





## Timing of the Millennial Kingdom

**Amillennial View** – maintains there will be no future, literal, one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ; the Kingdom is spiritual in nature; and is presently fulfilled as Christ reigns in Heaven and His people. Symbolic of a long church age.

**Postmillennial View** – teaches that Christ will return after the Millennium, an undetermined time when Christians influence the earth's people as they become ready for Christ's return.

**Premillennial View** – concludes Christ will return during the second phase of the 2nd Coming (the Rapture and Daniel's 70th Week being the first phase).





Support for the Premillennial View:

- 1) Best fulfills Abrahamic, Davidic, & Mosaic Promises.
- 2) Offers clearest understanding of Rev. 20:1-6.
- 3) Earliest View of the Church.
- 4) Most literal interpretation of Satan's current role, future incarceration, and ultimate destiny.
- 5) Most consistent, literal rendering of Scripture.

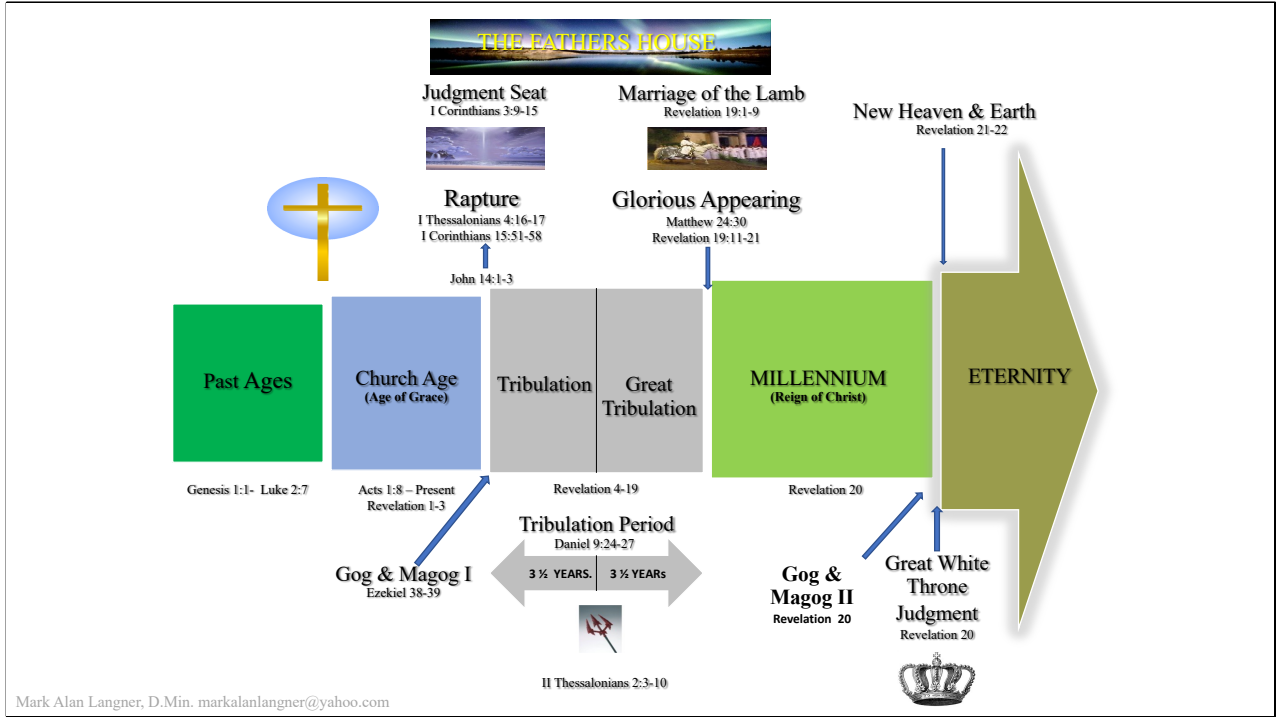
Ten O.T. Passages regarding the Millennial Kingdom:

Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-16, 32:1-20, 35:1-190, 60:1-22,  
Jeremiah 31:1-40, 33:1-26, Ezekiel 37:14-28, Amos 9:11-15,  
Zechariah 14:6-21.



Early adherents to the the Premillennial View include Papias, Clement of Rome, Barnabas, Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and Tertullian.

Some of the more recent and well-known adherents include John Walvoord, Dwight Pentecost, Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, Adrian Rogers, David Jeremiah, John Christopher Thomas, Frank Macchia, Chuck Swindoll, Ed Hindson, Elmer Towns, Danny Akin, Mark Hitchcock, and may others.



## Key Numbers in Revelation/Scripture.

3 – the Trinity

4 – often related to the earth/related to completion.

6 – mankind.

7 – perfection/fulfillment/completion.

12 – elective purpose of God/perfection/authority.



Seven is a hugely important number in Revelation: There are seven spirits, churches, angels, lampstands, stars, seals, trumpets, bowls, lamps of fire, peals of thunder, horns, eyes, thousand people, heads, diadems, plagues, mountains, kings, beatitudes, triumphs, figures, and the "I Ams" of Christ.

Twelve is also a repetitive number in Revelation: there are the twelve tribes of Israel, types of fruit, gates guarded by twelve angels, precious stones and pearls, in addition to multiples of twelve including the twenty-four elders, the two multitudes of 144,000, and the walls (144 cubits).

There is an element of completion in most of the Revelation numbers.

**Seven Themes:**

Jesus is the Primary Theme  
To the Church with hope  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit  
Fulfillment of Israel's Covenants  
Worship of our Trinitarian God  
Bridges Genesis to Revelation  
Eternal restoration of God's people



“The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near.”



The purpose of the Book is plainly stated: to show Jesus's servants “what must soon take place.:

Note the special blessing for those who read aloud the book and keep its contents.

<sup>4</sup> John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has set us free from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

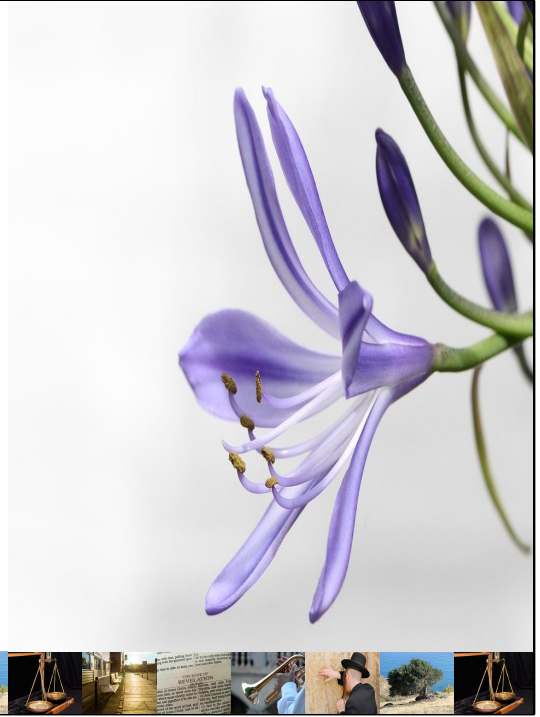
“...the firstborn from the dead” is a statement that although Jesus was dead, He no longer is. He is risen indeed!






Expresses the eternality of God –  
that this message is from the  
Triune Godhead.

It is a Message of Hope and Love  
– of Grace and Peace – from the  
Godhead; an inviting message  
from the Eternal God.





This is indicative of the active, working presence of the Holy Spirit in the Revelation.

### Isaiah 11:2

- The Spirit of the LORD
- The Spirit of Wisdom
- The Spirit of Understanding
- The Spirit of Counsel
- The Spirit of Strength
- The Spirit of Knowledge
- The Spirit of the Fear of the LORD



Some believe the “seven spirits before the throne” refer to the seven angels of the seven churches; others to the seven angels seen in the Book. Others believe it refers to the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit as found in Isaiah 11:2, and I believe this is the best view:

- 1) It is in line with the Trinitarian focus of the passage.
- 2) It is in line with the Branch, Jesus Christ, who would have the Holy Spirit’s anointing and blessing in His earthly ministry.
- 3) It describes the fullness and completeness of the Holy Spirit.

It also refutes the thoughts of some that the Holy Spirit will not be present during the coming Tribulation Period.

Faithful Witness  
-John 7:29

Loved us  
-Romans 8:37-39

First-born of the dead  
-1 Corinthians 15:20

Freed us  
-Galatians 5:1

Ruler of the kings of the earth  
-Philippians 2:10

Made us kingdom priests  
-1 Peter 2:9

“By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.” –Hebrews 10:5



**<sup>7</sup> Look, he is coming with the clouds,  
and every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him.  
And all the tribes of the earth  
will mourn over him.  
So it is to be. Amen.**

**<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one  
who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”**



“I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached with the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him.” –Daniel 7:13

“Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for him as one weeps for a firstborn.: -Zechariah 12:10

“Also, another Scripture says, They will look at the one they pierced.”  
-John 19:37



The Alpha and Omega means the Beginning and the End: it expresses the eternal nature of our God.

Each week we will add a rhyme to help us remember the chapters of Revelation: This week is: Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son. Next week we will finish Chapter 1 and introduce the seven churches.

Thank online audience and invite in-person attendees to ask questions (give rule about questions).