

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation in an Hour (1-21)

“‘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



This is a quick review of Chapters 1-21.

*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.



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.



## 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.

**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>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.



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.



## 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.

## 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.



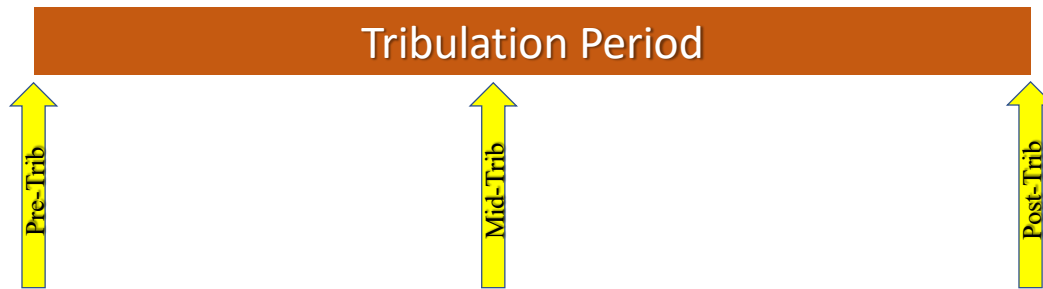
Preterists' views about judgment are problematic: Romans 3:5c-6 notes: "...Is God unrighteous to inflict wrath? Absolutely not! Otherwise, how will God judge the world?" But with that judgment comes a way of escape as we see in Romans 4:7-8: "Blessed are those whose lawlessness acts are forgiven and 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 descriptions of people throughout the Church Age to the various figures in the Revelation. Historicists are often inconsistent in their determinations.

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."

## 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).



## 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.

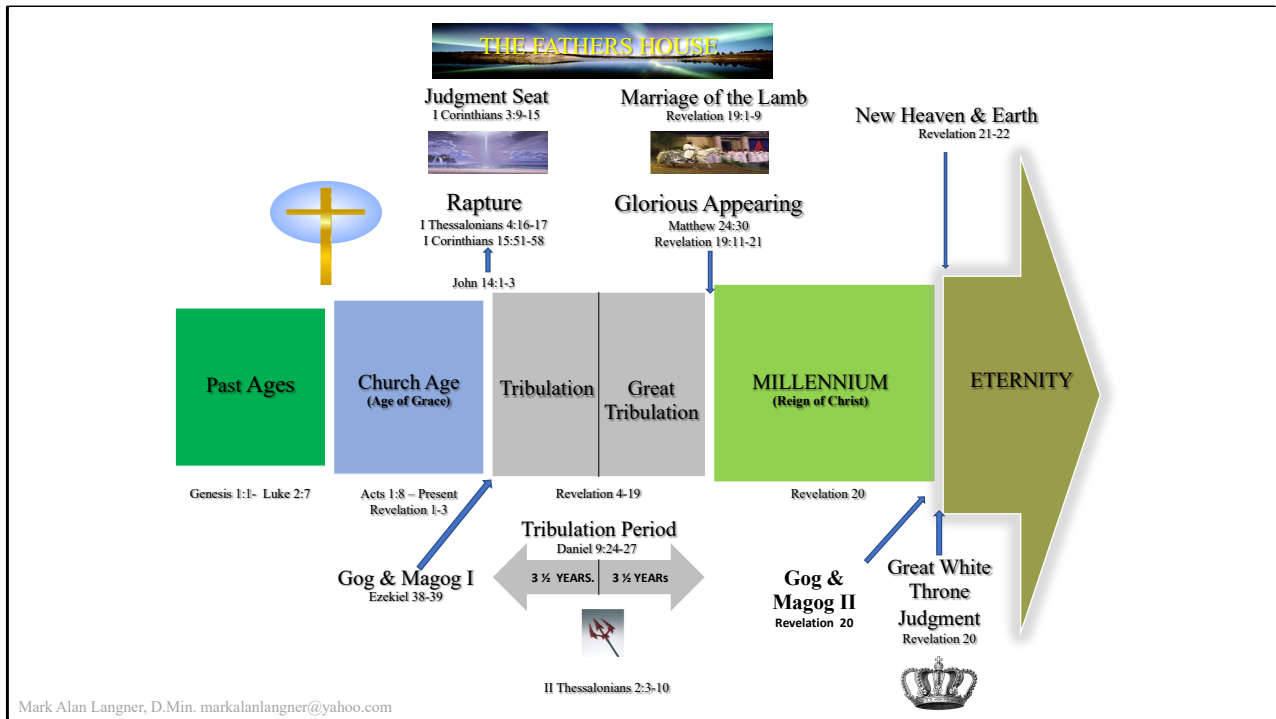
### Ten O.T. Passages regarding the Millennial Kingdom:

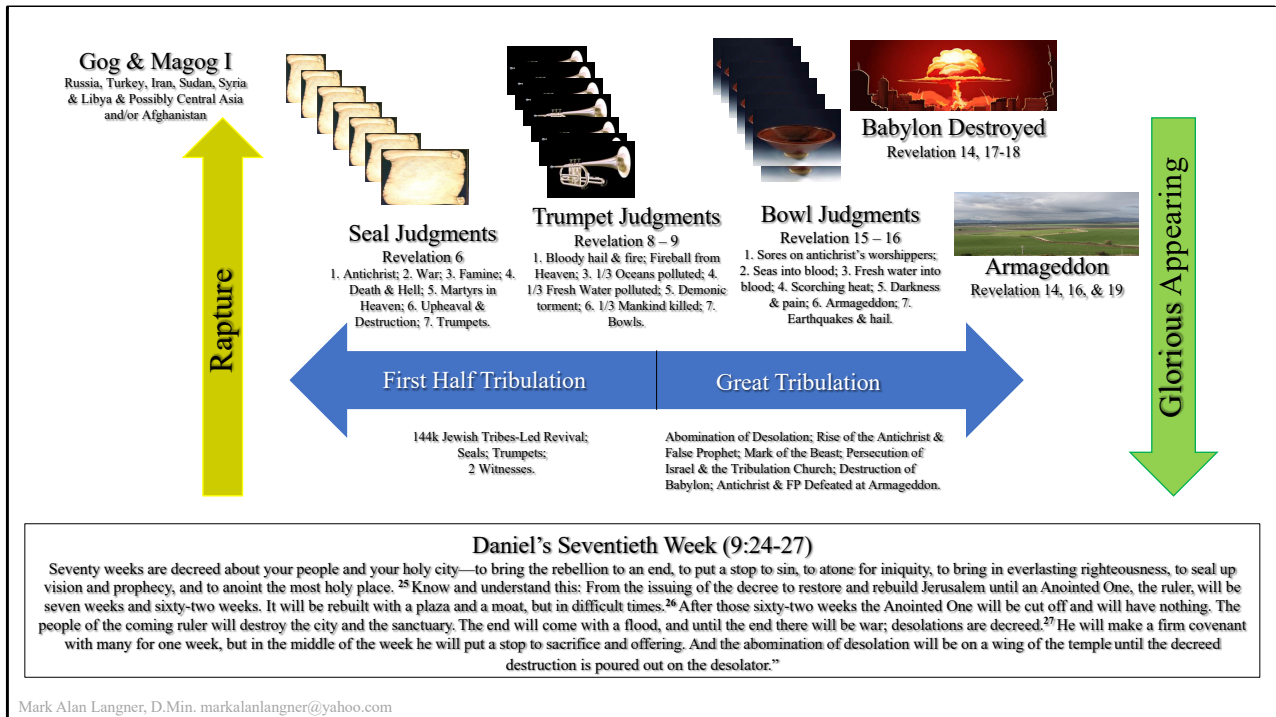
Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-16, 32:1-20, 35:1-190, 60:1-22,  
Jeremiah 31:1-40, 33:1-26, Ezekiel 37:14-28, Amos 9:11-15,  
Zechariah 14:6-21.



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.





Please note: I have highlighted my top-five general Revelation references. If you wish to study the worship sections of Revelation, I highly recommend Dr. Melissa Archer's dissertation (available on Proquest).

1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pregnancy Resource Center. Accessed March 25, 2021. [https://firstchoiceprc.com/pro-life-movement?gelid=CjwKCAjw6fCCBhBNEiwAem5SO-PjiGWSFnD0hvEqWkldFKCa\\_hi0i8OAlcaTewnyYSj4\\_3qe71i0-RoCedEQAvD\\_BwE](https://firstchoiceprc.com/pro-life-movement?gelid=CjwKCAjw6fCCBhBNEiwAem5SO-PjiGWSFnD0hvEqWkldFKCa_hi0i8OAlcaTewnyYSj4_3qe71i0-RoCedEQAvD_BwE).

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I pray you have enjoyed our study. I look forward to discussing Chapter 22 with you.  
May the God of grace and peace bless you all.



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If you wish to study a general understanding of Genesis 1-3 including, in part, its relationship to Revelation, my doctoral dissertation is available via Proquest or firescholars.seu.edu.

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