

Revelation

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(Revelation in Greek is apokalupsis, which means "to reveal," "to disclose," "to uncover.") This book is God's "Grand Finale" of His Masterpiece that we know to be the Bible.

- Revelation was written by John, the Disciple, while in exile on the Island of Patmos. It is a prophetic Book detailing God's wrath being poured out on those left after believers have been removed.

- The study of Revelation requires the Scriptures of Ezekiel chapters 38+39, Daniel chapter 9, and Jesus' words in Matthew 24, along with other prophetic Scripture up and through Paul's Epistles.

- The events of the Book of Revelation take place when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (Romans 11:25-26). It is known also as the "time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble". It is the last 7 years of Daniel's 490 year prophecy which will culminate in Jesus' return to set up "His Kingdom".

- His Kingdom: The Bible was written by Jews, for Jews, about Jews by over 40 messengers of God over approximately 1,500 years; with the exceptions of the Books, and chapters, that were written in exile that pertained to Gentiles (non-Jews; or non-Israelites). Obviously Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation are such books. Jesus in His earthly ministry never spoke about; the age of Grace, or God turning to the Gentiles by Saul/Paul of Tarsus. Jesus Himself said that He came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (with only a couple of exceptions all of His dealings were with the nation of Israel).

- The 7 years of God's wrath will not only be, once again, supernatural but also worse than anything that God has ever done to mankind, or allowed to happen to mankind. It will be as

it was in the Old Testament when the ground opened up to swallow up Korah and his co-conspirators when they lead a revolt against God's chosen leaders. Fire will be called down from heaven by the anti-Christ like Elijah was able to do. The two witnesses will be able to vaporize the ungodly who come against them with fire that comes from their mouth. They will be allowed to be killed by the anti-Christ and God will resurrect them on the third day. Mountains will be toppled and Islands removed. Hundred pound hailstones and meteorites (or the like) will rain down on men. The earth will endure plagues like in Egypt. Both from God and by demoniz forces as God allows. Locust like creatures from the "bottomless pit" will torture those who are not sealed by God's seal, men will writhe in pain as a woman in labor, people will want to die but will not be able to. Throughout this terrible time up to 6 Billion people will perish. Armies will gather in a place and God will confuse them so that they turn on themselves. A remnant of Israel's population ($\approx 1/3$) will be whisked off to safety by God to His mountain of refuge supernaturally quickly like those Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Plagues, famines, destruction and the like will be common place. The false prophet will be given the power to bring a statue seemingly to life and more.

e The Book of Revelation is very 7 heavy: Seven is God's number for completeness, or complete perfection. There are 7 stars, 7 lampstands, 7 angels blowing 7 trumpets which herald 7 judgements, the trumpets are preceded by the 7 seals of judgement that Jesus breaks open from the scroll, which is the mortgage of sin and death that Adam lost in the Garden and that Jesus redeemed at the cross. The Tribulation lasts 7 years. And just

as God's number is 7, God assigns the number 666 ⁽³⁾ to the anti-Christ (note anti-Christ does not mean the

opposite of Christ but rather the "counterfeit-Christ.") The number 6 represents "falling short", "incomplete", "failing to achieve".

• Also: The 7 letters to the 7 churches: The Triune God had John write the 7 letters to the 7 churches that were present in John's day. These 7 churches are given encouragement, reprimand, corrective action, or even reprimand by God according to their current status. And as God would have it those same 7 churches, stereotypically, were predominately represented in different periods over the last 2,000+ years. And as an extra added bonus all 7 churches will be represented now in the last days. (See printout)

• First Rabbit trail of this study: The "Triune God" is found in the Old Testament 2,750 times in the Hebrew word "Elohim" or "Elohiyme" which is a plural. This same Triune God who was present in Genesis 1:1-26 during creation will also end what He started in Revelation chapters 1-22.

• The Book of Revelation is not Chronological: The first three chapters concern open with the Triune God telling John to write down the things that are, the things that will be and to pen a letter to the seven churches. Some of the churches are commended, some are given instruction on bettering their ministry; some are given a mediocre review and two are warned they are headed for destruction. When God is done dealing with the churches they disappear from the Book of Revelation until the end of the Book when the saints of the churches return with Christ upon His return, (not to be confused with His meeting His saints in

In the air when believers of all prior days and those (4) still living are caught up in the air to meet Him during the rapture. Christ ascended once, from the Mount of Olives, and will descend once when He sets up the Kingdom to reign and rule for 1,000 years. The churches are removed prior to chapter 4 events. At least those that repented of their misdeeds in ministry and heeded God's voice. Those that didn't get to participate in God's wrath towards fallen mankind.

During the rest of the chapters we are given some events in order but have to research others to see when they take place.

For example we are told in chapter 13 that the false prophet exists right at the onset of the seven years but is basically uninvolved until the midpoint when he has much power. The 144,000 appear in chapter 7 but from the information we are given we see that they too are present right at the beginning of the Tribulation, same goes for the two witnesses but we can not place them at the beginning till we read about them in chapter 11. And so on.

• The book of Revelation is also given John, for us, in ^{live action} pictures where we have to compare them to dreams and visions of Ezekiel or Daniel and from the Words of Jesus in Matthew 24 which are in chronological order.

• We have to understand that God gave John the information we need today, 2,000+ years ago. We are blessed by being able to put the pieces together, using the whole Bible, and understanding how this will all look today; right now.

• The Book was given to John not so that we would be scared, but to motivate us to sprint the final laps so that we can bring the message to as many as possible. Again, if they can't live for Christ today, how will they die for Him tomorrow?

Revelation 1:1-3 The authority: God gave His word to (5) Jesus Christ (who is the "Word" - John 1:1) and Jesus gave it to John who shared His word and is now going to further share His final message.

Revelation 1:4-6 This letter (to the seven churches) comes from: God the Father (He who is, and Who was, and Who is to come), God the Holy Spirit (the Seven Spirits), and from Jesus Christ, by the way of John's pen. These are actual churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey). Notice: these are not Synagogues. These are the Body of Christ churches.

Revelation 1:7-8 (paraphrasing) Behold, He is coming back, and every eye will see Him - for who He is -. Even the non-believing Jews and the rest of the world will realize that He is the same Jesus of 2,000 years ago. He will profess, "I am the Alpha and Omega," the One who is and was and is to come", (This is the 8th "I am" that John has written. The seven "I am's" of Jesus in the Gospel of John (Completeness/perfection) and now the 8th which is the number of New Beginning Chance & people on the Ark).

Revelation 1:9 John's testimony and his qualification: he endured persecution, he looks forward to the Kingdom (again Kingdom not heaven although the Old Testament saints will also bask in glory eternally), and now he has waited patiently in exile, on Patmos, because of preaching the Word of God.

Revelation 1:10+11 "Here's what happened": "I was meditating and praying one day, filled with the Spirit when I heard behind me a loud voice saying, "Write down the things that you see in a book and (also) send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."