



REVIEW

Chapter 1

- John wrote the Book of Revelation while living on *the island of Patmos* (v. 9) as, *the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place* (v. 1).
- *On the Lord's Day* John was in the Spirit and heard a loud voice like a trumpet (v. 10). The voice told him, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea* (v. 11).
- John had a vision of Jesus *among the seven lampstands... dressed in a long robe... and with a golden sash around his chest. His hair was like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance* (vv. 13-15, 16). *In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword* (v. 16).
- Jesus told John, *Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches* (vv. 17-20).

Chapters 2-3

- Descriptions of Jesus:
 - *...him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands* (2:1).
 - *...him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again* (2:8).
 - *...who has the sharp, double-edged sword* (2:12).
 - *...the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze* (2:18).
 - *...him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars* (3:1).
 - *...him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open* (3:7).
 - *...the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation* (3:14).
- As instructed, John addressed the Book of Revelation to each of the seven churches located in Asia Minor. Each of the seven sections in chapters 2-3 contains specific statements from Jesus to the individual churches
 - **EPHESUS:** *I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this*

against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (2:2-6)

- *SMYRNA: I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (2:9-10)*
- *PERGAMUM: I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (2:13-16)*
- *THYATIRA: I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.' (2:19-25)*
- *SARDIS: To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. (3:1-4)*
- *PHILADELPHIA: I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.*

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (3:8-11)

- *LAODICEA: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (3:15-20)*

Chapter 4

- John saw *a throne in heaven*, and God the Father was sitting on it. He had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was encircled by a bright rainbow (v. 3). It was surrounded by *twenty-four other thrones* on which were seated *...twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads* (vv. 4-5).
*While there are many interpretations as to the identity of the *twenty-four elders*, many scholars believe they represent the 12 tribes of Israel - God’s Chosen People, and the 12 Apostles - the redeemed Body of Christ.
- Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit was in front of it, represented by *seven lamps. In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.* (vv. 5-6)
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures... covered with eyes in front and in back* (v. 6).
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’* (vv. 6-7)
 - The *four living creatures* were circling the throne, worshiping God. As they did *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...they lay their crowns before the throne...* (vv. 8-11)
*While many have tried to assign metaphorical or prophetic meaning to the *four living creatures*, it is quite possible they are literal creatures that exist only in heaven.

Chapter 5

- God the Father is holding *a scroll ...in his right hand*. There is *writing on both sides* of the scroll, and it is *sealed with seven seals.* (v. 1)
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.* (v. 4)

- *Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (v. 5)*
*This can only be Jesus Christ!
- *The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth (v. 6).*
*This speaks to the perfect unity of the Trinity as God the Father is on the throne, the Holy Spirit is in front, and Jesus, the Son, is there ready to open the scroll.

Chapter 6

The Seals

NOTE: This is the beginning of the Tribulation, that period which follows the Rapture described in Matthew 24:39-44; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:1. Because Christians will be raptured or taken up before these events and because Jesus promised, *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth (3:10)*, we do not have to fear the Tribulation.

- The First Seal (6:1-2) When Jesus *opened the first seal... one of the four living creatures released a white horse with the word, come! The rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.* This is not Jesus! This is the antichrist who comes to power without a fight or resistance.
- The Second Seal (6:3-4) When Jesus *opened the second seal... the second living creature released a fiery red ...horse. Its rider was given power to take pace from the earth and to make people kill each other.* This represents a terrible, unprecedented world war.
- The Third Seal (6:5-6) When Jesus *opened the third seal... the third living creature released a black horse. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.* John heard a voice that said, *two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!* This represents a worldwide famine, the inevitable result of war, during which a day’s wages will only buy enough food to feed one person.
- The Fourth Seal (6:7-8) When Jesus *opened the fourth seal... the fourth living creature released a pale horse. Its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.* This represents the chaos of the antichrist’s oppressive government, world war, famine, disease, and desperate people and animals turning on one another as 25% of those still alive when the fourth seal is opened die.
- The Fifth Seal (6:9-11) When Jesus *opened the fifth seal... John saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.* These are Christian martyrs who are being protected under the altar until the time when their number was complete.
- The Sixth Seal (6:12-17) When Jesus *opened the sixth seal* all kinds of things happened:
 - *There was a great earthquake.*
 - *The sun turned black...*
 - *The whole moon turned blood red...*
 - *the stars in the sky fell to earth...*
 - *The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up...*
 - *every mountain and island was removed from its place.*

- *everyone hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains... They wanted the mountains and the rocks... to fall on them and hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*
- This is the *great day of God's wrath*, but it is being held back for the moment.

Chapter 7

- John saw *four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth... Four corners of the earth* is a term usually used to describe the totality of the world. *Four winds* are almost always used to describe a terrible destructive force.
- A fifth angel came up from the east carrying the seal of the living God. He told the other angels they could not *harm the land or the sea or the trees until ...the servants of ...God ...were sealed*.
- The 144,000 who are sealed are Israelites.
- John's attention turned back to the throne where he saw *a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb*. This is a glimpse ahead to the moment when the martyrs under the altar (6:11) are rewarded as promised with all those martyred during the Tribulation. Because they are martyrs, they are given special recognition.
- The multitude around the throne is made of those who have come out of the great tribulation. *They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*. The elder told John, *they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence*.

Chapter 8

- The Seventh Seal (8:1-6) When Jesus *opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour*.
 - This seems to be a 'calm before the storm' kind of thing.
 - Or perhaps it is simply a sense of awe that silenced everyone.
 - During the *silence in heaven* John saw *the seven angels who stand before God, and the seven trumpets were given to them*.
 - These *seven angels* could possibly be archangels.
 - Jewish apocryphal tradition from the Babylonian captivity listed Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel as archangels.
 - The *silence* ended when *another angel ...hurled ...the golden censor... filled with fire from the altar ...to the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightening, and an earthquake*.
- The First Trumpet (8:7) When *the first angel sounded his trumpet ...hail and fire mixed with blood ...was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up*.
- The Second Trumpet (8:8-9) When *the second angel sounded his trumpet ...something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed*. *Could this be a volcano?
- The Third Trumpet (8:10-11) When *the third angel sounded his trumpet,, a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water ...the name of the star is Wormwood... a third of the waters turned bitter and many people died from the contaminated water*. *Could this be a meteor?

- Wormwood is a bitter desert plant in the Middle East.
- In the Old Testament it represents sorrow and bitter judgement (Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Jeremiah 9:15, 23:15; Lamentations 3:15; Amos 5:7).
- The Fourth Trumpet (8:12-13) When *the fourth angel sounded his trumpet... a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.*
 - Then John *heard an eagle that was flying over call out in a loud voice, 'Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!'*
 - RECAP:
 - There are 7.9 billion people in the world today.
 - Of those, 2.3 billion claim to be Christian.
 - Let's just say 2 billion people are taken in The Rapture, leaving 5.9 billion on the earth when the Tribulation begins.
 - We have no way of knowing how many will die in the war represented by the rider on the red horse (6:3-4), but 75 million people died in WW2, so twice as many deaths in this war is probably very low.
 - Death is allowed to kill 25% of those remaining, somewhere around 2 billion people with the war that is still going on. That leaves around 3 billion people on the earth – about half of those who started the Tribulation.
 - During the first four trumpets...
 - a third of the earth was burned up, as well as a third of the trees and all the grass.
 - a volcano crashed into the sea and killed a third of the sea creatures and destroyed a third of the ships.
 - A meteor contaminated a third of the drinking water.
 - With all of these catastrophes thousands and thousands of people would die.
 - ...and according to the eagle it is going to get much worse!

Chapter 9

- The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12) When *the fifth angel sounded his trumpet John saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.*
 - Many, if not most scholars believe the *star* to be the devil or Lucifer (Luke 10:18-20; Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - *the star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.* This is a bottomless pit, a kind of holding cell in hell, where the beast and the worst of the demons are currently held (Luke 8:27; Revelation 11:3-7, 17:8, 20:1-3).
 - When Lucifer opened *the Abyss, smoke rose from it... so much so the sun and sky were darkened.*
 - *...out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions...*
 - *They looked like horses prepared for battle,*
 - *They wore something like crowns of gold*
 - *...their faces resembled human faces, their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.*

- *They had breastplates like breastplates of iron...*
 - *...the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.*
 - *They had tails with stingers like scorpions...*
- Since they came from *the Abyss*, and have *tails like... scorpions*, many scholars believe the *locusts* are demons, but John does not say that. They were organized under a king *...the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).*
- they were forbidden to *harm the grass of the earth, or any plant or tree* and they were specifically told to *torture ...those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months... the people will long to die, but death will elude them.*
- The Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21) When *the sixth angel sounded his trumpet* John heard a voice coming from the *altar that is before God.*
 - This is the same altar John saw in 6:9-12 protecting the martyrs, and 8:3-4 sitting in front of God's throne.
 - The voice *said to the sixth angel ...release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates and the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of humanity.*
 - These are not the four angels from 7:1 (those angels were not bound) — these are demonic (fallen angels).
 - There is no point in trying to set a location based on the modern Euphrates River because much has changed on planet Earth.
 - These angels have a specific assignment for a specific time which has come — they will *kill a third of humanity.*
 - Releasing them releases an army of 200 million *mounted troops (twice ten thousand times ten thousand).*
 - The riders and their horses wore brightly colored *breastplates*
 - *the horses had heads ...that resembled the heads of lions*
 - *fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths*
 - *their tails were like snakes having heads with which they inflict injury.*
 - *The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.*

Chapter 10

- Many scholars believe chapter 10 marks the middle of the period we call The Tribulation.
- The *mighty angel*.
 - *He was robed in a cloud with a rainbow about his head... his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll that was*

open in his hand. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ...he gave a loud sound like the roar of a lion.

- *When the mighty angel spoke ...the voices of the seven thunders spoke.*
- *John was about to write down what the seven thunders said, but was told, Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.*
- *The angel... raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by God himself ...There will be no more delay!*
- *The Scroll.*
 - *John was told to Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel...*
 - *The angel told him, Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.*
 - *John did as he was told and his stomach turned sour.*