

Session Four:

Structure And Overview Of The Revelation

I) Introduction

- A) In this session I am going to cover two main components of the book of Revelation; the structure of The Revelation and a brief overview of the entire book.
- B) Understanding how this glorious book is structured helps us tremendously as we seek to encounter Jesus through it. The apocalyptic writing style of this book can make it difficult to follow if the different parts are unclear to the reader.

II) The Structure Of The Revelation

- A) The book of Revelation is mostly chronological and progressive. The progressive nature of this book is that each of the 21 judgments increase in their severity as they are released from Jesus. As men resist the mercy of God in His introductory judgments, He will increase them to match both the antichrist system and the rapid increase of sin on the earth.
- B) A simple way to see the structure of The Revelation is to see it in 4 primary parts with 5 sections in the 4th part.
 - 1) **Part 1 (Revelation 1)** This is John's commissioning from Jesus to write what he sees in a book and send it to the seven Churches which are in Asia minor. It's an awesome thing that the truths John sees about Jesus in **Revelation 1** are all used to address the 7 Churches in **Revelation 2-3**.
 - 2) **Part 2 (Revelation 2-3)** Within these two chapters Jesus shares truths with seven literal, historical Churches about real issues they were facing in their day. There is a threefold purpose of these 7 letters; 1. Past (Literal, Historical Churches) 2. Present (The Church era) 3. Future (The final generation of Christians).
 - 3) **Part 3 (Revelation 4-5)** In these two chapters we get a glimpse into Who's leading human history and Jesus' taking the **Psalm 2** scroll from the Father's right hand. This scroll is referred to by many as Jesus' end-time battle plan to take back the nations of the earth, avenge His bride, end the reign of terror by the antichrist and usher in God's kingdom to the earth.
 - 4) **Part 4 (Revelation 6-22)** Within these 16 chapters we see the result of Jesus taking the scroll from the Father's hand in **Revelation 5**. These 16 chapters include the final confrontation between Jerusalem and Babylon as God's people confront the antichrist publicly prior to Jesus' return and establishing of His Kingdom on the earth.

5) Now, within **Part 4 (Revelation 6-22)** there is also 2 groups of 5 sections (5 Chronological sections and 5 Angelic/Parenthetical sections).

(a) **Chronological (Storyline)** =Events occurring from start-finish, beginning-end or in a systematic order.

(b) **Parenthetical explanation (Angelic)** = These parts of the Chapters serve as a divine pause to the storyline to explain and answer questions that arise from the Chronological sections (storyline).

(i) For instance, **Revelation 6** (Chronological/Storyline) section tells of the first 6 seals being broken by Jesus and the ensuing damage they cause. But **Revelation 7** is a (Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation) section explaining what will take place with God's servants during the seal judgments.

1. **Chronological Section #1 (Revelation 6)** This part of the storyline opens with Jesus Himself breaking the first **6 SEAL JUDGEMENTS** releasing political trouble, world war, famine and financial crisis leading to one fourth of humanity dying, prayer strengthened by the martyrs of Jesus and great cosmic disturbance.
2. **Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation #1 (Revelation 7)** In this explanation chapter we see how God is going to place a hedge of **PROTECTION** around the people of God in the midst of this great crisis. And though many Christian's will die in the midst of the great tribulation, they aren't coming up from this season defeated, but victorious and full of love for Jesus and His leadership over their lives.
3. **Chronological Section #2 (Revelation 8-9)** The storyline continues with Jesus releasing the **6 TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS** upon the antichrist empire and those on the earth who are rejecting the previous mercies of God (7 seals). These trumpets are severe warnings of more severe judgments yet to come (7 bowls).
4. **Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation #2 (Revelation 10-11)** In these explanation chapters John gets **DIRECTION** into the great increase of prophetic ministry that God is going to release upon the earth to preach Christ in the midst of great global pressure.
5. **Chronological Section #3 (Revelation 11:15-19)** During this storyline portion John see's the rapture of the saints take place during the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the loud voice from heaven addresses to the nations of the earth that "The Kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever."
6. **Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation #3 (Revelation 12-14)** In these explanation chapters we get insight into the **CONFRONTATION** that moves from the heavens to the earth as the antichrist takes the world stage as an incarnated fully demonized human and beings to persecute the Church and establish his short 3 ½ yr reign on the earth.

7. **Chronological Section #4 (Revelation 15-16)** It's here that we see the series of bowls that are poured out upon the antichrist empire and all those that have taken the mark of the beast as Jesus' damages the evil structures of society.
8. **Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation #4 (Revelation 17-18)** In these two chapters we see the **SEDUCTION** that comes from the harlot Babylon as she seduces anyone and everyone away from traditional values into a economic, political and religious system that will cover the earth. It's here that John isn't shown the Harlot like he is told in **Revelation 17:1** but rather her fornication, her short life span and the need for her total, swift destruction.
9. **Chronological Section #5 (Revelation 19-20)** It's here that we see Jesus' **TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** to planet earth and Jerusalem to throw the antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire, and slay only those that have taken the mark of the beast which the Bible tells us will be multitudes (maybe billions). And it's also here that Jesus inaugurates what's called the millennial reign of Christ, which is Jesus ruling and reigning with the saints on this physical earth for a 1,000 literal years prior to our entry into the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem with God the Father.
 - (a) At the close of **Revelation 20** we also see the devil thrown into the lake of fire and the final destination of the non-Christian from world history also in the lake of fire where they will all be tormented by God day and night forever and ever.
10. **Parenthetical/Angelic Explanation #5 (Revelation 21-22)** This is the last and final vision that John receives and it includes the **RESTORATION** of all things between God and man. This is the final vision of our eternal dwelling place in the New Jerusalem, on a new earth with God the Father forever and ever.
 - (a) These two chapters are given to us to so that we might in this age anchor our souls into that which is unshakable, the age to come.
 - (b) "If you don't think rightly about heaven, you won't think about it at all."
–Mike Bickle