

# **New Testament Survey (NT1)**

## **The Book of Revelation**

**Ross Arnold, Winter 2013  
Lakeside institute of Theology**

# New Testament Survey (NT1)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. The Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark & Luke
3. Gospel of John; Book of Acts
4. Paul & Pauline Epistles (Galatians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians)
5. Pauline Epistles 2 (Romans, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus)
6. The General Epistles (Hebrews to Jude)
7. Book of Revelation; Expectations for Fulfillment
8. New Testament Conclusion; Final Exam

# Organization of New Testament Books

**Four Gospels** – “Good News” about the life, ministry, sacrificial death and resurrection of God’s incarnate Son, Jesus.

- *The “Synoptic” Gospels* – Matthew, Mark and Luke
- *The Fourth Gospel* – Gospel of John

**One Book of Acts** – History of Early Church, by Luke.

**Twenty-One “Epistles” or “Letters”** – written by Apostles & early church leaders.

- *Thirteen Letters attributed to the Apostle Paul.*

To Christian communities: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thess.

To Christian leaders: 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

- *One Biblical Sermon*: Hebrews
- *Seven General Non-Pauline “Epistles” or “Letters”* – written to broader Church rather than a specific group or individual.

\* James, 1-2 Peter, 1-2-3 John, Jude

**One “Apocalypse”: Book of Revelation** – symbolic & prophetic.

# The Book of Revelation

Author: John the Apostle

Date: c. AD 95-96

Theme: Encouraging prophesy of the final days and God's ultimate triumph.

Purpose: To assure recipients (many of who were suffering persecution) of the ultimate triumph of Christ against all who oppose Him and His saints. This was a special concern as the Roman emperors had increased persecution of Christians, trying to enforce emperor worship.





Γ ΟΔ ΤΩ

Ο ΘΕ ΚΟ ΤΟΣ

Φ Μουριδης

ΑΧΗCΙC  
Μ. ΚΟΝΤΟΜΗΝΑ  
ΤΗΣ ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑC ΑΥΤΗΣ

# The Book of Revelation

**“Apocalypse”** – A revelation; a disclosure of knowledge; the lifting of a veil.

## Four interpretive approaches to Revelation:

**Historicist** – sees a broad view of history in Revelation.

**Preterist** – sees Revelation as referring mostly to events in the past: apostolic era up to fall of Roman Empire.

**Futurist** – believes Revelation describes future events.

**Idealist**, or **Symbolic** – holds that Revelation does not refer to actual people or events, but is an allegory of the spiritual path & ongoing struggle between good and evil.

# SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



# Outline of The Book of Revelation

## I. Introduction

A. Prologue: John identifies himself, his addressees, and the divine source of his visions. (1:1-3)

## II. Messages to the Seven Asian Churches

A. Description of the "Son of Man" as John sees him in his vision. (1:4-20)

B. Ephesus: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil." (2:1-7)

C. Smyrna: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty – but you are rich." (2:8-11)

D. Pergamum: "I know your works, and where you live, where Satan's throne is." (2:12-17)

# Outline of The Book of Revelation

## I. Messages to the Seven Asian Churches

E. Thyatira: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience." (2:18-29)

F. Sardis: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead." (3:1-6)

G. Philadelphia: "I know your works. I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it." (3:7-13)

H. Laodicea: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot... Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth." (3:14-22)

# Outline of The Book of Revelation

**III. John come before the Throne of God and sees the 24 elders, 4 "living creatures," and the Lamb who is found worthy to break the seals on the judgment scroll of God. (Ch. 4-5)**

## **IV. The Lamb Breaks the Seals**

- A. First Seal: One who is both a king and a conqueror rides forth on a white horse. (6:1-2)**
- B. Second Seal: A rider on a red horse brings war. (6:3-4)**
- C. Third Seal: A rider on a black horse brings famine. (6:5-6)**
- D. Fourth Seal: A rider on a pale horse brings death. (6:7-8)**
- E. Fifth Seal: The souls of the martyrs "under the altar" cry out for vengeance. (6:9-11)**
- F. Sixth Seal: There are earthquakes and natural disasters. (6:12-17)**
  - 1. 144,000 of "all the tribes of Israel" are "sealed." (7:1-8)**
  - 2. A vast multitude worship God after coming out of the Great Tribulation. (7:9-17)**
- G. Seventh Seal: The breaking of the seventh seal begins another series: the seven trumpets. (8:1-5)**

# Outline of The Book of Revelation

## v. The Angels Sound the Trumpets

- A. **First Trumpet: Hail and fire destroy a third of the trees and grass. (8:6-7)**
- B. **Second Trumpet: A third of the oceans are destroyed. (8:8-9)**
- C. **Third Trumpet: A third of the rivers and springs are poisoned. (8:10-11)**
- D. **Fourth Trumpet: A third of the sky is darkened. (8:12-13)**
- E. **Fifth Trumpet: A plague of "locusts" terrorize the Earth for five months. (9:1-12)**
- F. **Sixth Trumpet: Army of 200 million kills a third of Earth's population. (9:13-21)**
  - **John eats a little book which is sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. (10:1-11)**
  - **Two witnesses prophesy for 3½ years, are killed, and come back to life. (11:1-14)**
- G. **Seventh Trumpet: The ark of the covenant appears in the heavenly temple. (11:15-19)**
  - 1. **John sees a woman clothed with the sun, the moon, and the stars. (12:1-6)**
  - 2. **Satan is cast down to the Earth. (12:7-12)**
  - 3. **The dragon persecutes the people of God. (12:13-17)**
  - 4. **The beast from the sea makes war with the people of God. (13:1-10)**
  - 5. **The beast from the land forces people to worship the beast from the sea. (13:11-18)**
  - 6. **John sees 144,000, "having his Father's name written on their foreheads," with the Lamb on Mount Zion. (14:1-5)**
  - 7. **Three angels proclaim judgment. (14:6-13)**
  - 8. **The angels reap the harvest. (14:14-20)**

# Outline of The Book of Revelation

## VI. The Angels Pour Out Their Bowls on the Earth

- A. Seven angels given golden bowls containing wrath of God. (15:1-8)
- B. First Bowl: "Foul & loathsome sore" afflicts beast's followers. (16:1-2)
- C. Second Bowl: Sea turns to blood and everything within it dies. (16:3)
- D. Third Bowl: All fresh water turns to blood. (16:4-7)
- E. Fourth Bowl: The sun scorches the Earth with intense heat. (16:8-9)
- F. Fifth Bowl: There is total darkness and great pain. (16:10-11)
- G. Sixth Bowl: Preparations made for final battle between good & evil. (16:12-16)
- H. Seventh Bowl: A great earthquake: "every island fled away and the mountains were not found." (16:17-21)

## VII. Babylon the Great

- A. Great harlot who sits on many waters: Babylon the Great. (17:1-18)
- B. Babylon is destroyed. (18:1-8)
- C. The people of the earth mourn Babylon's destruction. (18:9-19)
- D. The permanence of Babylon's destruction. (18:20-24)

## VIII. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- A. A great multitude praises God. (19:1-6)
- B. The marriage supper of the Lamb. (19:7-10)

# Outline of The Book of Revelation

## IX. The Millennium

- A. The beast & false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. (19:11-21)
- B. Satan is imprisoned in bottomless pit for a thousand years. (20:1-3)
- C. Resurrected martyrs "and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image" live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. (20:4-6)

## X. After the Thousand Years

- A. Satan is released and attempts to make war against the people of God, but is defeated. (20:7-9)
- B. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. (20:10)
- C. The Last Judgment: the wicked, along with death and Hades, are cast into the lake of fire. (20:11-15)

## XI. The New Heaven and Earth

- A. New heaven & new earth replace the old. No more suffering or death. (21:1-8)
- B. God comes to dwell with humanity in the New Jerusalem. (21:2-8)
- C. Description of the New Jerusalem. (21:9-27)
- D. The river and tree of life appear for the healing of the nations. The curse is ended. (22:1-5)

## XII. Conclusion – Christ's reassurance that his coming is imminent. Final admonitions.<sup>14</sup> (22:6-21)

# Interpretation of End Times in Revelation

- **Premillennialism** – the belief that Jesus will return and will be physically on the earth for a 1000 year millennial reign, in literal interpretation of Revelation 20:1-6. (May be pre- or post-tribulation premillennialism.)
- **Amillennialism** – the belief that the 1000 years referred to in Revelation is a *symbolic* number, and that the millennium has already begun as the current Church Age.
- **Postmillennialism** – the belief that Jesus will return after a 1000 year Golden Age, during which Christian ethics prosper. (There are different opinions about whether the 1000 years is literal or figurative.)

# Comparison of Christian millennial teachings

