

# **General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)**

**Book of Revelation  
May 29, 2014**

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# General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

Apr 3 – Intro to NT General Epistles

Apr 10 – Book of Hebrews

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – Book of James

May 1 – **No Class**

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – Books of 1 & 2 Peter

May 22 – Books of 1,2,3 John; Jude

May 29 – Book of Revelation

June 5 – Conclusion; Final Exam

# John the Apostle and Evangelist




# The Book of Revelation

**Author: John the Apostle**

**Date: c. AD 95-96**

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

**Purpose: To assure recipients (many of whom 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.**



# The Book of Revelation

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

## **Four interpretive approaches to Revelation:**

**Historicist** – there is a broad view of history in Revelation.

**Preterist** – Revelation refers to events in the past apostolic era, up to fall of Roman Empire.

**Futurist** – Revelation describes future events.

**Idealist**, or **Symbolic** – 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 & Prologue: John identifies himself, addressees, & the divine source of his visions. (1:1-3)
- II. Messages to the Seven Churches of Asian
  - A. Description of "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)
  - 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: Earthquakes and natural disasters. (6:12-17)
    - 1. 144,000 of "all the tribes of Israel" are "sealed." (7:1-8)
    - 2. Multitude worships God after coming out of 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 & 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: Plague of "locusts" terrorize Earth for 5 months. (9:1-12)
- F. Sixth Trumpet: Army of 200 million kills 1/3 of Earth's people. (9:13-21)
  - 1. John eats a little book which is sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. (10:1-11)
  - 2. Two witnesses prophesy for 3½ years, are killed, & come back to life. (11:1-14)
- G. Seventh Trumpet: Ark of Covenant in the heavenly temple. (11:15-19)
  - 1. John sees a woman clothed with sun, moon, and 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 people of God. (13:1-10)
  - 5. The beast from 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 God's wrath. (15:1-8)
- B. First Bowl: "Foul & loathsome sores" afflicts beast's followers. (16:1-2)
- C. Second Bowl: Sea turns to blood & everything in it dies. (16:3)
- D. Third Bowl: All fresh water turns to blood. (16:4-7)
- E. Fourth Bowl: Sun scorches Earth with intense heat. (16:8-9)
- F. Fifth Bowl: There is total darkness and great pain. (16:10-11)
- G. Sixth Bowl: Preparations for final battle, good v 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 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 cast into the lake of fire. (19:11-21)
- B. Satan imprisoned in bottomless pit for 1000 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; no more suffering or death. (21:1-8)
- B. God dwells with humanity in the New Jerusalem. (21:2-8)
- C. Description of the New Jerusalem. (21:9-27)
- D. River & 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. (22:6-21)

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Revelation 21:1-8

# Interpretations 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

