

## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

(Thanks to Mike Bickle, International House of Prayer, Kansas City)

*Revelation is composed of 4 parts; the 4<sup>th</sup> part is composed of 5 sections, each section containing chronological verses followed by verses that are explanatory.*

*The 5 chronological sections tell us what happens to the Antichrist's followers in the 21 judgment events. These judgments are numbered and occur in order. The judgments also intensify in severity as they unfold. These sections deal primarily with the judgments of God against the Antichrist and His system.*

*The 5 explanatory sections are not part of the unfolding chronology but rather serve as parenthetical sections that answer questions that arise from the chronological sections. These sections are more geared toward what will happen to God's people.*

*The full title of the book of Revelation is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" because it reveals His heart and leadership. The Father's primary purpose in giving us this book was to reveal Jesus' majesty. It is secondarily a book about the end times.*

### Part 1: JOHN'S CALLING TO PROPHECY (Rev. 1)

- Introduction and greeting (1:1-6)
- Announcement of Jesus' Second Coming (1:7)
- The Lord's self-designation (1:8)
- John's calling to prophesy about the End Times (1:9-20)

*This first chapter (plus additional information in chapters 2 & 3) highlights numerous distinct descriptions of the majesty and ministry of Jesus. It is the most complete picture of Jesus in Scripture.*

### Part 2: JESUS' 7 LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES (Rev 2-3)

- Ephesus: return to wholehearted love for Jesus (2:1-7)
- Smyrna: continue to stand strong without fear in persecution (2:8-11)
- Pergamos: repent of compromise with immorality and idolatry (2:12-17)
- Thyatira: repent of compromise with immorality and idolatry (2:18-29)
- Sardis: repent of spiritual deadness (3:1-6)
- Philadelphia: continue to stand strong in faithfulness (3:7-13)
- Laodicia: repent of spiritual lukewarmness (3:14-22)

*Jesus gave 7 letters to 7 different churches. The instructions Jesus gave to these churches about overcoming sin give us practical insight into what we must overcome today. In these seven letters, Jesus spoke of twenty-two rewards offered to His people to motivate and stabilize them throughout church history and especially in the end-time conflict.*

### Part 3: JESUS TAKES THE SCROLL (Rev. 4-5)

- The Father seated on the throne (4:1-11)
- Jesus takes the scroll which contains the earth's title deed and the plan to cleanse the earth (5:1-14)

*Jesus takes the scroll which represents the title deed of the earth and Jesus' battle plan to cleanse the whole earth in preparation for His rule.*

Part 4: JESUS BATTLE PLAN: 5 CHRONOLOGICAL SECTIONS (Rev. 6-22). This part also includes EXPLANATORY SECTIONS that bring understanding to those seeking to follow the Lord.

*Jesus' battle plan is seen in the events of Revelation chapters 6 – 22. This section includes the Great Tribulation judgments against the Babylon religion and the Antichrist's empire. These judgments are not poured out on the saints; God did not appoint the saints to wrath (1 Thess 5:9). In these chapters, Jesus reveals His main story line of love to cleanse the earth of evil.*

*These judgment events are literal events that must not be explained away symbolically. Each judgment is a future event. This is known as the Futurist View. The 21 judgment events are redemptive. This can be seen in two ways. First, they will result in unbelievers crying out to Jesus for mercy and salvation. Secondly, they will hinder the people in the Antichrist's empire in their zeal to persecute the saints and to promote their sinful lifestyles. The time gap between the judgment events decreases as does the duration of the judgments themselves, although the judgments themselves increase in intensity. Many of the judgments parallel the plagues of Egypt.*

*It is important to remember that God is in control of all judgments, even when He uses Satan and demonic power to accomplish His purposes.*

#### CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION 1: The Seal Judgments (Rev. 6)

- Seal #1: white horse—Antichrist's political aggression (6:1-2)
- Seal #2: red horse—Bloodshed and final world war (6:3-4)
- Seal #3: black horse—famine and economic crisis (6:5-6)
- Seal #4: pale horse—1/4 of humanity is killed (6:7-8)
- Seal #5: martyrs under the altar—prayer releasing judgment (6:9-11)  
*These prayers are not personal in the sense of wanting vindication; these prayers are for Jesus and His Kingdom to be vindicated before all who live on the earth.*
- Seal #6: cataclysmic disturbances (6:12-17)  
*After the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, the kings, great men, rich men, commanders, mighty men, slave and free men hide themselves in caves and rocks of the mountains crying out for 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 indicates that the rebellious of the earth will recognize God will not want Him.*

#### EXPLANATORY SECTION 1: Protection (Rev. 7)

*This section answers the question brought up in Revelation 6:17, "Who is able to stand (in victory)?"*

- Sealing of the 144,000 on the earth (7:1-8)
- Great worldwide harvest (7:9-17)

#### CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION 2: Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8-9)

- Seal #7: anointed prayer movement and angels with trumpets (8:1-6)  
*The strengthening of the prayer movement is, in itself, a judgment on the Antichrist. Angels offer heavenly incense as directed by the Spirit that results in the fire of judgment being cast to the earth and in 7 angels preparing to release their trumpet judgments.*
- Trumpet #1: 1/3 of vegetation destroyed (8:7)
- Trumpet #2: 1/3 of sea creatures and ships destroyed (8:8-9)
- Trumpet #3: 1/3 of rivers/springs become bitter; many men die (8:10-11)
- Trumpet #4: 1/3 sun/moon/stars struck, affecting day and night (8:12)  
*The first 4 trumpet judgments destroy the natural resources of the Antichrist's empire. Their purpose is to destroy resources that support life, yet without directly killing people.*
- Trumpet #5: (1<sup>st</sup> woe) locusts torment men (9:1-12)
- Trumpet #6: (2<sup>nd</sup> woe) 1/3 of the earth killed by 200 million demons (9:13-21)  
*These two trumpets are greatly intensified in that they directly afflict humans with demonic torment, resulting in the death of one-third of the human race.*

**EXPLANATORY SECTION 2: Direction (Rev. 10:1-11:13)**

*Immediately after the crisis of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet, there will be great confusion. This will be complicated by the vast amount of deception that has continually come from the many false prophets (Mt 24:11,24; 2 Thes 2:8-9). The human race will be groping for answers*

- The seven thunders prophetic messages and John's little book (10:1-11)  
*God will help His people by releasing an unprecedented measure of prophetic insight and direction. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will occur just before the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21)*
- The two witnesses (11:1-13)  
These are the 2 most powerful prophets in history and they will be anointed with signs and wonders which will be similar to those of Moses and Elijah and will be a source of great inspiration and direction to God's people worldwide.

**CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION 3: 2<sup>ND</sup> Coming Procession (Rev. 11:14-19)**

- At the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the Church is raptured (Rev 11:15. I Thess. 3:13; 4:14-17); a heavenly announcement that Jesus will replace all the governments of the earth; earth's national leaders are angry.
- At this time the saints will be rewarded and the destruction of the wicked ensues

**EXPLANATORY SECTION 3: Violent Confrontation (Rev. 12-14)**

*Revelation 12 – 14 gives us insight into why God's wrath is so severe as to necessitate Jesus destroying and replacing all the evil governments on earth. The reason is that the Antichrist has been violently confronting God's people and His truth by exalting wickedness in the nations (Dan 8:12, 23-25).*

- Woman (Israel) with the Male-Child (Jesus) is persecuted (12:1-17)
- Antichrist: his head wound and support by ten kings (13:1-10)  
*A supernatural demonic sign to entice the nations.*
- False Prophet: image of the beast/mark of the beast (13:11-18)  
*Revelation 13 describes the Antichrist and False Prophet violently attacking the saints.*
- Jesus with the 144,000 on Mount Zion (14:1-5)
- Four angelic messages: essential prophetic themes to proclaim (14:6-13)
- Two harvests: righteous (14:14-16) and unrighteous (14:17-20)  
*Revelation 14 promises us that Jesus will dynamically help His people and lead them to victory; Jesus will consign the followers of Antichrist to eternal torment.*

**CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION 4: Bowl Judgments (Rev. 15-16)**

- Heavenly scene with 7 angels with the 7 bowls of wrath (Rev 15)  
*The last event that occurs before these bowl judgments is the rapture which occurs with the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. Thus, the bowl judgments occur AFTER the rapture, yet BEFORE Jesus enters Jerusalem. The OT prophets give us details about what Jesus will do during His royal procession as He marches through modern day Jordan to kill His enemies on His way to Jerusalem (Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:12-13; Ps. 110:5-6; Rev. 19:13).*

*The bowl judgments are redemptive in calling unsaved resisters to refuse to take the mark of the Beast; they are punitive in stopping the Antichrist's oppression of Israel. David prophesied that Jesus would dash the nations (Ps. 2:8-9) of the Antichrist's empire (Is 11:4; Rev. 2:27; 19:15). Jesus will do this by releasing the bowls of wrath.*

- Bowl #1: Sores on the Antichrist worshippers (16:1-2)
- Bowl #2: Sea turns to blood and all sea creatures die (16:3)
- Bowl #3: Rivers and springs turn to blood (16:4-7)
- Bowl #4: Men are scorched by the sun (16:8-9)
- Bowl #5: Pain and darkness upon the beast and his kingdom (16:10-11)
- Bowl #6: Demons deceive kings to come to Armageddon (16:12-16)
- Bowl #7: Great earthquake/hail stones; final fall of Babylon (16:17-21)

**EXPLANATORY SECTION 4: Seduction Babylon**

*This section gives us insight into Satan's strategy to deceive the nations. The Harlot Babylon will be primarily a religious and economic network. She will be seductive and will engage in cruel persecution. The harlot is the counterfeit to the Bride of Christ, and the harlot's system will be a counterfeit justice movement, unifying millions from many different religions. The Bowls of Wrath were released for the purpose of bringing utterly destroying all infrastructures of society that have been influenced by the seductions of Babylon.*

- The Great Harlot's seduction of the nations (17:1-6)
- The mystery of the woman and the beast (17:7-18)
- The fall of Babylon (18:1-24)
- The marriage supper of the Lamb (19:6-10)

**CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION 5: Triumphal Entry (Rev. 19:11-21:8)**

*Jesus will return in the context of a military conflict centered around Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph 3:8). He will march into Jerusalem as a Warrior-King during history's greatest military conflict to deliver Israel and be received by Israel as their king (Mt. 23:39).*

- Jesus marches through the land on His way to Jerusalem (19:11-16)
- Jesus defeats the Antichrist and False Prophet at Jerusalem (19:17-21)
- Millennial Kingdom: 1000-year reign of Jesus and the saints begins with binding of Satan (20:1-3)
- The saints reign with Christ for 1000 years (20:4-6)
- Satan released to deceive the nations, but defeated once and for all (20:7-10)
- The Great White Throne judgment of all unbelievers (20:11-15)
- New heaven, new earth; New Jerusalem descends to the earth (21:1-8)

**EXPLANATORY SECTION 5: Restoration (Rev. 21:9-22:5)**

*This section gives us insight into the Bride's victory and the full restoration of God's purposes by describing the New Jerusalem in relationship to the millennial earth (Rev. 21:9-22:5). Jesus will restore to us all that He originally intended (Acts 3:19-21). We see the eternal state of the resurrected saints dwelling face to face with God, and the natural conditions of kings from the millennial earth who bring their glory into the city that has healing leaves for nations that still need healing.*

- Jerusalem described: External view seen as the Holy of Holies (21:9-21)  
*The Lamb's wife includes both the city and the saints who live in it. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth.*
- Jerusalem described: Internal view seen as the garden of Eden (21:22-22:5)  
*Life in the Holy City is described in a way that is parallel to the Garden of Eden with the river of life and the tree of life, without a curse, as the saints serve God in a face-to-face relationship.*

**FINAL EXHORTATION (Rev. 22:6-21)**

- The time is near, do not seal up the book (22:6-11)
- The Spirit and the Bride cry out for His return (22:12-17)
- Warning to not tamper with the Book (22:18-21)

*"Even so, Come Lord Jesus!"*