



Things To Come: Week 10

Book of Revelation (Pt. 1)

Audio & Notes at:

<http://www.htchurch.com/things-to-come>

Video at:

<http://www.htchurch.tv>

1. What is the Book of Revelation?

The Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible and the only book of the New Testament which is written in the apocalyptic genre.

- Keep in mind is that this is not the "book of revelations." It is The Revelation.
- In Greek it is the apocalypse, which means the unveiling.
- It is the unveiling of Jesus and His power and glory when He comes. It is also the unveiling and the completion of the mystery of God, his plan of salvation.
- The revelation of Antichrist is the fulfillment or the height of *the mystery of iniquity*. But in Revelation, we have the fulfillment of the *mystery of God*.

2. What is unique about the Book of Revelation?

2.1. *An apocalyptic book.* It contains much in the way of visions and images.

2.2. *A unique prophetic revelation.* It comes from Jesus to John through an angel.

2.3. *More of Jesus' own voice.* Here we have more of Jesus speaking directly in His own voice than anywhere outside of the Gospels. In Revelation, we find Jesus speaking directly quite a bit, and He even dictates letters to seven churches.

2.4. *A book for unbelievers.* It is directed to unbelievers as well as to believers. Much of the material in Revelation is designed to be of use by the unsaved in the last days.

2.5. *A book with a blessing and a curse attached to it.*

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Rev. 1:3)

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19)

3. Who wrote the book?

Church tradition tells us that John was the author of Revelation, and John of course is also named in the book as the author.

- We suspect that Revelation was written around 96 A.D.
- Irenaeus was quoted as saying that John received Revelation, "at the end of the reign of Domitian." Domitian reigned from 81 to 96 A.D.

4. What is the structure of the book?

4.1. What John sees.

The book begins with an introduction in which Jesus appears to John. He also instructs John to write letters to seven churches that were in Asia Minor.

- In chapters 2 and 3, John writes letters dictated by Jesus Christ.
- The remaining chapters in the book contain a series of prophetic visions and experiences that John has concerning future events.
- The book ends with a vision of the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem.

4.2. Seals, trumpets, and bowls.

John sees God taking his great power and beginning to reign. This is shown to us in the text by Jesus Christ taking a scroll which has been sealed with seven seals. The Bible says that Jesus is the only one worthy to take that scroll and open its seals. And every time that Jesus opens one of the seals, there is a progression that takes place. There is a judgment or there is some event which moves things and moves us closer to the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

The seventh seal is not really an event, but is actually a container for other events. In other words, the fifth seal has a meaning, the sixth seal has a meaning, but the seventh seal contains seven trumpets. And each one of these trumpets is a judgment. When we get to the seventh trumpet, we see the same thing. The seventh trumpet is not a judgment itself but contains seven bowls which end God's wrath.

SEALS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



TRUMPETS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



BOWLS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4.3. What is the order of the Book? Is it chronological?

A literal, futurist reading of Revelation is roughly chronological. However, God does break in with other visions in which John cuts away to other scenes. Action alternates between Heaven and the Earth. It will help us to recognize that the main focus of action in Revelation is not the Devil or the Antichrist. It is God who is powerful and sovereign.

5. What are the different viewpoints on the Book?

Some people view Revelation as an allegory, as symbolic language. Others look at the book with a historical interpretation. The futurist view says that the events of the Book are mostly still in the future.

6. Beginning our look at Revelation.

6.1 Introduction to the Book

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

6.2. John's Greeting to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

6.3. John's Vision of Christ

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

7. Some Important Things to Note From Revelation ch. 1

1. Christ's care for His Church.
2. Universal scope of the book.
3. A book of powerful emotions and experiences.
4. Heavy use of Bible Numerology.
5. The focal point is Christ!

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