

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 25: The Apocalypse!
Revelation Chapter 1
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

What is the meaning of Revelation?

Revelation (Greek) Apokalupsis [ap-ok-al'-oop-sis]: From G601; disclosure: - appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed.

Who is revealed in the book of Revelation and how is the revelation message given?

Revelation 1:1-2

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

The book of Revelation centers on Jesus Christ, our Savior and Messiah! The book of Revelation reveals the total ministry of Jesus Christ. It reveals what He is doing now and what He will do in the future. The book of Revelation is the ultimate conclusion of the Everlasting Covenant!

The human agent that wrote the book of Revelation is one of the 12 original disciples of Jesus Christ, John. John was instructed to write what was revealed to him and share to the world the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ and all the things he saw!

John (Greek) name meaning: "Jehovah is a gracious giver" (Thayer Dictionary).

Jesus graciously gave his Revelation message to John to give to us to prepare us for the second coming of Jesus Christ and to show us last day events that "must shortly come to pass."

The apocalypse message went from God the Father to Jesus, from Jesus to His angels, and from the angels to John.

What did Jesus do to the message before it was given to John?

Revelation 1:1 last part

"...he sent and **signified it** by his angel unto his servant John."

Before John received the Revelation message, it was "signified".

"**Signified**" (Greek) sēmainō [say-mah'ee-no] 1) **to give a sign**, to **signify**, indicate 2) to make known (Thayer Greek Definitions)

Throughout the book of Revelation Jesus gives signs and symbols to reveal his Revelation end time message to us.

Jesus never hides the TRUTH. He will reveal His truth to ALL those who sincerely seek to know His truth, especially Bible prophecy.

Amos 3:7

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Jeremiah 29:13

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

How many chapters are in the book of Revelation? 22

To understand Revelation you need to first understand its structure and flow. Jesus signified Revelation in an organized structure and outline.

Two Major lines of prophecy & Eight Visions

There are two major lines of prophecy of the book of Revelation that divide the book in half into two volumes and gives eight major visions








Revelation 1 - 11

The first line of prophecy and the first four visions are given in **Revelation chapters 1 – 11** that take us from the time Jesus entered His high priest ministry in heaven in the holy place from 31 AD to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12 - 22

The second line of prophecy and the second four visions are given in **Revelation chapter 12 – 22** that take us from the history of the war in heaven, through the second coming Jesus, and to his third coming to the new heaven and new earth.

Look at the structure of Revelation chart by Marion Barry, Daniel and Revelation Workbook,

THE FIRST MAJOR LINE OF PROPHECY				THE SECOND MAJOR LINE OF PROPHECY			
VISION 1	VISION 2	VISION 3	VISION 4	VISION 5	VISION 6	VISION 7	VISION 8
 <p>REV. 1 HOLY PLACE. CHRIST'S HIGH PRIEST MINIS- TRY BEGAN. A.D. 31</p>	 <p>REV. 4, 5 MOST HOLY. THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT BEGINS. A.D. 1844</p>	 <p>REV. 8:5 CENSER THROWN DOWN. INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT ENDS. CLOSE OF PROBATION.</p>	 <p>REV. 11:1 MEASURING ASSESSMENT. IS THE TEMPLE (KINGDOM). SACRIFICE, WORSHIPPERS COMPLETE?</p>	 <p>REV. 12, 13 THE DRAGON, THE WOMAN, THE MANCHILD, A LEOPARD BEAST, A LAMB-LIKE BEAST.</p>	 <p>REV. 15:8 SMOKE FILLS THE TEMPLE. NO MAN, NO MEDIATOR. CLOSE OF PROBATION.</p>	 <p>REV. 19, 20 THE "SECOND" "COMING OF CHRIST." EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT. --BEGIN THE-- MILLENNIUM</p>	 <p>REV. 21, 22 NEW JERUSELAM, NEW HEAVEN, NEW EARTH.</p>
<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 2, 3 7 LETTERS</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 6 7 SEALS. "SEALS 1-6"</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 8:6-9:21 7 TRUMPETS. "TRUMPETS 1-6"</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 11:3-11 1260 DAYS. TWO WITNESSES</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 12:6-13:18 1260 YEARS PERSECUTION</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 16, 17 "7 PLAGUES." "PLAGUES 1-6"</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE REV. 20 1000 YEARS</p>	<p>PROPHETIC OUTLINE "I COME QUICKLY." TRUMPHANT DESCRIPTIONS</p>
	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 7 144,000 SEALED</p>	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 10 144,000 WITNESS "TIME NO LONGER"</p>	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 11:12 144,000 AND LAW VINDICATED</p>	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 14:1-5 144,000 SEALED IN JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING</p>	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 18:1-5 144,000 WITNESS IN A LOUD CRY. BABYLON IS FALLEN</p>	<p>INTERLUDE REV. 20:4-6 144,000 JUDGE THE WICKED AND REIGN</p>	
	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV 8:1 "SEAL 7"</p>	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV 10:4-11 "7 THUNDERS." THEIR EVENTS FULFILLED</p>	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV.11:15-19 TRUMPET 7. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST</p>	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV. 14:15-19 THREE HARVESTS</p>	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV 18:5-24 "PLAGUE 7" FALL OF BABYLON</p>	<p>END-TIME EVENT REV 21:2 THE "THIRD" COMING OF CHRIST</p>	

VERY IMPORTANT: Notice the structure and order of each vision in Revelation.

1. Each of the eight visions in both halves of Revelation begin with a scene in heaven.
2. Followed by a prophetic outline
3. Interlude or break in the action to talk about the 144,000
4. End-time Event

Like we did in the book of Daniel you compare outline with outline. **How many visions were given to us in Daniel? Four**

The book of Daniel was also divided evenly into two volumes; six chapters in each volume for a total of 12 chapters. Our study in the book of Daniel has already given us a firm prophetic foundation.

Remember as we journey and investigate the book of Revelation we must allow the Bible to be its own interpreter.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

What warning does the book of Revelation give to those who are tempted to add their own interpretation or delete from it?

Revelation 22:18-19

18 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:

19 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.

What promise does the book of Revelation give to those who study and take heed to its words and prophecies?

Revelation 1:3

3 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.

Revelation 22:7

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Who did John send the prophetic words of Revelation to initially and who did he say these words came from?

Revelation 1:4-6

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Initially the prophecies went to seven literal church congregations in the Asia Minor area.

John says that messages were from

- 1) "Him which is, and which was, and which is to come" = He is the present, past, and future – eternal – God the Father.
- 2) The seven Spirits which are before his throne = The Holy Spirit

What are the seven Spirits?

Isaiah 11:1-2

- 1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
- 2 And the (1) **spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him, the (2) **spirit of wisdom** and (3) **understanding**, (4) **the spirit of counsel** and (5) **might**, the (6) **spirit of knowledge** and of (7) **the fear of the LORD**.

- 3) Jesus Christ

John reveals that the Godhead of Revelation, God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working in unison to give the urgent prophetic messages of Revelation.

What major event and promise is Jesus preparing the world to get ready for?

Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Jesus is coming again! He will come again guaranteed. Doubts and unbelief will not stop the reality of the coming of Jesus. He promised it. He swears to himself!

Sware (Hebrew) shâba'[shaw-bah']

A primitive root; properly to be complete, but used only as a denominative from H7651; **to seven oneself**, that is, swear (as if by **repeating a declaration seven times**): - adjure, charge (by an oath, with an oath), feed to the full [by mistake for H7646], take an oath, X straitly, (cause to, make to) swear

Did you know that Jesus himself repeats this declaration of his second coming seven times in Revelation? (The words are in red)

(1) Revelation 2:25

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till **I come**.

(2) Revelation 3:3

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come** on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

(3) Revelation 3:11

11 Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

(4) Revelation 16:15

15 Behold, **I come** as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

(5) Revelation 22:7

7 Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

(6) Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, **I come quickly**; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

(7) Revelation 22:20

20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Seven times! Jesus personally said he is coming again in the book of Revelation! This oath! He swears! He sevened it! Notice again that at the end of the book of Revelation “I come quickly” three times. He ended the book of Revelation with “Surely, I come quickly.”

“Surely” (Greek): nai [nahee]

A primary particle of **strong affirmation**; yes: - even so, surely, **truth**, verily, yea, yes.

Friends Jesus will come quickly. The final movements will be extremely rapid, but the faithful must not be stressed and troubled but be prepared and ready.

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Are you ready and looking forward to the soon coming of Jesus? It will happen! What a glorious day that will be! Praise the Lord!

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Endure Soldiers of Jesus, that day is guaranteed to come. **Jesus swore it seven times in Revelation!**

Remember, Revelation is about the revealing of Jesus Christ, His covenant, and end-time signs that God's faithful must take heed to.

What does Jesus say about Himself as the central focus of the book of Revelation?

Revelation 1:8

8 **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending**, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

What did John personally experience as a soldier of Jesus Christ and where was he when he was given the message of Revelation?

Revelation 1:9

9 I John, who also am your brother, and **companion in tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John personally was tortured, persecuted, and imprisoned. The Romans tried to kill John, but were not successful.

“Book of Martyrs” by John Foxe of testimonies and witnesses about martyrs who were killed for truth's sake from Stephen to later centuries during the Dark Ages of Papal Rome and later.

“The ‘beloved disciple,’ was brother to James the Great. The churches of Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, were founded by him. From Ephesus he was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury. Domitian afterwards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Nerva, the successor of Domitian, recalled him. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.” Chapter 1, p. 37, 38.

John was on the Isle of Patmos as a prisoner several miles off the coast of Asia Minor (now Turkey) (Show map). He was among rocks, jagged cliffs and caves. He was about 600 miles away from Jerusalem by sea.

What day did John have his first vision and what did he hear?

Revelation 1:10

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

The Lord's day was NOT Sunday. The Lord's day is the seventh-day Sabbath, from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday.

What does the fourth commandment say about the “Lord's Day”?

Exodus 20:8-10

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the **seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God...**

Whose voice did John, on the Lord's Day the Sabbath, hear as “a great voice, as of a trumpet” and what instructions are given to John concerning the message?

Revelation 1:11

11 **Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.**

The voice John heard was the voice of Jesus, the I am, Alpha and Omega, the first and last – ALWAYS. He instructs John to write what he sees in a book and send them to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Turkey region today).

According to the Foxes' Book of Marytrs, John founded six of the seven church congregations in which he sent the messages of Revelation to, Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira.

What happened next when John turned to see the voice that was speaking to him?

Revelation 1:12-16

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

This is the beginning of John's first vision. John who saw Jesus on the old rugged cross, bleeding, and beaten. He saw Him risen with the scars. Now he sees Him in heaven! What a great privilege!

Where in vision is John located?

Heavenly sanctuary, in the holy place. Jesus is in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Remember the earthly sanctuary was a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary.

In the earthly sanctuary the golden candlestick with seven branches of lamps was also in the holy place of the sanctuary.

The description of Christ that John sees in the holy place in the temple of heaven reflects the character of Jesus as our heavenly high priest.

- **His hair is white as snow which characterizes not His old age, but His eternal existence and supreme wisdom.**
- **His eyes are as a flame of fire emphasizing His intense glory and intelligence.**
- **The mighty voice of Jesus Christ which sounds like rushing water like the famous Niageria Falls.**

Psalms 29:4

4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

- **A sharp two-edged sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus.**

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In other words, the words of Christ are sharp and accurate. They bring comfort to the righteous and destruction to the wicked.

What was John's reaction after seeing Jesus in heaven in vision?

Revelation 1:17

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last:**

Why did Jesus tell John not to be afraid and what instruction did He repeat to John to do?

Revelation 1:18-19

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

NO man, church organization, conference or Papal Rome have the keys of hell and of death. Only Jesus! Jesus also repeated to John to write things that present things that will happen in the future.

Who is in the center of the seven golden candlesticks? Jesus Christ

What did He have in His right hand? Seven Stars

Jesus Christ represent the candlestick as a whole but the faithful are the branches connected to Jesus to be a light to the world.

Who does the seven golden candlesticks and the seven stars represent?

Revelation 1:20

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The seven candlesticks in the first vision represent the seven churches. John sees in vision Jesus as the head of His church in the midst of the seven candlesticks. Jesus is the center of the light and power!

The churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea each represent a golden candlestick in John's vision.

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.

“Angels” (Greek) *aggelos* 1) a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God (Thayer Definition)

In other words, these “messengers” are leaders or ministers of the seven churches who are commissioned to give the message of Revelation to their respective churches after John hands it to them.

Like the seven golden candlesticks, Jesus is in the center of our salvation. He is the core of salvation. Jesus and only Jesus is what makes salvation a reality for us. In the vision of the seven golden candlesticks Christ is seen as the direct and intimate caretaker of His church.

Ephesians 5:23

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

What are some other significant things that we learn from John's vision of the seven golden candlesticks?

- The first significant thing we learn from the vision of the seven golden candlesticks is that these golden candlesticks give us a visual picture of the church of Christ in different geographic locations giving light to its surrounding community as a flaming light on a candlestick. The main purpose of the church of Christ is to be a light to the world lost in sin and to be a preserver and messenger of God's truth.

- The second significant thing we learn from the vision of the golden candlesticks is that Jesus Christ is intimately and actively involved in His church. He sees His collective church as precious as gold. Jesus, as the head of His church makes sure that His truth stays pure, preserved, and illuminated.
- The third thing we learn is that God's human messengers or ministers of each church are in the care and palm of the right hand of Christ. These true ministers in the hand of Christ and controlled by the Holy Spirit only giving messages of truth that are in line with the Holy Word of God. If ministers do not give messages that are in accordance with the Word of God, Isaiah 8:20 says that "*there is no light in them.*" They are not in the hands of Christ, but are being influenced by the craftiness of Satan, the ruler of darkness.

Why did God choose to send His Revelation messages to seven specific churches? Why didn't He send them to eight or ten churches?

Remember seven is a number of completeness and promise. Seven is a sign or monument of God's everlasting covenant and oath to the world.

Revelation is a book of sevens

Seven churches, seven candlesticks, seven stars, seven lamps of fire, a book with seven seals, the Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes, the seven angels with seven trumpets, seven thunders, a dragon with seven heads and seven crowns, a beast with seven heads, and seven angels having seven vials containing the seven last plagues. Also as we just learned Jesus repeats seven times about the His promise to come again!

The Revelation message by God sent to the seven churches in Revelation 1:11 is complete; it is the perfect message of encouragement, comfort, instruction, correction, reproof and warning in order to keep the flame of the church shining bright to the world. Also it is a memorial of the promise Jesus gave, His everlasting covenant that Jesus swore to Himself that what He said He will fulfill!

Appeal

Be ready! Be ready! Be ready! The getting ready is almost too late, NOW NOW NOW is the time!