

# The Book of Revelation

## *Part One: The Witnesses of the Lamb Instructed (Revelation 1-3).*

### I. THE SERVANT OF GOD (1:1-10).

A heavenly message was revealed to a man on a lonely island some twenty centuries ago.

- A. The source of the message. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him..." (1:1).
- B. The recorder of the message--his servant John (1:1).
- C. The nature of the message. "To show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" (1:1).
- D. The promise of the message. "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" (1:3).
- E. The recipients of the message--the seven churches in Asia (1:4).
- F. The greetings in the message.
  1. From the Father (1:4).
  2. From the seven spirits (or, sevenfold spirit, a possible reference to the Holy Spirit and his perfection) (1:4; 4:5; 5:6).
  3. From the Son (1:5).
- G. The theme of the message--Jesus Christ.
  1. Who he is (1:5a).
  2. What he has done (1:5b-6).
  3. What he shall do (1:7).
- H. The authority behind the message--the Lord (1:8).
- I. The location of the message--the island of Patmos (1:9).
- J. The day of the message--the Lord's Day (1:10).

### II. THE SON OF GOD (1:11-20).

- A. The designation (1:11).
- B. The description (1:12-16; Dan. 7:9; 10:5-6).
- C. The devastation (1:17).
- D. The declaration (1:17-18; Mt. 16:19; Isa. 22:22; Lk. 11:52; Rev. 3:7; 9:1).
- E. The dictation (1:19).
- F. The delineation (1:20).

### III. THE CHURCHES OF GOD (ch. 2-3).

- A. The church at Ephesus (2:1-7).
  1. The counselor--what Jesus says about himself (2:1).
  2. The commendation--the good things he says about the church (2:2-3, 6; 1 Jn. 4:1). This church was zealous, orthodox, separated, and reliable.
  3. The condemnation--the bad things he says about the church (2:4).
  4. The counsel--his advice to the church (2:5).
  5. The challenge--his encouragement to the church (2:7).
- B. The church at Smyrna (2:6-11).
  1. The counselor (2:8).
  2. The commendation (2:9).
  3. The condemnation (none given).
  4. The counsel (2:10).
  5. The challenge (2:11).
- C. The church at Pergamos (2:12-17).
  1. The counselor (2:12).
  2. The commendation (2:13).
  3. The condemnation (2:14-15).
  4. The counsel (2:16).
  5. The challenge (2:17).
- D. The church at Thyatira (2:18-29).
  1. The counselor (2:18).
  2. The commendation (2:19).
  3. The condemnation (2:20-23).
  4. The counsel (2:24-25).
  5. The challenge (2:26-29).
- E. The church at Sardis (3:1-6).
  1. The counselor (3:1).
  2. The commendation (3:4).

3. The condemnation (3:1).
4. The counsel (3:2-3).
5. The challenge (3:5-6).
- F. The church at Philadelphia (3:7-13).
  1. The counselor (3:7; Isa. 22:22).
  2. The commendation (3:8).
  3. The condemnation (none given).
  4. The counsel (3:11).
  5. The challenge (3:9-10, 12).
- G. The church at Laodicea (3:14-22).
  1. The counselor (3:14).
  2. The commendation (none given).
  3. The condemnation (3:15-17).
  4. The counsel (3:18-19).
  5. The challenge (3:20-21; Dan. 7:13-14).

*Part Two: The Worship of the Lamb Invited (Revelation 4-5).*

This section is in reality the story of two songs of praise.

- I. THE CREATION HYMN OF WORSHIP (ch. 4).
  - A. The place--heaven (4:1).
  - B. The persons.
    1. The Father (4:2-3).
    2. The twenty-four elders (4:4).
    3. The seven spirits of God (4:5).
    4. The four living creatures (4:6-8; 5:5).
  - C. The praise (4:9-11).
- II. THE REDEMPTION HYMN OF WORSHIP (ch. 5).
  - A. The proclamation (5:1-2).
  - B. The investigation (5:3).
  - C. The lamentation (5:4).
  - D. The manifestation (5:5-7).
  - E. The adoration (5:8-14).

*Part Three: The Wrath of the Lamb Invoked (Revelation 6-19).*

- I. HE POURS OUT THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS (ch. 6-11).
  - A. First seal (6:1-2).
  - B. Second seal (6:3-4).
  - C. Third seal (6:5-6).
  - D. Fourth seal (6:7-8).
  - E. Fifth seal (6:9-11).
    1. The altar for the saints (6:9).
    2. The anger of the saints (6:10).
    3. The answer to the saints (6:11).
  - F. Sixth seal (6:12-17).
    1. The destruction of earth's surface (6:12, 14).
    2. The darkening of earth's skies (6:12-14).
    3. The despair of earth's sinners (6:15-17).
  - G. Interlude (7:1-17).
    1. On earth: the sealing of the servants of God (7:1-8).
      - a. The sealers--angels (7:2-3).
      - b. The sealed--144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel (7:4-8).
    2. In heaven: the singing of the servants of God (7:9-17).
      - a. Their song (7:9-10; 13-14).
      - b. Their support (7:11-12).
      - c. Their service (7:15).
      - d. Their Savior (7:16-17).
  - H. Seventh seal (ch. 8-11).
    1. The seventh seal actually consists of seven trumpets.
    2. The silence before the trumpets (8:1-5).

- I. The sounding of the trumpets (8:6).
  1. First trumpet (8:7).
  2. Second trumpet (8:8-9).
  3. Third trumpet (8:10-11).
  4. Fourth trumpet (8:12-13).
    - a. The fearful darkening (8:12).
    - b. The future destruction (8:13).
  5. Fifth trumpet (9:1-12). This trumpet unleashes the first hellish invasion of demons upon the earth.
    - a. Their location (9:1-2).
    - b. Their torment (9:3-5).
    - c. Their duration (9:5-6).
    - d. Their description (9:7-10).
    - e. Their leader (9:11).
  6. Sixth trumpet (9:13-21). This trumpet unleashes the second hellish invasion of demons upon the earth.
    - a. Their four leaders (9:13-14).
    - b. Their mission (9:15).
    - c. Their number (9:16).
    - d. Their description (9:17).
    - e. Their torment (9:18-19).
    - f. Their effect (9:20-21).
  7. Interlude (10:1--11:14). Seven events occur between the sixth and seventh trumpets.
    - a. The message of the angel of God (10:1-7).
      - (1) How he looked (10:1-2).
      - (2) How he sounded (10:3-4).
      - (3) What he said (10:4-7).
    - b. The mission of the apostle of God (10:8-11).
    - c. The measuring of the temple of God (11:1-2).
    - d. The ministry of the witnesses of God (11:3-6).
    - e. The martyrdom of the witnesses of God (11:7-10).
    - f. The metamorphosis of the witnesses of God (11:11-12).
    - g. The manifestation of the judgment of God (11:13).
  8. Seventh trumpet (11:15-19).
    - a. The proclamation (11:15).
    - b. The adoration (11:16-17).
    - c. The vindication (11:18-19).

## II. HE ALLOWS THE DEVIL TO REIGN ON EARTH (ch. 12-13).

- A. The devil and Israel (ch. 12).
  1. His former hatred for the Jews (12:1-5).
    - a. Satan.
      - (1) His sin in the beginning when he attempted to steal God's throne (12:3-4; 13:1; 17:3, 9; 20:2).
      - (2) His sin at Bethlehem when he attempted to slaughter God's Son (12:4).
    - b. Israel.
      - (1) Her rise. Israel began with Jacob's twelve sons (12:1).
      - (2) Her prize. Israel gave birth to her Messiah (12:2, 5).
  2. His future hatred for the Jews (12:6-17).
    - a. His defeat in heaven. Satan is cast out of the very heavenlies during the tribulation (12:7-12).
      - (1) Satan is cast out (12:7-9).
      - (2) Heaven's reaction to his defeat (12:10-11).
      - (3) Satan's reaction to his defeat (12:12).
    - b. His depravity on earth. Satan now instigates an all-out attempt to destroy Israel.
      - (1) The devil's persecution (12:13, 15, 17).
      - (2) The Lord's protection (12:6, 14, 16).
- B. The devil and the world (ch. 13).
  1. His cohort, the antichrist (13:1-10).
    - a. The description of the antichrist (13:1-2).
    - b. The authority of the antichrist (13:2; Dan. 7:3-9).
    - c. The resurrection (?) of the antichrist (13:3).
    - d. The worship of the antichrist (13:4, 8).
    - e. The power of the antichrist.
      - (1) Its scope--power was given him over all kindred, tongues, and nations (13:7).

- (2) Its duration--forty-two months (13:5).
- f. The blasphemy of the antichrist (13:5-6).
- 2. His cohort, the false prophet (13:11-18).
  - a. His manner (13:11).
  - b. His militancy (13:12).
  - c. His mission (13:12).
  - d. His miracles (13:13-15).
  - e. His mark (13:16-18).

### III. HE POURS OUT THE SEVEN VIAL JUDGMENTS (ch. 14-16).

- A. Those events preceding the vial judgments (ch. 14-15).
  - 1. The song of the witnesses of God (14:1-5).
  - 2. The messages of the angels of God (14:6-12).
  - 3. The assurance from the Spirit of God (14:13).
  - 4. The reaping of the harvest of God (14:14-20; 16:12-16; 19:14-21; Eze. 39:11-16).
  - 5. The praise of the victors of God (15:1-4).
  - 6. The events in the temple of God (15:5-8).
- B. Those events accompanying the vial judgments (ch. 16).
  - 1. First vial judgment (16:1-2).
  - 2. Second vial judgment (16:3).
  - 3. Third vial judgment (16:4-7).
    - a. The action (16:4).
    - b. The reaction (16:5-7).
  - 4. Fourth vial judgment (16:8-9).
    - a. The action (16:8-9).
    - b. The reaction (16:9).
  - 5. Fifth vial judgment (16:10-11).
    - a. The action (16:10).
    - b. The reaction (16:11).
  - 6. Sixth vial judgment (16:12-16).
  - 7. Seventh vial judgment (16:17-21).
    - a. The world's greatest earthquake (16:17-20).
    - b. The world's greatest hailstorm (16:21).

### IV. HE DESTROYS THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS (ch. 17).

- A. The history of this harlot (17:1-6).
  - 1. Depraved with the filth of hell (17:2, 5).
  - 2. Decked with the wealth of the world (17:3-4).
  - 3. Drunk with the blood of the saints (17:6).
- B. The future of this harlot (17:7-18).
  - 1. To be teamed up (at first) with the antichrist (17:7-14).
  - 2. To be destroyed (at last) by the antichrist (17:15-18).

### V. HE DESTROYS THE WORLD'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS (ch. 18).

It is believed a literal city will become the headquarters of both these systems.

- A. The designation of the city. "That great city Babylon, that mighty city" (18:10).  
A literal interpretation of this chapter would say ancient Babylon will be rebuilt by the antichrist during the tribulation and become his headquarters.
- B. The denunciation of the city (18:1-2, 5, 21; Mt. 13:4, 19).
- C. The degeneration of the city.
  - 1. Godless materialism (18:3, 11-17).
  - 2. Arrogance and pride (18:7).
  - 3. Immorality (18:3).
  - 4. Demonism and false religions (18:2).
  - 5. Drug peddling (18:23). The word sorceries is a probable reference to drugs.
  - 6. Slavery (18:13).
  - 7. Bloodshedding (18:24).
- D. The destruction of the city.
  - 1. The source of its destruction--God himself! (18:8, 20).
  - 2. The means of its destruction--possibly by nuclear energy (18:8-10). This is suggested because of the quickness and nature of the destruction.
  - 3. The reaction to its destruction.

- a. Despair on earth (18:11, 19).
- b. Delight in heaven (18:20).

- VI. HE DEFEATS HIS ENEMIES AT ARMAGEDDON (ch. 19).
  - A. The celebration in heaven (19:1-10).
    - 1. Praising God for his wrath upon a cruel whore (19:1-5).
    - 2. Praising God for his wedding to a chaste wife (19:6-9).
  - B. The confrontation on earth (19:11-21).
    - 1. Armageddon--the victory over Satan's horsemen (19:15, 17-19).
    - 2. Gehenna--the victory over Satan's henchmen (19:19-21).

*Part Four: The Reign of the Lamb Instituted (Revelation 20).*

- I. THE GREAT CHAIN (20:1-3).
- II. THE GREAT REIGN (20:4-6).
  - A. The resurrection of the just (20:4-6).
  - B. The rule of the just (20:4, 6).
- III. THE GREAT REVOLT (20:7-10).
  - A. The adversary (20:7).
  - B. The arrogance (20:8).
  - C. The attack (20:9).
  - D. The abyss (20:10).
- IV. THE GREAT THRONE (20:11-15).
  - A. The Judge (20:11).
  - B. The judged (20:12-13).
  - C. The judgment (20:14-15).

*Part Five: The Wife of the Lamb Introduced (Revelation 21-22).*

- I. HER HABITATION--THE FABULOUS CITY (21:1--22:5).
  - A. Its occupants (21:8, 27).
  - B. Its wall (21:12, 14, 17-18).
  - C. Its gates (21:12-13, 21, 25).
  - D. Its size and shape (21:15-16).
  - E. Its foundations--twelve (21:19-20).
  - F. Its street (21:21).
  - G. Its light source (21:23; 22:5).
  - H. Its river (22:1).
  - I. Its tree of life (22:2).
  - J. Its relationship to the earth (21:24, 26).
  - K. Its worship center (21:22).
  - L. Its throne (22:1).
  - M. Its activities--what will we do in heaven?
    - 1. Learn about Christ (22:4).
    - 2. Work for Christ (22:3).
    - 3. Reign with Christ (22:5).
- II. HER HUSBAND--THE FAITHFUL SPOUSE (22:6-21).
  - A. The blessings of the wife.
    - 1. The comfort from Christ (22:12, 14).
    - 2. The character of Christ (22:13, 16).
    - 3. The counsel of Christ (22:10).
    - 4. The concern of Christ.
      - a. His concern about the water of life (22:17).
      - b. His concern about the Word of life (22:18-19).
        - (1) That we not add to it.
        - (2) That we not take from it.
  - B. The blunders of the writer (19:10; 22:8-9). John the apostle is so enthralled by these fantastic sights and sounds he has been writing about that on two occasions he attempts to worship the attending angel. Each time he is rebuked.