

Session 19

Revelation

Revelation 1vs1-3

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”

Four vital pieces of information

- Apocalyptic prophecy
- An historical letter
- A gospel testimony
- A means of blessing

Structural overview

- Prologue (1vs1-8)
- Seven sections (1vs9 – 21vs8)
- Epilogue (21vs9 – 22vs21)

❶ Seven Letters to Seven Churches (chapters 1-3)

(= history from the standpoint of local churches)

OPENING SCENE: **The Glorious Son of Man in the midst of his churches** (1v9-20) ⇨ *Christ is in our midst*

“write what you’ve seen, what is, & what is to take place after this...” (1v19)

- ① Ephesus: “Everything... But Your First Love” (2v1-7)
- ② Smyrna: “Poor & Under Attack... But Don’t Fear!” (2v8-11)
- ③ Pergamum: “Faithful... but Beware Compromise!” (2v12-17)
- ④ Thyatira: “Well Done... but Watch Out!” (2v18-29)
- ⑤ Sardis: “A Name for Life... but At Death’s Door!” (3v1-6)
- ⑥ Philadelphia: “Weak... but Be Encouraged!” (3v7-13)
- ⑦ Laodicea: “So Confident... but So Wretched” (3v14-22)

② **Seven Seals of History Opened** (chapters 4-7)
(= the key elements in history, echoing Matthew 24 etc.)

An Open Door to Heaven! (4v1)
“...I will show you what must take place after this”

OPENING SCENE: **God and The Lamb** (4v2–5v13)
God Enthroned as Lord & Worshipped as Holy Creator (4v2-11)
The Lamb Can Open the Seals & is Worthy of All Worship (5v1-14)
⇒ *God is on his throne*

Four Horsemen

- ① The Conqueror (6v1-2)
- ② Strife & War (6v3-4)
- ③ Trade & Scarcity (6v5-6)
- ④ Death & Hades - war, famine, plague, predators (6v7-8)
- ⑤ The Martyrs Cry “How Long?” (6v9-11)
- ⑥ Earthquake, Signs in the Skies, Mountains & Islands Removed, The Lamb’s Wrath (6v12-17)

INTERLUDE (How the church fits in...)
God’s Servants on Earth – Sealed for Protection (7v1-8)
...and into in Heaven – Shepherded by the Lamb (7v9-17)

- ⑦ Seal 7: Silence in Heaven (8v1)

③ Seven Trumpets of Warning Sounded (chapters 8-11) (= history with God's warnings highlighted)

OPENING SCENE: Prayers and incense ascending (8v2-6)
⇒ *Prayer is being heard*

- ① The Earth Stricken (8v7)
- ② The Sea Stricken (8v8-9)
- ③ The Rivers Stricken (8v10-11)
- ④ The Sky Stricken (8v12)
- “Woe, Woe, Woe to men, at the Remaining Trumpet Blasts...!” (8v13)
- ⑤ Locust Torment from The Pit (9v1-12).
- “...two woes to go...!” (9v12)
- ⑥ An Army of Death; Idolaters Unrepentant (9v13-21)

INTERLUDE (How the church fits in...)

Seven Thunders: No More Delay (10v1-7)

...John to Eat the Little Scroll & Prophecy (10v8-11)

The Temple Measured; The Two Witnesses; Earthquake (11v1-14)

“one woe to go...!” (11v14)

- ⑦ The World's Kingdom is Now Christ's (11v15-18)

④ The Dragon's War (7 visions of cosmic conflict) (chapters 12-14)

(= *history as the great theatre of hostility*)

God's Temple Opened: The Ark is seen & a storm breaks (11v19)

OPENING SCENE: **The Woman, the Dragon, & the Child Born to Rule** (War in Heaven & On Earth!) (12v1-17)

"and I saw" ① ...the Beast from the Sea & its worshippers (13v1-10)

...call for endurance & faith (13v10)

② ...the Beast from the Earth, and the mark '666' (13v11-18)

...call for wisdom (13v18)

③ ...the Lamb and his 144,000, singing a new song (14v1-5)

④ ...three Angels of Warning (14v6-13)

...call for endurance (14v12)

⑤ ...the Son of Man and the Final Reaping (14v14-20)

⑥ ...Seven Angels with seven Last Plagues (15v1)

⑦ ...the Song of Victory (15v2-4)

⑤ Seven Bowls of Wrath Poured Out (chs.15-16)

(= God's judgments throughout history) [parallel ~ the trumpets]

OPENING SCENE: Within the sanctuary (15v5–16v1)

- ① The Earth Stricken (16v2)
- ② The Sea Stricken (16v3)
- ③ The Rivers Stricken: A just judgment (16v4-7)
- ④ The Sky Stricken (16v8-9)
- ⑤ Darkness & Pain for the Beast's Kingdom (16v10-11)
- ⑥ Earth's Kings Assembled for Battle (16v12-16)
- ⑦ Earthquake, Babylon Judged, Mountains & Islands Removed; Hail (16v17-21)

⑥ The Sin and Fall of Babylon the prostitute (chapters 17-19_{v10}) [*scenes as 'utterances'*]
(= history of "The World": immoral, materialistic, hostile)

OPENING SCENE: "Come & See Babylon the Prostitute" (17v1-6)

- ① The Mystery of Babylon Explained (17v7-14)
- ② ...The Beast & his Allies turn on Babylon! (17v15-18)
- ③ The Ruin of Babylon Proclaimed (18v1-3)
- ④ Call to Come Out of Babylon Who Will Be Paid Back (18v4-8)
...Onlookers Lament; Saints Called to Rejoice! (18v9-20)
- ⑤ Babylon & All the Activity in Her Will Be No More (18v21-24)
- ⑥ The Multitude Rejoice in the Prostitute's Demise (19v1-5)
- ⑦ The Multitude Rejoice in the Lamb's Bride (19v6-8)
..."Blessed Invitation, the True Words of God" (19v9-10)

⑦ **The Last Battle** and Beyond (Chapters 19_{v11}–21vs8) *(the end to which history is heading)*

OPENING SCENE: **The White Rider!** (19v11-16).

“I Saw...” ① ...The Carrion invited to Feast on an Army! (19v17-18)

② ...The Beast and the False Prophet Defeated (19v19-21)

③ ...The Devil Bound for a Thousand Years (20v1-3)

④ ...The Faithful Martyrs Reign with Christ (20v4-6)

...After Which Satan Is Released, Attacks & Is Defeated (20v7-10)

⑤ ...A Great White Throne (20v11)

⑥ ...The Dead Judged: books & the book of life (20v12-15)

⑦ ...The New Heavens & New Earth (21v1-8)

Epilogue: The Glorious Future Unfolded (21v9–22v21)

Come See the Lamb's Bride, the Holy City (21v9-21)

...the Lord & the Lamb are its temple, its light (21v22-27)

...The River & the Trees, No More Curse or Night (22v1-5)

“...the lord has shown the things that must soon take place” (22v6)

These Words Are True, and I Am Coming Soon (22v6-11)

I Am Coming Soon, A & W; The Blessed & Outsiders (22v12-15)

Final Invitation, Final Warning, Come Lord Jesus! (22v16-21)