

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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## Session 1

### I. Background

Author: John the Apostle

Date: approx 85AD during the reign of Domitian

It was during this time that John was the apostolic leader in Asia Minor with his home established in Ephesus. John was exiled to the Island of Patmos, believed to be a hard labor, pit mining type of penal colony.

This book is a huge answer to the prayer of Paul for the Church of Ephesus – Eph 1:17-20.

### II. Simple Outline

<b>Rev. 1</b>	<b><i>Pt. 1 John's <u>CALLING</u> to prophesy about the End-Times:</i></b>  John gave 23 truths about Jesus' majesty that formed the way he prophesied about the End-Times, which are meant to equip us.
<b>Rev. 2-3</b>	<b><i>Pt. 2 Jesus gave <u>7 LETTERS</u> to 7 churches:</i></b>  The instructions Jesus gave to these 7 churches about overcoming sin give us practical insight into what we must also overcome today.
<b>Rev. 4-5</b>	<b><i>Pt. 3 Jesus takes the <u>SCROLL</u>:</i></b>  Contains the earth's title deed and His battle plan to cleanse it.
<b>Rev. 6-22</b>	<b><i>Pt. 4 Jesus' <u>BATTLE PLAN</u>:</i></b>  Includes Great Tribulation judgments against the Antichrist. Jesus reveals His main storyline of love to cleanse the earth of evil. His battle plan here is seen in <b><i>5 Chronological sections</i></b> that describe events that unfold in sequential order. Each section is followed by an <b><i>Angelic explanation</i></b> to help us understand that section.

**The 5 Chronological Sections:** tell us what happens to the Antichrist's followers in 21 judgment events (*7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls*). These intensify in severity as they unfold.

**The 5 Angelic Explanations:** function as a parenthesis, putting the storyline on "pause". They answer questions arising from the chronological sections: Why is God's wrath so severe? What will happen to us? Angels explain to John what happens to God's people including what Jesus will do to **help us** and what the Antichrist will do to **persecute us**.

<b>Rev. 6</b>	<b>Chronological section #1:</b> the <b><u>SEAL JUDGMENTS</u></b> against the kingdom of darkness.
<b>Rev. 7</b>	<b>Angelic Explanation #1:</b> we receive <u>PROTECTION</u> from judgments and falling away.
<b>Rev. 8-9</b>	<b>Chronological section #2:</b> the <b><u>TRUMPET JUDGMENTS</u></b> against the Antichrist's empire.
<b>Rev. 10-11</b>	<b>Angelic Explanation #2:</b> we receive <u>DIRECTION</u> by great increase of prophetic ministry.
<b>Rev. 11:15-19</b>	<b>Chronological section #3:</b> the <b><u>SECOND COMING PROCESSION</u></b> and the Rapture.  <u>The 7<sup>th</sup> and Last Trumpet</u> (1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 10:7; 1 Thes. 4:16): Jesus replaces all governmental leaders on earth in a hostile takeover. In His Procession, Jesus first travels <u>across the sky</u> to rapture the saints (every eye sees Him; Rev. 1:7), then <u>through the land</u> of Edom (modern day Jordan; Isa. 63:1-6) then <u>into Jerusalem</u> to the Mount of Olives.
<b>Rev. 12-14</b>	<b>Angelic Explanation #3:</b> the <u>CONFRONTATION</u> against the saints by the Antichrist's system and persecutions requires that all his governments be taken over. Satan is on earth.
<b>Rev. 15-16</b>	<b>Chronological section #4:</b> the <b><u>BOWL JUDGMENTS</u></b> destroy evil infrastructures in society

<b>Rev. 17-18</b>	<b>Angelic Explanation #4:</b> the <u>SEDUCTION</u> of Babylon's evil religion will permeate and infiltrate all the structures of society, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.
<b>Rev. 19-20</b>	<b>Chronological section #5:</b> Jesus' <b><u>TRIUMPHAL ENTRY</u></b> to Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8)
<b>Rev. 21-22</b>	<b>Angelic Explanation #5:</b> the <u>RESTORATION</u> of all things Acts 3:21 (Rev. 21:9-22:5)

### III. Symbolism in Revelation

Basic approach: We take the scriptures literally, unless the scripture itself tells us it is symbolic. Then we seek the interpretation of the symbol from the scripture itself.

- A. **The 7 main symbols:** all events and numbers in Revelation are to be taken in their plain meaning (literal) unless specifically indicated not to (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18, etc.

Symbol	Interpretation	References
<b><i>Dragon</i></b>	Satan	Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2
<b><i>First Beast</i></b>	Antichrist	Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10
<b><i>Another Beast</i></b>	False Prophet	Rev. 13:11
<b><i>Seven Heads</i></b>	7 empires from history that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Roman Empire)	Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16
<b><i>Ten Horns</i></b>	represents a 10-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist	Rev. 17:12-13

<b><i>Harlot Babylon</i></b>	will be a worldwide demonically inspired religious and economic system based in the re-built city of Babylon, near Baghdad in Iraq	Rev. 17-18; Jer. 50-51
<b><i>Woman and Male-child (Jesus)</i></b>	is the faithful remnant of Israel throughout history	Rev. 12

## Section 1: John's Calling - Rev 1

- I.** Introduction: v1-3
  - A. Purpose of this book
  - B. His servant John – author
  - C. Blessing #1
- II.** Audience & proclamation: v4-8
  - A. to the churches in Asia Minor: v4
  - B. Grace and Peace from the Triune God: v4-5
  - C. Accolades for what HE has done for us: v5-6
  - D. He is coming: v7
  - E. I AM: v8
- III.** John's calling to prophesy: v9-11
  - A. I John, brother and partner in: v9
    - 1. Tribulation
    - 2. The Kingdom
    - 3. Patient endurance
    - 4. On account of the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus
  - B. I was in the Spirit... : v10
  - C. I heard a loud voice like a trumpet...: v10
  - D. Write what you see...: v10