

Study on Revelation

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Bible study on the last book of the Bible, Revelation.

The book of Revelation is one of the most neglected and yet one of the most abused books of the New Testament today and in times past. Of all the books in the Bible, the book of Revelation, the final book in the Bible, has drawn **mixed reactions**. For many, Revelation is the most puzzling book in the entire Bible. For others, it is an exciting, accurate guidebook to the final days of earth. For still others, it is a terrifying book, leading readers to wonder how much they will have to endure in the future.

I believe that a good understanding of Revelation will help you to have a biblical perspective on modern society and events. Revelation gives us a **wonderful framework** of understanding what is happening in the world as seen from God's perspective.

For an adequate understanding of Revelation, you must recognize that it is a distinct kind of literature. Revelation is apocalyptic; a kind of writing that is highly symbolic. "Apocalypse" is a Greek word meaning "revelation".

My prayer is that this study will help you to get a better understanding of this exciting book and how it can help us to live with hope.

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AGENDA

- ✓ Lesson 1: Evil Triumphs—Or So It Seems! (*Rev 5: 1-6*)
- ✓ Lesson 2: What does the future hold for us? (*Rev 7: 9-17*)
- ✓ Lesson 3: The Onslaught of the Evil Trio: The Dragon (*Rev 12: 1-6*)
- ✓ Lesson 4: The Onslaught of the Evil Trio: The Antichrist (*Rev 13: 1-10*)
- ✓ Lesson 5: The Onslaught of the Evil Trio: The False Prophet (*Rev 13: 11-18*)
- ✓ Lesson 6: Another Strategy of the Evil Trio (*Rev 17: 1-6*)
- ✓ Lesson 7: From Paradise to Paradise (*Rev 22: 16-21*)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Goal: You will be able to use the tools in “The Bible as your GPS” course to understand, apply and communicate the essentials of Revelation in the 21st century.

How will we accomplish our goal?

- ✓ You will demonstrate knowledge of the GPS model
- ✓ You will learn how to get to the message to the original receiver of the Bible passage.
- ✓ You will learn how to discern whether or not the message to the original receiver is applicable to our situation.
- ✓ You will learn how to communicate the essentials to specific target groups.
- ✓ You will practice the GPS model on Bible passages.

Key Elements

- ✓ Written in Apocalyptic literature
- ✓ The number 7 is very prominent
- ✓ Not Predicting but Proclamation
- ✓ Book is divided in 7 main parts
- ✓ Book of Endless Hope

The book of Revelation can be divided into **seven** main parts. Each part covers the same period of history but from a different perspective. The period that is covered in each part or cycle runs from the first coming of Christ until his second coming.

These are the **seven parts** according to the main chapter divisions, and the message of each will be described briefly:

Ch 1-3 Christ among the seven lampstands: Christ has a specific message for each one of the seven churches. Seven is symbolic of completeness. The conditions explained are representative of churches of all time, and therefore the message is applicable to us.

Ch 4-7 The seven seals: Christ as the perfect Lamb of God is the only one who is able to give meaning to history (open the seals). The church will experience persecution but will be protected (sealed on forehead) and the believers will be with Christ for all eternity.

Ch 8-11 The seven trumpets: The purpose of the seven trumpets is to wake up everyone in the world to repent. God will judge the unbelievers and will reward the believers at the end of time.

Ch 12-14 The woman and her son are persecuted by the dragon and his helpers: The dragon (satan) tries to keep the son (Christ) from being born, and when he fails, attempts to destroy him. Christ overcomes Satan through his death and resurrection and obtains victory for believers. Satan didn't give up and concentrates on persecuting the church (woman). He doesn't do it alone but uses three allies to help him, namely the beast out of the sea (antichristian government and political powers); the beast out of the earth (deceptive and false religion and philosophy) and Babylon, the Mother of Prostitutes (antichristian culture and seduction).

Ch 15-16 The seven bowls: The seven bowls introduced the final judgment, also for Babylon.

Ch 17-19 The fall of the prostitute and the beasts: God's judgment is announced: God's judgment happens throughout history as cultures with their accompanying economies rise and fall. However, there will also be a final judgment that will put a final end to antichristian cultures (prostitute), antichristian governments and false religion (the beast).

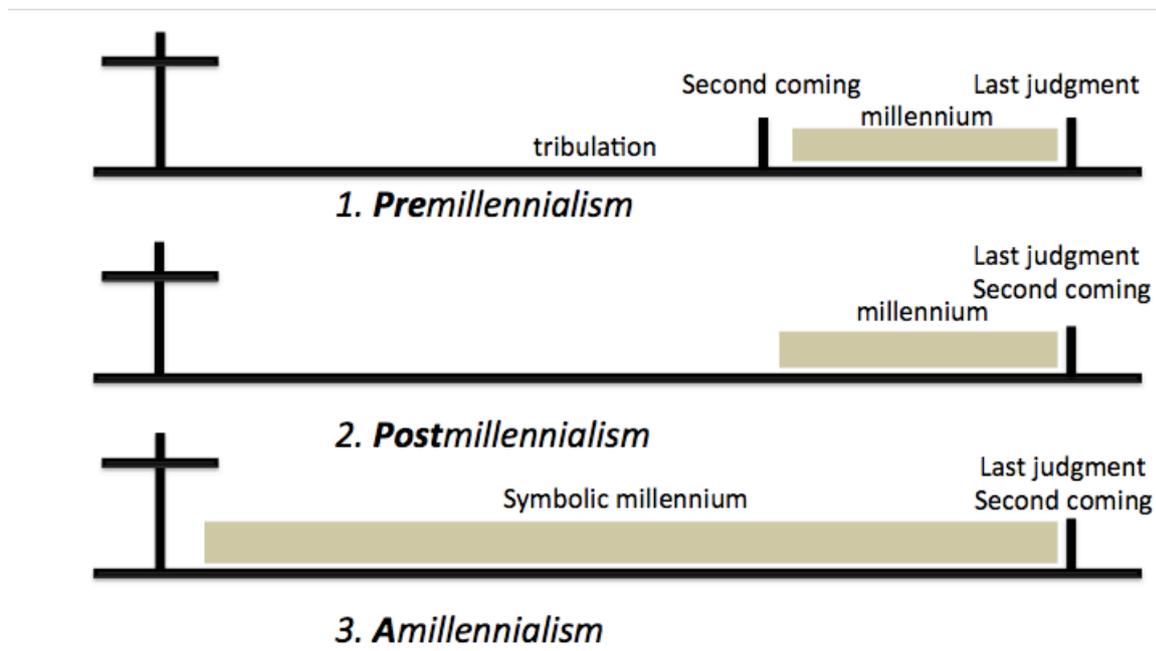
Ch 20-22 The judgment of the dragon and the new heaven and earth: There will be a final judgment over Satan and all the dead. God will create a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no evil and where God will be in control of everything and will provide in the needs of everyone.

Although the seven parts cover the same period, there is progression as far as focus is concerned. The latter parts focus progressively more on the final judgment and the new heaven and earth.

The beauty is that that the seven parts are chiastically arranged.

- A** Ch 1-3 Christ, and his battling church and suffering church on earth
- B** Ch 4-7 Persecution and trials of the church
- C** Ch 8-11 Unbelievers are warned and punished
- D** Ch 12-14 The church is victorious because of Christ's victory
- C'** Ch 15-16 Unbelievers are judged
- B'** Ch 17-19 Those who persecuted the church are judged
- A'** Ch 20-22 Christ and his victorious church on the new earth and heaven

Different Approaches of Interpretation



Premillennialism in Christian end-times theology is the belief that Jesus Christ will literally and physically be on the earth for his millennial reign at his second coming. The doctrine is called premillennialism because it holds that Jesus' physical return to earth will occur prior to the inauguration of the millennium. Premillennialism is based upon what is claimed to be a literal interpretation of Revelation 20:1–6 in the New Testament which describes Jesus' coming to the earth and subsequent reign at the end of an apocalyptic period of tribulation.

The proponents of **postmillennialism** sees Christ's second coming as occurring *after* (Latin *post-*) the "Millennium", a Golden Age in which Christian ethics prosper.

The proponents of **Amillennialism** interpret the Millennium as being a symbolic period of time, consistent with the highly symbolic nature of the apocalyptic genre of the book of Revelation, sometimes indicating that the thousand years represent God's rule over his creation or the Church.