

THE REVELATION

JANUARY 7, 2024

Preface

The REVELATION – It is amazing, mystifying, baffling, astonishing, surprising, bewildering, but every word is true! Every word will be fulfilled in the same order, in the same way, in the same time! We call this book a prophecy about the future, but perhaps that is the wrong way to think about it. Actually, the LORD's prophecies are promises. Just so we know, the LORD always keeps His promises – exactly as He promised – with no differences, discrepancies, divergences, or deviations. This is the story of the LORD's future, His Second Coming, His reign as King of kings and LORD of lords, and His fulfillment of other promises that He has already declared, starting in the book of Genesis, and running all the way through the book of Jude.

The REVELATION – It means the *uncovering*. Sadly, it seems that everyone misses the point that Jesus is *uncovering* the details of His return. Think of it as the opening of the curtains at the start of the start of a Broadway Plan. The details we tend to focus on are simply the pageantry that will accompany His coming.

The REVELATION – It also tells the story of the reuniting of the chosen people with their LORD. In their stubbornness, they rejected the LORD when He came to become the full and final sacrifice for their sins. Their eyes were blinded then and still are today. But this promise shows how the LORD will manipulate the history of the world before He arrives, and then, His chosen people will finally accept Him as their Messiah and reign with Him as He rules the world with absolute authority!

The REVELATION – It begins with the story of Jesus and ends with the prayer that His coming will occur soon! Accept it for what it is! Add nothing to it! Take nothing away from it! It is His promise that it will happen just as He said it would.

Introduction

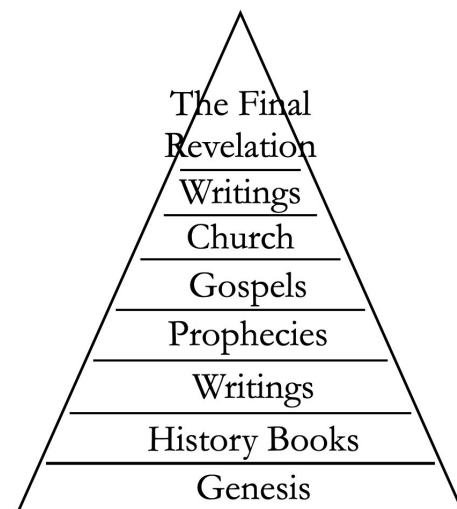
I. The Introduction of the Book

Rev. 1:1a The Revelation of Jesus Christ,

The REVELATION – It seems that the whole world wants to know about this book! For some strange reason new Christians dive into it before they know anything about all that has transpired to make its message understandable and meaningful. Movies have been made about it - about the end times, the Armageddon, the final battle, the this and the that! Books have been written about it, rarely dealing with the actual material within its pages. They all have one thing in common, the terrible end of the world. But the Revelation really does not have anything to do with the end of the world; rather, it has everything to do with this world's new beginning in the eternal future. How do we know that for a fact? We know it because the book of Revelation, the last book of God's written Word, pulls together all the prophecies yet to be fulfilled into a final summary of things yet to occur, and it sprinkles a few new facts into the mix just to fill in the gaps.

The REVELATION – It holds the position as the last book of God's Word on purpose. You see, the Bible story started in eternity past and ends in eternity future. The story began with God's crowning creation, man and woman, the only part that has the ability to communicate with Him and the ability to choose to love or reject Him. Throughout the story, God made promises and predictions concerning His crowning creation and by the end of the Bible, long before all His Words are fulfilled, He summed up the story of the future in this last of the sixty-six books that tells the tale of the magnificent work of God.

The REVELATION – We cannot study it without looking at all that came before. The Bible has a purpose in its organization. It begins with Genesis. Think of that book as the giant base of a triangle made up of layers. Genesis covers about 2700 years from creation to Jacob's family settling in Egypt. If you remember, Jacob's name was changed to Israel and his descendants took that new name as the name of their nation. Therefore, Genesis is about the heritage of God's people which led to the family of Israel. The next layer includes Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st Samuel, 2nd Samuel, 1st Kings, 2nd Kings, 1st Chronicles, 2nd Chronicles, Job, Esther and Nehemiah. These books tell about the formation and history of the Nation of Israel and the other people in the world from the exodus out of Egypt to Israel's return to the Promised Land after the exile. The third layer includes all their writings, their songs, their sayings, and their poems that were produced during the time that was covered in the second layer. Then the fourth layer includes all the books of prophecy. Even though they are separate books, the human writer of each book lived sometime during the history of the second layer, but the message



within their pages told promises about the future, before they happened, in order that God could prove to us that He is God and we can trust Him to keep His promises. He promised many things in those books. We call it the Old Testament. But, the greatest promise of all found in those books concerned the coming Savior. By turning to the New Testament, we see that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John would not be stories at all if the entire Old Testament had not happened. Those four books build on the Old Testament and that fifth layer tells the heritage of the coming Savior and the establishment of the Church. The sixth layer holds the book of Acts which tells the story of the formation and development of the Church. The seventh layer presents the writings of the Church beginning with Romans and ending with Jude. Then, on the eighth layer, the point of the triangle, the New Testament prophecy book called the Revelation appears. It rests on the writings of the Church, which rests on the formation of the Church, which rests on the establishment of the Church, which rests on the prophecy, writings, history, and heritage of the Nation of Israel. There, in that peak layer, the point of the triangle, God, for the final time in His Holy Writ, prophesies Israel's future and its place in eternity. It all fits together. You cannot understand the end without understanding the beginning and all the minute pieces revealed in between.

The REVELATION – The culmination of all that has been told in God's Word is not different from what has happened with all of creation. It involves the interaction between God, Jesus, the Spirit, angels, demons, and man. A whole cast of characters is involved in the REVELATION, and it will help tremendously if we get to know a little about them before we study them in the story.

Outline

The Revelation has a three-part outline. The LORD provided the outline in Chapter 1, verse 19.

"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things."

Verse 19 is deep into the first chapter. It comes after the LORD has shown Himself to John to begin the story. Therefore, in Part 1, Chapter 1, the LORD told John to write down what He looked like to John, with all the details. Thus, all the details about the vision of the LORD are "The Things Which You [John] Have Seen."

- Part 1: Chapter 1
The Things Which You Have Seen
- Part 2: Chapters 2 & 3
The Things Which Are
- Part 3: Chapter 4 through 22
The Things Which will Take Place After These Things

Then, for Part 2, the LORD tells John to write down "the Things Which are." The LORD has not revealed to John these things, but He will next in Chapters 2 and 3. In Chapters 2 and 3, the LORD will dictate a letter to each of the seven Churches in Asia Minor. John knows these Churches well. As the last living Apostle, John had installed each of their pastors in those Churches as their shepherds. Much is revealed in these seven letters that tell us about the rewards

we will receive when we pass from this life into glory with the LORD. Each letter has a promise and a warning. Each of the Churches will one day close their doors and cease to exist in that location. But when the LORD had John write each of those letters, they were “the things which are.”

So, from Chapters 1 through 3, the LORD has John write down what He looks like (the things which you have seen – Chapter 1), and the letters to the seven Churches (the things which are – Chapters 2 and 3).

Finally, for Part 3, the LORD has John write down all the things that will happen in the future. Remember, in verse 19 the LORD says to write “the things which will happen after these things.” After what things? It can only mean one thing. It means after the promises and warnings to the seven Churches have been completed and those Churches have closed their doors. Then, and only then can the events in Chapter 4 begin that will take us through Chapter 22. How do we know this? The LORD told us this is the timing of all that will take place after the seven Churches cease to exist. In Chapter 4, verse 1, John was told, *“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’”*

“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.” After what things? After the promises and warnings to the seven Churches have been fulfilled. We must remember that this is a prophecy book. Prophecies are promises from the LORD that He will fulfill before the culmination of time.

It just so happens that we know exactly when each Church closed its doors and how it came to me. Church history has recorded those details for us.

Once the last Church closes its doors, the prophecies of Chapter 4 can begin. Have they begun yet, or is all this in our future? Yes, they have already begun, and the prophecies of Chapter 4 began to unfold after the final closing of the last of the seven Churches in 1922.

With the start of Chapter 4, the outline of events that will occur in order are as follows.

Chapters 4 – 5	The Description of the Throne Room in Heaven
Chapters 6 – 8:1	The Seven Seals (with all the details surrounding the seals)
Chapters 8:2 – 15:4	The Seven Trumpets (with all the details surrounding the trumpets)
Chapters 12 – 16	The Seven Bowls (with all the details surrounding the bowls)
Chapters 17 – 18	The Judgments from Heaven (with all the details surrounding the judgments)
Chapter 19	The Joy, Royalty, and Procession in and from Heaven (with all the details)
Chapter 20	The Parade of the Satanic and His Defeat (with all the details)
Chapter 21 – 22	The Heaven on Earth (with all the details)