

## ***A Simple Outline of the Book of Revelation***

### **I. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

- A. The book of Revelation is first about the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1). Secondly, it is about future events that He will use in His transition plan to shift history to the age to come. Jesus will only unfold this future plan in partnership with His people. This is our story. It is worth making the effort to understand it. Revelation was written to be understood by everyone.
- B. My premise is that anyone can understand the main storyline and structure of the book of Revelation in less than one hour and can learn to say it to someone in less than one day.
- C. The storyline in Revelation is not about the end of the **world**, but rather the end of this **age**. This **age** refers to the demonic influence that blinds the nations with darkness (Eph. 6:12. 2 Cor. 4:4). Revelation is not a doomsday prophecy about the end to the world. It is a glorious love story of Jesus ushering in a new beginning for the world. The birth of a baby is the **end** of a pregnancy, but it is mostly about the **beginning** of a new life. Revelation describes the **end** of the dark night of Satan's oppression of human history and the **dawning** of Jesus' new day of glory and love.
- D. The most controversial point in this teaching is my conviction that the Church will be raptured at the end of the Tribulation after it walks in great victory in the midst of persecution. There is evidence in Revelation that the saints will be living on earth during the Tribulation (Rev. 6:10-11; 7:9, 14; 8:3-5; 11:3-6, 10, 18; 12:11, 17; 13:7, 18; 15:2; 16:6; 17:6; 18:4, 20, 24; 19:2; 20:4; 22:6-9, 17). This differs from the pre-tribulation rapture view. I honor the godliness of many who hold this view. However, I see it as a serious mistake that will leave many unprepared.
- E. I do not ask anyone to accept my views; rather I urge you to challenge all the ideas that you read in this teaching. Refuse any that you cannot clearly see in Scripture for yourself (Acts 17:10-11).
- F. Three reasons people do not read the book of Revelation are that they have a wrong view of its main storyline, they do not understand the structure of the book nor its symbols.
- G. The main storyline of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all nations after He destroys the Antichrist's empire by the judgments of God. The secondary theme is the persecution against the saints from the Antichrist. Out of 403 verses, there are only twelve verses (3%) that speak directly about persecution (Rev. 6:9-11; 11:7; 12:17; 13:7, 15; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; 20:4).
- H. As Moses partnered with God to release God's judgments on Pharaoh by prayer (Ex. 7-12), so the Church will partner with Jesus in prayer as He releases judgments on the Antichrist. The end-time judgment events do not happen **to us** as helpless victims of Satan, but are released **through us** as we partner under Jesus' leadership. As the book of Acts describes the power of the Spirit that was released through the early church, so the book of Revelation describes the power of the Spirit to be released through the end-time Church. Revelation is the **end-time book of Acts**.

## II. JESUS' ROYAL PROCESSION: THE HIGHLIGHT OF HISTORY

- A. The main theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations (Rev. 1:5-7).  
*<sup>5</sup> Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth...<sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:5-7)*
- B. Jesus' second coming will be in context to a military conflict around Jerusalem. He will make a royal procession to His throne in Jerusalem, which will involve a **3-stage process** which will include many events. First, His procession will be across the sky in great glory that will be seen by every eye. Second, His procession will be on the land as He marches up through Jordan. Third, His procession will be into Jerusalem (and the Mount of Olives) to be crowned King.
- C. I refer to these events as Jesus' royal procession because He will come in **great glory and flaming fire and trumpets blasts with billions of angels and saints as He travels on clouds across the earth for all to see the overwhelming power of His kingship** (Mt. 16:27; 24:29-31; 25:31; 1 Thes. 3:13; 4:14-16; 2 Thes. 1:8). The Father planned this so that Jesus' reign over all the nations will be introduced in a very dramatic way so that no one could possibly miss it.
- D. Paul taught that the rapture will occur at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52). It is the last in the series of seven numbered trumpets in Revelation (Rev. 8-9; 10:7; 11:15). Then, the mystery or the plan of God to raise up a mature Church to rule the earth with Jesus will be finished (Rev. 10:7).
- E. The Bible gives us three different descriptions of the rapture and events related to it at the last trumpet. They show us different facets of the one great diamond of Jesus' return.
1. Jesus gave us a **cosmic view** of His coming with great glory in the sky (Mt. 24:29-31).
  2. Paul gave us a **pastoral view** of Jesus' coming by emphasizing its effect on the saints — transforming our physical bodies and bringing us together (1 Cor. 15:50-52; 1 Thes. 4-5).
  3. John gave us a **political view** of Jesus' coming by emphasizing what will happen in the nations as it impacts world governments when He takes over all the kingdoms of this world (Rev. 11:15). John highlighted the political view since the theme of the Revelation is Jesus returning to reign as the King of kings over all nations (Rev. 1:7; 19:16).
- F. There will be three types of people on earth when Jesus appears in the sky:
- 1). The **redeemed** will be raptured during Jesus' worldwide procession across the sky.
  - 2). The **reprobate** who took the mark of the Beast will be judged and then killed (some executed).
  - 3). The **resisters** are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refuse to worship the Antichrist and yet were not saved. The Scripture refers to them as those who are left or those who remain (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16). These will have an opportunity to be saved after Jesus returns to the earth. They are those who will populate the millennial earth.

- G. **Stage 1:** Jesus' royal procession across the sky over every nation will be seen by every person on the earth as His kingship is announced and asserted over each nation (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).  
*<sup>7</sup> He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...all the tribes of the earth will mourn. (Rev. 1:7)*
- H. Each unbeliever will see Him clearly enough to cause them to mourn or to have a deep response. In other words, Jesus will travel slowly enough across the sky and close enough to the earth for every unbeliever to see Him clearly enough to understand what is happening so that they mourn.  
*<sup>30</sup> The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...with great glory. (Mt. 24:30)*
- I. **Stage 2:** Jesus' royal procession on the land as He marches through Edom or modern-day Jordan will destroy His enemies (Isa. 63:1-6, Hab. 3:12; Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6) on His way to Jerusalem.  
*<sup>1</sup> Who is this who comes from Edom (Jordan)...this One traveling in the greatness of His strength?...<sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red...? <sup>3</sup> I have trodden them (nations) in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. <sup>4</sup> The day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. (Isa. 63:1-4)*  
*<sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood still...<sup>12</sup> You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. <sup>13</sup> You went forth for the salvation of Your people... (Hab. 3:11-12)*  
*<sup>3</sup> Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. <sup>4</sup> And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness. (Ps. 45:3-4)*  
*<sup>5</sup> He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. <sup>6</sup> He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)*
- J. As Jesus marches up through Edom (Jordan), He will function as the "greater Moses" as He releases the bowl judgments on the Antichrist, as the "end-time Pharaoh".
- K. Jesus will lead Israel across the Jordan River into the promise land as the "greater Joshua". As He marches on the land, He will gather captive Israel as He opens prison doors and liberates Jews in prison camps (Ps. 102:20; Isa. 27:12-13; 40:11; 42:7, 16, 22; 49:9-12, 21, 24-26; 61:1; Jer 30:3, 8, 10, 17; 31:16, 23; Ezek. 39:23-29; Joel 3:1-2; Amos 9:14; Mic. 2:12-13; 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:11-12; 10:10; 13:8; 14:2; Mt. 25:43; Lk. 21:24).  
*<sup>12</sup> It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will thresh, from the channel of the River (Euphrates) to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem (in the Millennium). (Isa. 27:12-13)*
- L. **Stage 3:** Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives is followed by His coronation (Rev. 19:16; Ps. 24:7-10). Jesus will win an astounding victory over the armies that will gather around Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Rev. 16:13-14; 19:19).

- M. He will march into Jerusalem as the “**greater David**” to destroy the Antichrist, as the “end-time Goliath” and his armies (Rev. 19:11-21) to fulfill the fullness of David’s prophecy in Ps. 2:1-9.  
***<sup>19</sup> I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (Jesus)...<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...<sup>21</sup> The rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him... (Rev. 19:19-21)***
- N. Jesus will be celebrated as the Son of David in a coronation parade. The gates of Jerusalem will be opened to Jesus as they receive Him as their messianic King (Ps. 24:7-10; Mt. 23:39).  
***<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates (Jerusalem)! The King of glory shall come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle (Ps. 24:7-8)***
- O. Jesus will lead a royal procession through Jerusalem as David did when he brought the ark into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6). In Ps. 68:24-33, David merged the account of his procession into Jerusalem with the ark with a prophecy of Jesus’ procession into Jerusalem in the end times.  
***<sup>24</sup> They have seen Your procession, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary...<sup>29</sup> Because of Your Temple at Jerusalem, kings will bring presents to You...till everyone submits himself...scatter the peoples (nations) who delight in war...<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth...<sup>33</sup> To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens... (Ps. 68:24-33)***
- P. The saints will be with Jesus after the rapture as He marches on the land and into Jerusalem. Some saints may be in the air while others may be on the ground, but all will witness the events. The saints will be raised from the dead or raptured and will forever be with Jesus (1 Thes. 4:17).  
***<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...<sup>5</sup> Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:3-5)***  
***<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (raptured) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:17)***

### III. SYMBOLS

- A. Revelation is to be interpreted in its plain meaning. The events and numbers are to be understood literally unless the Scripture indicates that they are symbolic (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18, etc.). For example, the seven lampstands are symbolic of churches (Rev. 1:20).
- B. The seven main symbols of Revelation:  
***1) Dragon:** Symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)  
2) **First Beast:** Symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)  
3) **Another Beast:** Symbolic of the false prophet; called *another beast* just once (Rev. 13:11)  
4) **Harlot Babylon:** A global, demonically-inspired religious and economic system (Rev. 17-18)  
5) **Seven heads:** Represent 7 empires that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, a still future revived Roman Empire (Dan. 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16)  
6) **Ten Horns:** Represent a ten-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist (Rev. 17:12-13)  
7) **Woman with a Male-child (Jesus):** Is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12)*

#### IV. STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION: FOUR MAIN PARTS

There are *four parts* in the structure of Revelation. The fourth part has *five chronological sections*.

Rev. 1 ***Pt. 1: John's CALLING to prophesy about the end times.*** John gives 18 truths about Jesus' majesty that form the way he prophesied about the end times. These are meant to equip us. It matters because the way that John prophesied is the way the end-time Church will prophesy.

Rev. 2-3 ***Pt. 2: Jesus gave 7 LETTERS to 7 churches.*** The instructions Jesus gave to 7 churches in that day about overcoming sin give us practical insight into what we must overcome today. Jesus selected churches to identify the main issues that would challenge the end-time Church.

Rev. 4-5 ***Pt. 3: Jesus takes the SCROLL*** containing the earth's title deed and Jesus' plan to cleanse it. The scroll in the Father's hand is His plan to cleanse the earth of evil to prepare the nations for God's throne to come to earth (Rev. 21:3). One man is worthy (deserving and capable) to take the scroll and execute the plan. By taking the scroll, Jesus accepts the responsibility for this.

Rev. 6-22 ***Pt. 4: Jesus' BATTLE PLAN*** reveals His main storyline of love in the book of Revelation. The battle plan or the main storyline to cleanse the earth and transition it to the age to come is written in the scroll. Jesus breaks the seals of the scroll to open it. As the scroll is unrolled, the judgments written in it are released on earth against Babylon and the Antichrist's followers.

#### V. FOURTH POINT: CHRONOLOGICAL SECTIONS AND THE ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS

- A. Jesus' battle plan or the main storyline is laid out in 5 chronological sections that describe the 21 judgment events against the kingdom of darkness as they unfold in sequential order. The 21 judgment events will come in three judgment series each containing 7 judgments (the 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls). Each series will intensify in severity as they unfold.
- B. Each chronological section is followed by one of the 5 angelic explanations which each function as a *"parenthesis"*, putting the storyline *"on pause"* so that the angel may explain to John what is going on *"behind the scenes"* so he can understand why the judgment events are necessary. For example, as the seal judgments are explained, an angel puts the storyline on pause to help John process the information. He does the same after the trumpet and bowls judgments, etc.
1. They answer questions arising from the chronological sections such as *"Why is God's wrath so severe?"* and *"What will happen to the saints in the time of God's judgments and Satan's persecutions?"* An angel explains what will happen to God's people, including what Jesus will do to help the saints and what the Antichrist will do to persecute them.
  2. The chronological sections tell us what happens to the Antichrist and his followers. The angelic explanations tell us what happens to the saints.

Rev. 6-22 (Pt. 4) *Jesus' BATTLE PLAN*

Rev. 6 *Chronological Section #1:* The SEAL JUDGMENTS against the kingdom of darkness  
Rev. 7 *Angelic Explanation #1:* We receive PROTECTION from judgments and falling away

Rev. 8-9 *Chronological Section #2:* The TRUMPET JUDGMENTS against the Antichrist's empire  
Rev. 10-11 *Angelic Explanation #2:* We receive DIRECTION by a great increase of prophetic ministry

Rev. 11:15-19 *Chronological Section #3: SECOND COMING ROYAL PROCESSION and RAPTURE*  
At the seventh and last trumpet, a terrifying heavenly announcement is made that Jesus will replace all evil leaders on earth in government, economics, etc. It will be a hostile takeover that includes a great war and the execution of the wicked leaders (Rev. 19:19).

*<sup>5</sup> He (Jesus) shall execute kings...<sup>6</sup> He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)*

C. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52), the Church will be raptured. It is the last trumpet in the series of the seven numbered trumpets in Revelation (Rev. 8-9; 10:7; 11:15). At this time, Jesus will begin His royal procession as He raptures the Church and travels across the sky on a cloud to be seen by every eye (Rev. 1:7), then He travels on the land through Edom (Jordan; Isa. 63:1-6) destroying His enemies, then into Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:2-5).

Rev. 12-14 *Angelic Explanation #3:* The Antichrist's violent CONFRONTATION against the saints and everything that God calls good, requires that all his governments be replaced.

D. The heavenly announcement to replace all the world's leaders is so intense that some may ask if there is a less severe way to reform the nations. The angel explains that the Antichrist's followers have violently confronted God's people. They refuse to repent. Therefore, they must be replaced.

Rev. 15-16 *Chronological Section #4:* The BOWL JUDGMENTS destroy evil infrastructures in society  
Rev. 17-18 *Angelic Explanation #4:* The SEDUCTION by Babylon's evil religion will permeate and infiltrate all the structures of society, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.

*<sup>8</sup> I (Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance...<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Ps. 2:8-9)*

E. David said that the Messiah would dash the nations like a rod of iron dashing clay pottery. Whatever infrastructures in society are built on darkness will be dashed by the bowl judgments. The hundred pound hail stones (Rev. 16:21) will destroy social infrastructures that provide food, water and electricity and the institutions such as banks and schools, etc. Jesus will be on the earth marching to Jerusalem as He releases the bowl judgments as Moses did to Pharaoh.

Rev. 19-20 *Chronological Section #5:* Jesus' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY to Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8)  
Rev. 21-22 *Angelic Explanation #5:* The RESTORATION of all things (Acts 3:21; Rev. 21:9-22:5).

At Jesus' coming, He will restore all that God originally intended in the garden of Eden.