

Touring the New Testament
Revelation



Revelation

by Dr. Jack Tuls

REVELATION

Author: John the apostle. The book of Revelation was accepted as an authentic work of John by the early church fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. In the middle 3rd century a strong argument appeared that John was not the author of Revelation because of the differences in language and theological content from John's other writings. This may be answered by: 1) There are also several similarities between Revelation and John's other books, such as the use of conflicting themes. 2) John's usual style was changed because he was overwhelmed with awe by the tremendous revelations given to him.

Setting: The book of Revelation was directed to 7 churches in Asia Minor, but also is relevant to the Christian Church as a whole. "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*" (Chapters 2 and 3). John wrote from exile on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea where he was banished by the emperor Domitian in 95 AD. Tradition says that before John's banishment, he was thrown into a huge vat of boiling oil by the Roman government to execute him, but he survived without any burns at all.

Theme: The theme is the revelation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and God's plan for the final stages of Earth's history.

Survey: (Important scriptures are noted throughout the survey.)

- A. Four views of Revelation:
 1. Symbolic—symbolic of battle between good and evil
 2. Preterist (past)—symbolic description of first century events
 3. Historicist---allegorical history of the Western Church to Christ's 2nd Coming
 4. Futurist---prophetic view of time just preceding Christ's 2nd Coming
- B. Millennialism:
 1. Amillennialism: There is no thousand year reign of Christ. (The 1st two views above)
 2. Premillennialism: Belief that the 2nd Coming of Christ immediately precedes the thousand year reign of Christ on Earth. (The 4th view above, and the view of this survey)
 3. Postmillennialism: Belief that the 2nd Coming of Christ will follow a thousand years of Christian peace and prosperity worldwide. (The 3rd view above)
- C. Two keys to understanding Revelation:
 1. The Setting---Past (ch. 1), Present (chs. 2-3), Future (chs. 4-22)
 2. The shifting of the scenes---From heaven to earth to heaven to earth etc.
It is like God showing the saints a "movie" in heaven, then the reality occurs on earth.
- D. Remarks:
 1. The book is mostly chronological (time sequence) except chapters 12, 17 and 18.
 2. From ch 4:1 to the beginning of the Tribulation in ch. 8:7, less than 24 hours elapse.

Chapter 1 (Past)

1:19 "*Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*"

1:20 "...which you saw" (appears twice in the past tense)

Chapters 2,3 (Present)

2:1,7 "*Write: These things says... what the Spirit says*"

3:10 This is the promise of the Parousia (rapture) before beginning of the 7 year Tribulation.

Church characteristics and time periods:

<u>Asia Minor Church</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
Ephesus	Apostolic Church	32—100 AD
Smyrna	Persecuted Church	100—315 AD
Pergamum	Worldly Church	315—500 AD
Thyatira	Pagan Church	500—1517 AD
Sardis	Reformation Church	1517—1750 AD
Philadelphia	Missionary Church	1750---Present time
Laodicea	Apostate Church	1900---Present time

Chapter 4 (Future, from here through ch. 22) Heavenly view

4:1 “...I will show you things which must be hereafter.” Parousia, future tense.

4:4 The 24 elders enthroned, purified, crowned represent the raptured Church in its priestly role.

(See 1 Chron 24:7-19 for the 24 courses of Israel’s priests.)

4:7-8 These are the seraphim with the aspects of the 4 gospels and 6 wings. (See Isa 6:2-3)

Chapter 5 Heavenly view

5:1 The scroll is the 7 year tribulation judgment of God, ending Satan’s rule on Earth.

5:4 John wept because Earth is captive to Satan until somebody opens the scroll.

Chapter 6 Heavenly view

This chapter is a heavenly “movie” of the whole 7 year tribulation period. The 4 living creatures authorize the 5 horsemen by saying “COME.”

6:2 SEAL 1 Antichrist--- is given a crown.

6:4 SEAL 2 Spirit of war---is given authority and a great sword.

6:5-6 SEAL 3 Spirit of famine---is given the price list, and told not to hurt the oil or wine.

6:8 SEAL 4 Spirits of death and hell---are given authority over ¼ of Earth’s land area.

6:9-11 SEAL 5 Spirits of saints martyred during the 70th 7 (of years)---are given white robes.

6:12-14 SEAL 6 Powers of earth and heaven shaken---Earth nutates (nods) and changes orbit, great earthquakes occur (16:18), and meteor shower takes place.

6:15-17 When heaven departs like a scroll, men know that these are God’s judgments.

Chapter 7 Earthly view

7:3 God saves His elect from His own judgments poured out on the earth.

7:4 Those sealed are Jewish evangelists who bring in a mighty harvest. They are all martyred.

7:9,14 **Heavenly view** A countless multitude is born again during the great tribulation..

Chapter 8 Heavenly view through v. 6, then Earthly view through v. 13

8:1 SEAL 7 Authorizes the beginning of the 70th 7 (Tribulation period)

8:7 1st TRUMP Begins the tribulation with nuclear war (Eze 38:22 and 39:6)

8:8 2nd TRUMP Seems to be a huge asteroid hitting the ocean—1/3 of ships destroyed.

8:10-11 3rd TRUMP Large satellite with dirty H-bomb contaminates 1/3 of rivers with its fallout. Burning lamp is its re-entry trail. Asia has 1/3 of Earth’s fresh water. Judgment points to Asia.

8:12 4th TRUMP ¼ of Earth’s natural light is smitten. There is a large cloud of debris circling the earth blotting out the sun for 4 hours and the moon and stars for 4 hours.

8:13 3 woes are pronounced, one for each of the 5th, 6th and 7th TRUMPET judgments.

Chapter 9 Earthly view

9:1 5th TRUMP This is the same angel who binds Satan in 20:1. The Pit is opened to 2-way traffic for first time since creation.

9:3-11 1st WOE Locusts are demons sent to torture men for 5 months.

9:13-15 6th TRUMP The 6th angel looses the 4 demon spirits bound in the Euphrates River.

9:16 The army is 200 million. Only China has a militia of over 200 million.

9:17 The army's colors are red, blue, and yellow, which have been China's colors for centuries. The horses are tanks (horsepower), their mouths are cannons.

9:18,20 2nd WOE The Chinese tank corps kills 1/3 of humanity. War takes place in Asia which has 60 percent of the world's people. It is the only place where idol worship is open and blatant in big cities.

9:19 The tails are towed artillery pieces with muzzle brakes (heads) firing nuclear shells.

Chapter 10 Earthly view, but Parenthetic

10:5-7 The angel's purpose is to announce no further delay, but the finish of God's mystery (Tribulation) when the 7th angel sounds his trumpet.

10:9-10 The little scroll is the list of final judgments of the last 3 ½ year great tribulation.

Chapter 11 Heavenly view of things to come during last 3 ½ years of tribulation

11:1 The Jewish 3rd temple is already built. The Court of the Gentiles is where the Dome of the Rock currently stands.

11:4-7 The 2 witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, whose mortal bodies can be killed. They feed the believing Jewish remnant with spiritual food (See Zech 4:14).

11:15 7th TRUMP Authorizes the great tribulation (last 3 ½ years) to begin.

Chapter 12 Heavenly view---flashback through v. 6

12:1-6 The woman is Israel, the dragon is Satan, the stars of heaven are angels, the male child is the Messiah (Jesus), the child "caught up" is the Body of Christ—the Church, 1260 days represent the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation time. (This is also Joseph's dream of Gen 37:9-10)

12:7-8 The "movie" ends, and real events begin. Satan and his angels no longer have access to God's heaven, but are cast out to the Earth; no longer can they rise to the 1st or 2nd heavens, but must stay on the surface of the Earth. This is future to us.

12:12 The devil is cast down to Earth with great wrath for the great tribulation of 3 ½ years.

12:13 3rd WOE Satan is cast down to the earth and is "grounded." He begins a great persecution of Israel. The last 3 ½ years of tribulation begin.

12:17 Israel has had the testimony of Jesus since the failed Russian/Arab invasion during the 1st 3 ½ years of tribulation (See Eze 39:22).

Chapter 13 Earthly view

13:1 The sea represents the unorganized mass of wicked humanity. The Beast is like that of 17:3. On his heads is the name of blasphemy, "I am God."

13:3,14 One head had a deadly wound by a sword (long dagger) and it was healed.

13:4 Satan masquerades as God, the Beast as Jesus, the false prophet as the Holy Spirit.

13:11 The earth refers to the land of Israel. The Bible uses "land" symbolically this way. The 2 uncrowned horns represent religious power: Apostate Christianity and Islam.

13:17 All commerce is tied to the Beast's: Mark, name, and number of his name, X ξ ζ .

These symbols represent the number 666 with Greek letters meaning:

- X = the Greek letter “chi” meaning the number 600
- ξ = the Greek letter “ksi” meaning the number 60
- ζ = the obsolete Greek letter “stigma” meaning the number 6.

Chapter 14 Heavenly view

14:1 Mt. Zion is in heaven, and all 144,000 Jewish evangelists have been martyred.

14:16-20 The 1st angel reaps the Earth’s fruit, which are believers during the great tribulation. The 3rd angel reaps the vine of Armageddon, which are the armies of the Earth against God. Their blood flows in a river 6 feet deep and 182 miles long.

Chapter 15 Heavenly view

15:1 These are the 7 last plagues of the wrath of God.

15:5-6 This is the real temple in heaven that the tabernacle of Moses was patterned after.

Chapter 16 Earthly view

16:1 God authorizes the beginning of the 7 bowl judgments.

16:2 1st BOWL This is a painful sore on those who had the mark of the Beast. It could be a sore from an injected microchip whose lithium battery leaked.

16:3 2nd BOWL The sea became like the blood of a dead man (no oxygen). Everything in the sea dies. This is happening today worldwide because of oxygen-eating algae in the world’s seas at the mouth of every major river.

16:4 3rd BOWL Rivers and springs become blood.

16:8-9 4th BOWL The sun scorches men. Maybe Earth’s orbit comes too close to the sun (See Isa 13:13-14 where Earth’s orbit changes).

16:10 5th BOWL Darkness and pain is poured upon Rome and the revived Roman Empire.

16:12 6th BOWL The Euphrates River is dried up so the Chinese army and other oriental armies can cross. This is accomplished by shutting the 5 dams in Turkey which control 89 percent of the flow of the Euphrates.

16:14,16 Demon spirits draw human armies to Armageddon to fight the armies of Jesus (See Joel 3 and Zech 14).

16:17 7th BOWL A great earthquake occurs accompanied by 100 lb hailstones. The great tribulation ends.

16:19 Babylon (Rome) gets the fiery destruction outlined in ch. 18. Jerusalem splits into 3 parts because of the earthquake.

Chapter 17 Heavenly view. Flashback with ch. 18 to 16:19

The angel explains to John the meaning of Babylon and the person of the Beast.

17:18 The woman (harlot) is the city of Rome, which “*reigns over the kings of the earth.*”

17:8-11 The Beast:

1. A resurrected man whose spirit ascends out of the pit of hell
2. Since the woman is Rome which lies on 7 hills, and since the 7 kings are associated with 7 mountains, they are 7 kings of Rome.
3. He is 1 of 5 former kings of Rome, and will be the 8th king.

Characteristics of the Beast:

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 1. Has the name of blasphemy on his head (I am God). | Rev 13:1 |
| | 2. Brought Rome to be the dominant world power. | Rev 17:3,18 |
| | 3. Was killed by a sword (long dagger) | Rev 13:14 |
| | 4. Is well known by the whole civilized world. | Rev 13:3, 17:8 |
| | 5. Was a great orator. | Dan 7:8,25 |
| | 6. Knew how to change the time (calendar) and the laws | Dan 7:25 |
| | 7. Was a great military leader | Rev 13:7, Dan 7:21 |
| | 8. The number of his name is 666, meaning X ξ ζ .
(The ζ symbol means “stigma,” a pricking given
to a slave to show ownership. Injected microchip?) | Rev 13:17-18 |
| 17:12 | The 10 horns look like 10 nations from the European Union. | |
| 17:16 | The harlot is burned with fire with the agreement of the 10 nations (See ch. 18). | |

Chapter 18 Heavenly view**The destruction of Babylon (Rome). Flashback with ch. 17.**

18:4 God calls His people out of Rome before it is destroyed.

18:8,10 Rome’s plagues are death, mourning, famine, and burning which shall come in 1 hour at the hands of the 10 kings of the revived Roman Empire. Nuclear destruction?

18:17-18 “Babylon” is near the seacoast, because the sailors see the smoke of its burning from the sea. This eliminates the real Babylon from consideration, because it is 300 miles from the coast.

18:3,23 The wine of the wrath of her fornication is her sorceries (pharmakeia) or drugs. Rome has become the drug distribution capital of the Earth, thanks to the Mafia.

Chapter 19 Heavenly view to v. 11, and then Earthly view through v. 21

19:7-8 This is the marriage supper of the Lamb with His wife the Church in the New Jerusalem. It is the inauguration of the Kingdom mentioned in Dan. 7:14.

19:11 This begins the 2nd Coming of Jesus. His clothing is dipped in the blood of the wicked from the land of Edom (Bozrah) in Isa 63:1-4.

19:20 The beast and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire, and are still there 1000 years later, after the Millennium, as seen in 20:10.

Chapter 20 Earthly view. The Millennium begins.

20:2-3 Satan is bound with a chain, locked in the pit of hell, which is sealed for 1000 years.

20:4-6 These are martyrs from the tribulation and everyone having a part in the 1st resurrection, including Old Testament saints.

20:5 The resurrection of the wicked dead will be after the Millennium

20:9-10 This is the final revolt of man against God. Satan is cast into the lake of fire and will be tormented there forever.

20:11-15 The Great White Throne judgment is for the wicked dead only. Death and Hell are doubtless the evil spirits that had the power over death and hell until Jesus’ resurrection.

Chapter 21 The exterior of the New Jerusalem

21:3 God will live in the New Jerusalem with His people.

21:12-14 The 12 gates represent the 12 tribes of Israel; 12 foundations represent the 12 apostles as fore-runners of the Church.

21:16 New Jerusalem's length, width, and height are 1364 miles each. It is perhaps a cube or a pyramid. It could be a satellite of the new Earth. The dimension is more than the western coast of the US.

Chapter 22 The interior of the New Jerusalem

22:1 The river of life comes from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

22:2 The Tree of Life is here. Eating its fruit gives eternal life. Its leaves heal the soul.

22:12 This speaks of the BEMA (reward) judgment to occur just after the Parousia (rapture).

End of Revelation