



Revelation Basics

**A Chapter-by-Chapter
Bible Study Guide**

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study Guide

Read a chapter in Revelation from your Bible and then review the following notes for that chapter.

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Notes are based on his book:

In the End... Jesus

**A Layman's Guide that Demystifies the
Apocalypse and End-Time Prophecy**

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Overview

Author: Apostle John, the brother of James, son of Zebedee, commercial fisherman, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

Location: John was a prisoner on the Island of Patmos; off the coast of Asia Minor (present day Turkey), about 50 miles west of Ephesus.

When Written: About 96 AD, when John was 85+ years old, about 70 years after Jesus' resurrection.

Timeframe Covered: Focus is primarily on the 2000 years from Christ's resurrection until His return. However, some visions cover from before the world began (angelic war in Heaven led by Lucifer against God) to the reign of Jesus and God in the New Jerusalem.

Writing Style: Apocalyptic – prophetic writing style of God that is not recorded in chronological order and includes vague symbols, mysterious wild animals, and coded numbers and timelines.

Purpose: Revelation is a love letter of hope and encouragement from Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Church to his bride (Christ followers). Jesus wants his followers to know that although they are enduring hardship and persecution for His sake, one day soon He will call those who are faithful to meet Him in Heaven for the wedding banquet, and then they will live happily ever after with Him in the New Jerusalem.

Chapter 1: Jesus Visits John on Patmos

Timeframe Covered: About 96 AD when John is a prisoner on Patmos.

God allows John to receive an apocalypse (Greek for revelation) about Jesus Christ to pass on to His followers. Jesus appears to John and begins this

revelation by instructing John to write a letter to 7 (implies completeness) churches, and to those who are God's priests (humans who serve as the temple of the Holy Spirit) whose sins are washed clean by Jesus' blood. One day Jesus, who describes Himself as both Alpha and Omega (beginning and the end), will return to earth.

John explains to the churches that he is currently a prisoner on Patmos due to preaching the testimony of Jesus. One Sabbath, he hears a loud voice who tells him to write to the 7 churches. He turns to see Jesus standing among 7 lampstands (church's light of truth) wearing priestly garb with a bright glow around him.

His eyes are flames of fire and His feet are refined brass. In His right (righteous) hand He held 7 stars (leaders of the church) and a sword (of truth) in His mouth.

John fell down at the sight but Jesus touches him and says, "Don't be afraid." John is commanded to write what he is about to see and hear.

Chapter 2: Jesus Gives Letters to Churches 1 through 4

Timeframe Covered: About 96 AD when John is a prisoner on Patmos.

Church #1 (holy, pure, godly): Ephesus (31 – 100 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from Him (Jesus) who holds the stars (leaders) of the 7 lampstands (churches) in his right hand: You are doing good deeds and evaluating your leaders against the truth. But you don't love me as you first did. Repent or I will remove your lampstand (church). But at least you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans (who preached grace without law). To those who overcome (evil temptations), you will eat from the Tree of Life (live forever) in God's Paradise.

Church #2 (division, contrast): Smyrna (100 – 313 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from the First and Last (another description for Jesus) who died and came back to life: I know of your works and tribulations, and of those false teachers who deceive you. Do not fear testing and persecution. Remain faithful and I will give you the crown of life (eternal reward) and those who overcome temptation will not be hurt by the 2nd (spiritual) death.

Church #3 (spiritual): Pergamos (313 – 538 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from Him with the 2-edged sword (true Word): I know you live where Satan's throne (chair-shaped altar to Zeus/Jupiter) is; yet you remain faithful even though some of My followers have been martyred. But some of you eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality, and some agree with the Nicolaitan's teachings to no longer follow the law. Repent or I will fight against you with the Truth. To those who overcome temptation, I will give hidden (in Heaven) manna (bread of life) to eat and a white stone (new body) with a new name.

Church #4 (related to the world): Thyatira (538 – 1798 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from the true Son of God: I know of your works, love, service, faith, and patience. But you allow that woman Jezebel (false prophetess) to seduce My followers to commit sexual immorality (marry church to state (Rome) instead of God) and eat foods sacrificed to idols. I gave her (the church) time to repent and she did not. I will make her suffer and also those who commit adultery (merge church and state) will endure great tribulation unless they repent. I will kill her children (offspring of the main church) and punish them according to their evil deeds. To those who do not follow this false doctrine, hold fast until I come. To those who overcome temptation, I will give power over the nations (rule with Christ) and also the Morning Star (meet Jesus before His return – 1st resurrection and rapture).

Chapter 3: Jesus Gives Letters to Churches 5 through 7

Timeframe Covered: About 96 AD when John is a prisoner on Patmos.

Church #5 (judgment): Sardis (1798 – 1833 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from Him who has the 7-fold (Holy) Spirit of God and the 7 stars (church leaders): I know your works are alive but your spirit is dead. Your works are not perfect (please men, not God) and you need to repent. I will come as a thief in the night when you least suspect. Some have not soiled their clothes in the world's filth (sinful ways) and they will be clothed in white (judged as righteous) and not have their name blotted from the Book of Life (fulfilled their destiny chosen for them before creation). I will advocate for them before My Father and His angels.

Church #6 (pause, reflection, examination): Philadelphia (1833 – 1844 AD)

John writes to the angel (leader) from Him who is holy and true and has the key of David that opens the door (to salvation) that no one can shut and shuts (Heaven's Temple door beginning Judgment Day) that no one can open: I know your works; you have not denied My name. I will make Satan's followers worship before your feet. Because you have persevered, you will escape the trials of the earth (7 bowls of tribulation). Hold fast to your crown (faith) and I will give you a new (holy) name and make you a pillar in the Temple of God in the New Jerusalem.

Church #7 (completeness): Laodicea (1844 – End of the Age)

John writes to the angel (leader) from the Amen (who reigns in the end), the Faithful and True Witness (of God), the Beginning of creation: I know your works are neither hot nor cold; they are lukewarm (easy) and I'll spit them out of my mouth. You think you are rich and need nothing. But you are (spiritually) wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. You need to buy my refined gold (grace), white garments (righteousness), and eye salve (discernment) so you can see (what I see) or out of love I will punish you. Repent and open the door when I knock (on your

heart). Those who overcome will sit with Me on my throne.

Chapter 4: John Visits Heaven

Timeframe Covered: Immediately after Jesus' resurrection – John arrives in Heaven and travels back in time about 70 years.

John looks up and sees a door open in Heaven and a voice (Jesus) calls him to come up and He will show him the past and the future. John's spirit arrives in Heaven's Temple. First, he sees God in jasper (white) sitting on a throne and also Jesus in sardius (red) with an emerald rainbow around the throne. The 7-fold Holy Spirit is before the throne, represented by 7 lamps. Around the main throne are 24 thrones (defined in 1 Chronicles 24) with elders (saints who are first fruits of Jesus' resurrection from Matthew 27:52) in white robes and crowns.

The floor was like transparent glass and around the throne were 4 living creatures (Seraphim) with 6 wings covered in eyes. They have 4 faces representing all creatures: lion (wild animals), ox (domestic animals), man (humans), and an eagle (birds). The creatures say praises to God day and night and the 24 elders praise as well.

Chapter 5: God Gives the Scroll to the Lamb

Timeframe Covered: Immediately after Jesus' resurrection – John arrives in Heaven and travels back in time about 70 years.

John sees God on the throne holding a scroll (deed to the earth) sealed with 7 seals. A mighty angel asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals?" John begins to weep because no one is worthy to be God's heir and restore the earth to its original perfect state – free of sin and death. One of the 24 elders tells John that the Lion (Jesus) of the tribe of Judah (line of Kings), the Root of David (linage that rules forever) has demonstrated that he is worthy to take possession of the scroll.

John sees a Lamb (Jesus) with 7 horns (complete leadership) and 7 eyes (7-fold Spirit of God) take the scroll from God's right (holy) hand. Immediately the 4

living creatures and the 24 elders fall down and sing a new song. After that song, angels numbering 10,000 x 10,000 (all of Heaven) praise Jesus. Then all creatures in the sky, on the earth, and in the sea bless Jesus. The 4 living creatures around the throne say "Amen" and the 24 elders fall down and worship.

Chapter 6: Jesus Opens Seals 1 through 6

(7 seals address what happens to Christ followers; not the world - the first 4 seals relate to earthly events and last 3 seals relate to spiritual events.)

1st Seal Timeframe: Pentecost in 31 AD through 100 AD and relates to an earthly event that happens during the 1st phase of the church (Ephesus).

John watches the Lamb (Jesus) open the 1st (holy, pure, godly) seal. One of the 4 living creatures (lion – from tribe of Judah) tells John to come and see what happens. A white (pure) horse with a rider (Holy Spirit) wearing a (athlete's) crown goes out to conquer with a bow (ornamental, made of fabric, contains Word of God).

2nd Seal Timeframe: 100-313 AD and relates to an earthly event that happens during the 2nd phase of the church (Smyrna).

Jesus opens the 2nd (division, contrast) seal and the 2nd living creature (ox – hard work, sacrifice) tells John to come and see. A red (war, evil, spilled blood) horse with a rider (Roman army wearing red uniforms) and a sword (violence, persecution, death) took peace from the earth and caused people to kill one another.

3rd Seal Timeframe: 313-538 AD and relates to an earthly event that happens during the 3rd phase of the church (Pergamos).

Jesus opens the 3rd (spiritual) seal and the 3rd living creature (man – spiritual warfare) tells John to come and see. A black (death or lack of something) horse with a rider (false teachers) has a pair of scales (corrupt commerce and justice) and a voice says "a quart of wheat or 3 quarts of barley cost a denarius (10 times normal price) but do not harm the oil (light of the Spirit) or the wine (true doctrine)."

4th Seal Timeframe: 538-1798 AD and relates to an earthly event that happens during the 4th phase of the church (Thyatira).

Jesus opens the 4th (related to the world) seal and the 4th living creature (eagle – predator) tells John to come and see. A pale (sickness, near death) horse with a rider (same as Daniel’s little horn) whose name was Death was followed by Hades (the grave). Power was given to them over ¼ of the earth (Europe) to kill with sword, hunger (due to high religious fees), death, and the beasts of the earth (other alliance armies).

5th Seal Timeframe: 1798-1833 AD and relates to a spiritual event that happens during the 5th phase of the church (Sardis).

Jesus opens the 5th (judgment) seal and John sees under the altar (on earth) the souls of those slain who were faithful. They cried with a loud voice (to be heard in heaven) “How long until you judge and avenge our death.” A white robe (purity) was given to them and they were told to rest a little while longer (not time for Christ’s return as many believed during this church phase) until the rest of the saints were killed (tested).

6th Seal Timeframe: 1833-1844 AD (end of Daniel’s 2300 year timeline prophecy that began during captivity in Babylon) and relates to a spiritual event that happens during the 6th phase of the church (Philadelphia).

Jesus opens the 6th (pause, reflection, examination) seal and John sees a great (spiritual) earthquake. The sun became black (dark days) and the moon blood red (bloodshot eyes from worry and lack of sleep). The stars of heaven (religious leaders) fell as figs (produced much fruit) shaken by a mighty wind (scattered across the land). The sky receded (angels departed Heaven’s Temple for Day of Atonement ceremony) and every mountain and island (man’s faith) was moved. Seven (all) types of men hid themselves and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from God and Jesus. For the day of His wrath has come and who can stand?”

Chapter 7: 144,000 are Sealed, Raptured Saints Give Praise

Timeframe Covered: Starts after the 6th seal is opened around 1833, begins an examination that lasts until the raptured saints arrive in Heaven.

Johns sees 4 (related to the world) angels holding back the 4 winds (of destruction) and a 5th (judgment) angel carrying the seal of God (Holy Spirit). He commands the 4 angels not to harm the land (righteous), the sea (wicked), or the trees (leaders) until God’s people (names are in the Book of Life) are sealed (receive the Holy Spirit). The number to be sealed is 144,000 and they are descendants (remnant) of the 12 tribes of Israel (Jacob).

From each of the 12 tribes come 12,000 people (12 = all the people of God, x1000 = spiritual time). All Jacob’s children are listed except the tribe of Dan (who turned against God. The descendants of Joseph’s oldest son, Manasseh, take Dan’s descendants place.)

After this (rapture) John sees a great multitude in Heaven from all nations too large to count that are wearing white (righteous) robes, waving palm branches, and saying praises to Jesus. One of the 24 elders explains to John that these saints came through the tribulation (during the 2000 years of persecution) and were saved by the blood of Jesus. God will now dwell among them and they will not want for anything again.

Chapter 8: Jesus Opens 7th Seal, Trumpets 1 through 4 are Sounded

Timeframe Covered: 1844 to the present and relates to a spiritual event that happens during the 7th phase of the church (Laodicea).

Jesus opens the 7th (completeness) seal and Heaven goes silent (angels leave Jesus as High Priest in Temple to perform Day of Atonement ceremony per Leviticus 16). John sees 7 angels with 7 trumpets (used during Year of Jubilee) remain and another angel (Jesus) comes to the golden (incense) altar. Jesus mixes much incense with all the saint’s prayers (for forgiveness) and a pleasing smoke ascends before God (forgives their sins).

Jesus then takes fire from the altar, puts it in a golden censer, and hurls it toward earth. The 7 angels prepare to sound their trumpets (one at a time). (7 trumpets address what happens to Christ followers; not the entire world - the first 4 trumpets relate to earthly events and last 3 trumpets relate to spiritual events.)

1st Trumpet: Fire and Hail (earthly event)

The 1st (holy, pure, godly) angel sounds his trumpet. Hail and fire (army) mingled with blood (killing) were thrown to the earth and 1/3 of the trees (leaders) were burned up and all the green grass (God's people associated with these leaders).

2nd Trumpet: Fiery Mountain Falls into Sea (earthly event)

The 2nd (division, contrast) angel sounds his trumpet. Something like a great mountain (powerful kingdom) was thrown into the sea and 1/3 of the sea turned to blood, 1/3 of sea creatures died, and 1/3 of ships were destroyed.

3rd Trumpet: Burning Star Falls (earthly event)

The 3rd (something spiritual) angel sounds his trumpet. A great star named Wormwood (evil, bitter ruler) fell from Heaven and landed on 1/3 of the fresh (living) water sources and many (Christ followers) died.

4th Trumpet: Sun, Moon, and Stars Go Dark (earthly event)

The 4th (related to the world) angel sounds his trumpet. And 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars (bearers of Christ's light) go dark (die).

1st (holy, pure, godly) angel of woe travels the world warning everyone to repent before the next 3 trumpets sound.

Chapter 9: Trumpets 5 and 6 are Sounded

Timeframe Covered: 1844 to the present and relates to the 7th phase of the church (Laodicea).

5th Trumpet: Demons Released from Bottomless Pit (spiritual event)

The 5th (judgment) angel sounds his trumpet. A fallen star (Satan) was given the key to the bottomless pit (prison (called Hell) for fallen angels since the Great Flood) and he opened it. Smoke (fallen angels) flew out like locusts (pestilence) darkening the sky and sun (truth). Scorpion-like power (sting with their tails – tell lies) was granted to them over everyone except those with the Seal of God (Holy Spirit). The fallen angels were given 5 prophetic months (150 years) to torment the people without mercy (hide God's truth).

The locusts were like battle horses (warriors) wearing golden crowns (turbans). They had the face of men (bearded), the hair of women (long) and teeth like lions (fearless). Their king (Satan's 2nd in command) named Abaddon or Apollyon (in English means Destroyer) came from the bottomless pit.

2nd (division, contrast) angel of woe warns that two more trumpets will sound before the end comes.

6th Trumpet: Release of 4 Bound Angels (spiritual event)

The 6th (pause, reflection, examination) angel sounds his trumpet. A voice from the golden altar in Heaven's Temple releases 4 bound (fallen) angels to kill 1/3 of mankind. An army of twice 10,000 times 10,000 (200 million) wearing red, blue, and yellow (priestly colors implies holy war), were riding horses (armored vehicles) that shot fire out their heads (front) and tails (back). The people who survived did not repent of (reflect or examine) their sins.

Chapter 10: Angel Gives Little Book to John

Timeframe Covered: Between the 6th and 7th Trumpet sounding.

Angel (Jesus) came from Heaven to earth and swore by Him (God) who lives forever and created heaven and earth. He is holding a little book (Daniel) and John is told not to write what he heard from Heaven and to seal the understanding of the mystery of God until the sounding of the 7th trumpet, when the mystery is finished. John is told to take the little book from Jesus and to eat it (digest what it says). At first it was sweet like honey (happy ending) but then it turns bitter (includes persecution and death for God's people under several empires).

Chapter 11: 2 Witnesses, 7th Trumpet is Sounded

Timeframe Covered: Beginning of the Thyatira church phase in 538 AD to present day (after 7th trumpet).

John is given a reed to measure (count) the Temple of God (Christ followers with the Holy Spirit) but to ignore the Gentiles (non-believers). Satan's followers will rule for 42 months (1260 prophetic days = 1260 literal years). Wearing sackcloth (time of mourning), 2 witnesses will testify during this period on behalf of God. The 2 witnesses are represented by the 2 olive trees and the 2 lampstands before God. (Zechariah 4 defines the 2 olive trees as God's Holy Spirit and the Capstone that gives grace – Jesus. The 2 lampstands are the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and Jesus – embodied in the Old and New Testament.)

When the 2 witnesses (Old and New Testament) finish their testimony (after 1260 years), the beast (Satan's followers) will kill the 2 witnesses (declare God is dead and mock the Old and New Testament). This will occur in a great city (Paris) whose spirit is like Sodom and Egypt. (Paris mocked marriage and sexual morality as did Sodom in Genesis 13. Paris is like Egypt because in 1793 the French Legislature declared there is no God, echoing the words of Pharaoh in Exodus 5 – see "The Age of Revolution" by W. H. Hutton.)

People will rejoice and party for 3½ prophetic days (3½ literal years). After this period of time God will breathe life into the 2 witnesses (after 3½ years, the French Legislature overturned the decree that God was dead) and they returned to life to witness on behalf of God again. There was a great earthquake and 1/10 of the city fell (fallout from the blasphemy caused many people to flee to other countries and left parts of the city in ruins – see "Apocalypticæ, Vol. 3" by E. B. Elliot.)

7th Trumpet: 1st Resurrection, Rapture, 7 Bowls of Wrath (spiritual event)

7th and final trumpet sounds and Heaven proclaims the kingdoms of earth belong to Christ who will reign forever and ever. The 24 elders around the throne praise God. The Temple in Heaven is opened revealing the Ark of the Covenant (implies the covenant with Jesus ends).

Chapter 12: Woman, Dragon, and the Child

Timeframe Covered: Before the world began until the end of the Dark Ages in 1798.

Woman (Hebrews) persecuted by 7-headed, red dragon (Satan) with 10 horns (rulers of the 10 divisions of the Roman Empire) and she bore a male child (Jesus) who is to rule all nations. The holy child grows up and is killed and taken to Heaven and eventually the woman flees into hiding for 1260 years (the Dark Ages).

The Devil and 1/3 of the angels in Heaven fight with Michael and God's angels for control of the universe. Satan and his followers lose and are cast to earth to reign for a short time. Jesus' blood provides salvation for His followers to overcome Satan's clutches. Satan uses the Roman army during the Dark Ages under the direction of the Pope to persecute the woman and her offspring (Christ followers).

Chapter 13: Beasts from the Sea and Earth

Timeframe Covered: 538 AD to the End of the Age.

Beast from the Sea

John sees a beast (empire – same as Daniel's little horn – the Antichrist) rising from the sea (from Gentiles) with 7 heads (of Satan) and 10 horns (rulers) wearing 10 crowns (kings) and on his head a blasphemous name (Babylon's high priest title – Pontiff Maximus). This beast has traits like the lion, bear, and leopard (empires in Daniel's vision – Babylonian, Medio-Persian, and Greek). The dragon (Satan) gave the beast his power.

One head (Italy) looked mortally wounded (removed from power) and then was healed (restored to power). The world marveled and followed the beast (in worship), thus in reality worshipped the dragon (Satan).

The beast spoke blasphemies (against God) and reigned for 42 months (1260 prophetic days = 1260 literal years). He went to war against the saints (Christ followers) of every tribe, tongue, and nation (under his control). Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life worship him.

Beast from the Earth

John sees another beast (new empire) coming from the earth (grows naturally, not by conquest) with 2 horns (rulers) that looked like a lamb (innocent) but spoke like a dragon (blasphemous). It exercises all the authority (over church and state) with the beast from the sea in his presence (work together). Together they heal the deadly wound (Italy & Germany bring beast back to power) and force those under their control (nations) to worship the Antichrist.

The new beast does mighty acts and causes fire (or bombs) to come down from heaven (sky). It uses deception (lies) and creates an image (place of worship) for the beast of the sea. It gave breath (power and a speaking platform) to the image and killed those who refused to worship. It causes all to receive a mark on their right hands or in their foreheads (seal of the beast), or his calculated (added up) number of 666, without which you could do no commerce.

Chapter 14: 3 Angels of Woe and 3 Harvests

Timeframe for Harvest of the 144,000: After the 7th Trumpet is sounded.

John looks and sees a Lamb (Jesus) standing on Mount Zion (in Jerusalem) with the 144,000 (of Hebrew descent) who have God's name in their foreheads (Seal of God). John hears a voice from Heaven (God) and the 144,000 redeemed from the earth (raptured) playing harps and singing a new song before the throne. They were virgins (blameless) who follow the Lamb (Christ followers).

Timeframe for 1st Angel of Woe: Before the 5th (judgment) Trumpet is sounded.

John sees an angel (Christ follower—Billy Graham?) flying in the midst of heaven (the sky) preaching the everlasting gospel (Good News) to all who dwell on earth. He says to worship and fear the creator of the universe and to give Him the glory, for the hour of His judgment has come.

Timeframe for 2nd Angel of Woe: Before the 6th (examination, reflection) Trumpet is sounded.

John hears another angel (Christ follower) saying, Babylon the Great (Papal Rome) is fallen. She made all the people drink the wine of her adulteries (false doctrine).

Timeframe for 3rd Angel of Woe: Before the 7th (completion) Trumpet is sounded.

John writes that a 3rd angel follows saying, if anyone (any individual) worships the beast (Antichrist) and his image and receives his mark, they shall drink the wine of the wrath of God (suffer the same consequences). They will be tormented with fire and brimstone (in the Lake of Fire) forever.

John adds that another angel says to write: "Blessed are the dead (in Christ) who die in the Lord (repent) from this time on. They may rest (in the grave) from their labors (difficultly) and their works (for Christ) will follow them" (to Heaven).

Timeframe for Wheat Harvest: After the 7th Trumpet is sounded but before Jesus returns.

John sees the Son of Man (Jesus) sitting on a cloud wearing a golden crown and carrying a sharp sickle. An angel from the Temple (in Heaven) shouts, "Thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come, for the (spring) harvest of the earth is ripe." So Jesus thrust His sickle and the earth was reaped (His followers who are resurrected and raptured join Him in the clouds – see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Timeframe for Grape Harvest: When Jesus Returns.

John writes that another angel from the Temple in Heaven carries a sharp sickle. The angel in charge of fire (to burn the earth) came out from under the altar and shouted, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the cluster of grapes (fall harvest) for they are fully ripe." The angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the grapes (wicked people) and threw them into the winepress (killing place). The grapes are trampled outside the city (where the wicked are killed) and much blood flowed.

Chapter 15: Saints Arrive in Heaven

Timeframe Covered: After the 7th Trumpet sounds but before the Bowls of Wrath are poured out on the world.

John sees 7 angels who were chosen to deliver the 7 last plagues of God's wrath for the earth. Then he sees a multitude (from the 1st resurrection and the rapture) who overcame the beast (Antichrist) standing on a sea of glass (Heaven's floor). Mingled around them is fire (Holy Spirit departs earth and escorts them to Heaven). The saints have harps and sing the song (see versus 3-4) of Moses (who saved them from physical death at the Red Sea by water) and the song of the Lamb (who saved them from spiritual death by His blood). After singing the song, John sees the tabernacle of the testimony (Holy of Holies) in the Temple in Heaven opened (implies Jesus' covenant ends).

The 7 angels clothed in white (righteous) with bands of gold (deity) come out of the Temple. One of the 4 living creatures gives each angel a bowl of wrath. The Temple fills with smoke from the glory of God (as in the days of Moses), signifying that no one could enter the Temple during the 7 plagues to ask God for mercy or forgiveness.

Chapter 16: 7 Bowls of Wrath

Timeframe Covered: After 7th Trumpet sounds and before Jesus returns – according to Revelation 18:8 they last for one prophetic day (literal year).

John hears an angel from the Temple commanding the 7 angels with bowls to pour out the wrath of God (plagues) upon the earth.

1st Bowl: Painful Sores (earthly event)

The 1st angel pours out his bowl upon the earth and the people who worship the beast (Antichrist) develop painful sores that can't be healed.

2nd Bowl: Sea Turned to Blood (earthly event)

The 2nd angel pours out his bowl upon the sea and it changes to the blood of a dead man (coagulated, lacking oxygen) and all sea creatures die.

3rd Bowl: Rivers and Fresh Water Turned to Blood (earthly event)

The 3rd angel pours out his bowl on the rivers and springs and they became like blood. The angel in charge of the waters of the earth says that God is righteous and has judged the people fairly because

they shed the blood of saints and prophets. Another angel witnesses from the altar in the Temple and confirms what God is doing is righteous.

4th Bowl: Sun Scorches and Burns Earth (earthly event)

The 4th angel pours out his bowl on the sun and the people on earth are scorched with heat and fire. The people blaspheme God and do not repent.

5th Bowl: Kingdom of the Beast is Judged (spiritual event)

The 5th angel pours out his bowl on the throne of the beast (Antichrist) and the kingdom fills with darkness (false doctrine) and they gnaw their tongues (blame others) because of their pain. They blaspheme God and do not repent.

6th Bowl: Euphrates Dries (spiritual event)

The 6th angel pours out his bowl on the Euphrates River (source of power) and its water dries up (loses power and might) preparing the way for the king from the east (Jesus). Three unclean spirits (demons) come out of the mouths of the dragon (Satan), the beast (Antichrist), and the False Prophet. The evil spirits rally people to fight against God at a place called Armageddon.

7th Bowl: Giant Earthquake and Hailstorm (spiritual event)

The 7th angel pours out his bowl into the air and a loud voice from the Temple shouts, "It is done!" And there is a mighty (spiritual) earthquake on the earth. The great city (Rome) was divided into 3 parts (leaderships). Then the islands (groups) fled and mountains (kingdoms) were not found (hid). Great hail weighing a talent (about 100 pounds) falls on the people and they blaspheme God.

Chapter 17: Scarlet Woman on the Scarlet Beast

Timeframe Covered: After the French Revolution removes the Pope from power.

John is taken into the wilderness (away from Heaven) by one of the angels that have the 7 bowls. John is shown the judgment of the adulterous woman (Antichrist). She is sitting on a scarlet beast with 7

heads and 10 horns covered with blasphemous names. She wears a robe of purple and scarlet and has many jewels and carries a golden cup filled with sins. On her head is the name Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots (offspring churches). She was drunk with the blood of the saints (killed without a guilty conscience).

John is amazed at who the woman (Antichrist) is. The angel explains that the beast was (ruled), was not (removed from power), and will ascend from death (put back in power) and go to perdition (rule until the end). The 7 heads are 7 mountains that the woman (Papal Rome) sits on. There have been 7 kings (that ruled over God's people); 5 have fallen (Babylon, Medio- Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, Papal Rome), one is (France), and the other (Italy and Germany) are yet to come, but will only be in power a short time. The 8th beast (Papal Rome) was, is not, and is again (after World War II), will go to perdition.

The angel continues to explain. The 10 horns are 10 kings with no kingdom (European nations, not empires) who rule with authority in cooperation with the beast (Papal Rome). They (the state) give power and authority to the beast (church). They are against the Lamb (Jesus) but He will overcome them; and those who follow Him instead are called chosen and faithful. The waters (people) where the harlot sits (controls) are people of every nation and language. Eventually the 10 horns (nations) will hate the harlot and reject her (the French Revolution removed the Pope from power). God allows these things to happen. The woman is the great city (Rome) that rules over the kings of the earth (John's known world).

Chapter 18: 2 Angels of Woe, Babylon Falls

Timeframe Covered: Before the 6th Trumpet is sounded.

John sees the 2nd Angel of Woe descend from Heaven to earth and say with a loud voice: Babylon the Great (Papal Rome) has fallen and become the home of demons. The nations have believed her lies and were "in bed" with her and have grown rich by endorsing her.

John then sees the 3rd Angel of Woe saying: Christ followers need to leave Babylon the Great or you will be caught up in her punishment. Her sins are exceedingly great and she will be punished twice as much as the people she has punished. She lived as a queen with a husband (the state) who thought her reign had no end. But she will be tormented with plagues (7 bowls of wrath) for one day (year) and then destroyed by fire.

The nations that conspired with Babylon the Great will cry from a distance when they see her in ruins. The merchants that sold her goods and became rich because of it will mourn and lament that their golden goose is dead.

John writes that Heaven, on the other hand, rejoices for God's people have been avenged. Then an angel (Jesus) throws a great stone (kingdom) into the sea (Lake of Fire) and says: The great city of Babylon shall not be found ever again. No more will music play, or craftsmen work, or lights brighten the streets, or couples get married. Your sorcery that deceived the nations and your killing of prophets and saints is over.

Chapter 19: Heaven Rejoices, Jesus Returns

Timeframe Covered: After the 7th Bowl of Wrath is poured out.

John hears the shouts of a large multitude (resurrected and raptured saints) praising God saying: He has judged the harlot and punished her. The 24 elders and the 4 living creatures around the throne fall down and worship God and shout "Amen".

A voice from the throne (Jesus) says: "Praise our God." The multitude responds and claims that the time for the wife of the Lamb (Christ followers) to be married has come. The saints are dressed in fine, clean linen. John is told to write: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"

John falls at the feet of the angel and is scolded and told only to bow and worship God. John then writes he sees a new scene in Heaven. A rider on a white horse called Faithful and True (Jesus) comes to judge and make war on the earth. He is given a new name that no one knows and wears a robe dipped in blood and written on His robe and thigh is "King of Kings

and Lord of Lords.” An army comprised of His (resurrected and raptured) saints follows Him on white horses.

Another angel calls the birds of the air to gather and feast on the people about to be killed. The beast (Antichrist), kings of the earth, and their armies were prepared for war against Christ and His followers. The beast and false prophet were captured and cast into the Lake of Fire. The rest of their followers were killed with the sword of Jesus and the birds gorged themselves on the fallen flesh. (A remnant of new Christ followers lives to repopulate the earth – see Isaiah 24:6.)

Chapter 20: Satan Punished, 2 Judgments

Timeframe Covered: After Jesus returns until the end of the 2nd Judgment.

John sees an angel from Heaven with a great chain and key to the bottomless pit (Hell). Satan (also called the dragon and the Devil) is cast into the bottomless pit and it is chained and sealed. Satan serves 1000 years in Hell and then is to be released.

John then sees a room with the saints on thrones with authority to judge. The souls of the martyred saints are judged as righteous and allowed to reign with Christ during the 1000 years. This is the judgment scene after the 1st resurrection over which the 2nd (spiritual) death has no power. All the saints serve as priests of God and of Christ.

After the 1000 years ends, Satan is released from the bottomless pit. He deceives the people that have repopulated the earth during his absence. Their number is as great as the sands on the sea. Satan leads a battle against God and surrounds the saints loyal to Jesus. God sends fire down from Heaven and kills them. Then Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire along with the beast and false prophet, where they are tormented forever.

Next John witnesses a great white room with God on the throne. The dead on earth were resurrected (2nd resurrection) and stand before God. The Book of Life (listing God’s chosen people) is opened along with books of deeds. The people were judged according to their deeds (for many had refused grace). Death and

Hades (the grave) are cast into the Lake of Fire, which is the 2nd (spiritual) death along with the people whose names were not in the Book of Life.

Chapter 21: New Jerusalem

Timeframe Covered: After the 2nd Judgment.

John sees a vision of a new Heaven and a new earth (spiritually and perhaps physically). The old ones have passed away (sin and death are no more), and there was no sea (that divides and destroys).

John records a new holy city, named the New Jerusalem, descends from Heaven to the new earth. The city was prepared by God, like a bride for her husband. A voice from Heaven states that the Temple of God now resides with the saints. God will dwell with them and there will be no more sorrow or death. Those who overcame the temptations of the old earth will be God’s son and He will be their God. Those who did not overcome will experience a 2nd death in the Lake of Fire.

One of the angels that poured out the 7 bowls takes John out of Heaven to see the bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem. The new city shone brightly like a new crystal diamond and had high walls with 12 gates, 3 on each side, and each was made from a single pearl. Angels guarded the 12 gates and each gate was named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

John was told to measure the city that was laid out in a square. The length, width, and height were all equal like a cube. He measured 12,000 furlongs. The city walls had 12 foundations named after each apostle of Jesus. Each foundation was adorned with a different type of precious gem. The height of the wall was 144 cubits and it was like jasper (diamond) and the city was pure gold like transparent glass.

The city contained no Temple because God and Jesus is its Temple. They are its light and there is no need for a sun or moon for this new earth. The city gates are never closed for there is no night (or need for protection). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life can enter.

Chapter 22: River of Life, Final Words

Timeframe Covered: After the New Jerusalem descends from Heaven.

The angel shows John the River of Life that originates from the throne of God in the New Jerusalem. The river flows in the middle (median) of the street with the Tree of Life growing on both banks. Each tree produces 12 fruits every month. The leaves of the trees provide healing. The saints serve God and Jesus and can see His face (without dying) and His name is in their forehead. There are no lamps because God gives all the light needed forever.

The angel tells John that all he saw and heard in these visions is true and for John to tell all Christ followers what will happen in the future. John is scolded when

he falls down to worship the angel. He is told to only bow and worship God. John is told not to seal up this book because time is short. Jesus will reward everyone according to his works. We are to do His commandments so that we can enter the gates of the New Jerusalem and have access to the Tree of Life.

Jesus tells John, "I have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches." He adds that anyone who is thirsty, come and drink the water of life.

John ends the letter with a warning that anyone who adds to or takes away from the words of this book, God will subject him to the plagues in this book and deny him access to the New Jerusalem. Jesus says, "I am coming quickly," and John answers with an "Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus."

Color & Object Symbolism in Bible Prophecy		
Symbol	Meaning	Example
White	Purity, victory (Revelation 7:14, Isaiah 1:18)	White robes, white light, white as snow, white as wool
Red	War, evil, spilled blood (Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 27:28, Revelation 17:1-4)	Blood red, red dragon
Black	Death, lack of something (2 Peter 2:17, Ephesians 4:18)	Black horse, black grass
Pale	Sickness, death (Jeremiah 30:6)	Pale horse, pale complexion
Blue	Law and Commandments (Numbers 15:38-39)	Blue tassels on priest robes
Purple	Royalty (Daniel 5:7, Judges 8:26, Mark 15:17)	Fine purple linen
Land	Promised Land (Exodus 1:7, Ezekiel 7:2)	Land filled with crimes of blood, sins of the land
Sea	Gentile (non-Hebrew) nations, wicked (Isaiah 57:20, Revelation 17:15)	Beast from the sea, sea turns red with blood
Animals or Beasts	Nations or kingdoms (Daniel 7:17, 23)	Beast from the sea, these great beasts are 4 kings
Heads, Horns, or Stars	Rulers or Kings (Revelation 1:20, Revelation 17:12)	7 heads, 10 horns, 12 stars
Forehead	Mind (Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Ezekiel 3:8-9, Romans 7:25)	Forehead against their forehead
Hand	Actions/deeds (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Isaiah 59:6)	Violence in their hands
Dragon	Satan or his empire representative (Revelation 12:7-9, Isaiah 27:1, 30:6, Job 41, Ezekiel 29:3, Jeremiah 51:34)	Great dragon
Serpent	Satan (Revelation 12:9, 20:2)	That Serpent of old, called Satan

Number Symbolism in Bible Prophecy		
Number	Meaning	Example
1	Holy, pure, godly (Ephesians 4:4-6, John 17:21-22)	1 Lord, 1 faith, 1 baptism
2	A division, a contrast, or parties in a covenant (Hebrews 4:12, Mark 6:7, Revelation 11:3)	2 tablets of laws, 2 witnesses, 2 Bible Testaments, 2 angels on Ark of Covenant
3	Something spiritual (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 28:19, 1 John 5:7-8)	Father, Son, & Holy Spirit; Glory, Honor, & Power
3½	Half of 7 (half complete), time given to bear fruit, or time evil is allowed to run its course or is tested (Daniel 7:25 12:7, Revelation 11:9-11)	Reign for half a "week"; See their dead bodies 3½ days
4	Omnipresence, related to the created order of the world (Matthew 24:31, Revelation 7:1, 20:8, Acts 10:11)	4 beastly kingdoms, 4 winds, 4 corners of the earth
5	Judgment (Joshua 10:22-26, 1 Samuel 6:4, 17:40, Matthew 25:1-2, 2 Corinthians 11:24, Revelation 9:5)	Great Flood lasted 5 months, Locus sting for 5 months, 5 th trumpet sounds on Day of Judgment
6	A pause, reflection, or examination in time (Genesis 1:31, Luke 23:44, John 4:6)	God created the earth in 6 days and rested the 7 th , An interlude after the 6 th seal before the 7 th seal empowers the 7 trumpets
7	The perfect number representing completeness (Genesis 2:1, Psalms 119:164, Revelation 1:4)	7-fold Holy Spirit, 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 days
10	Totality, inclusiveness (Daniel 7:24, Matthew 25:1, Luke 15:8)	10 Commandments, 10 horns, 10 virgins
12	The people of God (Genesis 49:28, 1 Kings 18:31, Revelation 21:14, 21)	12 disciples, 12 stars, 12 tribes of Israel
X10	Person's time (Exodus 24:18, Numbers 14:34, 1 Kings 11:42, Psalm 90:10, 2 Chronicles 36:21, Isaiah 23:17, Jeremiah 25:11, Matthew 4:2)	40 days (4x10 = total time of worldly task), 70 years in a generation (7x10 = total, complete life)
X100	Nation's time (Genesis 15:13, Acts 7:6)	(4x100) 400 years nation is captive to the world in Egypt, (7x7x100) 490 years for Israel to repent
X1000	Spiritual Time (Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8, Revelation 20:2-4)	1000 year millennium reign of Christ, God's day = 1000 human years
Squared	Freedom for God's people (Leviticus 25:8-13)	Jubilee (7x7)
Cubed	Spiritual (Revelation 21:16)	New Jerusalem has equal length, width, and height

Reference: Symbols in Bible Prophecy, www.teachinghearts.org/dre00symbols.html

To learn more about Revelation, go to www.InTheEndJesus.com.

In the End... Jesus: A Layman's Guide that Demystifies the Apocalypse and End-Time Prophecy

By James T. Martin

496 pages, Paperback List Price: \$24.95 US, eBook List Price: \$9.99 US

The end is near! Signs, books, and movies predict it. What do the scriptures say about end-times? How can we decipher the clues written about wild beasts, vague symbols, false teachers, and mysterious timelines?

In the beginning, God created the universe. 2000 years ago He handed the deed of the earth to His Son. **In the End, Jesus** will return to reign over the world as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. What happens in between? This 496-page book digs into the Old and New Testament and demystifies the apocalyptic writing in the book of Revelation. Nearly 200 bibliographic sources and over 1700 scripture references help to explain the end-time prophecies and when they occur. The inclusion of about 50 tables and 25 photos amplify the information to stimulate thinking and reasoning.

Perhaps you have nibbled at Revelation and other prophecy books in the past but came away with more questions than answers. Would you like to sink your teeth into the meat of scripture and understand its meaning? If so, this book is for you!

You may have read the Bible and attended several studies on the scriptures, if so; you can expect reading this book to take your faith deeper into the mysteries of apocalyptic literature, which is how God speaks to His prophets. But if you did not attend Sunday School growing up, or haven't read all of the Bible, or just never understood this God "thing," this book will help reveal the meaning of key Bible stories and parables so they become surprising clear.

Most readers stop every few chapters to absorb and think about what they have read. The depth of the truth is often overwhelming as the scales fall from our eyes and as we begin to realize the deception that Satan uses. As the clues are put together, the revelation of the Antichrist, False Prophet, and other forces that have been around for hundreds of years may shock you!

The battle of good and evil has been fought for many years and we are merely pawns in that fight. After reading this book you will better understand the 6000-year history of God's people and their role for millions of years to come.

We are called to be the bride of Christ. Are we living our life with that as our focus and preparing for the wedding banquet in Heaven? After reading this book, your relationship with Jesus will likely change and you will want to share this new understanding with others. Persevere to the end of this book and then consider reading it a second or third time. Each time you will grow deeper and understand the mysteries of God better. You will likely want to keep this book in your reference library and go back to it year after year as you do further study. By doing so you will better understand the details of how **In the End, Jesus** and His Father will walk among us in the New Jerusalem.