Revelation

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testified everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads the prophecy of this book and those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Greetings and Doxology

was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like the Son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing water. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. 17 He had a message in his mouth and a sharp two-edged sword, and his body and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. 18 He also had eyes like blazing fire.

19 Then the angel said to me, “Write: These are the words of eternal life, which the Lord, the Holy One, has given to his servant.”

20 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. Amen.

21 The grace of the Lord, the Holy One, be with all who live in Asia. Amen.
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Tone of the book
  • Prophetic (Apocalyptic)
    • Warnings
    • Scenes of what is to come
  • Worshipful
  • Reverent
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• 1:1-3
  • Revelation from God to Jesus to an Angel to John
  • Great blessing for those who read it, hear it, and understand it
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• 1:4-8
  • Statements on Trinity (Christ, the Father, 7 Spirits)
    • Who is, who was, and who is to come
    • Alpha and Omega
  • Statements on our role as believers
    • A kingdom and priests to serve God the Father
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

- 1:9-20
  - Description of Christ
    - Truthful, yet symbolic
    - Not to be taken as literal images, but frame our understanding of the Christ who is
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

- Chapters 2-3
  - The 7 churches
    - These represent real churches and also the fullness of “The Church”
    - Themes center on genuine worship (word and deed) of the One, True King in the face of opposition
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 4
  • The Throne in Heaven
    • Intended to give some scale of the magnitude and beauty of the location of the presence of God
    • Never describes God
    • Allows the unfathomability of God to be realized
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 5
  • The Scroll and the Lamb
    • The scroll holds the written future history of the world
    • The scroll declares the very sovereign will of God
    • Is no one worthy to open the scroll?
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 5
  • The Scroll and the Lamb
    • The slain Lamb is worthy
    • An increasing scope of worship develops (from the 24 elders to thousands upon thousands to ten thousands upon ten thousands to every creature!)
  • Ends in “Amen” and the elders falling to worship
• Chapter 6
  • The 7 seals
    • First 4 seals denote the defeating character of sin
      • Desiring for conquest, removing barriers for conquest, division and famine, fullness of sin (death)
      • We will seek what is best for us and death will be the natural end
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 6
  • The 7 seals
    • The 5\textsuperscript{th} seal moves back to heaven
      • Scene is that of the martyrs under the altar of the Sovereign Lord, Holy and True
      • Showcases God’s authority, timing, and care
Chapter 6

The 7 seals

The 6th seal moves back to earth

A complete break-up of the entire cosmic system

No one who rejects the Lamb will withstand the wrath of God
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 7
  • A break from the seals
    • Shows the multi-faceted approach of Revelation
    • Many things happening at once with many vantage points
    • When considered together there is a clearer picture
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 7
  • An acknowledgement of the care of God for His children
  • The path is difficult, but the outcome is sure
  • Shows a very real existence of the redeemed in the presence of God
REVELATION STUDY - REVIEW

• Chapter 7
  • A call for evangelism
    • Compare the outcome of the redeemed
      • White robes, palm branches, presence of God
    • With the outcome for those who deny Christ
      • Destruction, calling for rocks to crush them
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal
  • Reminder - “7” represents divine completion
  • The 7th item of each of the sets of events throughout Revelation represents the closing act of Christ
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal
  • Silence in Heaven
    • Contrast this act from all the sounds of worship
    • Now deafening silence
    • Habakkuk 2:20
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal
  • Silence in Heaven
    • Habakkuk 2:20
      • The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him.
      • Worship includes reverential silence in awe of God, speechless before Him
CHAPTER 8

- The 7th Seal
  - Verse 2 is an introduction to verse 6 and beyond
  - Likely equating the events in the 6th seal to the 6 trumpets and the 7th seal to the 7th trumpet
  - All in response to the prayers of the faithful in the 5th seal
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal
  • 7 Angels and 7 Trumpets
    • Angels are warriors
    • Trumpets are war horns
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal

  • Matthew 24:31

    • And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
• The 7th Seal

• 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

• Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
• The 7th Seal

• 1 Thessalonians 4:16
  • For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
CHAPTER 8

• The 7th Seal
  • This is “The End”
  • We are looking at this event as “the end”
  • There will be multiple “the ends” throughout Revelation as John layers in new information
  • These will tell the same story more completely
CHAPTER 8

• Golden Censer
  • Censer filled with incense/prayers of the people
  • All God’s people shows the finality of this act
  • In 6:9-11, we saw the prayers of some of the martyrs, but were told their number was not yet completed
  • Here we see “all God’s people” - the end has come.
• Golden Censer
  • Incense and prayers are different in this sense vs 5:8 where they were the same
  • Intention is likely to again showcase a unity in worship between heaven and earth
CHAPTER 8

• Golden Censer
  • Heaven and earth are not 2 distinct disconnected entities, but rather a tightly knit united kingdom
  • Matt 18:18 gives us this sense of unity
CHAPTER 8

• Golden Censer
  • Altar is the same altar where the martyrs were seen
  • It is golden and in front of the throne denoting its importance and value
  • The very prayers of the saints existing on this altar is a realization of the value of our prayers
CHAPTER 8

• The Impact of the Prayers
  • They went up from the angel’s hand
  • Prayer is not a one-sided affair
  • There is very tangible, heavenly interaction with our prayers.
  • They do in fact reach God
CHAPTER 8

• The Impact of the Prayers
  • The fact that the prayers are offered on an altar symbolize the very sacrificial nature of our prayers.
  • Just as Christ’s sacrifice was displayed on this altar, so do our prayers emanate from the altar
  • Our prayers, by their very nature, must be sacrificial
CHAPTER 8

• The Impact of the Prayers
  • What do our prayers cost?
  • Are we praying that life will be easy and simple or are we praying that we will be molded to His will?
  • Are our prayers safe and guarded or are they reckless and with abandon?
CHAPTER 8

• Prayers Turned to Judgement
  • Prayers were for intercession, now become the impetus for judgement
  • Prayers of saints represent a necessary part of the final judgement of God.
CHAPTER 8

• Prayers Turned to Judgement
  • Peals of thunder, rumblings and flashes of lightning were descriptions of the voice of God
  • God’s voice brings action.
  • He spoke the world into existence
  • Now He speaks His judgement
CHAPTER 8

• Thomas Torrance – The Apocalypse Today
  • What are the real master-powers behind the world and what are the deeper secrets of our destiny? Here is the astonishing answer:
The prayer of the saints and the fire of God. That means that more potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else, is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth