

New Testament Overview

Revelation

(Rv 1:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons covering the "New Testament Overview."
 - a. We have overviewed Matthew through Jude.
 - b. Today we will look at the book of Revelation.
3. Some misconceptions about the book.
 - a. That it is hard to understand.
 - i. Douglas wrote, "One of the least read and most difficult."
 - ii. One person wrote, " The book of Revelation is one of the most difficult books in the Bible." (<http://goo.gl/kA8Rn>)
 - b. That it cannot be understood.
 - i. This illustration is given some times to express this idea, "A soldier far from home in the army received a letter from his father that seemed to be very important. But his father had so filled it with metaphors and figures of speech that the soldier, for all he tried, could not figure out what his father was trying to say. After pondering it for some time, he gave up, put the letter in his duffel bag, and said to himself, 'I'll just have to wait until I get home and ask my father what he meant.'" (<http://goo.gl/R9fui>)
 - c. That it deals primarily, if not completely, with the second coming of Christ.
 - i. "As the New Testament opens with the four Gospels relating to the first coming of Christ, so the Book of Revelation closes the New Testament with the general theme of the second coming of Christ." (Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). Vol. 2: The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures (925). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.)
 - ii. "The focus of Revelation clearly falls upon the future coming of Christ. His coming will defeat the powers of Satan, those evil forces that oppress the people of God." (Sloan, R. B. (1998). The Revelation. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), Holman concise Bible commentary: Simple, straightforward commentary on every book of the Bible (D. S. Dockery, Ed.) (662). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)
4. Let us examine this great and wonderfully uplifting book.

I. History

- A. Date of the book
 1. Early date: 64 – 68 AD
 - i. Nero was emperor at this time.
 2. Late date: 95 – 96 AD
 - i. Domitian was emperor at this time.
 3. Both dates are a possibility however the late date seems to make the most sense since considering all the evidence.

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- B. Author of the book
 - 1. Just about everybody attributes it to the apostle John.
 - i. **Rv 1:4**
 - ii. Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, Origen...
 - 2. John was living in exile in Patmos, a prison island, where he received the revelation.
 - i. **Rv 1:9**
- C. The uniqueness of the book
 - 1. It is an apocalyptic book, mean revealed through symbols.
 - i. The Greek word for revelation is apocalypse.
 - 2. Apocalyptic literature was very popular from about 200 BC to 200 AD.
 - i. Thus both the Jews and the Christians would have been very familiar with it.
 - 3. Because of its apocalyptic nature and it being so different from the other books of the Bible, for the most part, it is often misunderstood.
 - i. Some books have this type of language but it is not as prevalent.
 - a. Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah...
 - 4. It was written this way so that the Romans would not know what it was saying.
 - i. I would not have been good to have a letter going about saying Rome would be destroyed by the God of the Christians.
- D. The four major methods or views for the book
 - 1. The Futurist method
 - i. This sees everything after chapter 3 as yet to be fulfilled or is currently starting to be fulfilled.
 - a. This is your Premillennialist or Postmillennialist...
 - 2. The Preterist method
 - i. This sees everything, or at least most everything, being fulfilled by 70 AD and the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - a. This would be your AD 70 people, and early date people.
 - 3. The Historicist method
 - i. The book provides a panoramic view of the future of the church as it goes through history. This view finds in the book such events as the rise of Catholicism, Islam, the Protestant reformation, world wars, etc., ending with the return of Christ.
 - a. This view is found in the church some but it is not very contextually accurate at all. There is too much twisting to make fit.
 - 4. The Idealist method
 - i. The book does not deal with any specific historical situation. Instead, it is simply enforcing the principle that good will ultimately triumph over evil. As such the book is applicable to any age.
 - a. This is simply out of context...it was written to the seven churches of Asia.

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5. The scriptural method would be a combination of the ideas of some of these.
 - i. The fusion of the ideas of the Preterist and Historical methods.
 - ii. In other words keeping the context of who the revelation is given to and how it would apply to them to determine meaning.
 - a. Then take the lessons from this meaning and apply them to our lives, like we do with every other book of the Bible.
- E. The message of the book
 1. It is a message of hope in a time of despair.
 2. It is a message of strength in a time of weakness.
 3. It is a message of victory in a time of apparent defeat.
- F. The theme of the book
 1. Victory of Christ
 - i. He is victorious over Satan.
 2. Victory in Christ
 - i. We are victorious over Satan through Christ.

II. Outline

- A. (1-3) Seven Churches
- B. (4-7) Seven Seals
- C. (8-14) Seven Trumpets
- D. (15-22) Seven Vials or Bowls

III. Lessons Learned

- A. Christ is the victor and us through Him
 1. **Rv 19:11-13, 19-21** "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God...19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh."
 - i. Imagine this great victory...picture it in your mind.
 - a. We too can have this victory through Christ...
 2. **I Co 15:57** "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - i. We are assured victory if we continue in Christ.

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- B. Satan is no match for God
 - 1. Satan is found to be a three time looser in chapter 12.
 - i. Satan looses to Christ on earth.
 - a. **Rv 12:1-6**
 - ii. Satan looses to Christ in heaven.
 - a. **Rv 12:7-12**
 - iii. Satan looses to Christ's brothers on earth Christians.
 - a. **Rv 12:13-17**
- C. Deep dedicated study of God's Word is worth it
 - 1. The book of Revelation can seem very daunting when just simply read.
 - i. With all the symbols and things being said.
 - 2. However if we take the time to rightly divide it (**II Ti 2:15**) we will discover the wealth of encouragement that pours from it.
 - i. There is so much excitement that comes from this book.
 - 3. Notice some of the encouraging things that are taught.
 - i. Christ knows our congregation and each of our contributions.
 - a. **Rv 2-3**
 - b. Sometimes we can feel that no one is paying attention to the hard work that is being put in.
 - c. What we find is that Christ is paying attention and knows each thing we have done, no matter how large or small.
 - ii. We can overcome all things because Christ overcame all things.
 - a. **Jn 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
 - b. **Rv 21:7** "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."
 - c. **Rv 2:7** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
 - iii. Because of Christ we can have joy on earth.
 - a. **Rv 19:7** "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."
 - b. **Ro 15:3** "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
 - c. **I Jn 1:4** "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full."

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CONCLUSION

1. Henderson once explained concerning Revelation that it was, "Beautiful beyond description is the last book of the Bible, beautiful in form, in symbolism, in purpose, and in meaning."
(Notes from Ken Hopes Class on Revelation from BTSOP)
 - a. It truly is a beautiful book about hope and victory.
2. Question: Do I recognize how blessed I am to have a God who loves me so much?
 - a. If so continue there in growing daily.
 - b. If not study the facts and the substance of the scriptures rightly dividing them and you will see the great blessing it is to be a Christian again, then repent and come back to Him.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**