

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 31 (1-19) An Overview of all Previous Chapters

**Introduction:** It is so easy to become involved in the details of this book that the total message can be overlooked. This particular study will not be the normal verse by verse approach but more a review, an overview. The book of the Revelation is not a weird, strange book of the Bible. Of the 66 books of the Bible, Revelation is number 66, an apocalypse, a revealing. All "trains" come to this station. It is a message from Jesus Christ, it is a part of human history. It is real, the author is John the last living disciple, exiled on the tiny isle of Patmos and Jesus appears to John in 96 A.D. on a Sunday morning and "preached" to him what we know as the book of Revelation. Let's take a review and see what the whole message is that Jesus preached to John.

1. The reality of Jesus Christ; 2. The Church age; 3. The Church taken to heaven and during the preparation of the Church, a seven year period of time known as the Tribulation; 4. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return and win a great victory at Armageddon. The devil is chained; 5. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ; 6. The devil is released at the end to claim his own and then will be cast forever into the bottomless pit; 7. Then God sets up His eternal kingdom, we (believers) will be there forever.

Now let's go back to the Book of Revelation and look again at the chapters:

Chapter 1:1 - An unveiling concerning Jesus Christ

v3 - Blessed is he that analyzes, verse by verse

vv9-11 - Emphasis on the writer of the book, John who had been exiled to the isle of Patmos by Domitian

vv12-18 - Describes Jesus Christ on the isle of Patmos.

v19 - An outline of the book: have seen - Jesus Christ - which are - Churches - shall be - hereafter, after these ages.

Chapters 2, 3 - Seven Churches mentioned, (the perfect number), Pentecost began the Church age; the Lord turned from the Jews who rejected the Gospel to the Gentiles who would carry the Gospel to all the world. These seven Churches are small picture of the whole Church age.

- "angel" - another name for the pastor

Characteristics of those seven Churches are the same throughout the Church age - how long is the Church age? It started in 30 A.D. and it has been going since - How long? Nobody knows but God, however one can draw a line at the end of the Church age, for something very important happens. THE END OF THE CHURCH ERA - there will be no more Churches.

Chapter 4 - AFTER THIS

"door open in heaven" - Immediately in heaven - Between chapters 3 and 4, The CHURCH IS CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN. All the redeemed are taken out of the world to heaven. Believers (redeemed) are the body and bride of Jesus Christ and will return with Jesus when He returns.

Chapters 4, 5 - We have a beautiful picture of the Church in heaven.

Chapter 5 - A beautiful picture of Jesus Christ. He is worthy to pen the book. The book reveals all the mysteries of the future. In the book are the names of those who have given their lives for the cause of Christ.

HAVE HAD THE INTRODUCTION - Jesus' visit, the Church age, the Church in heaven, NOW while the Church is in heaven, seven years transpire. The great part of the book of Revelation, chapters 6 through 18 and part of 19 describe this seven years, called the Tribulation.

Chapter 6 - "come and see" - a description follows - white horse - dictator of the revived Roman Empire - dictator of earth -

- Three other horses: red is war, black is famine, pale is death. the dictator will bring war, famine and death. This is only a summary of his attempt to rule the earth. WORST TIME IN HISTORY - remember, God never allows the devil to take over completely.

Chapter 7 - Right while all this trouble is going on so is Evangelism. 144,000 Jewish evangelists and their converts will rise and preach. Moses and Elijah will rise up and preach and right at the end of time, angels will come also to preach and just before Jesus returns catastrophies of evangelism will occur.

Chapters 8, 9 - Seven trumpet judgments and judgment of the Gentiles occurs.

Chapter 10 - Remember, the Hebrew would write along and then stop and throw in a paranthesis, Chapter 10 is a paranthesis - why here? Because in the midst of all the suffering, the KINGDOM OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED.

-v3 - A mighty angel appears and proclaims the return of Jesus Christ. The devil is high during the tribulation but Jesus Christ will have the last say.

Chapter 11 - Very interesting chapter. The Old Testament studies reveal Moses and Elijah as great men of God and had been dead for centuries but they will be revived and will come to earth and preach for 3 1/2 years and there will be a fantastic ministry. All the world will have a chance to hear them and they will be protected by God, millions will hear the Gospel from these two.

Chapter 12 - The downfall of Satan is revealed to John. It looks like the devil is going to win, but here in chapter 12, an explanation of the devil's fall is given in a picture of the battle between the devil and God.

- vv8, 9 - "prevailed not" - no place found for the devil and he is cast out in the middle of the tribulation.

Chapter 13 - The Lord had two witnesses and so will the devil. Daniel throws a lot of light on this passage. The dictator of the revived Roman Empire and the dictator of the Jews are the devil's two witnesses. The world is forced to bow down and worship them. Everybody will worship images, pictures, idols, etc. The Mark of the Beast is revealed 666. The number of a man is 6 for God is 7 and man is less than God, so the truth is that the dictator is NOT GOD but a human being, a man, thus the number "6."

The Mark of the Beast is the revived Roman Empire dictator, a man, not a god.

Chapter 14 - The break begins to come, another parenthesis. The story of the angel with the everlasting Gospel. In spite of all the evil, etc., here is a breath of fresh air. vv14, 15 are about Jesus Christ, the golden crown is the crown of His authority which only Jesus has the right to rule. His sickle is for reaping and the Son of God is getting ready to come to this earth right at this time. In time for the battle of Armageddon and all believers will be coming with Him.

Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18 - Angels of judgment and its judgment for the whole earth.

Chapter 19 - Judgment is over, evil is put down and the devil is gone. The Church in heaven is being prepared as the Bride of Christ. Believers will be as perfect as Jesus Christ - the wedding of Jesus and His Bride, the body of Christ, the Church is ready to come back with Jesus Christ and rule this earth for 1,000 years.

In these last studies we are going to see these last things:

- The personal return of Jesus Christ to earth (19:11-16) to the same spot He left from. When He returns, all the enemies of God will be defeated and Jesus' reign of wonder will begin.
- Chapter 20 - The Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Some don't believe that this will be an actual reign of Jesus for 1,000 years, but look at Chapter 20, verses 2 - 7. If the Lord said six times "1000 years" don't you think that maybe there's something to it? Don't you think you might just ought to believe it? Remember Jesus had been offered the crown by Satan before...The millennium will be dealt with later.
- Chapter 21 - A place built for believers (us). A new heaven, a new earth (2 Peter) this old world burned up, all described in this chapter - and the people in it (1-7)  
The same Bible that says John 3:16 says a new heaven and earth , etc...
- Chapter 22 - A glorious picture of the kingdom of God perfected (1-2, etc).  
Revelation ends with all evil put away, all believers in a new place and dwelling there for ever.

Will YOU be a part of this everlasting kingdom? Only believers in Jesus Christ will be there.

Now is this strange or weird? Stay with us as we continue our study in this wonderful book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.