

OUTLINE FOR STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

I Main Themes Covered in the Book of Revelation:

The Unveiling of Jesus; prophetic words to the seven churches that discern their condition; history viewed from heaven's perspective; worship around the throne of God & the Lamb; the inheritance of the church received; intercessory prayer; the judgments of God released in the earth; martyrdom/the testimony of Jesus/faithfulness to the word of God; apostolic & prophetic commissioning of the church; spiritual warfare with the beast (political power), the false prophet/false prophecy, Babylon (socio-economic pressure from human culture), and the dragon (the power behind all the warfare); overcomers who get the victory by remaining faithful to the promises of God and the vision of Jesus; the kingdom of God established in the earth; the revelation of the great harlot (the false bride); the unveiling of the Bride of Christ (the true woman); the return of Christ to destroy the powers of darkness; the millennial reign of the saints who bore witness to Jesus; the judgment & the healing of the nations; the Great Throne judgment; the descent of the New Jerusalem from heaven to earth; the description of the holy city; discipleship in the midst of cosmic conflict in the earth.

II Various Interpretive Perspectives Used to Understand the Prophecy of the Book of Revelation:

- 1) Preterist: all the book of Revelation was fulfilled in 70 AD as the main topic covered is the destruction of Jerusalem.
- 2) Historicist: the book of Revelation is a progressive prophecy covering all of church history from the time of Christ to the time of His Second Coming.
- 3) Futurist: the book of Revelation from chapters 4-22 is about a period of time at the very end of human history just before the Second Coming.
- 4) Idealist: the book of Revelation is a prophetic guide for the church containing spiritual principles for the church at all times of her history.

III Fourfold Outline of the Book of Revelation revolving around the phrase "in the Spirit":

- 1) In the Spirit on Patmos on the Day of the Lord (1:9-10) = Revelation 1:1-3:22
includes the revelation/unveiling of Jesus and His evaluation of the seven churches in Asia.
- 2) In the Spirit to be transported to heaven (4:1,2) = Revelation 4:1-16:21
includes the opening of the seven seals (6:1-8:5), the blowing of the seven trumpets (8:6-11:19), and the pouring out of the seven bowls (15:1-16:21); chapters 12, 13, and 14 include the casting out of the dragon from heaven (12), the emergence of the sea and land beasts (13), and the great harvest of the saints (14).
- 3) In the Spirit in the Wilderness (17:1-3) = Revelation 17:1-21:8
includes the revelation and judgment of the great harlot/Babylon/the false bride (17:1-18:24), the revelation of the Bride of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:1-10), the revelation of Jesus from heaven to subdue the beast and the false prophet (19:11-21), the millennial reign of the saints and the final defeat of satan (20:1-10), the great white throne judgment (20:11-15), the new heaven and the new earth (21:1-8).
- 4) In the Spirit to the New Jerusalem (21:9,10) = Revelation 21:9-22:5
includes the unveiling of the New Jerusalem/the Bride of the Lamb and the city of God.

IV Longer Outline of the Book of Revelation:

- 1) The Unveiling of Jesus Christ/introduction of prophecy & theme (1:1-8).
- 2) John on Patmos in the Day of the Lord receiving an apostolic revelation of the Son of Man (1:9-20 & Isaiah 2).
- 3) The prophetic messages for the seven churches (2:1-3:22):
each message includes the address to the apostolic/prophetic leader of the church (angel), a specific vision of Jesus, evaluation of the spiritual state of the church, an admonition for that congregation, and a promise to assist the church to overcome/get the victory (which is to successfully bear witness to the vision of Jesus that it has received).

- 4) John is transported to heaven in order to view the unfolding of human history from heaven's perspective (4:1-11).
- 5) In heaven, John sees the Lamb on the throne (5:1-14).
- 6) The seven seals on the scroll document (the inheritance of the saints) are broken in order to begin the process of the church's receiving its inheritance; this releases cosmic disturbances in the earth; the church itself is sealed to protect it from the judgments of God (6:1-8:5).
- 7) The seven trumpets are released by seven angels to begin the disestablishment of human rule over history and in turn establish the rule of the kingdom of God over human history; in the midst of the trumpet judgments, John moves from recording the prophetic revelation for the churches to being commissioned to proclaim the word to the nations (chapter 10); the prophetic witness of the church is raised up and the beast opposes it (chapter 11), but the testimony of the church prevails (8:6-11:19)
- 8) The first 11 chapters have been for the church to understand the purposes of the Lord will prevail in human history. Beginning with chapters 12-18, the church now is given a revelation of the forces of evil that will oppose the church in its kingdom task. There is a revelation of the dragon, the sea beast (political power that opposes the sovereignty of the kingdom of God in human history), and the land beast (false prophecy that supports beastly government in the earth) in chapters 12-13; those disciples who follow the Lamb as He leads them through this great cosmic conflict of spiritual warfare in order to proclaim the eternal Gospel defeat Babylon (the false city), and partake in the final harvest/ingathering of human history (chapter 14); the pouring out of the 7 bowls of God's wrath in order to break the power of darkness in human history (chapters 15- 16); and the revelation of the nature and works of Babylon (human culture in rebellion against God) and the judgment inflicted upon her (chapters 17-18).
- 9) The unveiling of the Bride of the Lamb, the revelation of Jesus coming from heaven to destroy the power of the beast and the false prophet, the millennial reign of the overcoming saints, the crushing of the final rebellion of satan, and the great white throne judgment (19:1-20:15).
- 10) The revelation of the New Jerusalem, the new heaven and new earth, and the function of the city of God (21:1-22:5).
- 11) Closing remarks concerning the significance of the prophecy (22:6-21).