

AN OVERVIEW OF THE REVELATION



I. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

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<i>(Revelation 1:19) "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;"</i>		
Section One	Section Two	Section Three
<i>"Write the things which thou hast seen"</i>	<i>"and the things which are"</i>	<i>"and the things which shall be hereafter"</i>
Past	Present	Future
Revelation 1:10-20	Revelation 2 and 3	Revelation 4:1—22:21
John's initial vision of Christ	The letters to the seven churches	Future events; from the Tribulation to the Eternal State

I. Outline of Revelation

- A. Rev. 1
- B. Rev. 2-3
- C. Rev. 4-22

II. Section 3—Future Events

- A. Rev. 4-5
- B. Rev. 6-19
- C. Rev. 20-22

A. Revelation 1:10-20

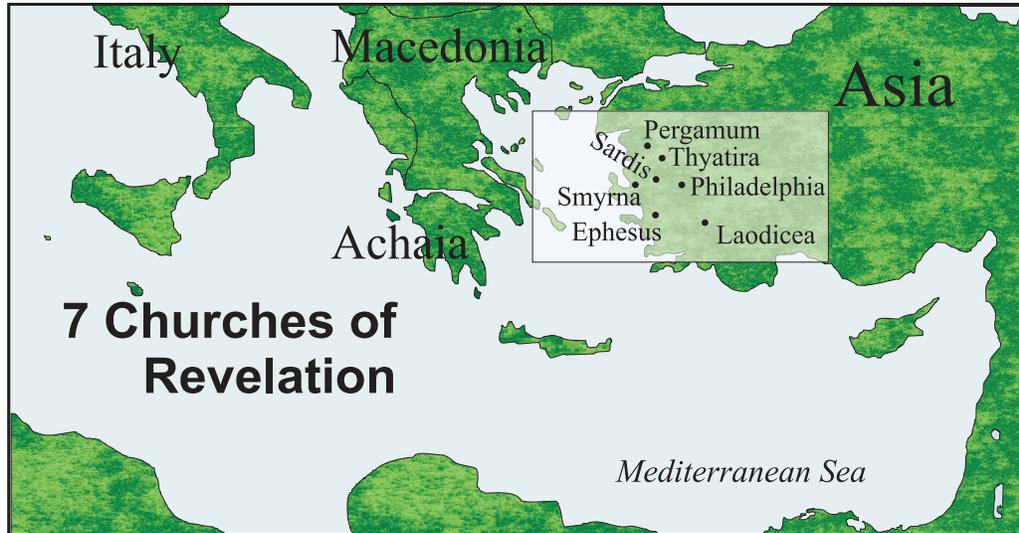
John records his vision of the living, glorified Christ. He is reminded that Jesus Christ is the sovereign Lord.

B. Revelation 2:2—3:22

John records seven letters written by the Lord Jesus Christ to seven churches of Asia Minor.

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| 1. | The Church of Ephesus | 2:1-7 |
| 2. | The Church of Smyrna | 2:8-11 |
| 3. | The Church of Pergamum | 2:12-17 |
| 4. | The Church of Thyatira | 2:18-29 |
| 5. | The Church of Sardis | 3:1-6 |
| 6. | The Church of Philadelphia | 3:7-13 |
| 7. | The Church of Laodicea | 3:14-22 |

These seven historical churches were not the only churches in Asia Minor. The letters are addressed to “THE seven churches” because they are representative of seven basic spiritual conditions that local churches in any age may be in.



C. Revelation 4:1—22:21

This is the focus of the book of Revelation. It chronologically follows the Church Age (2:1–3:22) as is evidenced by the opening phrase “after these things” (4:1). A brief outline of this section is as follows:

1. Chapters 4 and 5 — Jesus has the authority to rule; He alone is worthy to open the seven-sealed book.
2. Chapters 6-19 — The unfolding of the events of the Tribulation Period.
3. Chapter 20 — The Millennial Kingdom
4. Chapters 21-22 — The New Jerusalem and the Eternal State

II. SECTION THREE — FUTURE EVENTS

A. Chapters 4 and 5

“The authority to rule and judge resides with the heavenly throne. The Lord Jesus Christ (the Lion-Lamb of Judah) is declared to be the only one worthy to judge and rule, and, therefore, to Him was given a scroll from the hand of the One on the throne. The scroll is the title deed of the universe (purchased by the blood of ‘the Lamb that was slain’) and gives Him the authority to repossess the world and evict Satan.”

Understanding End Times Prophecy,
by Paul Benware, p. 314

1. The throne in heaven (4:1-11)
 - a. The throne (4:1-3)
 - b. The throning (4:4-8)
 - c. The theme (4:9-11) — Worthy is the Lamb
2. The scroll in heaven (5:1-14)
 - a. The scroll (5:1)
 - b. The search (5:2-5) — for someone worthy
 - c. The Savior-Sovereign (5:6-7) — Jesus Christ
 - d. The song (5:8-14) — Worthy is the Lamb

B. Chapters 6 through 19

This section deals with the saving and judging work of Jesus Christ. It chronicles a series of judgments called the *seal judgments*, the *trumpet judgments*, and the *bowl judgments*. These judgments are sequential and telescope out one from another. When the seventh seal is broken then the trumpet judgments begin. When the seventh trumpet is sounded then the bowl judgments begin. The bowl judgments are the end of God's wrath in the Tribulation.

The Tribulation Period progresses as these three series of judgments unfold one after another. Occasionally the Apostle John will pause to include new and important information.

1. The seal judgments (6:1-17)
 - a. First seal: cold war (6:1-2)
 - b. Second seal: open war (6:3-4)
 - c. The third seal: famine (6:5-6)
 - d. The fourth seal: death (6:7-8)
 - e. The fifth seal: martyrdom (6:9-11)
 - f. The sixth seal: physical disturbances (6:12-17)
2. Interlude: the redeemed of the Tribulation (7:1-17)
 - a. The 144,000 Jews (7:1-8)
 - b. The multitude of Gentiles (7:9-17)
3. The six trumpet judgments (8:1–9:21)
 - a. The seventh seal opened (8:1-6)
 - b. First trumpet: the earth smitten (8:7)
 - c. Second trumpet: the sea smitten (8:8-9)
 - d. Third trumpet: the waters smitten (8:10-11)
 - e. Fourth trumpet: the heavens smitten (8:12-13)
 - f. Fifth trumpet: men smitten (9:1-12)
 - g. Sixth trumpet: men killed (9:13-21)

4. The little scroll (10:1-11)

“The information found in chapters 11-14 seem to fit best into the second half of the Tribulation. Chapter 11 reveals that God will raise up two witnesses who will testify for Him in Jerusalem for 1,260 days (3½ years). Chapter 12 speaks of the removal of Satan from heaven and the 1,260 days of persecution of Israel that will follow that removal. Chapter 13 focuses on the two beasts (the Antichrist and the False Prophet) who will dominate the world for forty-two months (3½ years). And chapter 14 pictures the great final judgment of God at Armageddon.”

Understanding End Times Prophecy,
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5. The two witnesses (11:1-19)

- a. Temple (11:1-2)
- b. Time (11:3)
- c. Traits (11:4-6)
- d. Termination (11:7-10)
- e. Translation (11:11-14)
- f. Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)

6. War (12:1-17)

- a. War on earth: phase 1 (12:1-6)
- b. War in heaven (12:7-12)
- c. War on earth: phase 2 (12:13-17)

7. The beast and his prophet (13:1-18)

- a. The beast (13:1-10)
- b. The false prophet (13:11-18)

8. Various announcements (14:1-20)

- a. Concerning the 144,000 (14:1-5)
- b. Concerning the everlasting gospel (14:6-8)
- c. Concerning beast worshipers (14:9-13)
- d. Concerning the harvesting of the earth (14:14-20)

9. Prelude to bowl judgments (15:1-8)

10. The bowl judgments (16:1-21)

- a. First bowl: grievous sores (16:1-2)
- b. Second bowl: seas smitten (16:3)
- c. Third bowl: rivers smitten (16:4-7)
- d. Fourth bowl: scorching (16:8-9)

- e. Fifth bowl: darkness (16:10-11)
 - f. Sixth bowl: Euphrates dried (16:12-16)
 - g. Seventh bowl: widespread destruction (16:17-21)
11. Religious Babylon (17:1-18)
 - a. The description (17:1-7)
 - b. The interpretation (17:8-18)
 12. Commercial Babylon (18:1-24)
 - a. Announcement (18:1-3)
 - b. Appeal (18:4-8)
 - c. Anguish (18:9-19)
 - d. Acclaim (18:20-24)
 13. The Second Coming of Christ (19:1-24)
 - a. Announcements (19:1-10)
 - b. Advent of Christ (19:11-16)
 - c. Armageddon (19:17-24)

THE END OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD!

C. *Chapters 20 through 22*

1. The Millennium (20:1-15)
 - a. Satan bound (20:1-3)
 - b. Saints resurrected (20:4-6)

THE END OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM!

- c. Sinners rebelling (20:7-9)
 - d. Satan doomed (20:10)
 - e. Sinners judged (20:11-15)
2. The Eternal State (21:1–22:5)
 - a. Descent of the New Jerusalem (21:1-8)
 - b. Description of the New Jerusalem (21:9-27)
 - c. Delights of the New Jerusalem (22:1-5)
 3. Epilogue (22:6-21)
 - a. Words of Comfort (22:6-17)
 - b. Words of Warning (22:18-19)
 - c. Closing benediction (22:20-21)