

Sermon SNAPSHOTS

REVELATION

PART 3

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The previous two snapshots have already noted that there are different approaches to the book of Revelation. I've also noted that *my* view is that Revelation discusses the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70-AD. Hence, this outline is written from that "early-date" perspective. The book neatly divides itself into two sections: chapters 1-11, and 12-22. The second section simply repeats the first one...

SECTION 1: CHAPTERS 1-11

I. Christ and the churches (chapters 1-5)

- A. The vision of the Son of Man (chapter 1)
- B. Letters to the seven churches (chapters 2-3)
- C. The heavenly "throne scene" (chapter 4)
- D. The heavenly scroll is seen (chapter 5)

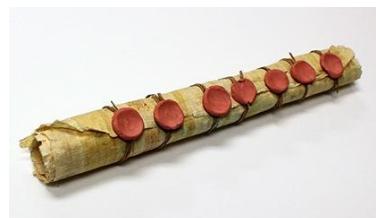


II. Unsealing the heavenly scroll (chapters 6-7)

- A. The forces of destruction: conquest, war, famine, death (6:1-8)
- B. Old testament saints cry out for vengeance (6:9-11; 11:18)
- C. "The great tribulation" (6:12-17; Mt.24:29-32; Lk.23:38-31)
- D. The "sealing" (preservation) of God's servants (7:1-17; 14:1-7)
 - 1. Old Testament saints sealed (7:1-8)
 - 2. New Testament saints sealed (7:9-17)

III. Revealing the heavenly scroll (chapters 8-11)

- A. The last seal is opened, allowing all to "see" the scrolls contents (8:1-6)
- B. The Roman-Jewish war, revealed via the "seven trumpets" (8:7-11:19)
 - Land battles in Galilee begin the war, shown by "**hail & fire, mingled with blood**" (8:7)
 - **Sea battles** fought on the Mediterranean/Galilean seas end in disaster for the Jews (8:8-9)
 - Josephus surrenders to Rome, becoming a **falling star**, causing bitterness/death (8:10-11)
 - Galilean campaign concludes; Israel is **1/3 conquered**; their light is going out (8:12-13)
 - Nero dies, causing the war to pause; **civil unrest ensues** in Jerusalem & Rome (9:1-12)
 - Vespasian claims throne, sends Titus to finish the war w/ troops from the **Euphrates** (9:13-21)
 - The war ends; Jerusalem & temple are destroyed, **God's servants are avenged** (11:15-19)
- C. Some important details to note from this section of the book
 - 1. Note the identity of "**the great city**" (11:1-2,8,13)
 - Where the **temple** was (v.1-2)
 - Where Jesus was **crucified** (v.8)
 - This is the city which **fell** (v.13)
 - 2. Note the **time element** that's mentioned (10:7)
 - When the seventh trumpet sounds, the mystery of God is **finished** (completed)
 - That mystery is the **gospel**; and it would be **fully revealed** by the fall of Jerusalem!
 - This does not mean it was all **written** then; only that it was all **revealed** by then

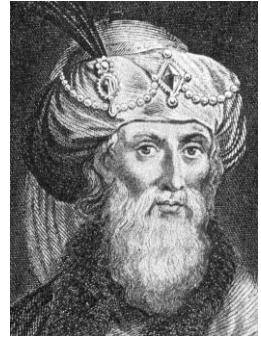


This concludes section one of Revelation. Careful study will show that section two repeats the same story...

SECTION 2: CHAPTERS 12-22

I. Prelude to Roman-Jewish war (chapters 12-14)

- A. The underlying conflict: Christ versus Satan (chapter 12)
 - B. The forces of destruction: Rome and Paganism (chapter 13)
 - C. The sealing of God's servants (14:1-7; compare chapter 7)
 - D. Two warnings are given to mankind (14:8-11)
 - 1. The fall of "**the great city**" – Jerusalem (v.8; cp. 11:8)
 - 2. Don't yield to "**the beast**" – Roman empire (v.9-11)
 - E. Reaping of the faithful; reaping of the unfaithful (14:12-20)



II. The Roman-Jewish war (chapters 15-18)

- A. The seven bowls of wrath appear (chapter 15)
 - B. The seven bowls of wrath poured out (chapter 16) Titus Flavious Josephus
 - Jewish hatred for Rome signified by a “foul/loathsome sore” causes war to begin (16:2)
 - **Sea battles** fought on the Mediterranean/Galilean seas end in disaster for the Jews (16:3)
 - **The rivers become blood** (signifying much death); God is giving Israel their “**just due**” (16:4-7)
 - Israel is about 1/3 conquered, bringing much bitterness – **BUT no repentance!** (16:8-9)
 - Nero dies, causing the war to pause; **civil unrest in both** Jerusalem & Rome (16:10-11)
 - Vespasian claims the throne, sends Titus to finish the war w/ troops from the **Euphrates** (16:12-16)
 - War ends; Jerusalem & temple are destroyed; **God’s servants are avenged!** (16:17-21)
 - C. **“The great city”** described and destroyed (chapter 17-18)
 - 1. Notice that Nero Caesar, the **sixth** emperor, is on the throne at this time (17:10)
 - 2. Notice that Christians were commanded to **leave** Jerusalem (18:4; Lk.21:20-22)



III. From the war to the end of time (chapters 19-22)

- A. Celebrating the fall of “***the great city***” (19:1-10; Mt.22:1-7)
 - B. The judgment of the beast, i.e. ***Roman Empire*** (19:11-20:6)
 - Note: “a thousand years” symbolizes a long period of time ***after*** the fall of the Roman Empire
 - While not a ***literal*** thousand years, it shows the second coming is ***long after*** the fall of Rome
 - C. To the end of time, and the ***final*** judgment (20:7-15)
 - D. The ***NEW Jerusalem*** in her final glory (chapters 21-22)
 1. New Jerusalem is ***the church*** (cf. Hb.12:22-24)
 2. New Jerusalem ***replaced*** the old, destroyed Jerusalem
 3. New Jerusalem has its ultimate home in ***Heaven!***

It is my conviction that this is the true message of the book of Revelation! But I remind you again that there are other viewpoints of this book. Because of the *symbolic nature* of this book, and the *difficulties* associated with interpretation, these different viewpoints should not become divisive issues – unless such an interpretation violates clear teaching of the Scriptures in other places (e.g. “full preterism”)

-Lanny Smith



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Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm

Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

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