

Part 1 – January 17, 2010

Introduction

Genre

1. *Apocalyptic*

2. *Prophecy*

3. *Epistle*

Date of Writing

- About A.D. 90

Purpose

The edification and protection of the churches as they are encouraged to endure their persecution with patience and joy as they anticipate the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in His timing.

In contrast to the Roman world of John's day with its symbols of power and preeminence, Revelation presents...

"a set of Christian prophetic counter-images which impress on [the] reader a different vision of the world: how it looks from...heaven"

-**Richard Bauckham**, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*, 17

Four general interpretations about the timing & meaning:

1. Preterist
2. Historicist
3. Idealist
4. Futurist

“When and how does the imagery of the Beast (13:1-8) find fulfillment? Preterists see in the Beast the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor. Futurists see a future antichrist figure, the man of lawlessness of 2 Thess. 2:3-8. The historicists find here the pope, who persecuted the Reformation. [But some Roman Catholic historicists would say Martin Luther!]. Idealists think of state persecuting power whenever and wherever it rises to threaten Christians”
-Vern Poythress

Message

The central truth of Revelation is the clear and compelling display of God’s absolute sovereignty over all creation and over all attempts to usurp His authority as He brings about His victory in the return of the Lamb with His church.

Revelation shows us that the True [correct] worship of God is through the worship of the Lamb, the Heavenly Man Who is eternally co-equal with God on the Throne, and who will return to establish His personal and visible rule with His church in the New Heaven and New Earth for the glory of God the Father.

Layout for our study:

(subject to change with notice)

2. Jan 24 – ch. 1
Jan 31 – no School of the Word
3. Feb 7 – ch. 2-3
4. Feb 14 – ch. 4-5
5. Feb 21- note on the symbols
6. Feb 28 – ch. 6-7
7. Mar 7 – ch. 8-11
8. Mar 14 – ch. 12-13
9. Mar 21 – ch. 14
10. Mar 28 – ch. 15-18
11. Apr 4 – ch. 19-20
12. Apr 11 – ch. 21-22

Outline of Revelation

We outline Revelation along the lines of 1:19:

“Write therefore the things that you 1) have seen (ch. 1), 2) those that are (ch. 2-3), and 3) those that are to take place after this (ch. 4-22).”

- 1. Ch. 1 – “the things you have seen”: The vision of Christ in the glory of God.**
 - a. Introduction (1:1-8)
 - b. John’s commission from and his vision of the exalted Lord (1:9-20)
- 2. Ch. 2-3 – “the things that are”: The messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor**
 - a. Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - b. Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - c. Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - d. Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - e. Sardis (3:1-6)
 - f. Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - g. Laodicea (3:14-22)
- 3. Ch. 4-22 – “the things that are to take place”: What occurs between Christ’s two comings**
 - a. The Heavenly Throne (4)
 - b. The Scroll and the Lamb (5)
 - c. The Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:5)
 - i. First Seal: Conquest (6:1-2)
 - ii. Second Seal: Slaughter (6:3-4)
 - iii. Third Seal: Famine (6:5-6)
 - iv. Fourth Seal: Death (6:7-8)

- v. Fifth Seal: Justice (6:9-11)
- vi. Sixth Seal: Natural Disasters (6:12-17)
 - 1. Parenthetical description of two visions (7)
 - a. The 144,000 sealed by God (7:1-8)
 - b. Those who “came out of great tribulation” (7:9-17)
- vii. Seventh Seal: Seven Angels Blowing Seven Trumpets (8:1-6)
- d. The Seven Trumpets (8:7 – 11:9)
 - i. First Trumpet: Hail & Fire (8:7)
 - ii. Second Trumpet: Mountain thrown into sea (8:9-9)
 - iii. Third Trumpet: A falling star (8:10-11)
 - iv. Fourth Trumpet: Changes in the heavens (8:12-13)
 - v. Fifth Trumpet: Locusts (9:1-12)
 - vi. Sixth Trumpet: Army of destruction (9:13-21)
 - 1. Parenthetical (10:1 – 11:14)
 - a. John instructed to eat “little scroll” (10:1-11)
 - b. God is praised for His ruling power (11:1-14)
- e. The Seven Signs (12-14)
 - i. First Sign: The woman and her son (12:1-6)
 - ii. Second Sign: War in heaven between Michael & dragon (12:7-12)
 - iii. Third Sign: War on earth between Satan & the woman & her child (12:13-17)
 - iv. Fourth Sign: Worship of the Beast (13:1-10)
 - v. Fifth Sign: Rule of the Beast (13:11-18)
 - vi. Sixth Sign: Worship of the Lamb by 144,000 (14:1-5)
 - 1. Parenthetical vision of three angels (14:6-13)

- vii. Seventh Sign: Reaping of earth by Son of Man (14:14-20)
- f. The Seven Bowls (15 – 16:21)
 - i. First Bowl: Sores on those who worshipped Beast (16:1-2)
 - ii. Second Bowl: Sea turns to blood (16:3)
 - iii. Third Bowl: Rivers & springs turn to blood (16:4-7)
 - iv. Fourth Bowl: Heat of sun burns the people (16:8-9)
 - v. Fifth Bowl: Throne of Beast turned to darkness (16:10-11)
 - vi. Sixth Bowl: Drying of the river & appearing of evils spirits (16:12-16)
 - vii. Seventh Bowl: Culmination of the wrath of God (16:17-21)
- g. Triumph of God the Almighty over all and in all (17-22)
 - i. Babylon judged, condemned, and destroyed (17-18)
 - ii. God is praised for Babylon's destruction (19:1-5)
 - iii. Praises of those who are invited to wedding supper (19:6-10)
 - iv. Final victory of Him Who sits on a white horse (19:11-21)
 - v. Millennial reign of Christ (20:1-10)
 - vi. Great White Throne of Judgment (20:11-15)
 - vii. New Heaven and New Earth (21:1-8)
 - viii. New Jerusalem (21:9 – 22:5)
 - ix. Promise of the Sovereign Lord that He will return (22:6-9)