

January 21 2024
Introduction to Revelation Part 2

Revelation 19:11-16

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. **12** His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems (**crown with Jewels**), and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. **13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. **14** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **15** From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus 1st Coming - Jesus was the suffering Servant.

Jesus 2nd Coming - Jesus will be the conquering King [**Read V. 15**]

Jesus 1st Coming - Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances

Jesus 2nd Coming - Jesus arrives with the armies of heaven at His side.

When Jesus first arrived on earth you had Mary, Joseph, and some shepherds and animals. When **Jesus returns the second time, the entire world will witness His arrival**. In seminary, we learned what is called “**predictive prophecy**” is that all the prophecies in the Bible will be fulfilled from the beginning of Genesis to the ending of Revelation. I’ll talk a bit more about this later.

Let’s do a short review from last Sunday:

What is Revelation?

Revelation (Greek Word: apokalypsis, pronounced ap-ok-al'-oop-sis in English it means "Apocalypse"): an **uncovering**, an **unveiling**, a **disclosure**, or **revealing**.

Revelation refers to something or someone, once hidden, becoming visible. This book reveals or uncovers is Jesus Christ in glory.

And we see this from the very beginning of Revelation 1:1.

Revelation 1:1

The **revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show to **his servants** the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his **servant John**,

Revelation is the "uncovering" or "unveiling" of the Person, Power and Plan of Jesus Christ. In other words, the **glory of God** revealed.

And we know the author of the book is John who was in prison in the island of Patmos because he was sharing the gospel. While he was in this island, he receives a vision from God about the current situation of the church in Asia Minor and about the future events that are to come. This is called "**Predictive Prophecy**."

Predictive Prophecy: We know that in the Old Testament, they were **at least 300 prophecies about the first coming of Jesus**. And Jesus fulfilled every one of them with the **birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection**. We have accurate historical records that cannot be refuted about the existence and resurrection of Jesus.

So if the Old Testament talks about the first coming then the New Testament have identified **1,845 different biblical references to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**. The New Testament mentions His return in 7 out of every 10 chapters. In other words, **1 out of every 30 verses in the New Testament proclaims that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth**.

So the Bible is telling us that we have to be very serious about the return of Jesus. My goal for today, is to give you a bird's eye view of the Book of Revelation.

Apocalypse (unveiling) = **Symbolic** (In Revelation there are a lot off symbols) Vision = Which reveals a heavenly perspective (through spiritual lens) on **future history** of it's final outcome or **completion** (to fully finish).

Now "symbols" are very important to understand in the book of Revelation. For example if I say, "Jesus is the **lamb of God**" and I saying that "Jesus is an **actual lamb**?" No, Jesus is not the lamb nor the **lion of Judah**. These animals represent a deeper meaning, and the same thing goes with the numbers.

In Revelation, your going to see the number 7 being repeated extensively.

- 7 churches in Asia
- 7 Seals
- 7 Trumpets
- 7 Signs or Symbols
- 7 bowls or Buckets

Why? What does the number 7 represent? **Did you know that the number 7 is mentioned 54 times in the book of Revelation.** So the number 7 is very significant to the book of Revelation.

Ask: ***How many days are there in a week?*** Answer 7. Isn't it interesting that we have 7 days in our week (not 6 days or 8 days but 7 days) to represent **completion, finish, or fullness.**

Isn't it also interesting that God created the world in 7 days.

- On the first day of creation, God created time, space, and matter. He also created light and separated light from darkness. He called the light day and the darkness night. (**Gen. 1:1-5**)
- Then on the Seventh Day, it says that God rested because His work of creation was complete. Gen. 2:1-3

Genesis 2:1-2 New Living Translation

1 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them **was completed**. **2** On the **seventh day God had finished** his work of creation, so he rested from all his work.

So the number 7 represent completion and finish. And that is one of the reason **why the Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible, represent completion or finished.**

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is complete. This is why, you can not add anything to the Bible like the Quran, the book of Mormons, or any other religious books. Everything else is just unfinished or false books.

Overview of Revelation

- 7 7 Judgement (The Fall of Babylon Rev. 17-19a)
- 7 Victory (The Final Battle Rev. 19b - 20)
- 7 New City (The New Jerusalem Rev. 21 - 22)
- 7 And then the End

So you have ONE 7, FOUR 7's, and the End.

ONE 7

The first number 7 is addressed to the 7 churches in Asia Minor.

1. Ephesus - The "**Backslidden**" church
2. Smyra - The "**Persecuted**" church

3. Pergamum - The “**Adulterous**” church
4. Thyatira - The “**Corrupt**” church
5. Sardis - The “**Dead**” church
6. Philadelphia - The “**Faithful**” church
7. Laodicea - The “**Lukewarm**” church

What the Lord is doing here is that God is exposing or wants the churches to deal with a particular sin that was going on inside the church, ***but this does NOT apply only to these 7 churches but also to all churches throughout all of history.***

From United States to Korea and in every continent throughout history, God is wanting the churches to deal with sin. Not just about the sin of the church but the sin of the people. God is wanting the people in the church to deal with sin.

Why? Why does God want us to deal with sin in the church?

Because God is preparing us to be a ***Holy Bride for His second coming.*** God is wanting the churches to first deal with the sin inside the church so that we can be ready for the rapture.

Rapture (carry off, or to catch up) : The End Times event when all true believers still alive before the end of the world will be taken from the earth by God into heaven.

End Time Tribulation or the Great Tribulation

[Show on the Board the FOUR 7's of the Great Tribulation]

So the FOUR 7's is called the **End Time Tribulation or the Great Tribulation** period (Remember throughout history, there will always be tribulation, but the End Time tribulation will be great): In the four 7's **Revelation chapter 6 - 19**. There will be **7 years** of world wide hardships, disasters, famine, war, pain and suffering.

But it will be difficult to be a Christian during those times:

1. Christians will be killed Rev. 6:9-11
2. Church will be gone: 1 Thes. 4:13-18
3. God's Wrath: Rev. 15-16

Even in this "Great Tribulation" God has set a limit of seven years.

Mark 13:19-20 New Living Translation

19 For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again. **20** In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for **the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.**

This is what I love about God, even when every judgement is given by God and He has every right to destroy all that He has created, yet God, our merciful God is willing to **shortened those days for the sake of His people, the saints, the believers.**

Now I personally believe from the studies and so do many biblical scholars that those who truly believe in God will be raptured before the Great Tribulation. Now, we'll get into the details later, but this is just my personal belief about **"when we will be raptured."**

FOUR 7's

- 7 - Seals
- 7 - Trumpets
- 7 - Signs / Symbols
- 7 - Bowls / Buckets

Why are there 4 different visions?

[Wow! Wasn't the Ravens game last night against the Texans a great game? But there was a better game before this one. There was a game against LA Rams vs Baltimore Ravens. It was neck to neck tie with LA Rams at 28 points and Ravens at 23 points and there was

1:28 seconds left on the time clock. The Ravens were 3rd down and 11 yards to go and a long way before touch down.

There was a challenge. The Ravens quarter back was tackled by the Ram's defenders and right before his knee touched the ground, he threw the ball. But the LA Rams said that he was down and sacked, but the Ravens said that he threw the ball before he was down.

So what they did was what is called "**The Upper Room**" for the final decision. In the Upper Room, they look at all the different angles of the camera to see if they are having the same perspective. And based upon the all the angles of the camera, they came up with one conclusion of the same event and that he threw the ball before his knee touched the ground.]

The FOUR 7's is like the "**upper room**" where it represents the 4 different camera angles but the same event and you get the same outcome.

Same goes with the Gospels:

- **Matthew** sets forth Jesus as the Messiah as the Liberator. His emphasis is that Jesus is the King of the Jews.
- **Mark** presents Jesus as the suffering Servant of the Lord.
- **Luke** emphasizes Jesus as the savior for all.
- **John** is written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (John 20:31)

You have 4 different angles on Jesus but the same outcome. This is the same for the FOUR 7's. The Gospels are like the "**upper room**."

The Battle of Armageddon: There will be victory Rev. 19:19-20 tells us that we have won. You and I are going to completely destroy Satan and his armies. Then Satan will be bound for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:2

And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and **Satan**, and **bound him for a thousand years**,

This then is what we call Millennium Kingdom.

Cross	Four 7's	2nd	Millennium	Final	New
		Coming	Kingdom	Judgment	Earth
+ _____	NOW _____	+ _____	1,000 _____	! _____	+ _____

Millennium Kingdom: Jesus will reign as King over Israel and all the nations of the world. The world will live in peace. Jesus' followers will worship Him freely. Animals and the earth would be restored to peace and prosperity and people would be freed from disease.

Conditions in the Millennium Kingdom:

- A perfect environment physically and spiritually
- A time of peace
- Joy
- Comfort
- Obedience, Truth, and Growth in the Knowledge of God
- Christ will rule as King

But most importantly during Jesus' 1,000-year reign **He will fulfill all the prophecies given to Israel and the promises made to Jesus**, the nations, and the whole earth. This is good news to us, because the promises that God has made to us will be fulfilled.

Final Judgement: Vision of Christ Final Judgment of all that is evil and sinful in the world.

Revelation 20:10

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan and his entire demons will be cast into the Lake of Fire and every single non believer throughout all of history will have to stand before God.

New Heaven and New Earth

Did you know that the current earth we live in is decaying and dying? Anything that is living has a time stamp. We live and eventually we all die. It's a 100 percent guarantee that we will all die.

Morally speaking, we are seeing the spiritual decay of mankind.

What we use to call evil has now become good to the world. Did you know that Public schools used to teach the Bible, prayer and emphasize the Ten Commandments in America. Once they got rid of God in public schools, you are now witnessing an explosion of moral decay. [I saw a video of a student actually throwing a shoe at the teacher. Much worse is happening in the schools.]

So if the physical realm is decaying and dying and the spiritual realm is decaying and dying, **then how will our current earth sustain and receive Jesus at the second coming** with all the believers from past history and to the future who will live with God.

The old physical earth that is decaying and dying cannot hold and sustain the glory of God, the “goodness” and the “newness” of life.

The earth we currently live in is not fit for eternity. Because our current earth is decaying and dying. So if we are to live in eternity with Jesus, **we need a planet that will sustain eternity** (something that will never decay and never die).

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her

husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

My friends, this is a promise from God. This is the hope that He has given to all those who believe. You and I can hold onto this amazing hope and promise. For those who believe and know for certain that if we were to die tomorrow, then tomorrow, ***death will just be the beginning and not the end.***

For those who don't believe in God, ***then death is the end*** and not the beginning. For you and I, God has given us a New Heaven and New Earth. God will “**wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore.**”

Closure

Genesis 1-2	=	Perfection (Original Creation)
Genesis 3	=	Sin enters and Decaying begins (Death begins)
Revelation 20	=	Sin defeated (Final victory over death)
Revelation 21	=	Perfection (New Heaven & New Earth)

God's amazing story from Genesis to Revelation coming into a full circle or final completion. God reestablishes the perfect environment that He had started since the beginning of time.

I started to understand why God gave the number 7 for all of us to understand. He wants us to know that God will complete and finish what He has started.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.