

# Bethel Bible Series

## Revelation

### New Testament Week 20

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - If we are saved through Christ's justification, why should we care about sanctification?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

## Review of Last Week - Sanctification

Sanctify - To set apart as holy or for holy purposes

Whereas *justification* changes the status of the sinner in God's eyes,  
*sanctification* changes the person

*Blooming Flower* = A right relationship with Christ brings fullness of life

John 10:10 = *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

*Clock Face* = Fullness of Life evolves gradually over time (not instantly)

*We grow into his likeness with ever-increasing glory*

*Clock's Hands Catch Weeds* = Time roots out things which choke out the full life

He gives all we need to participate in divine nature and to escape corruption

*Work out your salvation with fear and trembling*

*Your enemy the devil prowls...like a lion looking...to devour*

*Say "No" to worldly passions and live self-controlled*

*Do not gratify the desires of the sinful nature*

*The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.*

*Put off your old self ... put on the new self*

*Numbers on the Clock Face* = Twelve points on Sanctification

- I. Birth Into Christ
- II. Hunger for God's Will
- III. Effort to Learn God's Will
  - Worship
  - Study
  - Fellowship
  - Prayer
- IV. Understanding
- V. Sense of Values
- VI. Awareness of Sin
- VII. Awareness of God's kindness
- VIII. Sense of Gratitude
- IX. Responsiveness
- X. Sense of Responsibility
  - Time
  - Talents
  - Possessions
  - Moral & Spiritual Integrity
- XI. Sacrificial Involvement
- X. Christlikeness

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### Lesson - Revelation

#### Background of the Book of Revelation

##### Author and Recipients

Revelation 1:1 = From God to Jesus to angel to John

Revelation 1:4, 11 = To 7 churches in Asia, Geographical order along highways

##### Where and When

Revelation 1:9 = John was banished to the Isle of Patmos (95-96 AD)

Written to help churches during the difficult Persecution of Domitian

Revelation 2:13 = Antipas had been martyred in Pergamum

Revelation 6:9-11 = Souls of those killed because of faith, others yet to come

#### Apocalyptic

*Apokalypsis* = First word of book, Greek for *revelation, unveiling, disclosure*

Visions with pictures, allegories, symbols, numbers, colors, stars

Special meanings understood only by destined readers (avoids censorship)

Draws heavily from Old Testament (278 of 404 verses)

Luther: *My spirit cannot adapt itself to this book.*

##### Interpretations

*Preterist* = Christianity's struggles with the Roman Empire at that time

*Historical* = Panorama of history from John's time on to the End

*Futurist* = Centers around time of Christ's Return & End of the World

*Spiritualist* = Timeless representation of God's Divine Government

##### Numbers

3 = The Spirit World (good or evil)

4 = The material world, earth, nature, creation

7 (3 + 4) = Totality, complete

12 (3 x 4) = God's complete people (12 Tribes, 12 Apostles, 12 Stones)

6 (7 - 1) = Incomplete

666 = Ultimate evil

##### Book of Sevens

Seven Letters to Seven Churches (1-3)

Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets (4-11)

Seven Bowls (15-16)

Seven Candlesticks, Stars, Angels (1:12, 16, 20)

Seven Spirits of God (1:4, 4:5, 5:6)

Lamb with Seven Horns and Seven Eyes (5:6)

Seven Lamps (4:5)

Seven Thunders (10:3-4)

Red Dragon with Seven Heads and Seven Crowns (12:3)

Leopard-like & Scarlet-colored Beasts with Seven Heads each (13:1; 17:3,7)

Seven Hills and Seven Kings (17:9-10)

Seven Beatitudes (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14)

##### Old Testament Sevens

God created world in 7 Days; Naaman dipped in Jordan 7 Times

Jericho: 7 Priests with 7 Trumpets marched 7 Days & blew trumpets 7 times

7th Day is Sabbath, 7th month is holy (3 feasts), 7th year is Sabbatic

Passover & Tabernacle Feasts were each 7 Days with 14 lambs (7x2) daily

7 Weeks between Passover and Pentecost, 7 lambs offered at Pentecost

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### Outline to the Book of Revelation

#### PREPARATION

1	Christ is Alive!	Vision 1
2-3	Messages to the Seven Churches	Vision 1
4	God is on the Throne	Vision 2
5	The Lamb and The Scroll	Vision 2

#### FATE OF THE WORLD

6	The Seven Seals	Vision 2
7	The Faithful are Sealed (Grace Before Seal 7)	Vision 2
8-9	The Seven Trumpets	Vision 3
10-11	Final Prophesies (Grace Before Trumpet 7)	Vision 3

#### FATE OF THE CHURCH

12	Woman & Child Protected From Dragon	Vision 4
13	Two Beasts Blaspheme God & Force Idol Worship	Vision 4
14	The Faithful on Mount Zion with the Lamb	Vision 4
15-16	Seven Bowls of God's Wrath	Vision 5

#### FATE OF THE ANTI-CHURCH

17	Description of The Woman on the Beast	Vision 6
18	The Fall of Babylon	Vision 6

#### VICTORY

19	Hallelujah Chorus	Vision 7
20	The Millennium	Vision 7

#### GLORY

21	New Heaven and New Earth	Vision 7
22	<i>I Am Coming Soon!</i>	Vision 7

### The Seven Churches (2-3)

Futurist claims they represent stages of church history

Ephesus	Apostolic
Smyrna	Early Persecutions
Pergamum	Hierarchical
Thyatira	Dark Ages
Sardis	Reformation
Philadelphia	<i>True Church</i> of every age
Laodicea	Luke-warm 20th Century Church

Historicist says John wrote to historical churches

We listen to find ourselves

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#### The Seven Seals (6-8)

Matthew 24:4-8 = First four Seals follow Jesus' sequence of events before last day

1 - False Christs (Ezekiel 38-39)

2 - War

3 - Famine

4 - Death

5 - Persecution of the Faithful

6 - Day of Wrath

Faithful are Sealed - 144,000 (12x12x1000) = Israel & Christians

7 - Final Judgement

#### The Seven Trumpets - All part of Seal Seven (8-11)

1 - Hail & Fire on the Earth (1/3 Destroyed)

2 - Burning Mountain into the Sea (1/3 Destroyed)

3 - Burning Star upon the Rivers (1/3 Destroyed)

4 - Sun, Moon & Stars Darkened (1/3 Destroyed)

5 - Demon Locusts to Torture Unfaithful

6 - Army of Horsemen to Kill Unfaithful (1/3 Killed)

Final Prophecies

7 - God's Temple in Heaven Revealed

#### The Woman, The Child and The Dragon (12)

Woman (12:1) = God's People

Twelve Stars (7:4-8) = Twelve Tribes

Child (12:5) = Jesus, the Christ

Dragon (12:3,9) = Satan

A time, times and half a time ( $1 + 2 + 1/2 = 3 \frac{1}{2}$  years = 42 Months = 1260 Days)

#### Four Simultaneous Events

11:2 Holy City Trodden Down

11:3 Two Witnesses Prophecy in Sackcloth

12:6,14 Woman in the Wilderness

13:5 Beast From the Sea Reigns

#### Four Enemies of the Lamb

12:1-17 Dragon = Satan

13:1-10 First Beast = Anti-Christian Governments

13:11-18 Second Beast = False Religions

17:1-18 Babylon = Immoral Society

14:1-5 144,000 with the Lamb = The Faithful in Heaven with Christ

14:6-20 Grapes = The Unfaithful are Smashed with God's Wrath

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### Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (15-16)

- 1 - Sores on the Unfaithful
- 2 - Sea Turned to Blood
- 3 - Rivers Turned to Blood
- 4 - Intense Heat From the Sun
- 5 - Beast's Kingdom Destroyed
- 6 - Battle Lines Drawn
- 7 - Battle of Armageddon

### The Millennium (20)

- Satan is Bound 1000 Years (1-3)
- Faithful Rule with Christ 1000 Years (4-6)
- Satan is Released and Cast into Lake of Fire (7-10)
- The Dead are Judged (11-15)

### Heaven and Hell (21)

- New heaven and new earth for Christ's bride (1-7)
- Evil receive second death - fires of hell (8)
- Magnificence of heaven (9-27)

### I Am Coming Soon (22)

Revelation 22:20 = *Yes, I am coming soon*

### Closing Prayer

### Final Class Questionnaire

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### Final Class Questionnaire

1. What did you like and what did you dislike about the Bethel Bible Study?
  - a. Bethel materials (pictures, memory concepts, published handouts)
  - b. Supplementary materials and discussions (class outlines, maps, background)
  - c. Organization and logistics (Six 7-week sessions, One-hour each week)
  - d. Teaching style (Lecture, previous week review, handouts given after class)
  - e. In general
2. What recommendations do you have for future Bethel teachers?
3. What suggestions do you have for future Bible Study for Bethel graduates?
4. What courses would you like to attend?