

Bethel Bible Series

Revelation

NT Study 20

The most wondrous story is not the second coming of Jesus, but the glorious first coming of Jesus! And our salvation! - PK

Welcome

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
He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion

Clock's Hands Catch Weeds = Time in relationship with Christ 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 around like a roaring lion looking...to devour
Say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions and live self-controlled
Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature

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 and 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, First known martyr in Asia

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 (avoided 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 and 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 and 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 and blew trumpets 7 times

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

Passover and 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 Prophecies (Grace Before Trumpet 7)	Vision 3

FATE OF THE CHURCH

12	Woman and Child Protected From Dragon	Vision 4
13	Two Beasts Blaspheme God and 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

One-Word Summary

How did Paul give the same message?

Romans 8:18-23 = We accept our current troubles as we await our future redemption into glory

How did Paul summarize his point that also summarizes John's point in this book of Revelation?

Romans 8:24-25 = We have HOPE. God has a plan and our salvation is part of that plan

How did John give a preview of this message in his first letter? = Show Picture

1 John 3:2-3 = We don't know the details of our future but we have HOPE for when He returns

Why did John write his gospel and his letters?

John 20:30-31 = So we may believe in Jesus and receive eternal life

1 John 5:13 = So the faithful will know they have eternal life

Why did John write this book of Revelation?

Revelation 22:12-15 = Persevere and remain faithful because Jesus will return as promised

Bethel Picture and Concepts

Descending Crown and Mace of Leadership = Christ will come again!

The Crown = Upon His return, Christ will be Lord over all

The Dove = Christ's eternal reign will be one of peace

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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

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 and Christians(?)

7 - Final Judgement

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

1 - Hail and 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 and 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 (12:1) = Twelve Tribes, Listed in 7:4-8

Child (12:5) = Jesus, the Christ

Dragon (12:3, 9) = Satan

A time, times and half a time (12:14) = $1 + 2 + 1/2 = 3 \frac{1}{2}$ 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

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Four Enemies of the Lamb (12-14)

- 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

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?