

## The Book of the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Book of Revelation is the most exciting book in the whole of the Bible, and tells us in great detail and symbolic language of God's wonderful provision for His very own, and the fearful and terrible judgements that are coming on the wicked and upon all who neglect or oppose the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the true Word of God. All must choose whom we will obey; God or Satan, the Word of God or the word of man, the lies of Satan or the infallible truths of God; we must choose between light and darkness, between sinning and sainthood, between good and evil, between exalting ourselves and our own carnal opinions and humbling ourselves and submitting to the will of God as revealed by His Holy Spirit.

The keys to the Word of God are contained in the scriptures, and that is why consistent Bible study is so essential to a right understanding of the "things which must shortly come to pass" Rev. 1:1. A brief resume of this wonderful Book follows:-

Chap. 1: It is the Book of Jesus Christ, & here we see Him depicted as the Risen & Glorified Lord in all His Kingly Glory ready to execute the last 3½ years of His ministry to earth, "The Day of Vengeance of our God" Isa, 61:2, Rev. 5:5 (Remember how He stopped in the middle of the verse in the synagogue at Nazareth, at "to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" Luke 4:19) that ministry was also 3½ years from His baptism at Jordan to His Ascension from Mt, Olivet, Acts 1:12. (The 2 halves of Daniel's 70th week). 4 pictures are given of this 3½ years (Note: 4 Gospels).

A special blessing is proclaimed upon those who "read" and "hear" and "keep", the words of this prophecy. Compare Luke 21:36. Jesus appears to John & commands him to write everything he sees, commencing with the 7 Churches.

Chaps. 2 & 3: The 7 letters to the 7 Churches, full of Warnings, exhortations and promises, and the 7-fold injunction to "hear what the Spirit saith to the Churches", Chap. 4: Here is depicted a vision of the Majesty & Glory of the Throne of God, surrounded by 24 throned Elders, and indwelt by 4 Living Ones revealing the 4-fold aspect of God's character, also seen in the 4 gospels, and they are the leaders of the worship of God in Heaven. These represent the elect of the redeemed.

Chap. 5: Now we see the Book or Scroll of Man's Forfeited Inheritance, lost through man's disobedience and giving in to Satan. Sealed with 7 seals, no man but the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, could pay the price & gain the right to wrest back from Satan, man's lost inheritance. And so begins the battle, the pouring out of all God's judgements upon the wicked which will end in the final overthrow of Satan (chap. 20).

Chap. 6: The Lamb opens the 1st Seal releasing God's last great call to "come to the Wedding" (Matt. 22:3) through the Church, the Body of Christ (the Rider on the White Horse) and to gather in the precious fruit of the earth (Jas. 5:7), before the real judgements begin as Jesus opens 5 more seals, and the 3 Other horsemen of the Apocalypse, War, Famine & Pestilence destroy 1,000,000,000. Great signs in heaven.

Chap. 7: The sealing of the 144,000 with a special message to the whole House of Israel, (not just Judah), Afterwards a great multitude "without No," come out of great tribulation to stand upon the sea of glass before the Throne of God.

Chap. 8: 7th Seal opened, great silence!! 7 Trumpets: 4 are blown bringing destruction to 1/3rd of the whole earth: sun, moon & stars also affected.

Chap. 9: 3 Trumpets, 3 woes to come; the 1st brings shocking torment for 5 months, the 2nd wipes out a further thousand million - 1/2 of earth's population now dead 11 And yet men will still not repent.

Chap. 10: 7 Thunders utter their voices, but John is not permitted to write them, being sealed up, like Daniel's visions, (Dan.12:9) till the very last hours.

Chap. 11: The Temple is measured and Outer Court left out and trodden down 3½ years (see last Newsheet) shewing that only those who are close to God can hope to escape the judgements of God. God's 2 Witnesses (Moses & Elijah) now witness in judgement power for 3½ years until they are killed (but God raises them up). 7th Angel sounds & the final stage is set in motion - the kingdoms of this world became the kingdom of God & Christ, and the Ark of God's Covenant is seen in Heaven.

Chap. 12: "A Woman clothed with the Sun". A wonderful picture of the Glorious Church, (see Eph.5:27, Matt.13:43, 1 Cor.15:41) who on "Eagle's Wings" flies into the "Wilderness" to be preserved of God for the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. Meanwhile Michael & his angels fight and cast out Satan from heaven to earth. The Manchild, an elect company of the Over-comers, is "caught up" to God to share His kingly authority & "rod of iron", as promised in Rev. 2-26/27. The 3rd company, the "remnant of the Woman's seed", who were not counted worthy, suffer persecution and martyrdom under the Anti-Christ. Reminds us of the 30-fold, 60-fold & 100-fold.

Chap. 13: Now the full counterfeit Satanic trinity is manifest, the dragon, Satan, from heaven, the beast from the sea, -Antichrist, with his 10 horns - 10 kings who are to arise, and have power for 3½ years, and the beast from the earth, the false prophet, the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit, who compels all to receive the "mark of the Beast", without which no-one can buy or sell, but which seals their doom for ever.

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Chap. 14: Again we see 144,000, having finished their course, rejoicing on Mt, Zion in the presence of God. An angel (Enoch) proclaims the gospel from Heaven, the doom of those with the "mark of the Beast", and the two harvests of the earth, good and bad, are reaped.

Chaps. 15 A 16: 7 angels come forth with the 7 vials full of the 7 'last plagues of

the wrath of God, the final judgements on the earth, culminating in the Battle of Armageddon and the return of Jesus Christ in great power and glory.

Chap. 17: A woman sits upon a scarlet-coloured beast, decked in gay colours, gold & precious stones, called "Babylon, the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth". This is a picture of the fallen Church, of those who have rejected all the great truths and authenticity of the Bible, made social issues paramount, and linked with the Antichristian state, that will be manifest during the-Great Tribulation. But her hour is short lived, and is destroyed by the Babylonian political system which hates her sham and hypocrisy.

Chap. 18: Here we see the final fall & destruction by God's judgement power of the whole Babylonian system, Ecclesiastical, Commercial & Political Babylon.

Chap. 19: The Marriage of the Lamb is come, and His Wife, the Glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle, has made herself ready; the Marriage Supper follows; Here also is pictured the descent from Heaven of The Lamb, as King of Kings & Lord of Lords, accompanied by the armies of Heaven on white horses, and the total destruction of the Devil inspired rebellious armies of the earthy the anti-Christ & the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire.

Chap. 20: Satan is bound & shut up for 1,000 years. Those who have taken part in the First Resurrection live & reign with Christ over all the earth for 1,000 years. Then Satan is released and inspires one final rebellion amongst those who gave a "feigned" submission, who are destroyed by fire, and Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire for ever and ever. Then all the dead of all time are resurrected to stand before the Great White Throne, and the final judgement of all eternity is executed.

Chaps. 21 & 22: A new heavens & a new earth. The Holy City, New Jerusalem, a golden city, 1500 miles wide & long & high is revealed, where the Glorious Church, the Lamb's Wife, shall dwell through all the eternal ages, and the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. Sin is banished for ever, and only the Holiness, the Love and Goodness of God remain, never again to be marred by sin. The final invitation & call goes out new to us who read, before Jesus returns, "Even so come, Lord Jesus", Amen.

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.3 Years Up: This week I complete 3 years ministry in Penola, and next year we will be returning to Victoria, my final service being on the 28th Dec. To me this has been a fruitful time of service and blessing, and I am glad to others also.

SAINT ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PENOLA S  
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News Sheet - November 1980

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**NOTE: The doctrinal viewpoint expressed in these Bible studies and sermons are the personal view of the author (Alfred Curtis) and may not align in all aspects with the orthodoxy of the places of worship (if named or referenced) where these bible study(s) may have been presented.**