

Book of Revelation Overview

Foundational Concept: Contrary to popular Christian belief, the Book of Revelation (BOR) is not an oddity, a mystery, a book out of time, out of step nor out of alignment with the rest of the Bible; rather it is a logical and spiritual unfolding of God's plans, leading to the ultimate completion of God's themes which He started in Genesis and which are the fabric that binds the entire Bible together into a cohesive whole so that God can bring His obedient people into the fullness of the redemption purchased for them by Jesus Christ, His Son.

A. How to Prepare.

1. Preparing to read the Book of Revelation (BOR).

The events in the BOR are sequential; 19 of 22 chapters start with "and". Letters to the churches in Rev 2-3 are addressed in geographical order. The "special" blessing for reading the BOR is a specific wording of the admonition to "hear and do", which is found throughout the Bible.

2. Preparing to understand the BOR.

The three major themes of the Bible are: Love, Redemption and Power. Four secondary themes are: Replenish the Earth, Dominion over the Earth, Living in the Image and Likeness of God, Eating of the Tree of Life (i.e., Overcoming the Last Enemy by Living and Not Dying).

3. Preparing for success in the Ending Days.

Rev 1-3 The letters to the churches tell us how to prepare, the penalties for failure, and the rewards for successful preparation to be overcomers, who are caught up to be with the Lord when He returns (1 Thes 5:17).

B. Tribulations and Judgments.

1. Tribulations resulting from the actions of men.

Rev 4 Heaven is full of joyful noise and praise.

Rev 5 The Lamb of God is worthy to open the seals to warn the church.

Rev 6-8 Seven seals show events to come, each worse than the previous.

2. Judgments of the wrath of God pouring out on sinful, unrepentant men.

Rev 8:1 The silence in heaven signifies the end of the Age of Grace.

Rev 8-9 Six Trumpets judgments.

Rev 10:7 The beginning of the sounding of the 7th trumpet ushers the Glorious Church into power; followed by the two witnesses in power.

Rev 11:15 The final sounding of the 7th Trumpet signals that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

3. Tribulations resulting from the actions of the Anti-Christ.

Rev 12-13 Satan (dragon) is cast down to earth; inhabits the Anti-Christ.

Rev 13 False Prophet requires worshipping the beast, and buying/ selling with the mark of the beast or name of the beast or number of his name.

Rev 14 Anti-Christ slaughters unmarked Christians & Jews; then he goes after even those who have taken the mark.

C. Removing the Anti-Christ and Satan from the earth.

1. Vial Judgments occur after Satan inhabits the Anti-Christ.

Rev 15 Vial judgments are intended for the Anti-Christ and his supporters.
Rev 16:1 The 1st vial is poured on those with the mark of the beast or who worshipped his image; v10 the 5th vial, onto the seat of the beast.

Rev 16:16-17 The Anti-Christ & False Prophet have been maneuvered by God to be committed to the Battle of Armageddon. The 7th vial is poured out and a great voice from the throne in Heaven announces, "It is done."

2. Battle of Armageddon.

Rev 17-18 Destruction of Mystery Babylon, the city on 7 mountains, which is the seat of the False Prophet and the remaining source of Satan's authority on the earth. Review of past kingdoms of darkness.

Rev 19 With Babylon destroyed, the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet go to war against God's people at Armageddon and are destroyed by Jesus.

3. Satan is bound for 1000 years, then cast into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 19:20 False Prophet and the Anti-Christ are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 20:2 Satan (i.e., the dragon) is bound for 1000 years.

Rev 20:4 Jesus and His overcomers rule for 1000 years over those who were alive but did not remain true to the Gospel and so were not raptured.

Rev 20:10 Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 20:11-12 The Great White Throne Judgment of all those who died.

D. New Ages, New Kingdoms.

1. Millennial Reign of Jesus, King of kings.

Jesus ministered as the Lamb of God for 3 ½ years.

Heb 10:12-14 Currently, seated in Heaven, He is told by His Father:

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? (Mark 12:36).

Eph 5:25-27 As ambassadors of Heaven (2 Cor 5:20), the Glorious Church, the Body of Christ, will rule on earth for 3 ½ years representing the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to prepare the way for the return of Jesus.

2. New Earth and New Heaven.

Rev 21:1 A new heaven and earth replace the first heaven and earth.

Rev 21:3, 23 God comes to live on the earth in the New Jerusalem.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (**This is the fullness of redemption.**)

3. New Jerusalem.

Rev 22:3-5 All overcomers live with God and the Lamb in New Jerusalem. Outside are believers who have passed the Great White Throne Judgment but have not yet matured into overcomers. They continue to grow in faith until they can feed on strong meat and become overcomers.

Note: Just as Adam lived under the Law of Obedience, so do the believing nations outside New Jerusalem. They live under a rod of iron, needing to have perfect obedience to God's laws (Rev 2:27, 19:15).