

Revelation Part 5 | 5/21/17

- Overview of where we are at in Revelation and where we are going.
 - Revelation provides us with an inspired outline
 - Revelation 1:19
 - “Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.”
 - Things that you have seen
 - The first vision
 - Things that are
 - The letters to the seven churches
 - Those that are to take place after this
 - This describes the future events that are going to take place.
 - This is made clear in the first verse of chapter 4
 - Revelation 4:1
 - “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this”.
 - These future events encompass the rest of the Book of Revelation.
 - **Refer to CHART**
 - John is given a glimpse of the throne room of God prior to the tribulation in chapters 4-5.
 - Chapters 4-5 give us a glimpse of the throne room of heaven and what goes on directly before God pours out His wrath upon the world.
 - **It also emphasizes the glory and sovereignty of God.**
 - Chapter 4 begins the Revelation of future events that were to come.
 - Revelation 1:19
 - “Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this”
 - Revelation 4:1b
 - “...Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”
 - The rest of Revelation describes future events that will lay out God’s plan for the tribulation, 2nd coming of Christ and His reign upon the earth.
 - 7 Year tribulation spans chapters 6-18
 - **MAIN-LINE APPROACH**
 - A large portion of Revelation revolves around what is known as the tribulation.
 - The tribulation is a 7-year period of time where God unleashes His divine wrath of judgment upon the world.
 - It is a series of seals, trumpets and bowls that bring various levels of destruction and calamity upon the earth.
 - This encompasses from chapter 6 to chapter 18.
 - The 7 years is the 70th week from the Book of Daniel
 - “Refer to Daniels seventy weeks”
 - Those that hold a pre-tribulation view of the rapture believe that the “church” will be raptured prior to the beginning of the 7-year tribulation.
 - Chapter breakdown
 - First 3.5 years of the tribulation - Chapters 6-11
 - Middle of the tribulation – Chapter 12

- Second 3.5 years is the Great Tribulation Chapters 13-18
 - 2nd Coming of Christ begins in Chapter 19
 - The tribulation must take place before the 2nd coming of Christ in Chapter 19
 - All of the seals, trumpets and bowls of God's judgment will be poured upon the earth prior to His coming.
 - The tribulation signifies the end of the church age.
 - We currently live in the age of the church, this is what we have always understood it to be as Christianity.
 - The church isn't a building but it's the people, all those who have faith in Christ and have been made righteous.
 - It is the end of the age of the church because prior to the tribulation there will be the rapture, so the church will no longer be here.
 - While the "church" will not be there, the Holy Spirit will be present and God all through the tribulation seeks repentance from the lost and He will grant it.
 - There will be those who are saved throughout the tribulation.
 - Revelation 7:14
 - "I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out fo the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 - Even in wrath God remembers mercy.
 - Habakkuk 3:2
 - "O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known/ in wrath remember mercy."
 - However, many more will still reject Christ and will not repent.
 - Revelation 9:20
 - "The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,"
 - **How important is the "age of the church" to Christ? Why doesn't He just bring the wrath and judgment now? Why the delay?**
 - 2 Peter 3:9
 - "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wising that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
 - **Will it be easier for people to be saved during the "age of the church" or during the tribulation?**
- Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" | Daniel 9:20-27
 - Portions of the Book of Daniel correspond with Revelation.
 - Revelation was not the only book of Scripture that is prophetic for events that have not yet occurred.
 - In this passage of Scripture, the angel Gabriel reveals events that will take place in the future pertaining to Christ and also the end times.

- The 7-year time period for the tribulation is deduced because of what we are told in Daniel 9:20-27 which is known as Daniel's "Seventy Weeks".
- Daniel had been praying to God and asking for forgiveness for the sins of Israel and also asked for their restoration.
 - God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel with an answered prayer that spoke of events that would take place over the next 482 years and also the future time that has not yet take place that we are told about in Revelation.
 - **Read Daniel 9:20-23**
 - Daniel 9:24
 - "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place."
 - First 3 were fulfilled with the crucifixion of Christ on the cross (1st Advent), the others with His 2nd coming (2nd Advent).
 - This opening verse speaks to things that have not yet taken place even in our time.
- The text says, "seventy weeks", but these are understood to be weeks of years for a total of 490 years.
 - In verse 24 it says, "seventy weeks", however the Hebrew word also means simply 7, so we have seventy "sevens".
 - Weeks of years is also used in Leviticus
 - Leviticus 25:8
 - "You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years."
 - When Daniel referred to days in other parts of the Book he would also add "of days".
 - God's prior revelation of time for events that effected Israel all had to do with years.
 - When we count these as years then the time matches perfectly for the events it foretold being the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah.
- Gabriel tells Daniel about the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the coming and death of the Messiah.
 - Daniel 9:25-26b
 - "Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed-one shall be cut off and shall have nothing."
 - The 69 weeks or 483 years, describe up to the time of about A.D 30 when Christ makes His return to Jerusalem.
 - During this time Jerusalem is rebuilt during the first 49 years (7 weeks).
 - Then at the end of the 434 years (62 weeks) we have the first advent of Christ and His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
 - Then there is a pause when Christ is "cut off", this is the break in-between the 69th and 70th week.
 - This time period is the time of the church that Jesus established.
 - Jesus intentionally established the church to spread His Gospel unto all the world.
 - The church is not just a building, but it is all Christians who have faith in Him having received salvation.

- It is the time or age where Jesus set aside the nation of Israel for the church.
 - Matthew 21:42-43
 - “Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”
- Jesus also refers to this as the times of the Gentiles.
 - Luke 21:24
 - “They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- The time of the church will end at the rapture.
- The final week yet to be fulfilled in verse 27 is seen as the time of the 7-year tribulation in Revelation.
 - This is a description of the end of the age that when put together with Revelation brings clarity.
 - Daniel 9:27
 - “And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who make desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.
 - “He” that makes a strong covenant is the antichrist who will come in those end times.
 - The antichrist is an agent of Satan who is a false witness that deceives Israel and the world during the tribulation.
 - Seven years of the tribulation
 - Just as these previous weeks have been taken as years we see this final week as 7 years.
 - The Great Tribulation takes place in the 2nd half of the week (3.5 years)
 - This verse splits the last week in half which we see in Revelation as the period of time known as the Great Tribulation.
 - This is the time Jesus called the Great Tribulation
 - Matthew 24:21
 - “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.”
 - Verses in Revelation that speak to the 2nd half being 3.5 years.
 - There are verses in Revelation that give a specific number of days which are 1260 (3.5 years) which again verify the length of tribulation.
 - Two witnesses will prophesy a message of judgment and salvation for 1260 days (3.5 years)
 - Revelation 11:3
 - “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth”
 - Woman is nourished during the interval prior to the great tribulation for 1,260 days (3.5 years)

- Revelation 12:6b
 - “and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.”
 - The beast exercises authority for 42 months (3.5 years)
 - Revelation 13:5
 - “And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.”
 - **The seventy weeks ends with the 2nd advent of Christ (2nd coming) and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.**
- God the Father seated upon His throne of authority and power | Revelation 4
 - **Read Revelation 4:1-5**
 - John is transported to heaven in Spirit.
 - John is now given a glimpse of something that only those who are presently in Heaven can lay eyes upon.
 - It is the throne room of God where we will witness the praise and glorification of God and opening of the scroll which will release God’s judgment.
 - **These events give us a view of what will take place from God’s perspective.**
 - Man’s perspective is obviously different from God’s, but through these two chapter we get to see things from His.
 - God seated upon His throne.
 - Behold a throne stood in heaven and seated upon it was God the Father.
 - It is the Father as the Son and Spirit later come before the throne (5:6, 4:5)
 - How awestruck John must have been to have witnessed this, to see God the father seated upon His throne of authority, power and sovereignty.
 - God appeared as jasper and carnelian surrounded by an emerald rainbow.
 - Jasper is clear as it is later described in Revelation 21:11 while sardine is red.
 - **This would have been something likely to difficult to attempt to explain or even put in words of how to “describe” God.**
 - Ezekiel also had a similar experience describing how God revealed Himself to Him.
 - Ezekiel 1:26-28
 - “And above the expanse over their heads there was the **likeness** of a throne, **in appearance like sapphire**; and seated above the **likeness** of a throne was a **likeness** with a human **appearance**. And upward from what had the **appearance** of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the **appearance** of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the **appearance** of his waist I saw as it were the **appearance** of fire, and there was brightness around him. **Like** the **appearance** of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the **appearance** of the brightness all around.
 - **Ezekiel used the word “like” and “appearance” numerous times throughout, he was doing his best to describe the glory that he saw.**
 - From the throne came lightning and thunder.
 - Not likely as a violent storm, but a way to describe the power and glory of God.

- The 24 thrones and 24 elders
 - We are told that there are 24 elders that sit upon 24 thrones that surround the throne of God who were clothed in white and had golden crowns on their heads.
 - Not much is expanded upon these elders from Scripture as to “who” they are, but their reason to suspect that these elders may symbolize the people of God in heaven.
 - That they represent the church or Christians who have gone to the place that Jesus prepared for them.
 - The white robes are a common description for the redeemed.
 - Revelation 7:9
 - “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands”
 - The crown is a sign of victory and a reward for the redeemed.
 - 2 Timothy 4:8
 - “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”
 - They could also simply be other heavenly beings like the living creatures.
 - **Read Revelation 4:6-11**
 - Around the throne was a sea of glass like crystal
 - This wouldn't be water but as a crystal pavement for the flooring of God's throne room.
 - Exodus 24:10
 - “and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.
 - The four living creatures
 - These are also depicted similarly in Ezekiel, and resemble cherubim that are spoken of at different times throughout Scripture.
 - All of the cherubim have these same features that represent a lion, ox, man and an eagle.
 - **They likely have a symbolic meaning as well which can be speculated to represent strength, humility, and that of rational beings like man or many other things.**
 - Giving glory and honor to God.
 - The first glimpse that John sees of God prior to the judgment is a picture of His glory and power.
 - Then immediately he sees the living creatures and the elders giving glory and honor to God.
 - **The imagery here is powerful, showing how important to those present before God to worship Him. That He is the Lord God Almighty and creator of all things.**
 - This is what God wanted John (and readers of Revelation) to see first, this image of His power and His desire to receive our adoration.
 - **Do you think that we perhaps we do not spend enough time actually worshipping God?**
 - **What “Christian things” do we tend to focus on more as opposed to worship?**
- The Scroll and the Lamb | Revelation 5
 - **Read Revelation 5:1-7**
 - The scroll is in the right hand of God.

them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

- The lamb stood as though it had been slain.
 - This lamb had been slain upon the cross and His perfect blood was spilled for the sins of the world.
 - Though slain He did not perish and was resurrected, He lives and continues to be there for us.
- **Only Jesus was worthy, the one who died for the sins of the world could He finish God’s plan for the world.**
- The lamb has seven horns, seven eyes and the seven spirits of God.
 - This description certainly gives us some interesting imagery of Christ the lamb.
 - The use of the 7 conveys perfection.
 - The horns are a symbol of power in Scripture, so this is His perfect and complete power.
- **When Jesus takes the scroll the creatures and elders praise Him and give glory to the lamb who could take the scroll and open it.**
 - **Why do they sing praise and glory? Doesn’t this scroll contain God’s wrath and judgment?**
- They take the incense which is the prayers of the saints.
 - Incense in the OT rituals was used to signify the prayers of man going up to God.
 - Psalms 141:2
 - “Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!”
 - These prayers represent the prayers of the redeemed, those who have called out to God asking when was He going to avenge the evil and sin in the world.
 - That time was soon coming.
- **Read Revelation 5:11-14**
- Heaven consisting of an immeasurable number of angels, the 24 elders, the living creatures and even every creature in heaven and earth called in out praise to the Father and the Son.
 - This climax shows how important it is to all of heaven and the entire world that Jesus was about to open the scroll and the seven seals.
 - This wasn’t just something that might be important, it was critically important that it take place.
 - All that could see things through the eyes of God knew that His perfect and righteous judgment must take place, that the establishment of His kingdom was coming soon.