

Intro to Book of Revelation

(You're allowed to disagree with me – I'm not an expert)

Finish this Phrase: "The Book of Revelation is..."

Abused
Ignored
Confusing
Scary

Because it's all these things we don't read from it much, which is strange because it is the only Book in the Bible that promises the blessings of God, if we read it. It only promises curses for those who take anything out of the book. (Revelation 1:3) (Revelation 22:18-19)

The Book of Revelation is not to be: 1. Ignored 2. Abused

Revelation is God's Word = Revelation 1:1 says it's a Revelation of Jesus Christ, about Him.

"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,"

Revelation 1:19 is a key verse with 3-point outline

1. Past – you have seen
2. Present – Are now
3. Future – Shall take place.

One assumption about the book of Revelation is that it's a chronological roadmap of the future.

- **Revelation 1** – John is on Island of Patmos – Jesus appears to him and says I have a message for the 7 churches in Asia Minor.
- **Revelation 2-3** – We get the 7 messages to the 7 churches.
- **Revelation 4** – John gets a vision with 24 elders before the one on the throne, 4 living creatures crying out Holy, Holy, Holy.
- **Revelation 5** – The one on the throne is holding a scroll. The Lamb is worthy to open scroll.
- **Revelation 6** – Lamb starts to break the (7 seals) on the scroll. V-13, stars from sky fell to the earth – would mean end of the world. We're only in chapter 6 with 16 more chapters to go and we're at the end of the world. Revelation 6:17 "For the great day of god's wrath has come."

Q) What do we all the "Great Day of God's wrath?"

A) Judgment Day – But we're only in Chapter 6

Q) [If] Revelation is supposed to be a chronological roadmap of the future, [Then] why does end of world happen in Revelation 6:12-17? Revelation 11:15 Following is the End of the world again.

- **Revelation 7** – 144,000 – Answers the questions of Chapter 6 of whom can stand.
- **Revelation 8** – 7th seal broken – silence in Heaven – and
- **Revelation 9** – Then the 7 trumpet judgments – All Hell breaks loose. Abyss opened – Demons attack people.
- **Revelation 10** – Mighty angel 1 foot on land, 1 foot on Sea gives little scroll for John to eat.
- **Revelation 11:15** – The 7th Angel sounded his trumpet, 24 elders bow down before God on throne and sing about to one who I, and who was...

Q) What's missing?

A) Who is to come because He's there.

Revelation 11:18 "...The time has come for judging the dead" at the end of the world.
We're in Chapter 11 and the world had ended twice already.

In Chapter 12 We're introduced to Satan – who has been in the background.

In Chapter 13 Beasts from sea/Beast from Earth.

In Chapter 14 The world will end again.

In Chapter 16 The world will end again.

In Chapter 19 The world will end again.

In Chapter 20 The world will end again.

In Chapter 21 the world will end again.

Q) How's your chronological roadmap of future doing?

In Hebrew they write cyclical, (a-b-c-d-c-b-a), and in the Western world we write linear. So, in the Book of Revelation, we do NOT have a linear timeline, but cyclical description of End Time events.

Q) Are you trying to make the book of Revelation do something it was never intended to do?

- Another Example is (Revelation 12:1-3) birth of Jesus.
- (Revelation 6 and 11) The world ends twice before the birth of Jesus.

Q) How does that help our roadmap to the future?

We assume Revelation is to predict what will happen. However: the bigger goal of Revelation is to transform you to be more like Christ.

Q) Are We living in the last days?

Q) How does bible define the last days?

(Acts 2:13-17) When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

- Peter explains that in the last days God will pour out His Holy Spirit.

(Hebrews 1:1-3) In the last days God has spoken to us by His son Jesus.

So: Last days were present when Jesus walked the Earth.

- We've been living in the last days for the past 2000 years.

The bible defines "Last Days" as the time between Christ 1st coming and His 2nd coming.

Q) Are we living in Last Days?

A.) Absolutely – for the past 2000 years.

Q) What is Prophecy?

- 1) Forthtell = what am I doing right now?
- 2) Foretelling = reveal events before they occur.

A) We say prophecy = mainly prediction.

In the bible:

- Prediction only 17% time.
- 83% of prophecy is a Revelation of:
 - 1.) Who God is.
 - 2.) What God demands/desires from His people – Now

Prophecy in the bible was to correct God's people and persuade them to change!

Prophecy is more: **Forthtelling** than **Fortune Telling**!

Prophecy interprets God's truth for present situation.

Revelation 1:3 = Prophecy

Prophecy is more than a prediction. It's a challenge/revelation of God's truth for present situation.

Revelation reveals who God is. What rebellious people need more than anything?

God expects people to change/do things different in response to His revelation. – Carry out good news.

Historical Background

The book of Revelation was written to real people about real issue.

Genre

Genre helps guide us when we come to a particular text. Genre is important! = kind, type, category

For Example: Tigers massacre Indians

(Depending on what section of newspaper you're in will help you understand it and interpret it.)

- In sports section? = Detroit Tigers blew out Cleveland Indians.
- In international section? = Tigers killed people from continent of India.
- In local section? = Something bad happened at zoo and Native Americans caught brunt of it.

The section of the newspaper determines how we interact with this headline.

Q) Whatever section you're in will determine the questions you asked?

Genre

3 Genre's in Revelation:

- 1.) Epistle= Letter (Revelation 1:4)
What questions would you ask? Who is writing to? Why? Where?
- 2.) Prophecy= Future Forthtelling (Revelation 1:3)
- 3.) Apocalyptic= A Revelation of transcended realities (through symbols) often times communicated by other worldly beings to a people in times of conflict. – (uses symbolic Language) (Revelation 1:20) (Revelation 19:8)

You're going to miss the (symbol and image) if you miss the genre.

Q) Do you read the book literally or figuratively?

A.) Neither- you read it naturally according to text/genre/context.

Symbols

(Revelation 3:12) I don't want to pillar (Pillar in temple is most integral part of temple)
Streets of God in Heave= what we consider most valuable here will be paring material in Heaven.

Seven= completeness wholeness

Horn- Symbolic for power

Must interpret symbol by:

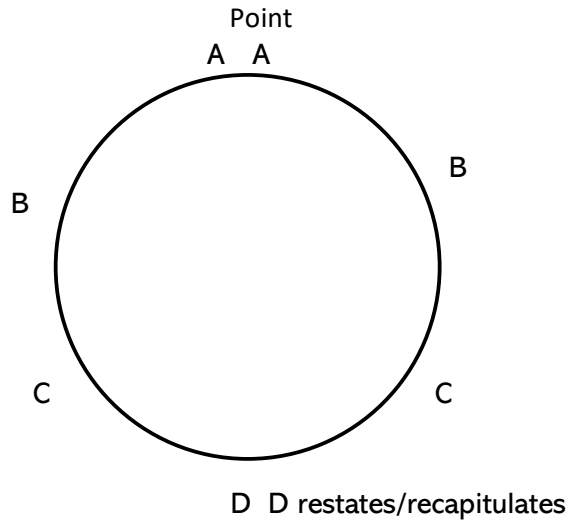
- 1.) Context – 4 verses before and 4 verses after.
- 2.) context used book throughout bible. – keys= Jesus' sovereignty (See pages 5-8 in book)

Structure of Revelation

We think/move/write Linear progressively point A → point B-C

Jesus don't think Linear / progressively, but cyclically

Recapitulation = Retell certain events from a different perspective



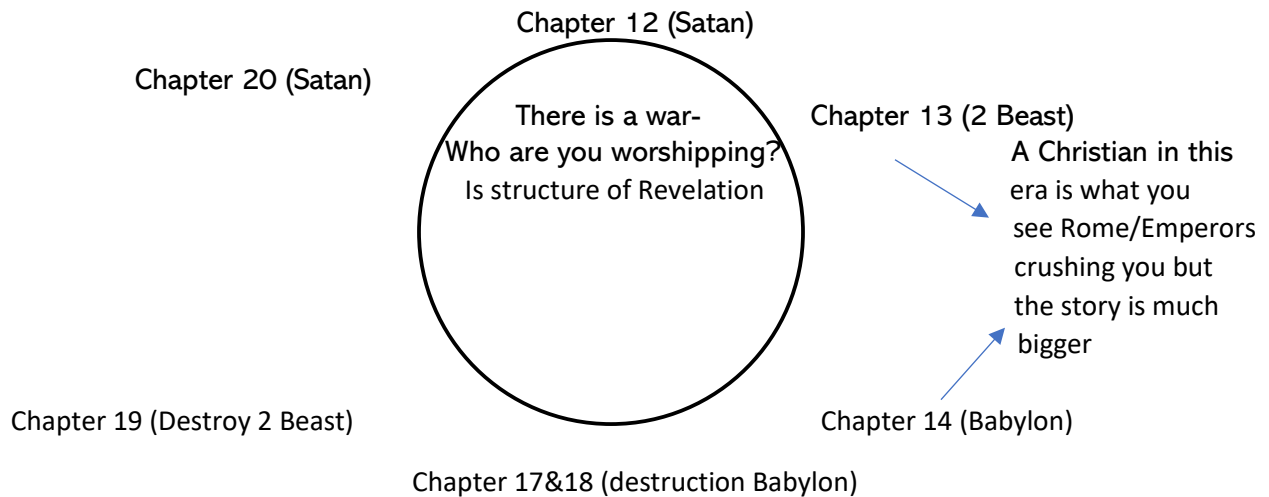
This is why you see in the book of revelation the world ending over and over again.

- The world end 7 times. 7 is a symbol for?
- It's not an accident when you see the 7 seal, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls

The dialogue helps us focus on key points during movement Example (Revelation 19:10)

Goes cyclical and emphasizes key points – does not go linear from A-B-C-D

They are introduced and disposed of in reverse order.



Chapter 4-8 you have the 7 seals

Chapter 8-11 you have the 7 trumpets

Chapter 12 Satan

Chapter 13 Anti-Christ/false prophets

Application

Revelation reveals to us:

- 1.) Who God is
- 2.) What God desires
- 3.) What God demands

Revelation 4:5 “*from the throne came flashes of lightening, rumbling, and peals of thunder.”

(We will see this image 3 more times at the end of every one of our sets of 7.)

At the end of 7 seal – Revelation 8:5

After 7th trumpet – Revelation 11:19

After 7 bowls – Revelation 16:18

→ To show that God is King in control in the midst of chaos of
→ 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls

***Comes from the throne!**

God is in Control= peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lighting, and earthquakes come from the throne.