

Points in Revelation Relevant to Us Today to Prepare for the Lord's Soon Return

I. Chapter 1:1-3, 9 – John, a Servant of the Lord

- A. Who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ
- B. A brother and companion in the tribulation (sufferings), kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ
- C. Being a prisoner in exile on the island of Patmos – where he saw the visions

Greetings of the Triune God to the Churches

II. Chapter 1:4-8 – The Revelation of the Triune God and His Unchanging Plan for His People

- A. God the Father – the One who is and who was and who is to come
 - 1. “I AM THAT I AM” (hâyâh < היה > the verb “to be” – Exod. 3:13-15)
 - 2. “Yahweh” = “the Existing One”; the Eternal One; “He will be” – the LORD GOD; (Exod. 3:15; Isa. 41:4; 43:10; 44:6; 48:12; Mal. 3:6)
 - 3. “Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life” (Heb. 7:3)
- B. The Holy Spirit – the seven Spirits who are before the throne of God
 - 1. Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne (Rev. 4:5b)
 - 2. The seven eyes of the Lamb, sent forth to all the earth (Rev. 5:6b; Ps. 11:4; Prov. 15:3; Zech. 3:9; 4:10 (lamps); 2 Chron. 16:9)

3. The Spirit poured out on the day of Pentecost – the Spirit of power, life, and grace; the Spirit in Isa. 11:1-2; the Spirit in John 14-16 for His servants to carry out God’s work
- C. Jesus Christ
1. In His incarnation as a man – He is the faithful witness toward God
 - a. He is called “Faithful and True” (Rev. 19:11; 3:7, 14)
 - b. Those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful (Rev. 17:14)
 2. In His resurrection – He is the firstborn from the dead (Acts 13:33; Ps. 2:7)
 - a. The Head of His body, the church, the new creation
 - b. We are His many brethren being conformed to His image (Rom. 8:29; Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:18)
 - c. He must have the preeminence in all things (Col. 1:18)
 3. In His ascension – He is the Ruler over the kings of the earth (Heb. 1:3, 8, 13; Ps. 110)
 - a. Sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high
 - b. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16; 17:14; 1 Tim. 6:15)
 - c. His scepter is a scepter of righteousness
 - d. Making all His enemies His footstool
 - e. Zion is His kingdom on this earth today – a kingdom of priests
 4. The purpose of God’s redemptive work – to make us a kingdom of priests (or kings and priests) to His God and Father (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; Exod. 19:4-6)

SECTION I – The Things Which John Saw IN SPIRIT and the Things Which Are (Rev. 1:10)

III. Chapter 1:10-18 – The Revelation of Jesus Christ as the Glorious, Great High Priest Walking Among the Golden Lampstands

IV. Chapters 2 & 3 – The Mystery of the Seven Stars and the Seven Golden Lampstands

- A. The stars – the messengers of the churches
 1. Stars are heavenly bodies – shining in the night (Gen. 1:14-18)
 2. They are signs to give direction (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15; Dan. 12:3)
 3. Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5), the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16; 2:28; Matt. 2:2,9-10; 2 Pet. 1:19), the Dayspring, the rising of the sun (Luke 1:78-79)
- B. The golden lampstands are the churches
 1. The golden lampstand placed in the holy place (Exod. 40:24-25)
 2. The vision of the golden lampstand with the golden oil and the two olive trees (Zech. 4)
 3. The holy city, the New Jerusalem, the universal lampstand with the glory of God as the light and Christ as the lamp (Rev. 21:23; 1 John 1:5-10)
- C. The fallen condition of the churches, the call to repentance, and the reward to those who overcome

SECTION 2 – John, IN SPIRIT, Saw the Things Which Will Take Place Thereafter (Rev. 4:2)

V. Chapters 4 & 5

- A. The throne of God in heaven – ready for the judgment of the world (Dan. 7:9-10)
- B. The ascension of Jesus Christ (cf. Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 5:5-7)
 - 1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah
 - 2. The victorious Lamb who overcame – the Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes
 - 3. He is the only One worthy to take the scroll and to open the seven seals

VI. Chapters 6-7:3 – The Opening of the 1st to 6th Seals by the Lamb

- A. Seals #1 to #4 (already opened) – the 4 horses (Rev. 6:1-7)
 - 1. The riders of the horses are personified
 - 2. The white horse started to run on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2
 - a. White is a positive color throughout the book of Revelation
 - b. The rider – the personification of the victorious and conquering work of the gospel of Christ
 - i. Who conquered Satan, all principalities and powers, and death etc. (Rev. 5:5ff.; 1:18; Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 2:15, 20; Eph. 1:19-23; Rev. 19:11-21; Ps. 45:3-6; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 15:25-26)
 - ii. Christ made us more than conquerors (2 Cor. 2:14-17; Rom. 8:31-37; Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21; 20:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:54-57)
- B. Seal #5 (already opened) – the martyrs in all the past ages – the souls of those slain because of the word of God and the testimony which they held (Rev. 6:9-11),

including the martyred overcomers in Rev. 2 & 3 (e.g. Rev. 2:8-11, 13, 26-27), the man-child in Rev. 12:4-5, and the multitude before the throne of God, all clothed in white in Rev. 7:9-17

- C. Seal #6 will be opened soon (Rev. 6:12-17) – everyone will know that the great day of God’s wrath has arrived (Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 6:15-17)
 - 1. There will be a great earthquake; the sun will become black as sackcloth and the moon like blood
 - 2. Stars will fall to the earth and the sky will recede as a scroll
 - 3. Every mountain and island will move out of its place

VII. Chapter 7:3-17 – An INTERMISSION Before the Opening of the 7th Seal

- A. The sealing of the 144,000 among the 12 tribes of Israel – those who are still faithful in keeping the commandments given by Moses (Rev. 7:3-8)
- B. The rapture of the great multitude standing before the throne and before the Lamb (Rev. 7:9-17)
 - 1. Clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands
 - 2. These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The “great tribulation” here refers to the great sufferings that they went through in the past ages beginning with Abel.
 - 3. These are the man-child mentioned in Rev. 12:5 (see point **X**), showing that the rapture of the overcomers will take place before the opening of the 7th seal
 - 4. This should also include the firstfruits in Rev. 14:1-5

VIII. Chapter 8-9; 11:15-19 – the Opening of the 7th Seal, Which Are the 7 Trumpets

- A. The commencement of the GREAT DAY OF GOD'S WRATH (the last 3½ years)
- B. Prelude (Rev. 8:1-5):
 - 1. Half an hour of solemn silence
 - 2. An angel (Christ Himself as the great High Priest) with a golden censer full of incense will offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar to God before the throne
 - 3. Then the same angel will take the censer, fill it with fire from the altar, and hurl it to the earth; and thunders, rumblings, lightnings, and an earthquake will follow
- C. Then the sounding of the 7 trumpets begins
 - 1. The first 4 trumpets (Rev. 8:6-13) – will destroy a third of all creation, similar to the plagues in Egypt
 - 2. The last three are the three woes
 - a. The sounding of the 5th trumpet – the opening of the abyss (Rev. 9:1-11)
 - b. The sounding of the 6th trumpet – the 200 million demonic horsemen killing 1/3 of all mankind (Rev. 9:13-21)
 - c. The sounding of the 7th trumpet will mark the end of the mystery of God (Rev. 10:7; 11:15-19; Ch. 16)

SECTION 3 – Insertions Revealing Specific Events that Will Take Place After the Opening of the 6th Seal to the End

IX. Chapter 10 – The Prophecy Revealed in the Little Open Book

- A. Christ, the mighty angel, coming down from heaven, with a little book open in His hand
- B. He commanded John to eat the little book and to continue to prophesy the visions from chapter 11 to the end of the book of Revelation

X. Chapter 11:1-14 – Specific Events Regarding Israel during the Last 3½ years

- A. The measuring of the sanctuary of God, the altar, and those who worship there
- B. The two witnesses, Moses and Elijah – sent by God to witness to the Jews in Jerusalem

XI. Chapter 12 – God’s Different Ways of Dealing with His People During the Last 3½ Years

- A. The universal woman – the resurrection of all God’s people in the past ages (Rev. 12:1, 6, 14)
 - 1. 12 stars – God’s people in the age of the patriarchs
 - 2. The moon – God’s people in the Old Covenant age
 - 3. The sun – the saints in the New Covenant age
 - 4. **She fled to the wilderness**; a place prepared by God for her, away from the presence of the serpent for 1,260 days
- B. The man-child, the overcomers, a minority part of the woman (Rev. 12:4b-5)
 - 1. They overcame Satan (Rev. 12:11)
 - 2. Will be **raptured to God and to His throne**
 - 3. Will rule over the nations with a rod of iron (see also Rev. 2:26-27; 19:15)
- C. The remaining offspring (God’s people who are still alive on the earth) will be **persecuted by the dragon and the beast**, who will make war with them (Rev. 12:17; 13:7)
- D. The great, fiery red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns (Rev. 12:3, 7-9, 10b)
 - 1. The old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, the accuser of the brethren
 - 2. Being cast down to the earth (coincides with the 5th trumpet – the star fallen from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit)

3. The man-child (the overcomers) overcame him (Rev. 12:11)
 - a. By the blood of the Lamb
 - b. By the word of their testimony
 - c. They loved not their soul-lives to the death (they were martyred – see seal #5)
4. The end of the dragon (Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10)

XII. Chapter 13 – The Beast and the False Prophet

XIII. Chapter 14 – The Final Harvest Among the Christians Who Are Alive on the Earth

- A. **The firstfruits** (the matured Christians) – raptured shortly before the last 3½ years (Rev. 14:1-5), at the opening of the 6th seal, before the opening of the 7th seal
 1. **Raptured to the throne of God**
 2. Standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion
 3. Only 144,000
- B. The harvest of **the rest of the believers** who went through the 3½ years of tribulation <persecution> (Rev. 14:14-16; 12:17; 13:7)
 1. Caught up together with the woman (kept in the wilderness) into the clouds to meet the Lord **in the air at the sound of the last trumpet** (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:17)
 2. To appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10)
- C. **The harvest of the grapes** of the world to be thrown into the “winepress of God’s wrath” – the war of Armageddon, the 6th bowl (Rev. 16:13-16; Joel 3:11-16; Zech. 14:2-3; Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-3)

XIV. Chapter 15:1-4 – The Rapture of the Martyrs During the 3½ Years

- A. Those who have the victory over the beast, over his image, his mark, and the number of his name
 - 1. The faithful Jews – singing the song of Moses
 - 2. The Christians – singing the song of the Lamb
- B. Standing on the sea of glass (now mingled with fire), which is before the throne of God in Rev. 4:6

XV. Chapter 16 – The Last Trumpet (the Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath on the Earth)

John, IN SPIRIT, Saw the Judgment of the Great Harlot, Who Sits on Many Waters (Rev. 17:1-3)

XVI. Chapters 17-18; 19:1-5 – God’s Severe Judgment of the Great Harlot, Babylon, with the Cup of the Wine of the Fierceness of His Wrath (Rev. 16:19)

XVII. Chapters 19:6-21; 20 – The Ushering in of the Millennial Kingdom

- A. The marriage feast of the Lamb
 - 1. His wife <bride> has made herself ready, arrayed in fine linen, pure and white – the righteous acts of the saints
 - 2. Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast (Rev. 19:9; Matt. 25:1-12)
 - 3. Watch therefore, that none of us misses the wedding (Matt. 22:1-14)
- B. Christ and His army defeat the beast, the false prophet and their army at the war of Armageddon
- C. Satan’s end (Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10), Death and Hades (Rev. 20:14)

- D. The reward of the faithful saints – to rule with Christ a thousand years
- E. The final judgment of all the dead unbelievers in the past ages before the great white throne of God at the end of the millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:11-15)

John, IN SPIRIT, Saw the Ultimate Glorious Vision of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the Lamb's Wife (Rev. 21:10)

XVIII. Chapters 21-22 – the Consummation: the New Heaven and New Earth and the New Jerusalem

- A. The old creation will pass away – there will be no more sea (Isa. 57:20; 27:1; Dan. 7:3; Rev. 13:1; 2 Pet. 3:3-15)
- B. The new heaven and new earth (Isa. 65:17-19; 66:22)
- C. The holy city, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2-27; 22:1-5)
 - 1. Descending out of heaven from God
 - 2. Having the glory of God
- D. The Lord's warning (Rev. 22:6-7, 10-21) – He is coming quickly!