

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
- D. A warning: “the time is near”

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; the Spirit of glory (1 Pet. 4:14)

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)
 - i. One with the Father
 - ii. Not seeking His own will but the will of the Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)
 - iii. Always doing the things that please the Father (John 8:29)
 - iv. Glorifying the Father in His life on earth
 - v. Obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8)
 - b. Those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful (Rev. 17:14; 2:10)
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)
 - d. He destroyed the devil and his power of death (Heb. 2:14-15) – setting us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2)
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
- D. The purpose of Christ’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; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9)

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

- A. According to the order of Melchizedek – King of righteousness and of peace (Heb. 7:1-3; 7:24-26)
- 1. He lives forever
 - 2. Able to save us to the uttermost
 - 3. Always making intercession for us
 - 4. Holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens
- B. He is the Ancient One (Rev. 1:14; Dan. 7:9; 10:6)
- 1. His origins are from old, from eternity (Mic. 5:2b; John 1:1; John 8:58; Rom. 9:5; Ps. 45:6 <Heb. 1:8>; Isa. 9:6-7; 1 John 5:20)
 - 2. His head and His hair are white like wool, as white as snow; his eyes like blazing fire (Dan. 7:9; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:3; Rom. 11:33; Heb. 4:13)
 - 3. His feet are like fine brass refined in a furnace – signifies judgment (Rev. 2:18; 10:1; Dan 10:6; Exod. 27:1-2; Num. 16:36-40; 21:9)
 - 4. His voice is as the sound of many waters (Ezek. 43:2; Dan. 10:6b; Rev. 19:6)
 - 5. Out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12-13; Rev. 2:12, 16; 19:15; Isa. 11:4; 2 Thess. 2:8)
 - 6. His countenance is like the sun shining in its strength (Mal. 4:2; Acts 26:13-14; Rev. 1:16)

7. He held in His right hand seven stars (Ps. 20:6; 98:1; Isa. 62:8a)
- C. He is the Alpha and the Omega; the First and the Last; the Living One who overcame death and holds the keys of Hades and of death (Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:8, 17; 22:13)
- D. Walking among the churches to expose, rebuke, and judge them, or rebuke, judge, and encourage them to repent with the reward to those who overcome

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 – 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)
 4. The saints – the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15)
- 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)

V. The Condition of the Churches, the Call to Repentance, and the Reward to Those Who Overcome (Rev. chapters 2 & 3)

- A. Ephesus – the church that left the first love (best love)
- B. Smyrna – the suffering church
- C. Pergamos – the worldly church
- D. Thyatira – the church that tolerated Jezebel
- E. Sardis – the dead church
- F. Philadelphia – the church of brotherly love
 - 1. Christ – Eliakim (Isa. 22:20-24) replaced the unfaithful Shebna (Isa. 22:15-19)
 - a. Who is holy and true,
 - b. Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens
 - 2. They have a little strength (2 Cor. 3:5; 12:9-10; John 15:5; Phil. 4:13) – they have kept the Lord’s word and have not denied His name
 - 3. All their persecutors will know that the Lord loves the church in Philadelphia
 - 4. They have kept the word of His endurance (perseverance) – the Lord will keep them from “the hour of trial” which shall come upon the whole world
 - 5. To him who overcomes:
 - a. The Lord will make him a pillar in the temple of His God, and he shall go no more out
 - b. The Lord will write on him the name of His God, and the name of the city of His God, the New Jerusalem, and His new name
 - 6. A warning:
 - a. Behold the Lord is coming quickly
 - b. Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown
- G. Laodicea – the lukewarm and proud church

VI. The Need of the Saints to Have a Discerning Spirit

- A. Do not be blind followers of blind leaders (Matt. 15:14; 23:16-24; Luke 6:39; Jer. 5:31)

- B. Be a spiritual Christian and have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:15-16; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; 2 Tim. 1:7-8, 13-14)
- C. Have an ear to hear what the Spirit is speaking to the churches (Heb. 3:7-8, 16; 4:7, 12, 14-16)
- D. Be strengthened in the inner man (Eph. 3:14-19)

VII. 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

VIII. 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. Seal #1 – The white horse started to run on the day of the 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)

3. Seals #2 to #4
 - a. The red horse – war
 - b. The black horse – the economy
 - c. The pale horse – death
- 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)

IX. Chapters 12 – The Man-Child

- A. The overcomers, a minority part of the woman (Rev. 12:4b-5)
 1. They overcame Satan (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)
 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)
- B. 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)
- C. 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 end of the dragon (Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10)

X. 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 (Heb. 12:22-24)
 3. Only 144,000 – fully mature (Heb. 5:12-14; 6:1-3; Eph. 4:14-16)
 4. Having the Lord's name and His Father's name written on their foreheads (Rev. 3:12; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 10:16; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 4:1; 1 Cor. 2:15-16; Rom. 8:5; Col. 3:1-2)
 5. Singing a new song which no one could learn except the 144,000 (Eph. 4:20-21; Phil. 3:7-17)
 6. They are virgins – those who did not defile themselves with women (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 7:1; 11:2-3; Eph. 5:27)
 7. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Matt. 16:24-28; 1 Pet. 1:5-9) keeping the feast of the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29; 23:27-29)
 8. They were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb (see point 3)
 9. In their mouth was found no deceit (Ps. 34:13; 1 Pet. 3:10; Jam. 3:1-2, 8-10; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)
 10. They are without fault <blameless> (1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Pet. 3:14; Heb. 12:14)
- 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)

XI. 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

XII. 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 miss 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)

XIII. Chapter 21-22 – the Consummation: the New Heaven and New Earth and the New Jerusalem

The Lord's warning (Rev. 22:6-7, 10-21) – He is coming quickly!