

An Outline Of The Book Of Revelation

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"Write, therefore, what you have **seen**, what **is now** and what **will take place later**." **Revelation 1:19 (NIV)**

I. The Things Which John Has Seen... (Chapter 1)

- JESUS! Revelation **1:12-16**
- "Like a son of man" – Claim to deity **Daniel 7:13**
- White Robe with Golden Sash – Our High Priest **Hebrews 2:17**
- Hair white like wool – Shekinah glory - A picture of His holiness.
- Eyes blazing fire - A penetrating gaze **Hebrews 4:13**
- Feet like glowing bronze – Reference to divine judgement **Exodus 38**
- Voice like rushing waters – Voice of authority
- A sharp two-edged sword. Signifies judgment on those who attack His people and destroy His church. **Revelation 2:16; 19:15**
- Face like the sun – Signifying His Glory **Matthew 17:2**

The Names of Jesus in Revelation:

The First and the Last 1:17

The living one 1:18

The Son of God 2:18

The faithful and true witness 3:14

The Lion of the tribe of Judah 5:5

The heir to David's throne 5:5

Lamb who was slain 5:6

Shepherd 7:17

Christ 12:10

Faithful and True 19:11

The Word of God 19:13

King over all kings 19:16

Lord over all lords 19:16

The Alpha and the Omega 22:13

The Beginning and the End 22:13

The bright morning star 22:16

"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." **Revelation 22:7 (NIV)**

II. The Things Which Are... (Chapters 2-3)

- We Are Given A Limited Time To Repent
Revelation 2:5,14-16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9,11

“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.” **Revelation 3:3 (NIV)**

The 7 churches:	Commendation	/ Rebuke / Action
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Hard work, endurance	/ Lost first love / Remember & repent
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Persecuted, poverty	/ No rebuke / Don't fear, be faithful
Pergamum (2:12-17)	Remained loyal	/ Tolerated compromise / Repent
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Love, Faith, service	/ Tolerated immorality / Repent
Sardis (3:1-6)	Effective	/ Superficial / Wake up, Repent
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Faithful	/ No rebuke / Hold on
Laodicea (3:14-22)	No commendation	/ Lukewarm / Be diligent, Repent

III. The Things Which Shall Be... (Chapters 4-22)

- "Come up here" – God's throne is described (4)
- Final Things (The 7 seals) (Rev 5:1-8:5)
- Prelude: Who is worthy? Jesus! (5)
- Opening seals 1-6 (6)
 1. White horse: Conquest
 2. Red horse: War
 3. Black Horse: Famine
 4. Pale Horse: Death
 5. Martyrs (How long?)
 6. EarthquakeSealing before the 7th seal (7)
 7. Opening the 7th seal (8:1-5)
- Final Destruction (The 7 trumpets)
 1. Earth (1/3 destroyed)
 2. Sea (1/3 destroyed)
 3. Rivers (1/3 destroyed)
 4. Lights (1/3 destroyed)
 5. Demons (Locusts) (Torture of men)
 6. Angels (1/3 of mankind destroyed)
The angel & scroll: Testimony in heaven (10:1-11)
The 2 witnesses: Testimony on earth (11:1-12)
Final element of 6th seal: Earthquake
 7. 7th trumpet (11:15-19)

- Historic Visions
 - Worship - temple opened (11:15-19)
 - The dragon and the woman (12)
 - The dragon is Satan
 - The woman is Israel God's people
- The beasts from Sea and Earth (13)
 - The beast of the sea is Governmental
 - The beast of the earth is Religious (false religion) - 666
- The lamb and witnesses (14:1-5)
 - Angels' Announcements (14:6-20)
 - The Harvest (14:14-20)
- 7 bowls of God's Final Wrath (15-16)
 1. Sores
 2. Sea to blood
 3. Rivers to blood
 4. Fire from sun
 5. Beast's kingdom into darkness
 6. Euphrates dried up
 7. Earthquake

Vision of a woman on a beast (17)

Fall of Babylon (18-19:10)

Fall of the beast and false prophet (19:11-21)

1000 year binding of the devil (20:1-6)

1000 year reign of Christ (20:1-6)

Fall of Satan (20:7-10)

Final judgment of all (20:11-15)

- Final and Eternal Celebration

Everything New! (21:1-6)

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and **He will live with them**. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death** or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)**

The new Jerusalem (21:9-2:5)

Jesus is coming soon! (22:7-13)

"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." **Revelation 22:7 (NIV)**

➤ **What should our response be to the book of Revelation?**

John was encouraged to respond with Worship! (1:17, 19:10, 22:8-9)

"Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus." **Revelation 19:10 (NLT2)**

Important Words to Know

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666—Number of the beast, spelled out in Revelation 13:18 as six hundred sixty-six. Greek and Hebrew did not have written numbers. Instead, either they spelled out the number, or they wrote out the number using the letters in the alphabet. One good approach to this issue is to remember that six is a symbol of incompleteness; 666 indicated total imperfection.

144,000—Group of believers who endure the great tribulation (Revelation 7:14). Some believe that these persons are literally 144,000 Jews—12,000 from each tribe—who embrace Jesus Christ as their Lord (see Revelation 7:4-9). Others suggest that the terms “Israel” and “twelve tribes” often refer to Christians (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 6:16; James 1:1). Therefore, the number would point to God’s people (symbolized by twelve tribes, twelve apostles, or both) multiplied by 1,000 (a number that symbolizes an extreme multitude or length of time)—in other words, the full number of those who belong to God.

Abomination of desolation—An event that desecrates the temple in Jerusalem and is a signal to Jesus’ followers that soon Jerusalem will be ruined.

Antichrist—(from Greek, *antichristos*, in place of Christ) Anyone who denies what the apostles taught about Jesus Christ (1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7). Specifically, the Antichrist is a Satanic counterfeit of Jesus Christ, described as “lawless” and as a “beast” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-8; Revelation 13:1-18; 17:3-17). The Antichrist could be a specific person who rises to power during a time of tribulation or a symbol of false teachers and leaders who will arise when the end of the age draws near.

Apocalyptic literature—(from Greek, *apokalypsis*, revealing) Jewish genre or writing, structured around visions that figuratively pointed to hidden truths for the purpose of assuring God’s people of the goodness of God’s plans during periods of persecution.

Armageddon—(from Hebrew, *Har-Megiddon*, Mount Megiddo) The city of Megiddo was located between the Plain of Jezreel and Israel’s western coast. Deborah, Gideon, Saul, Ahaziah, and Josiah fought decisive battles near Megiddo—largely because the area around Megiddo is broad and flat. So the valley of Megiddo became the symbol of a point of decisive conflict. Some believe that a literal battle will occur near Megiddo near the end of time. Others view the reference to Armageddon as a symbol of an ultimate conflict between spiritual forces of good and evil.

Babylon—Revelation 17 presents the figure of a prostitute called Babylon riding upon a scarlet beast. The name is symbolic, yet interpretations vary:

Jerusalem: The fall of Babylon could be a symbolic reference to the fall of Jerusalem in ad 70.

Rome: After ad 70, Jewish writers often referred to Rome as “Babylon.” The name may symbolize the political and religious powers in every age that attempt to defy God and to persecute his people.

One-world government and religion: Babylon may be a reference to a one-world government and one-world religion, perhaps centered in the revived city of Babylon, that will emerge near the end of time.

Beasts, two—Symbolic creatures described in Revelation 11:7 and 13:1-18.

The first beast: This creature rises from the sea and has ten horns and seven heads. The seven heads seem to point to Rome, the city known for its seven hills. Some interpreters understand this reference to Rome as a literal reference to a power that will arise from Rome near the end of time; others view it as a symbolic reference to the powers in every age that defy God's dominion and persecute God's people. The beast claims blasphemous names for itself—much like Domitian, emperor from ad 81 until 96, who demanded that he be addressed as "Lord and God." One of the horns seemed to have died but then returned to life—much like the false rumor that emerged after the death of Nero that he had come back to life.

The second beast: This creature rises from the earth with horns like a lamb and a voice like a dragon—in other words, a satanic parody of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Some interpreters understand this creature as a literal leader who will encourage people to worship the first beast. Others view the second beast as a symbol of any religion in any time period that focuses worshipers on anything other than Jesus Christ.

Church age—The time period from the beginning of the church (about ad 30) until Jesus Christ returns for everyone who has trusted in him.

Eschatology—Study of the Bible's teachings about the events leading up to the second coming of Jesus (from Greek, *eschatos* [final] + *logos* [word or idea] = "a word about the final things").

Final judgment—The event described in Rev. 20:11-15, when God resurrects all people, judges them from the great white throne, and delivers them to their eternal destinies.

First coming of Christ—The earthly life & ministry of Jesus Christ, about 4 BC-ad 30.

Letters to the Seven Churches—After the opening vision (Chapter 1), John begins to write to the messengers (angels) of seven churches, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The messages review the churches' histories, give warnings and commands, and tells them to prepare for what is about to unfold. These were actual messages to real churches in existence in John's day, though some see in the seven churches patterns that apply to the church in specific past, present, or future eras.

Mark of the beast—Indication of a person's allegiance to the teachings of the **Antichrist** (Revelation 13:16-17). The people of God receive a similar mark, indicating their loyalty to Jesus (Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4). Some biblical students believe that the mark of the beast will be an actual mark, required by the Antichrist. (Between the Old and New Testaments, some Jews were forced to be branded with the symbol of the god Dionysius.) Other interpreters of Revelation understand the mark as a reference to someone's actions ("hand") and beliefs ("forehead"). "Hand" and "forehead" seem to carry this symbolic meaning in Exodus 13:9, 16.

Millennium—The thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth, described in Revelation 20:4-6 (from Latin, *mille*, thousand).

Premillennial: The belief that the millennium is a future event and Jesus will return before (pre-) the millennium.

Amillennial: The millennium is a symbol of Christ's present reign among his people.

Postmillennial: Jesus will return after (post-) the millennium. The millennium is a time in which most of the world submits to Jesus, and peace and justice reign.

Preterism—Preterism is the eschatological viewpoint that suggests some, if not all, biblical prophecies about the end times refer to specific events that happened in the first century. Some preterist interpretations include: the Antichrist refers to Emperor Nero; the tribulation refers to the Jewish War; and the Destruction of the temple occurred in ad 70 (from Latin, praeter, past or bygone).

Rapture—Event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, when Jesus Christ returns for his people. Dispensational premillennialists believe that the rapture and the second coming of Jesus are two separate events. They place the rapture before the great tribulation and the second coming after the tribulation. Historical premillennialists, amillennialists, and postmillennialists understand the second coming of Jesus and the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 as the same event (from Latin, raptus, carry away).

Second coming of Christ—The bodily return of Jesus to earth to reign as king.

Tribulation—Time when disasters happen on the earth and people who are faithful to Jesus suffer intense persecution, possibly lasting seven years (Revelation 7:14).

Premillennialists place the great tribulation near the end.

Dispensational premillennialists typically believe that the tribulation will last exactly seven years.

Many historical premillennialists view the reference to “seven years” as a symbol of the completeness of God’s dealings with the world as the end of time approaches.

Most amillennialists and postmillennialists treat the tribulation as a symbol of calamities and persecutions that have occurred throughout church history.

Some amillennialists and postmillennialists are preterists—they believe that the great tribulation occurred between ad 63 and 70, during the Jewish-Roman conflict that ended with the destruction of the Jewish temple.

Witnesses, two—Two beings described in Revelation 11:1-14 who speak the truth about God before being killed and then resurrected. Many suggestions have been made regarding who the two witnesses might be. Here are three of the many possibilities: Some believe that these two witnesses are two people who will appear during the tribulation, near the end of time.

Others view them as two biblical prophets—perhaps Moses and Elijah—that have been resurrected to proclaim God’s truth during the tribulation.

Others see the two witnesses as symbols of the Law and the Prophets—both of these testified about Jesus and yet, this testimony was rejected, even to the point of killing those that appealed to this testimony (for example, Stephen in Acts 7). If so, the “resurrection” of the two witnesses would point to a time of final vindication, a point at which God demonstrates that the Law and Prophets did indeed testify about Jesus Christ.

Purpose of Writing: The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God "to show his servants what must soon take place." This book is filled with mysteries about things to come. It is the final warning that the world will surely end and judgment will be certain. It gives us a tiny glimpse of heaven and all of the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white. Revelation takes us through the great tribulation with all its woes and the final fire that all unbelievers will face for eternity. The book reiterates the fall of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for. We are shown the duties of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of the saints that will live forever with Jesus in the New Jerusalem. Like John, we find it hard to describe what we read in the book of Revelation.

Key Verses: Revelation 1:19, "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later."

Revelation 13:16-17, "He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."

Revelation 19:11, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war."

Revelation 20:11, "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them."

Revelation 21:1, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

Brief Summary: The Revelation is lavish in colorful descriptions of the visions which proclaim for us the last days before Christ's return and the ushering in of the new heaven and new earth. The Revelation begins with letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor, then goes on to reveal the series of devastations poured out upon the earth; the mark of the beast, "666"; the climactic battle of Armageddon; the binding of Satan; the reign of the Lord; the Great White Throne Judgment; and the nature of the eternal city of God. Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ are fulfilled and a concluding call to His Lordship assures us that He will soon return.

Connections: The Book of Revelation is the culmination of the prophecies about the end times, beginning with the Old Testament. The description of the antichrist mentioned in Daniel 9:27 is developed fully in chapter 13 of Revelation. Outside of Revelation, examples of apocalyptic literature in the Bible are Daniel chapters 7-12, Isaiah chapters 24-27, Ezekiel chapters 37-41, and Zechariah chapters 9-14. All these prophecies come together in the Book of Revelation.

Practical Application: Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? If so, you have nothing to fear from God's judgment of the world as described in the Book of Revelation. The Judge is on our side. Before the final judgment begins, we must witness to friends and neighbors about God's offer of eternal life in Christ. The events in this book are real. We must live our lives like we believe it so that others will notice our joy about our future and want to join us in that new and glorious city.