

The Revelation

M3-3A An Overview of the Book of Revelation and Guide to the Letters to the Churches

Main Topics

Key points

- Overview of the Revelation. Understanding the order is important to interpretation?
- To whom and why was it written?
- What is the big deal on the seven churches?
- Is the message for the church?
- Dialogue on why revelation now
- What is main point: We are called to Patience Endurance and Watch!

The Revelation

Overview

- Rev 1-5
 - A view of glorified Jesus
 - Letters to the Churches
 - These letters are to us
 - Consistent theme - Endure to the End
 - The throne room.
- Seals Rev 6-8:1
 - Rev 6 - Seals 1-6: Key Question: When do Seals Start
 - Rev 7 - Interlude describing key events between Seal 6 & 7
 - Seal 6 tells us that we have passed the mid-point because Saints are coming out of Great Tribulation
- Trumpets Judgements Rev 8:2-13 - Rev 11
 - Rev 8-9 first 6 trumpets
 - 5th trumpet last 5 months
 - 6th trumpet 1/3 of mankind killed
 - Interlude
 - Rev 10 - Mystery of God would be finished
 - Rev 11 - Two witnesses to the Jews
 - 7th trumpet - **Christ begins to Reign/God's Wrath has come**

The Revelation

Overview

- Interlude
 - Rev 12 Timing of Tribulation - Connects Daniel/Revelation
 - Rev 13 Introduces the Anti-Trinity
- Rev 14: 144,000 with Christ / Reaping of the Earth
- Rev 15-16 Bowl Judgements
- Interlude: Rev 17
 - Connects Daniel/Revelation/ID of Babylon/7th & 8th Beasts are coming
- Rev 18-19 Events of The Day of the Lord
 - Destruction of Babylon/Christ's Return/Defeat of the Beast
- Rev 20
 - Satan Bound/Millennial Rule
 - Satan Released/Christ Judgement
- Rev 21-22 New Heavens and New Earth

The Revelation

Our Order

- Timing of Tribulation - Its all one story — Rev 12 – With Daniel
- From Whom, to whom, for what Purpose
 - The Letters — Rev 2-3
- The Beasts — Rev 13/17
 - 7th Beast
 - 8th Beast / anti-trinity Ezekiel 38
- Seals
 - Seals 1-6
 - interlude - 144,000 sealed/hide us from the the wrath of the Lamb! the great day of their wrath has come
 - Seal 7 ½ hour
- Trumpets
 - Trumpets 1-6
 - Interlude
 - Mystery of God
 - Two witnesses
 - Trumpet 7 - Christ begins to Reign/God's Wrath has come
 - Rev 14 - 144,000 with Christ – first fruits/three angels/Reaping of the Earth
- Rev 15/16 Bowls - The Day of the Lord
- Rev 18-19 Babylon falls/Christ returns

• We use this order to show connections with Daniel – making interpretation easier

The Revelation

Rev 1-3 The Letters to the Churches

Structure of New Testament Epistle

Chapters 1-3 introduction

- Chapter 1 identifies author. --- From Whom
- Chapters 2-3 identify why it is being written. --- For what Purpose
- This follows the same pattern, typical of writing styles used by Paul
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 NKJV “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord”

The Revelation – The Letters

From Whom

- From whom: Glorified Jesus Christ
- To whom: To the church
 - Particularly to those at nearing the Tribulation

- Our future is tied to Christ and the future has been decided

The Revelation

From Whom-To Whom

- The Revelation states
 - Rev 1:10 ESV ⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the Patient Endurance that are in Jesus,¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.
 - Rev 22: ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.

The Message of the Revelation is for the church – believers!

Patient Endurance

Rev 1:10, Rev 2:2, 2:3, 2:19, Rev 3:10, Rev 13:10, Rev 14:12

- ὑπομονή (hypomonē)/ὑπομονῆς (hypomonēs)
 - Perseverance
 - Steadfastness
 - Patience
 - Endurance
 - Patient endurance

• Why does He call us to Patient Endurance? Also, where does He?

The Revelation – The Letters

For What Purpose

- Prepare us > Provides details leading up to Christ's 2nd Coming
- Provided us hope > We have an unending future with Jesus
- Keep us from Fear > Jesus won at the cross

- Our future is tied to Christ and the future has been decided

The Revelation – The Letters

For What Purpose

Pergamos - Dwells at Satan's throne *Have some that commit idolatry and sexual immorality. Some hold to doctrine of the Nicolaitans*, which I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Thyatira - Tolerate Jezebel: teaches and seduces *My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols*. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deed. To the rest... hold fast what you have till I come.

Sardis - **You are dead, Be watchful**, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast and repent**. *Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

Ephesus - You have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, **or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place** But you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate

Laodicea - Lukewarm. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

Smyrna - "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. The devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Philadelphia - Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

Faithful will be kept from Hour of Trial/Unfaithful will be sent into Great Tribulation
What is the Hour of Trial?

The Hour of Trial

Different Views

- Pre-Trib Rapture
 - Believe this starts at Seal 1 – also that God’s wrath begins here
 - Mid-Trib Rapture
 - Believe this starts with the revealing of the Man of Lawlessness at the Abomination
 - Pre-Wrath – Believe it starts with God’s wrath?
 - God’s Wrath does not begin until Rev 6 at Seal 6
 - 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”
 - Shows up again in Rev 11 at Trumpet 7 – When Christ begins reigning
 - 17 “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were angry, and your wrath has come.
- For God did not appoint us to suffer *wrath* but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes 5:9: --- When does the wrath begin?

Hour of Trial

Mal 3 Trial

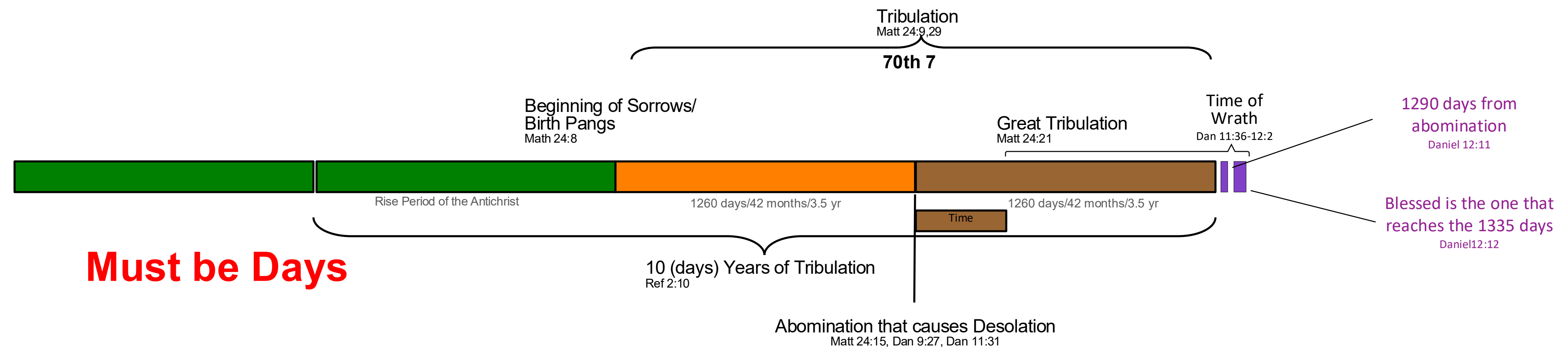
- Mal 3:1-5
 - First coming
 - 1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.
 - First or second coming
 - 2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? *For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.*
 - Second coming
 - 5 “So **I will come to put you on trial**. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.
- On Trial/for judgement; decide/case/verdict - **lam·miš·pāt**
 - Dan 11:35 – Some of the wise will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and made spotless until the time of the end
 - Dan 12:10 – Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined
 - Dan 7 – God held court – the horn was waging war against the saints then God’s court sat in judgement
- Rev 3:10 peirasmos – trial, temptation, proving
- Who is being judged
 - Antichrist and those who follow him
 - Apostate: Jews (Daniel) and those in church who have fallen away – refined (Rev 2-3)
 - Believers who follow Christ (Jew/Gentile) are not judged, but sealed by Holy Spirit

• Daniel tells us the Jews are refined in Great Tribulation, then trial!

The Revelation – The Letters

10 days or 10 years

Smyrna - “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. The devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.



- We place this in the Tribulation – prior to the Abomination but no real way to tell end

The Revelation – The Letters

Nicolaitans

- Nicolaitans: Idolatry - eating food offered to idols
 - Who were they
 - Not fully known, but early church fathers claimed it was Nicholas of Antioch (Acts 6)
 - Nicholas of Antioch – had the Holy Ghost and was one of the first deacons
 - Apostate and taught false doctrine
 - A false view of God's grace
 - By faith you are saved, but you will always sin
 - You serve God in the spirit, but the flesh and its lust on earth
 - Jesus said you can't serve two masters
 - Paul also taught, be transformed by the renewing of your mind
 - Today, what keeps you from putting God first
 - Seek first the kingdom of God
 - We need to learn to integrate God in everything we do – We do it for Him
 - Are you in the Word? - How can God talk to you?
 - Have you repented (turned away from the sin)?
- Nicolaitans – sin takes away from God

The Revelation – The Letters

Jezebel

- Jezebel: Sexual immorality – the only sin which impacts the body (God's temple for believers)
 - 1 Corinthians 6: 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!
 - Clearly several of these churches were struggling with sexual immorality within the church
 - Its all around us
 - It doesn't matter what type, they are all equally bad
 - God's sanctifies marriage between one man and one woman
- 1 Thes 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid **sexual immorality**

- Jezebel – sin harms yourself

The Revelation – The Letters

Jesus calls us to be victorious

Pergamos - **To the one who is victorious**, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Thyatira - **To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end**, I will give authority over the nations—that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star.

Sardis - **The one who is victorious** will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Ephesus - **To the one who is victorious**, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Laodicea - **To the one who is victorious**, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, **just as I was victorious** and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Smyrna - **The one who is victorious** will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Philadelphia - **The one who is victorious** I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

- All churches have some faithful servants - We are called to be faithful til the end!

Dave's section

- Rev 4
 - The majesty of the God in the throne room

The Revelation - summary

Our conclusion

- To whom and why was it written?
 - To the Church to prepare it
 - What is the big deal on the seven churches?
 - So that we as Christians will reflect on their walk with Jesus
 - He chastised those that were not following Him, especially those who would not watch for His return - do we need to repent
 - There are also specific messages to the churches at the end time
 - He also gave hope to those who repented and patiently endured
 - To the victorious will be rewards
 - Is the message for the church? Yes
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- Why was the book of Revelations written?
 - To prepare the church to watch and have Patience Endurance, through this some will be saved!

Question of the Day

Think about when we start Revelations

- Who is the 7th Beast?

- Homework – Read Rev 13 and 17

Bibliography Module 2

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