

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Rev. Thomas N. Reeder Jr.

¹OUTLINE

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. A General Introduction:
An Overview of Interpretational
(Hermeneutical) ‘Principles’ | XII. The Two Beasts & The Number 666
Revelation 13 |
| II. The Prologue & the Epilogue to The
Apocalypse
Revelation 1:1-1-3 & Revelation
22:6-21 | XIII. The Harvest of the Earth
Revelation 14:6-20 |
| III. The Greetings and Doxology
Revelation 1:4-8 | XIV. The <i>SEVEN</i> Bowls
Revelation 15-16 |
| IV. The ‘Purpose’ of Writing The
Apocalypse
Revelation 1:9-20 | XV. Babylon
Revelation 17:1-19:5 |
| V. Seven Letters to the Seven Churches
Revelation 2:1-3:22 | XVI. The Wedding of the Lamb
Revelation 19:6-10 |
| VI. The Throne in Heaven
Revelation 4 | XVII. The Return of Christ
Revelation 19:11-21 |
| VII. The <i>SEVEN-Sealed</i> Scroll, the Four
Horsemen
Revelation 5-6, 8:1-5 | XVIII. The 1000 Years
Revelation 20:1-6 |
| VIII. The 144,000 & the Great Multitude
Revelation 7 & 14:1-5 | XIX. Satan’s Doom
Revelation 20:7-10 |
| IX. The <i>SEVEN</i> Trumpets
Revelation 8:6-9:21, (10) 11:15-19 | XX. Judgement
Revelation 20:11-15 |
| X. The Two Witnesses
Revelation 11:1-14 | XXI. The New Heaven and Earth, The
New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:1-22:5 |
| XI. The Woman and the Dragon
Revelation 12 | XXII. Conclusion
Revelation 22:6-21 & Revelation
1:1-1-3 |

¹ Adapted from the outline of Revelation, Concordia Self-Study Bible: New International Version (1986), CPH, p1943-1945.

I. A General Introduction: An Overview of Interpretational (Hermeneutical) ‘Principles’

‘Principles’ of Interpretation:

- Rules of Grammar:

Sentence Structure: Subject - Verb - Object
Voice: Active, Middle, Passive

- Structure and form:

The Word of God
Type of Literature - Historical, Wisdom, Prophetic
[Indicates how it should be interpreted, whether literally or figuratively]
< Timing > - Linear (Chronological), Cyclical
Figures of Speech: Simile, metaphor, allegory, etc.

- Context:

Author
Reason for writing
Reader (audience)

- Scripture interprets Scripture

The Bible doesn’t contradict itself
The sense of a passage is a single one

- The Analogy of faith - No words of the Bible contradict any other words in the Bible and no doctrine in one part contradicts the doctrine of any other part.

[i.e. Since salvation is a work of God, it cannot and at the same time be a work of man.]

Summary:

Before attempting to ‘interpret’ any passage of Scripture, especially the book of Revelation, either partly or entirely, it is necessary to be aware of the above items. The Bible is judged differently from ‘other’ books because it is God’s Word. I can’t prove this to you, but the Holy Scriptures themselves convince us of this.

Beginning a priori that the Bible is God’s inspired Word, we will begin this study of the Apocalypse. Also, we will recognize, if not entirely now, then more so later, that Revelation is really a book of comfort for Christians, for us now and in the time to come, even as it was for those who originally received this ‘revelation of Jesus Christ’ which God gave St. John the Apostle (Rev. 1:1-2) while he (John) was on the island of Patmos (Rev. 1:9).

II. The Prologue & the Epilogue to The Apocalypse Revelation 1:1-1-3 & Revelation 22:6-21

Revelation 1:1-3

1:1

Content:

To whom does the Revelation belong?

Who gave the revelation? To whom? Through whom? *2 Timothy 3:15-17*

What was the content of the Revelation?

What is the Bible? *2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

What is the content of the Bible? What or who is the central figure in Scripture? *Isaiah 52:13-53:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 15:1-23*

Application:

Does it matter where 'revelation' comes from? Why or why not? *Galatians 1:8-11*

How does God 'reveal' Himself to us? How does He 'speak' to us today? Through whom? *Deuteronomy 18:17-22; Jeremiah 7:25-28; Luke 10:16; John 20:21-23; Romans 10:14-21*

How might you respond if a friend says, "God told me" or "God spoke with me"?

1:2

Content:

What did John bear witness to? *John 20:30-31; 1 John 1:1-3, 5:9-13*

Of what did John not bear witness?

What, in essence, is the Bible?

Application:

Do we testify of what we have seen and heard? How? When? *John 1:19-28 (John the baptizer); Luke 24:45-49 // Acts 1:6-8*

Of what do we testify as we remain silent and speak not concerning the Lord Jesus?

1:3

Content:

Who is blessed? *Revelation 1:3; 14:3; 16:5, 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14*

Who is not blessed?

What is near? What does this mean?

Application:

How does God's blessing show itself? *Matthew 5:3-12; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8*
Where is 'blessed assurance' to be found? What is there for those who seek 'assurance' in other places? *Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Romans 8 (John 20:31; 1 John 5:9-13)*

Comparisons:

	1:1-3	22:6-21
v1	To show John	22:6, 16, 18 22:8
v2	The Word Testimony Things seen	22:7, 9, 10, 18-19 22:7, 12-13, 16, 20 22:8
v3	Blessed...	22:7, 14
	(NIV translates, <i>take to heart</i> from the Greek word, <i>keeping</i>)	Hear: 22:8, 17-18 Keep: 7, 9, 14 (NKJ, NIV has it right), 18-19

Content:

What are the parallels between Revelation 1:1-3 & 22:6-21?
Of what do they speak? What do they say? What do these parallel words and phrases tell us about the book of Revelation?

Application:

What might be the significance of such parallels?
How might the beginning of Revelation be the 'foundation' for the rest of the book?
How might the structure of Revelation from 'first to last' be helpful in understanding other books of the Bible and/or the Bible itself? (i.e. Genesis - Revelation)

III. The Greetings and Doxology Revelation 1:4-8

Summary: St. John names himself as the writer of this book, greets the seven churches, and glorifies God. The content of the greeting and the glorifying of God, however, are more than just mere words, for they find parallels throughout the book of Revelation, the New Testament, and the entire Bible. Throughout the Bible, then, we learn of God and what He has done. Specifically, we learn of the Holy Trinity and the work of the Son for our salvation.

1.4-5

To whom is John writing?

Map of seven churches in Asia
(see Revelation 1:10-11; 2:1-3:22)

Map is from Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1948

How does John greet the readers of this 'revelation of Jesus Christ'? *see Paul's greetings: Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon*

With this common greeting, is it out of place for pastors today to use it as a greeting to the congregation for the sermon? Are they just 'extra' words or are they significant to the hearer?

What does St. John say of God? ("from Him who...") *Revelation 1:8; 11:17; 16:5*

What does this tell us about God? *Exodus 3:14-15 (Compare with John 8:48-58); Psalm 102:27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17*

Where are the seven spirits? How might they be related the context in verse 4 (God, the Father?) and verse 5 (God, the Son)? *See the 'sevenfold' description of the Spirit in Isaiah 11:(1)2*

What descriptions of Jesus Christ does John give? ¹*John 5:19-47, 8:12-30, 10:24-38, 18:37; Revelation 3:14;* ²*Colossians 1:15-18;* ³*1Timothy 6:15 (1 Samuel 8:4-22; Revelation 17:14; 19:16)* How are these accurate descriptions of our Savior?

1.5-6

What ascription of praise does John offer to the Lord Christ? *Romans 3:25, 5:8-9, 8:37; 1 John 4:10*

What has Jesus "made us to be"? What does this mean? *Exodus 19:3-6; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-12; Romans 12:1-2* What does this not mean? *Romans 6, 8:-17; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 John 2:15-17*

1.7

Of when does John speak? How will Jesus come? *Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26-27; Luke 21:27; Acts 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; Romans 14:11-12; Philippians 2:9-11*

Who will see Jesus come? Does this 'coming' refer to a 'secret' coming of the Lord? *Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3*

Why will 'all the peoples of the earth' (literally, 'tribes of the land/earth) mourn? *Daniel 12:2; Matthew 7:21-23, 25:31ff; John 17:14-17*

1.8

What does 'Alpha and Omega' refer to?

See 1:4, question 4 and 5 above

How is 'Almighty' used in the book of Revelation? *1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 19:6; 21:22*

What does this verse significantly tell us about Jesus? (Why would some Bibles have this verse in red print?)

IV. The ‘Purpose’ of Writing The Apocalypse Revelation 1:9-20

1.9

What do we know of John (*see verse 4*), the writer of this book? What does the term ‘brother’ here mean? What was John ‘a companion in’? Why does he write, “that are ours in the Lord”?

- 1) Matthew 13:18-23 (*v21*) - The Parable of the Sower Explained; *Acts 14:22*
- 2) *John 3:3-8*; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 1:13-14; James 2:5
- 3) Romans 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; 2 *Peter 1:2-9*

Why was John on the island of Patmos? (2 reasons) What might this say about ‘the faithful’? The faithless? *John 15:18-25*

Does the world accept the Word of God? Does the world accept the testimony (“witness”) of Jesus? *John 15:18-23; 1 John 3:10-16 [Revelation 1:2; 12:17; 20:4]*

1.10-11

What day does “the Lord’s Day” refer to? *John 20:1, 6-9, 19-23 [See Acts 20:7]*

What does it mean to be “in the Spirit”? *Luke 4:1-2; John 1:33; 4:23; 4:24; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Revelation 4:2; 17:3; 21:10*

What was the voice sound like? *Revelation 4:1; 8:2*

What did the voice say? *Revelation 1:4 (For 'write', see Revelation 1:19; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5)*

1.12-16

What was the first thing that John saw when he turned around? *Revelation 1:20 [for background, see Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24; Leviticus 24:1-4; Numbers 8:1-4; 1 Kings 7:48-49; Zechariah 4*

Are the letters S and M for 'son of man' capitalized in your Bible? What might this indicate (or not indicate) about the position of the translators?

What is the meaning of ‘Son of Man’? *Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 14:14-16 [In Ezekiel, 93 verses; In Matthew, 30 verses; In Mark, 14 verses; In Luke, 26 verses; in John, 11 verses (~257 times in the New Testament alone)*

Where was the Son of Man standing? *Luke 2:46; Revelation 2:1; 5:6; 6:6*

What did the “someone ‘like the son of man’” look like (*v13*)? How was He dressed? *Exodus 28 // Exodus 39:1-31 (Priestly garments-ephod, breastpiece, robe of the ephod, gold bells,*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

undergarments); *Isaiah 6:1-4*; What about His: Head and hair (v14)? *Isaiah 1:18*; *Daniel 7:9-10*; *Matthew 28:1-3* (see *Leviticus 19:32*; *Proverbs 31*; *20:29*); Eyes? *Exodus 3:2*; *Ezekiel 1:25-28*; *Daniel 10:5-6*; *Revelation 19:11-16*; *Psalm 104:4*? Feet (v15)? *Daniel 10:5-6* Voice? *Ezekiel 1:22-24*; *43:1-5*; *Revelation 14:2*; *19:6*

What did He hold in His hands? Which hand? (v16) *Exodus 15:6*; *Psalm 16:11*; *20:6*; *48:10*; *98:1*; (*Psalm 110:1*; *Matthew 22:44*; *Mark 12:36*; *Luke 20:42*; *Acts 2:34*; *Hebrews 1:13*)

What came out of His mouth? *Hebrews 4:12*; *Revelation 19:11-16*, *19-21* (*Psalm 149:5-9*; *Ephesians 6:17*)

What was His face like? *Matthew 17:2*

1.17-18

What did John do when he saw Him? *Mark 5:22*; *Mk. 7:25* How is this circumstance different from two others in the Book of Revelation (*19:9-10*; *22:8-9*)? Whose feet is John 'falling' at?

What is the proper response for 'entering into God's presence'? What is our attitude to be? *Romans 12:16*; *Philippians 2:1-8*; *James 4:10* How might this affect what we do? How we do it?

What comfort does the 'someone "like the Son of Man"' give to John? To us? *Mark 5:36*; *Luke 1:13*, *30*; *5:10* ; *8:50*; *12:32*; *John 12:15*; *Acts 18:9*; *27:24*

Who does He claim to be (v18)? *Luke 24:36-48*; *John 6:51* [*'for ever and ever'* is a phrase referring to God; found 12 times in Revelation (*1:6*, *18*; *4:9*, *4:10*; *5:13*; *7:12*; *10:6*; *11:15*; *15:7*; *19:3*; *20:10*; *22:5*)]

For reference to "the First and the Last," see *Isaiah 44:6*; *48:12*; *Revelation 1:8*, *11*; *22:13*

What keys does the one "like the Son of Man" have? *Matthew 16:13-19*

1.19

What was John to write? *Revelation 1:1*, *11*

1.20

What is "the mystery of the seven stars...and the seven golden lampstands"? How might this description influence the interpretation of other parts of Revelation? *Revelation 17: 15, 18* How is this verse a helpful reminder that 'Scripture interprets Scripture'? *Deuteronomy 17:6*; *19:15*; *Matthew 18:16*, *19-20*; *2 Corinthians 13:1*; *1 Timothy 5:19*; *Hebrews 10:28*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

V. Seven Letters to the Seven Churches
Revelation 2:1-3:22

(see Table)

VI. The Throne in Heaven Revelation 4

- Revelation 4:1

After 'what' things?

Notice the usage of the word 'behold', esp. in the book of Revelation. (1:7; 1:18; 2:10; 2:22; 3:8; 3:9; 3:20; 4:1; 4:2; 5:5; 6:2; 6:5; 6:8; 7:9; 9:12; 11:14; 12:3; 14:1; 14:14; 16:15; 19:11; 21:3; 21:5; 22:7; 22:12) [*'Behold' occurs in 193 verses, 25 are in Revelation*]

What voice is John referring to that, 'spoke like a trumpet'? 1:10

What are some responses throughout the Bible and today to the 'voice' of God? Does God still speak today? How? How does the world respond to God's 'voice'? *Exodus 3; Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (Exodus 20:18-21); Joshua 5:13-15; Isaiah 6:1-7; Matthew 10:32-33; 17:1-8; John 6:66-69; John 12:36-43; Acts 9:1-9*

What did the voice say to John? How did John respond? When did He respond?
[The word 'immediately' only appears once in the book of Revelation]

- Revelation 4:2-7

When did St. John 'come' as the voice had said? How? 1:10

Compare and contrast this section of the message to the letters written to the seven churches (chapters 2-3). [I.e. 'locale', appearance, function, action, etc.]

The vision

The Throne & The One Sitting on the Throne *Psalm 11:4; 45:6; 47:8;
93:2; 103:19*

Of Christ - Samuel 7:13, 16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32

The 24 Elders on 24 thrones around The Throne 4:4; 4:10; 5:8; 5:14; 11:16; 19:4
[*The Twelve Tribes of Israel (Genesis 35:23-26; Exodus 28:21)*]
[*The Twelve Apostles (Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:21-26)*]
See Psalm 132:12; Matthew 19:28; Revelation 3:21

- Dressed in white: *Revelation 3:4-5; Ephesians 5:25-27*

- Crowns of gold: *Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:8;
James 1:12*

Seven lamps *Revelation 1:4 (The Sevenfold Spirit of God) [Isaiah 11:(1)2*

The Four Living Creatures *Ezekiel 1:6, 10*

1st - Like a lion (*St. Mark*)

2nd - Like an ox (*St. Luke*)

3rd - Had a face like a man (*St. Matthew*)

4th - Like a flying eagle (*St. John*)

(Though these Four Living Creatures have been suggested as referring to the Four Evangelists, there is no obvious connection between 4:7 & the Four Evangelists)

- Revelation 4:8

What did the Four Living creatures do (and say) day and night? *Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 1:4, 8 (Exodus 3:14-15)*

Holy, holy, Holy Lord, God of Sabaoth.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

(Lutheran Worship pp148, 170, 189;

Sung after the Preface in the Liturgy for Holy Communion in the Divine Service)

From where might the song following the preface have come? What is its significance? (See esp. the conclusion to the Preface in the Liturgy for Holy Communion, LW pp146-148)

- Revelation 4:9-10

What are the Four Living Creatures doing in verse 9?

What do the 24 elders do in verse 10? What is the significance of 'laying' their crowns before the throne? What might this indicate?

- Revelation 4:11

What do the 24 elders say? What significance is in the words that they proclaim?

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

(Lutheran Worship pp162-3, 182-3;

Hymn of Praise following the Kyrie in the Divine Service)

From where might part of the Hymn of Praise above have come? What is its significance?

- Concluding thoughts:

What goes on in this 'heavenly worship' of Revelation chapter Four?

How is it different from 'earthly worship' as Christians assemble? How is it similar?

**VII. The SEVEN-Sealed Scroll, the Four Horsemen
Revelation 5-6, 8:1-5**

Chapter 5

Revelation 5:1-7

Right hand: Genesis 48:8-20; Psalm 16:8, 11; 17:7; 20:5-6; 110; Hebrews 1:1-4 (*Revelation 1:16, 17, 20; 2:1*)

The scroll & the seven seals: Isaiah 29:11-19[?]; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

The Lamb: Isaiah 53:5-7; John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:12

Root of David: Isaiah 11:1-5, 10; Luke 1:31-33; Revelation 22:16

Lion of Judah: Genesis 49:9-10

Seven horns: symbol for power or strength (seven for 'full strength')

Seven eyes: Isaiah 11:1-2 (*see Revelation 1:4, 4:5*) Zechariah 4:10

Taking the scroll? Daniel 7:9-14; Matthew 26:64; Mark 16:19; John 5:22

Revelation 5:8-14

Compare Revelation 5:8 with 4:9-10. What is similar? What is different?

Bowls of incense // Prayers: Psalm 141:1-2 [see Lutheran Worship, p253-255 and the prayer following in Evening Prayer]

A new song: Psalm 33, 96, 98; Isaiah 42:1-10

[See meaning to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Luther's Small Catechism)]

"Worthy is the *Christ the lamb...*" (v12, 13): Compare with 4:11 (Any difference? i.e. to whom?)

[Lutheran Worship pp162-3, 182-3; Hymn of Praise following the Kyrie in the Divine Service; see also Hymnal Supplement 98, # 822 "The Lamb"]

Chapter 6 & 8:1-5

Seals 1-4 [The Four Horsemen] (Zechariah 1:8-17; 6:1-8)

See Matthew 24(5-14); Mark 13(6-13); Luke 21(8-17)

The First Seal (1-2)

White horse - bow, crown, conqueror (conquest, victory, purity)

The Second Seal (3-4)

Fiery red horse - power to take peace from earth (bloodshed & war)

The Third Seal (5-6)

Black horse - scales (famine)

The Fourth Seal (7-8)

Pale horse - rider named 'Death' and 'Hades' (death)

The Fifth Seal (9-11)

Those who had been slain:

Why were they slain? How is this a 'good' thing? Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:12-14
(Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33)

White robes: *Revelation* 3:4, 5, 18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9, 13, 14

"How long?" Numbers 14:11; Psalm 6:3; 13:1-2; 74:10; 82:2; 94:3; Habakkuk 1:2

The Sixth Seal (12-17)

v12-14: 'passing away of the world in the day of judgment'

v15-17: 'Punishment on enemies of God and His church' (Concordia Self-Study Bible)

"A great earthquake...the great day of *their* wrath has come"

Genesis 22:15-18; Exodus 22:20-22; Leviticus 26:1-9; Numbers 10:33-36; Deuteronomy
20:1-4; Psalm 6:10; 10; 25

The Seventh Seal (8:1-5)

Silence: pause, rest

Seven angels: see chapters 2-3, 8:6-9:21 & 11:15-19; 15-16

Trumpets: Used as signals in OT (battle readiness, assembly (Numbers 10:1-10), coronations of
kings (1 Kings 1:34, 39), Joshua & Jericho (Joshua 6:4-9), End times? (Zephaniah 1:14-
16; Matthew 24:29-31), Announcement

The golden censor: Exodus 30:1-10

Thunder, rumblings, lightening, earthquake: Exodus 19:16-18

**VIII. The 144,000 & the Great Multitude
Revelation 7 & 14:1-5**

Chapter 7

The 144, 000 of Israel Sealed

v1-4

Where were the four angels standing? What did they have power to do? After what time were they told they could do what they had power to do?

1) What is the significance of the ‘seal on the forehead’? 2) The 144,000? 3) The meaning of ‘tribes (of the sons) of Israel’?

1) see Rev. 7:3-8; 9:1-6; 13:11-18; 14:1-5; 14:9-12; 20:4; 22:1-5; Matthew 27:66

2) The number 12 is associated with the church (Concordia Self-Study Bible)

12 (‘sons’ of Israel) x 12 (apostles) = 144

10 x 10 x 10 = 1000 (Number of completeness)

3) For the ‘tribes’ of Israel and their allotted lands, see Numbers 34-35; Joshua 13-19

‘Sons of Israel’ (Hebrew: בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) is the term used in the Old Testament for ‘children of Israel’(English versions) [In the Hebrew Bible, ‘sons of Israel’ occurs in 502 verses, whereas in the NKJV, ‘sons of Israel’ occurs only in 88]

v5-8

Compare with Genesis 29:31-30:1-24; 35:16-26; 46:8-25; **49:1-28**

Genesis
[Jacob’s sons by birth order (29:31-30:24; 35:16-19)]

Revelation

Reuben	-Leah		Judah
Simeon			Reuben
Levi			Gad
<u>Judah</u>			Asher
Dan	-Bilhah (Rachel’s maidservant)		Naphtali
<u>Naphtali</u>			Manasseh*
Gad	-Zilpah (Leah’s maidservant)		Simeon
<u>Asher</u>			Levi (Joshua 13:14)
Issachar	-Leah	>	Issachar
<u>Zebulun</u>	(Dinah)	>	Zebulun
Joseph	-Rachel	>	Joseph
Benjamin		>	Benjamin

*born to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 41:50-53)

The Great Multitude

v9-12

What is significant about the ‘great multitude’? see Genesis 11:1-9 // Acts 1:8 (Luke 24:45-47); Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:9-11; Ephesians 4:4-6; Romans 12:4-5 [see also Revelation 5:9; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6]

1) What is the significance of the white robes? 2) The palm branches?

1) Revelation 6:9-11; see v13-14; Isaiah 1:18

2) John 12:12-16; Leviticus 23:40

How is v10 connected to Revelation 4 & 5? (Note the increase of praise from 4:11 to 5:13 to 7:12)

v13-17

Who are they in the white robes? How are they ‘made white’? What are their ‘blessings’? What is the encouragement for us with these meaningful and hopeful words of our Lord?

Chapter 14:1-5

Where is the lamb standing? What is the significance? Isaiah 24:23; Jeremiah 31:6; Joel 2:32; Obadiah 1:17; Micah 4:7; Hebrews 12:18-25

What was written on the foreheads? (see notes on 7:1-4 on other side)

Who could not learn the ‘new song’? see John 1:6-13; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Kept themselves pure: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 3:1-10; 2 Peter 3:11-14

IX. The SEVEN Angels with the SEVEN Trumpets
Revelation 8:6-9:21, (10) 11:15-19

Opening of the Seventh Seal...8:1-5 → Silence for half an hour; prayers of the saint went up to God with smoke and incense; censor 'hurled' (NIV) to the earth [See Section VII]

Reminder: The Seven Trumpets were given to the Seven angels 'who stand before God' (Rev 8:2) when the Seventh Seal was opened.

The First Angel (8:7)

Hail and fire mixed with blood **to the earth**: Seventh Plague of Egypt was hail (Exodus 9:13-35) [v23-25, 16]

Burned:

1/3 of the earth
1/3 of the trees punishment not yet complete
1/3 of the green grass

The Second Angel (8:8-9)

'Something like a great mountain' **to the sea**:

1/3 of sea turned to blood: First Plague of Egypt was blood (Ex 7:14-25) [v17-21]
1/3 of the living sea creatures died
1/3 of the ships destroyed

The Third Angel (8:10-11)

A great star fell **from the sky**: Mark 13:25-26

On 1/3 of the rivers
On the springs of water

*Wormwood: 'Metaphor' for calamity and sorrow (Concordia Self-Study Bible)

1/3 of the waters turned bitter
Many men died

* The Greek word used here in the New Testament is found only here. However, the Hebrew word לענה, translated as 'bitterness' or 'wormwood', occurs eight times in the Old Testament. The root of another word, נזר (נזרה), meaning, 'bitter,' occurs 48 times, including in Exodus 15:22-26, where bitter water became sweet.

The Fourth Angel (8:12)

1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon, and 1/3 of the stars turned dark:
Ninth plague in Egypt was darkness (Exodus 10:21-23) [v21]

=====

Woes...8:13

Three woes: Woe! Woe! Woe! To 'the inhabitants of the earth'
Revelation 9:12; 11:14; 12:12
Revelation 18: 'woes' are in pairs (Woe! Woe!) [v10, 16, 19]

=====

The Fifth Angel (9:1-12)

Locusts come 'out of the smoke'...See Exodus 10:1-20 (The 8th Plague of Egypt)

Description...9:7-11
Given authority to 'torture' those who did not have the seal of God...Rev 7:3
Caused suffering so that men sought death, but 'will not find it'

Read how the Israelites were protected during the plagues upon Egypt:

4th Plague, Flies; Exodus 8:21-23
5th Plague, Livestock dies; Exodus 9:4-7
7th Plague, Hail; Exodus 9:23-26
9th Plague, Darkness; Exodus 10:21-23
10th Plague, Death of the Firstborn son <The Passover>; Exodus 11:4-7
(12:7, 12-13; 22-23, 29-30)

To Discuss: Relate the sounding of trumpets 1-4 with...

The Creation
*The Plagues of Egypt

=====

The First Woe is Past...9:12

=====

* References to the Egyptian plagues suggest that in Revelation we have the final exodus of God's people from the bondage of *the* world, signifying final deliverance for God's people and much suffering for the people of the world" (Concordia Self-Study Bible, NIV).

IX. The SEVEN Angels with the SEVEN Trumpets
Revelation 8:6-9:21, (10) 11:15-19
[Continued]

The Sixth Angel (9:13-21)

v13

Voice from the horns of the altar: Exodus 30:1-10 (see Exodus 27:1-2); 1 Kings 1:50-53 (Adonijah)

Review Revelation 8:3 and compare with 9:13

See also Revelation 6:9-11

Q:

Where do these things take place?

How does one reconcile the “God of Love” with the “God of Justice/Judgment”?

v14-16

“Release the four angels...” Compare with Revelation 7:1

Compare/Contrast their locational release with Genesis 2:8-14

Q:

What is significant about the time in relation to the angels’ release? Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:6-7
Whose timetable is the world on? The Church? The Christian?

v17-19

The horses and riders

Breastplates: fiery red, dark blue, yellow as sulfur

Heads of the horses: like lions’ heads

Out of their mouth: fire, smoke, sulfur (called plagues)

Killed 1/3 of mankind

Power of the horses: in their mouths & tails

v20-21

The 2/3 of mankind not killed ‘did not repent’ (mentioned twice)

Demon & idol worship: Exodus 20:1-6 // Deuteronomy 5:6-10; 32:17; Psalm 115:1-8 // Psalm 135:15-18; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Q:

What is the purpose of judgment upon the nonbeliever and discipline upon the believer?

How are the two differentiated?

What is the alternative to worshipping God? (If one doesn’t rightly worship God, whom does that one worship?)

The Angel & the Little Scroll (10)

v1-4

Another mighty angel

Rainbow above his head: Genesis 9:8-17; Ezekiel 1:26-28

Face like the sun: Matthew 17:1-3

Legs like fiery pillars: Exodus 13:21-22

The Seven Thunders:

Revelation 8:1-5 → Seventh seal opened

Revelation 11:15-19 → Seventh angel, seventh trumpet (Context of the Seventh seal)

Revelation 16:17-121 → Seventh angel, seventh bowl

“Seal up”: see Daniel 8:26; 12:4, 9

Q:

Who is this other ‘mighty’ angel? see Revelation 5:2. Who is this ‘mighty angel’ not?

v5-7

Q:

Who did the mighty angel swear by?

What is meant by “no more delay”?

v8-11

Q:

What is the significance of the scroll? John eating it? Prophesying? Ezekiel 2-3 (esp. 2:7-10; 3:1-6, 10)

The Two Witnesses (11:1-14) [See Lesson X]

The Seventh Angel (11:15-19)

v15

For kingdom: see Exodus 15:18; 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalm 10:16; 22:28; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:30-33 (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Mark 1:15)

v16-19

Q:

Why is the “who is to come” (of Revelation 1:4, 8; 4:8) not included here?

Who are judged? Who are rewarded? Who are destroyed?

What is the significance of the open temple? see Matthew 27:50-53; Mark 15:37-38; Hebrews 9-10 The ark of the covenant? Exodus 25:10-22; Numbers 10:33-36; Joshua 3-4, 6

**X. The Two Witnesses
Revelation 11:1-14**

v1-2

‘Reed like a measuring rod’, ‘go and measure’: Ezekiel 40-42; Zechariah 2:1-2; Revelation 21:9-21

42 months = 3 ½ years [‘a time, times, and half a time’] = 1260 days (see also Daniel 7:15-28; (25); 12; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5)

Q:

What might be the significance of measuring the temple of God and the altar and the worshippers?
What is not measured? Why?

v3-6

1260 days = 42 months x 30 days: see above

Two witnesses: Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:16; 26:60; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28

fire: 1 Kings 18:17-40; 2 Kings 1:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Hebrews 12:28-29

‘shut up the sky’: 1 Kings 17:1-7 w/ 18:41-46; James 5:16-18

‘turn waters into blood’: Exodus 7:14-25

‘every kind of plague’: Exodus 7-12

Q:

What are the two witnesses wearing? What is the significance? Genesis 37:34; 2 Samuel 3:31; Isaiah 22:12; Isaiah 37:1-2; Jonah 3:1-10

Who are they? Zechariah 4

What do the two witnesses have power to do?

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
v7-10

Beast from the abyss: Revelation 9:1-2, 11; Luke 8:31

*Sodom: Genesis 18:16-19:29

Three and a half days: a short, limited period

Q:

When are the two witnesses martyred?

Are their comparisons between the two witnesses and the crucified Lord? If so, what are they?

What do the inhabitants of the earth do after the death of the two witnesses?

v11-12

Three and a half days: see above

‘breath of life’: Genesis 2:7; John 20:19-23 (22)

‘stood on their feet’: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:21-27, 38-44; Luke 24:1-12, 36ff

‘Come up here’: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Luke 24:50ff; Acts 1:6-11)

Q:

What entered the two witnesses? What then happened?

v13-14

Great earthquake: Ezekiel 38:19; Matthew 28:2; Acts 16:26; Revelation 6:12; 16:18

Second Woe: see Revelation 8:13; 9:12; 15-16

* Egypt: ‘emphasizes oppression and slavery’ (Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1959)

XI. The Woman and the Dragon Revelation 12

v1-2

“sign” used in John’s writings:

John - 2:11, 18; 2:23; 3:2; 4:48, 54; 6:2, 14, 26, 30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; 20:30

Revelation - 12:1, 3; 13:13, 14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20

The woman symbolizes the church. See also Luke 1:26-33; 1:39-45; 46-55

For ‘sun’, see Matthew 17:2; Revelation 1:16; Revelation 10:1; [Exodus 34:27-35; (2 Corinthians 3:12-16)]

‘moon under feet’ - indicates dominion

‘crown’ (in Revelation) - Revelation 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 6:2; 9:7; 12:1; 14:14

‘twelve stars’ - symbolizes the twelve tribes of Israel // the twelve apostles // half of 24

Q:

Where does the sign take place?

What was the woman about to do?

v3-6

‘Seven heads’ - symbolizes universal wisdom

-- -|

‘10 horns’ - symbolizes great power

--

(Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1960)

‘Seven crowns (diadems) - implies 'deity'

-- -|

Daniel. 7:1-8(7), 15-28(20, 24) [Ten horns]

Revelation 12:3-4(3); 13:1; 17:1-18(3, 7, 9, 12, 16) [Seven heads & ten horns]

Q:

Who is the ‘red dragon’? see v9

Where was the dragon standing? Why?

Who did the woman give birth to? What happened to Him?

Where did the woman go after she gave birth? For how long?

- 42 months: Revelation 11:2 (treading holy city); 13:5 (blasphemies)
- 1260 days: Revelation 11:3-6(3) (prophesying); 12:5-6(6) (nourishment)
- 1290 days: Daniel 12:9-11(11) (daily sacrifice taken away, Abomination of Desolation)
- Three and a half days: Revelation 11:7-11(9, 11) (time of witnesses death)
- Times, time, and half a time: Daniel 7:23-27(25) (persecution); 12:5-8(7) (trouble); Revelation 12:13-14(14) (nourishment)

v7-9

Michael: Daniel 10:12-21(13, 21); 12:1-3(1); Jude 1:5-11(9)

Q:

Where did the war take place? See also Ephesians 6:10-18

Who lost their place in heaven? See also 1 Timothy 3:1-7(6)

Where does this one lead the world? See also Genes 3:1-13; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Where was this one 'thrown'? See also 1 Peter 5:8-9

v10-12

'hurled down' (NIV) can also be translated 'thrown down'

Q:

Who had been 'hurled down' ? What did this one do? What does this mean?

How was the one 'hurled down' overcome?

Where was the 'hurled down' one gone?

How much time does the one 'hurled down' have?

When did the accusing of 'the accuser' end?

v13-17

'pursued' (NIV) can also be translated 'persecute'

Q:

Who did the dragon pursue? Why?

Who is the offspring of the woman?

XII. The Two Beasts & The Number 666 Revelation 13

v1-4

See notes in Session XI, Revelation 12:5-6

Daniel. 7:1-8(7), 15-28(20, 24) [Ten horns]

Revelation 12:3-4(3); 13:1; 17:1-18(3, 7, 9, 12, 16) [Seven heads & ten horns]

Q:

How is the beast ‘coming out of the sea’ different from the ‘red dragon’ of Revelation 12:3? How is the beast different?

From whom did the beast have authority? From whom does THE authority come? Matthew 28:18; John 5:19; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28 (Psalm 8:6); Ephesians 1:19-23

Why was ‘the whole world’ ‘astonished’? See Revelation 17:8

Who did men worship? For what reason? See Exodus 20:3-6 (Deuteronomy 5:7-10); 2 Corinthians 11:14-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-5

v5-8

Blasphemy: speaking against (God), slander

See Daniel 11:36; Matthew 15:19; 26:63-66; Mark 2:1-12; John 10:31-33; Acts 6:9-15; 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (the NIV in v4 has malicious talk for blasphemies)

“Proud words”: great things, boastful(?)

‘Inhabitants of the earth’: see Revelation 2:13; 3:10; 6:10; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:2, 8

‘Book of life’: Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 20:15; 21:27; 22:19

‘Lamb that was slain’: Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29, 36

Q:

What was the beast ‘given’ to speak? For how long? *See Session XI, Revelation 12:5-6 for comparisons of time in Revelation*

Who did the beast blaspheme? Psalm 2; Psalm 41; James 4:11; 2 Peter 2; Jude

Who did the beast make war against? Ephesians 6:12; 2:1-7; Luke 22:52-53; Colossians 1:13-14 (*Persecution - Acts 8:1; Romans 8:35; 2 Timothy 3:12*)

Whom did the beast have authority over? John 12:31; 14:30; 15:19; 16:11; 17:14-17; Colossians 2:8; James 4:41; John 2:16

Who will worship the beast? Psalm 73; Matthew 7:13; John 10:1-16(14, 16), 24-29; 18:37; 2 Peter 2

Who will not worship the beast? Deuteronomy 6:5 (Matthew 22:37-38); Psalm 29:2; Matthew 4:10//Luke 4:8; Acts 5:29

Does the 'from the creation of the world' refer to 'the lamb that was slain', or to 'all whose names have been written in the Book of Life'? Ephesians 1:3-14

v9-10

'Let him hear': Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 (Letters to the seven churches); 13:9

Q:

Verse 10 sounds fatalistic/deterministic, as if what's going to be will be and there's no changing it. Is this compatible with the Christian faith? How is this verse to be understood? See Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:14-15; 1 Peter 4:17 (also Matthew 26:36ff; John 18:11); 1 Peter 3:15-18; 4:19

What calls for 'patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints'? How is that call 'to be done'? 1 Corinthians 15:58; James 5:7-11; Hebrews 12:1-3

v11-17

'Refused to worship': Daniel 3 (The fiery furnace), 6 (Daniel & the lion's den)

Q:

How is the beast, 'coming out of the earth', different from the beast, 'coming out of the sea' (v1)? What does he do?

How did the 'other beast', the one 'of the earth', deceive its inhabitants? Matthew 12:39//Luke 11:29; Matthew 24:3-14, 21-33

How is the 'mark on the right hand or on the forehead' different from the seal of the servants of God in Revelation 7?

How do some Christians interpret these words of Revelation 13 regarding the 'mark of the beast'? How are we to 1) understand these words, and 2) help others to recognize the correct interpretation (esp. in the midst of the many false interpretations, not only of Revelation, but of the Bible in general)?

v18

The number of the beast is man's number

'666': 'each digit falls short of the perfect number 7' (Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1963) [Genesis 2:1-3]; Genesis 1:26-31

**XIII. The Harvest of the Earth
Revelation 14:6-20**

[For 14:1-5, see study session VIII]

v6-12

'another' angel, the first angel of three in this section (v6-7)

angel - also means 'messenger'; 2 Samuel 11:22-25; **Malachi 3:1**; Luke 7:27; **Luke 1:11-38**

What is the 'eternal Gospel'? Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14
To whom did this angel 'proclaim' the gospel? Matthew 24:14

What does it mean to:

-- 'Fear God'? **Deuteronomy 6:2-3, 24-25; 10:12-13, 20; 31:12-13**; Joshua 24:14;
Psalm 33:8; 34:8-9, 11; 66 (v16); 111:10; **118:4**; Proverbs 8:13; 16:6; 19:23;
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Isaiah 11:2-3; 1 Peter 2:17
-- 'give Him glory'? Isaiah 42:12; 48:11; Malachi 2:2; Luke 17:18; Acts 12:21-23;
1 Corinthians 1:27-31; 10:12-14; 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

What is the connection between these imperatives and God's judgment and 'worship'? Luke 21:28; Compare Revelation 7:9-10, 14-17; 14:1-5 with Revelation 14:8-12

-- Worship: **Exodus 34:14**; Deuteronomy 8:19 ; 11:16; **12:1-8; Psalm 81:8-10;**
95:1-7 (Te Deum); Revelation 3:9; 4:10; 9:20; 11:1; 13:8, 12, 15; 14:7, 11; 15:4; 19:10;
22:8, 9

The second angel (v8)

Is the message of the second angel 'good news' or 'bad news'? How? To whom?

The Third angel (v9-12)

Of whom does the third angel speak 'doom & gloom'? Of Christians? Of NonChristians?

What calls for the ‘patient endurance’ of the saints? see also Hebrews 10:35-39; 12:1-3; James 1:1-4; 5:10-11; Revelation 1:9; 2:1-3, 19; 13:10; 14:12

Who are the ‘saints’? (Literally, the word ‘saint’ comes from the word holy, set apart, sacred) **Matthew 25:31-46**; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2

v13

Discuss & describe the contrast between v13 and the preceding verses. Contrast ‘the blessed’ and ‘the cursed’.

What does it mean to ‘die in the Lord’? Romans 14:8; **1 Corinthians 15:31**; **Galatians 2:20**; Philippians 1:21

What does it mean that ‘their deeds/*works* will follow them’? How are the deed/*works* of a Christian seen by God? Why? **Exodus 29:42-46**; **John 17:19**; Acts 26:14-18; Romans 15:15-16; 1 Timothy 4:5; Jude 1:1

v14-16

What is meant by ‘harvest’? see **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**; Joel 3:13
Of whom does the ‘harvest’ refer? Christians? NonChristians? Explain.

v17-20

Of whom does the gathering of the ‘cluster of grapes’ refer? Christians? NonChristians? Explain.

‘Winepress’: See **Isaiah 63:1-9**; Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:13

‘Outside the city’: “Bloodshed would defile the city” (Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1964); *See Revelation 11:1-2*

1600 [$4^2 \times 10^2$] stadia (180 miles~300 kilometers):

The number four is associated with the earth.

The number ten is the figure for completeness. (Concordia Self-Study Bible, p1964)

**XIV. The SEVEN Bowls
Revelation 15-16**

Chapter 15

v1-3

Seven angels with the last seven plagues:

Revelation 2-3 (The Seven Letters to the Seven churches)

Revelation 6-8 (The Seven Seals)

Revelation 8-11 (The Seven Trumpets)

Who were standing by the sea of glass? See also Revelation 6: 9-11; 7:9-17; 12:11 (1 John 5:4-5)

Harp: Also Revelation 5:6-8; 14:1-2

v4

Song: Also Revelation 5:8-14; 14:3-5

Compare the song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb (15:3-4) with the Old Testament 'Song of Moses' (Exodus 15:1-18). What are their respective contexts? How are they similar? How are they dissimilar?

Why are 'those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name' singing in the context of the seven angels with the last plagues? (See Revelation 6:9-11; 12:10-12, 17; 14:6-11) Is the judgment of the wicked (Revelation 13:4-8, 11-17) reason for the righteous to rejoice?

How are Christians to understand the righteous judgments of God in the world of 'love' and 'tolerance'? (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10) In what/whom do we sing praises to God? Why?

v5-8

What is the significance of the opened 'tabernacle of the Testimony'? (v5-6)

1) What was the Testimony? Exodus 32:15-16

2) What is the tabernacle? The tabernacle of the Testimony? Exodus 25:8-9, 10-22^{21,22}; 26:30-34

3) What was the Tabernacle of the Testimony for? Exodus 29:42; 30:6, 36

What is 'the Wrath of God'? **Psalm 78**; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; Revelation 14:10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1

v1

v2: The First Angel

v3: The Second Angel

v4-7: The Third Angel

v8-9: The Fourth Angel

v10-11: The Fifth Angel

v12-16: The Sixth Angel

v17-21: The Seventh Angel

XV. Babylon
Revelation 17:1-19:5

XVI. The Wedding of the Lamb
Revelation 19:6-10

XVII. The Return of Christ
Revelation 19:11-21

XVIII. The 1000 Years
Revelation 20:1-6

XIX. Satan's Doom
Revelation 20:7-10

XX. Judgement
Revelation 20:11-15

XXI. The New Heaven and Earth, The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:1-22:5

XXII. Conclusion
Revelation 22:6-21 & Revelation 1:1-1-3