

## **“A Jet Tour through the Book of Revelation”<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction:** “No book in Scripture reveals the glory of God and Christ in any more splendor than does this book, and yet no book has been more misunderstood and misinterpreted and neglected than this book...Rev. 22:10 says, ‘*seal not the words of the prophecy of this book for the time is at hand.*’ If there is one thing that God wants in regard to this book is that we know what it teaches... It begins with a blessing (1:3) and ends with a blessing (22:7). It is the only book in the Bible that begins and ends with a promise of blessing for the one that reads it.”

### **Miscellaneous comments on chapters and verses throughout the book of Revelation:**

#### **Chapter 1:**

vv. 4-5 – Here we find the Trinity described, “*From him which is, and which was, and is to come...*” (i.e. God), “*from the seven Spirits*” (i.e. the Holy Spirit-cf. Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:7; etc), and “*from Jesus Christ...*” i.e. the book is dedicated to Jesus Christ.

vv. 4-8 – ...is a quick summary of the book.

vv. 9-ff – is the first of a series of visions...

v. 10 – The “*Lord’s Day*” is either: a) Sunday (most likely), or b) refers to the eschatological “*Day of the Lord.*”

v. 12 – Beginning in verse twelve we see Jesus moving among the churches.

\*\*\***1:19 – This verse gives the three point outline of the book**\*\*\*

#### **Chapter 2:**

vv. 1-7 – (The Church at *Ephesus*) ...the church that is orthodox but cold.

vv. 8-11 – (The Church at *Smyrna*) ...the persecuted church.

vv. 12-17 – (The Church at *Pergamum*) ...the church married to the world.

vv. 18-29 – (The Church at *Thyatira*) ...the church that tolerates sin.

#### **Chapter 3:**

vv. 1-6 – (The Church at *Sardis*) ...the dead church.

vv. 7-13 – (The Church at *Philadelphia*) ...the faithful or missionary church.

vv. 14-22 – (The Church at *Laodicea*) ...the apostate church.

#### **Chapter 4:**

v. 1 – “*The Church*” is no longer seen in the book of Revelation until chapter 22 when it reappears as the “*Bride.*”

v. 2 – This throne is a permanent throne, a forever throne.

v. 4 – **The 24 elders.** Who are they? **Options:** a) representatives of “*the Church*” (JM feels this is the best view since they have white robes, thrones & crowns, and these are all promised to NT believers), b) angels (not likely), or c) Israel (again, not likely, based on hermeneutical principles)

#### **Chapter 5:**

v. 5 – Who would know better than one of the redeemed that Jesus is able to open the book! (i.e. **the Lamb in the midst of the throne**)

v. 6 – Horns symbolize *power* & eyes symbolize *wisdom*. Seven=perfection i.e. Jesus Christ has *all* power and *all* wisdom!

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<sup>1</sup> Brief excerpts & notes taken from a sermon preached by Dr. John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California. The vast majority of the statements here have been taken nearly verbatim from an audio tape, as well as an MP3 file of that sermon. Transcribed and made into a Word document by Mike Edwards, February-April, 2011, St. Vincent, West Indies. Note: The format, as well as all bolding, underlining, italicizing, etc., have been added, along with a few additional comments-mwe.

## **Chapter 6:**

vv. 1-ff – Here begins a description of **the seven seal judgments**. The first four are called “*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.”

v. 2 – **Seal #1:** is the Antichrist who brings temporary peace (has a bow but no arrows, symbolizing a peaceful conquering).

vv. 3-4 – **Seal #2:** War.

vv. 5-6 – **Seal #3:** What follows war? Famine!

vv. 7-8 – **Seal #4:** What follows war and famine? Death!

vv. 9-11 – **Seal #5:** describes the redeemed of the tribulation period.

vv. 12-17 – **Seal #6:** Cosmic disturbances (earthquake, sun goes black, moon turns to blood, stars/meteors fall from the sky) which produce tremendous fear! [Note: These occurrences will likely happen at the very end of the tribulation-*mwe*]

## **Chapter 7:**

vv. 1-17 – A brief interlude for John the Apostle. In the midst of all this carnage there is some respite and protection. This chapter describes two things:

vv. 1-8 – **The 144,000** who are Jews whom God will seal, protect and use to help evangelize (most likely during the second half of the tribulation).

vv. 9-17 – **The fruit of the 144,000** who are “*a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*” who are seen standing before the throne and before the Lamb...and what are they doing? **Worshipping! That’s what everybody does in heaven. They worship God!!!**

**Chapters 8-9: The seven trumpet judgments** (6 in these two chapters, the seventh later on in 11:15-19).

8:1 – Awe for ½ hour, due to the breathtaking carnage that is about to be unleashed.

8:7 – **1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet:** Judgment on vegetation which affects man and animals

8:8-9 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet:** 1/3 of vegetation and 1/3 of oceans ruined.

8:10-11 – **3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet:** Judgment on fresh water sources via a possible meteorite (“*Wormwood*”) which hits the earth?

8:12-13 – **4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet:** Cosmic disruptions, probably either an 8 hr reduction in the day/night cycle, or a lessening by 1/3 of the sun, moon, etc?

9:1-12 – **5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet:** Star falls from heaven (Lucifer) and he lets demons out of the pit that will torment mankind for 5 months (they will not harm the ecosystem).

9:13-21 – **6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet:** 200 million man army, either demonic or human, that originates at the Euphrates (?) and will destroy 1/3 of mankind.

**Chapter 10:1-11** – Chapter ten is another little respite (A mighty angel holding a little book; seven thunders that speak; John commanded to eat the book, which was both bitter and sweet i.e. God’s judgments are sweet to believers, bitter to unsaved)

## **Chapter 11:**

vv. 1-14 – **The “Two Witnesses.”**

vv. 15-19 – **7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet:** The Grand Finale (“*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*”) [as in chapter 6, this vision is “fast-forwarding” to the end of the trib.-*mwe*]

**Chapter 12:1-17** – **The incessant persecution of Israel & believers throughout the tribulation.**

vv. 1-6 – **War on earth-phase 1:** “**The Woman**” = Israel; “**The Child**” = Christ; “**The Dragon**” = Satan.

vv. 7-12 – **War in heaven** (Satan & demons cast out of heaven permanently and banished to the earth).

vv. 13-17 – **War on earth-phase 2** (God’s protection of Israel).

## **Chapter 13** – **The Beast (Antichrist) & the False Prophet**

vv. 1-10 – **The Beast** i.e. the Antichrist

vv. 11-18 – **The False Prophet** (his job: draw people to the Antichrist. Lesson: Individuals can do great miracles yet not be of God!)

vv. 16-18 – The “*Mark of the Beast.*”

**Chapter 14** – This chapter again *looks forward to the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ* (esp. vv. 6-8 cf. chapters 17-20). vv. 1-5 – **The 144,000 again**—*only now they are in heaven.*

vv. 6-20 – The fall of “*Babylon*” and a preview/summary of the end.

**Chapter 15** (vv. 1-8) – Prelude to the last seven judgments

**Chapter 16** – **The seven Bowl judgments.**

vv. 1-2 – **1<sup>st</sup> Bowl (Vial):** Boils.

v. 3 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Bowl:** Remainder of the sea & everything in it destroyed.

vv. 4-7 – **3<sup>rd</sup> Bowl:** All rivers and fresh water destroyed.

vv. 8-9 – **4<sup>th</sup> Bowl:** The sun scorches men to death.

vv. 10-11 – **5<sup>th</sup> Bowl:** Pitch blackness.

vv. 12-16 – **6<sup>th</sup> Bowl:** Euphrates dries up and prepares the way for the kings of the earth to come against Israel; the final battle (“*Armageddon*”) shapes up; spirits of demons under the imagery of frogs and the “*unholy trinity.*”

vv. 17-21 – **7<sup>th</sup> Bowl:** A great earthquake, city divided into 3 parts, every island flees away, mountains crumble & 100 lb chunks of hail (ice) fall from the sky.

**Chapter 17** – **The fall of “*Religious Babylon.*”** Question: *Will there be religion in the tribulation?* Absolutely! If the true church is called a “*bride*” what is the false church? A “*harlot.*” (i.e. prostitute) However, after the first 3&1/2 years of the tribulation period, the Antichrist who has used them has had enough of this false religious group. He sets up an image of himself in the Temple in Jerusalem and demands worship of himself. The Jews immediately realize they’ve been duped.

**Chapter 18** – **The fall of “*Economic Babylon.*”** Babylon is the name for the final world economic system. At this point in time demons will have taken over the world. Here is a description of the collapse of money, industry, merchandising and the entire world economic system. No more music, art, entertainment, etc. Sorrow on earth—the show is over! But there is...

**Chapter 19** – **JOY in HEAVEN!** cf. vv. 1, 3, 4, 6 – “*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!*” We’re going to be with Him and reign with Him! *Amen!*

vv. 17-21 – The war of *Armageddon*

**Chapter 20:**

vv. 1-6 – **The Millennium** i.e. Christ sets up His kingdom. The 1000 year reign of Christ on earth is here described & taught.

vv. 11-15 – “**The Great White Throne Judgment.**” All the unsaved of all the ages will be judged here. This occurs at the end of the thousand year millennial kingdom. Satan, who has been bound, is loosed, leads a final battle then is sent to hell as well.

**Chapter 21:** – **The “*New Heaven/New Earth/New Jerusalem*” i.e. the Eternal State.**

**Chapter 22:**

vv. 1-5 – The *New Jerusalem* described in more detail.

v. 17 – **The Final Invitation:** “*And the Spirit and the bride say ‘Come!’*”

“*And he saith unto me, ‘Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’*” – 22:10-11

**What you are then you are forever!**

*Why not come to Jesus before it is eternally too late?*