

Online Grace Bible School

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**Online Grace Bible School
Phase 4
The Book of Revelation and
Israel in the End Times**

1) It's all about Jesus

- ✓ The Book of Revelation is prophecy of a distinct kind - apocalyptic prophecy. The purpose of the narratives of the Bible is to show that God *active* in history. Revelation tells us that God will bring an *end* to history, not just a conclusion, but a dramatic finale in judgment. It will reach a climactic conclusion.
- ✓ *Eschatos* – end times; last things. This began when Jesus rose from the dead, 1 Pet.1:20; 1 Jn.2:18.
- ✓ Heb.1:1-2. Jesus is God's final message and total message to this world. He has no plan or purpose for this planet which is not centered ultimately in His Son. It is not the revelation of the book of revelation, or even the end times, but the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is an account of the triumph of the kingdom of God and Satan's kingdom. Christ will crush Satan and reign, etc.
- ✓ Satan tries to stop people from reading this book because it tells of his downfall.
- ✓ Rev.1:1-3. Revelation means that which is unveiled. The end times are not a mystery. They once were, Dan.12:9. But not now, Rev.22:10. Revelation is not a sealed book, but an open book.
- ✓ Rev.1:3. This is the first of the seven beatitudes of Revelation. It's the only one that relates to today. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14.
- ✓ Rev.1:7-8. To the world, the message is: '*Behold He is coming!*' The One God appointed as your Saviour and you rejected, is now coming as your Judge, (feet of brass are a symbol of judgment 1:15-16).
- ✓ 1:11. There is much in this book to depress us – apostasy, breakdown of law and order, rise of the Antichrist, unprecedented evil on the earth, persecution, wars, etc. But the end belongs to Him!

Three NT Greek words are used to describe His coming:

- ✓ Parousia. Meaning 'presence'. It denotes both an arrival and a consequent presence with. Now the Spirit is present with us; then the Son. When used of the rapture of the Church, it signifies not merely His momentary coming for the saints but his presence with them until His revelation to the world.
- ✓ Apokalupsis. Meaning 'an unveiling of that which was previously hidden.' 2 Thes.1:7; 1 Pet.1:7, 13; 4:13.
- ✓ Epiphaneia. Meaning 'the shining forth' of the glory of His deity to mankind. Rev.1:17. The incarnate glory He had with the Father before His birth on earth, 2 Thes.2:8; 1 Tim.6:14; 2 Tim.4:1-8; Titus 2:13.

Stages of a Hebrew wedding

- 1) The groom's father chose a bride for his son. "*pray for those whom You have given Me...*" (Jn.17:9).
 - 2) The groom proposes to the bride. He tests her acceptance by pouring a cup of wine and sliding it to her. If she accepts she will drink it. If she wants to wait for another man she will push it away (Mt.26:27-28).
 - 3) If she accepts he will pay the dowry to her father, (1 Cor.6:20; 1 Pet.1:18-19).
 - 4) He will present gifts to her to remind her of him in the time of betrothal, (Jn.14:26)
 - 5) They are officially betrothed. They take a ritual bath as a symbol of cleansing. She will wear a veil in public signifying she has been set apart for her husband, (Eph.5:25-26; Tit.3:5; 2 Cor.11:2).
 - 6) The groom prepares the bridal chamber, (Jn.14:2&3)
 - 7) He will return for His bride. She will be alerted of the general time but not the day or hour. She will be arrayed in fine garments and will wait with the bridesmaids with oil in their lamps. Of the day and hour no one knows...but it will be like 10 virgins who took their lamps to meet the Bridegroom, (Matt.24:36; 25:1).
 - 8) When close to the bride's home the bridegroom and friends will shout and blow the shofar, (1 Thes.4:16)
 - 9) After the consummation of the marriage the marriage supper will begin, (Rev.19:7-9; 21:9)
- ✓ 1:13. We need to see Jesus as the Alpha and Omega. At the beginning of the Church Age He is in the midst of the candlesticks; at the end He is outside (Rev.3:20). What Jesus had to say to those churches at times is harsh. It contains stern rebukes, because He is coming and the Church is not ready (Rev.3:19).
 - ✓ John's purpose is to encourage the Church to remain faithful to Christ in the midst of suffering, false teaching, worldly temptation, etc.
 - ✓ One of the key words is 'overcome'. Faithful believers are described as those who overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. This is mentioned in each letter.
 - ✓ Those who make Jesus Lord in this age will rule with Him in the next.
 - ✓ The Second Coming of Christ is the supreme hope of the Church. It is a purifying hope, 1 Jn.2:28.

2) A Bird's Eye View

- ✓ Rev.4:1-3. 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this', i.e. Church Age.
- ✓ Rev.5:1-4. The scroll is the title deed to the earth. The earth was entrusted to Adam and he handed it to Satan (Lk.4:5&6).
- ✓ 'Who is worthy?' No angel qualifies as kinsman; no human qualifies as sinless.
- ✓ The Lamb paid the price, delivered the title deed over to God for safekeeping, until He would return.
- ✓ 'Lamb' is used 29 times of Jesus. Up to now, *amnos* is used signifying sacrificial nature of the lamb. Here and afterwards, *arnion* = a lamb which bears the marks of the sacrifice but is a majestic Lamb with honour, authority and power. 7 horns: omnipotence; 7 eyes: omniscience. Jesus our kinsman redeemer.
- ✓ Rev.5:5-8. Jesus paid the redemption price long ago, but has not taken possession. Now the time has come for Him to take possession, (Eph.1:14). Compare Rev.5:8 with 'Thy kingdom come.'

The Six Seals

The first seal – a white horse of conquest (6:1-2). The beginning of the Great Tribulation. Antichrist will bring peace in the midst of global turmoil. He will be received as Saviour of the world. Jn.5:43.

The second seal – a red horse of war (6:3-4). The power to take peace from the earth.

The third seal – a black horse of famine (6:5-6). The set of scales represents scarcity of food. Famine is the consequences of the first two riders. Antichrist will take over distribution of food.

The fourth seal – a pale horse of death (6:7-8). Famine will be followed by death, then Hades.

The fifth seal – martyrdom (6:9-11). The martyrs who refused the mark of the Beast.

The sixth seal - The Great Day of the Lord (6:12-17). Today is man's day. Tribulation is Satan's Day through his representative, Antichrist. The Church will go through the Great Tribulation; not the Day of the Lord.

Prelude to the Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord cannot happen until 2 groups are protected. One group is sealed, the other is removed.

- ✓ 7:1-8. The servants of God are sealed. The term 'Children of Israel' is always used of the Jews. The Israelites were sealed by the blood of the Passover lamb to protect them from judgment. Satan has his counterfeit seal – the mark of the beast. It pretends protection but is a mark of doom. The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon us.
- ✓ 7:9-14. The Rapture. 7:10. Salvation = deliverance from the presence of sin. 7:16. No more hunger, in contrast to tribulation. 7:17. God will wipe away every tear.
- ✓ God's judgments do not fall until the righteous are either sealed or removed. God's children may suffer many attacks, but never the wrath of, 1 Thes.5:9.

The Day of the Lord

8:1. Silence in heaven for about half an hour before the Day of the Lord begins. 7 angels sound trumpets.

First Trumpet (8:7). Fire, mixed with hail, falls to the earth destroying one third of vegetation.

Second Trumpet (8:8-9).

Third Trumpet (8:10-11). Similar to the second trumpet only a star named wormwood affecting the rivers with poison.

Fourth Trumpet (8:12). A third of the sun, moon and stars were struck so that their light was diminished.

Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12). Extraordinary locusts are released from the bottomless pit. They have a sting like a scorpion and do not attack vegetation, but people. The plague lasts 5 months, the life span of a locust.

Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21). An incredible army is raised up, killing one third of the earth.

The bitter-sweet book (Chapter 10).

The seventh trumpet (11:15-18) is sounded in which Jesus comes to set up His kingdom, judge the world and reign over the earth.

This ends the first chronological outline of Revelation. Chapter 12 begins the second outline. Similar to Pharaoh's 2 dreams and Dan.2&7. The second half of Revelation repeats the outline with more details.

3) What Is This World Coming To?

- ✓ 12:1-2. The woman is Israel. The child is Christ – ‘the Seed of the woman.’
- ✓ 12:3-4. The Dragon = Satan (see 12:7-9). Seven empires which ruled the world in Bible times and how Satan tried to use these to prevent Messiah and His Kingdom coming into the world: 1) Egypt; 2) Assyria; 3) Babylon; 4) Persia; 5) Greece; 6) Romans; 7) Revised Rome
- ✓ 12:5-6. ‘The wilderness’ is not a place but a state of aloneness. Alone among the nations, Ezek.20:34-36.
- ✓ 12:7-11. After the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, Satan is cast out of heaven as accuser of brethren. There is no more condemnation because no more law, Jn.12:31; Lk.10:18.
- ✓ 12:13-17. A flood of persecution under Antichrist intended to annihilate Israel and the Church.

The Antichrist

- ✓ 13:1. The Beast that rises out of the sea. Anti: in the place of; a counterfeit Christ, Jn.5:43; 2 Thes.2:4.
- ✓ 13:3. Counterfeit resurrection; change of personality. He ‘ascends out of the bottomless pit’, 11:7; 17:8.
- ✓ Prince of Peace vs False peace
- ✓ Jesus is the truth; Antichrist is the lie
- ✓ 13:11-12. He has a false prophet, rising out of the earth, i.e. a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit draws attention to Jesus so false prophet will to Antichrist, causing people to worship him.
- ✓ Jesus is the ‘mystery of godliness’; Antichrist is the ‘mystery of iniquity’.
- ✓ The mark of the Beast corresponds with the seal of God indicating ownership and false protection
- ✓ He will work miracles – ‘*lying wonders*’ 2 Thes.2:9

14:14-16. The Church is still on earth until the rapture. Then the Day of God’s wrath, 14:17-20; 15:1.

The Seven Bowls Judgment

Chapter 16. The 7 bowls correspond with 7 trumpets of the seventh seal. These are poured out resulting in:

1. Loathsome sores upon mankind (16:2)
2. The Sea turns to blood (16:3)
3. Rivers turn to blood (16:4-7)
4. Mankind is scorched by the sun (16:8-9)
5. Darkness and pain (16:10-11)
6. Euphrates is dried up making way for an army for Armageddon (16:12-16)
7. The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ (16-21)

Babylon Overthrown and Satan Bound

- ✓ Chapters 17-19. Babylon (‘the great city’ 16:19) is mentioned more times than any other city except Jerusalem (‘the holy city’, 21:2). It represents mankind in a union and system to oppose and replace God.
- ✓ When the climax of rebellion is reached, God will say to His Son, as He did at Babel: ‘let us go down...’
- ✓ Two suppers. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.19:9. The supper of the great God. 19:17.
- ✓ 20:1-4. Satan, who lifted himself up will be cast down.

The Kingdom come

- ✓ Man was created to have dominion over the earth. In Adam mankind lost the kingdom and the crown.
- ✓ The rule of the earth is now in the hands of Satan and his demons, Jn.12:31.
- ✓ Jesus will reign with His saints. The curse will be removed. Sickness and sin will be no more. Changes will be wrought in the animal kingdom. The lion will eat straw like an ox.
- ✓ Christ will reign the world as a commonwealth of nations. Isa.2:2&3; Lk.19:17-19.
- ✓ The meek and faithful will reign with Him.
- ✓ We are destined for the throne. ‘*To him that overcomes...*’ Rom.16:20.

4) Israel in Prophecy

The conflict in the Middle East is a collision between an unrelenting force, Islam, and an immovable object, Israel. Israel is mentioned in the Scriptures, either as a land or a people, over 2,500 times. There are hundreds of prophecies given thousands of years ago about Jerusalem and Israel. Note:

Israel and the Promised Land

- 1) When God singled out the nation of Israel He purposed for them to possess a land which He had prepared for them. He can do this because the whole earth is His, Gen.17:8; Psa.105:7-11; Deut.9:4&5. He has never made such a promise to any other nation.
- 2) He refers to the land known as Israel as 'My Land', Joel.3:2. The context of these passages is that of Gentile nations challenging rightful ownership of the land. Those who do this do not confront Israel, but God.
- 3) Since the land belongs to the LORD, He expressly forbids any permanent selling of it, Lev.25:23.
- 4) On 3 occasions the people of Israel have left their land, but after some time have returned:
 - ✓ When Jacob took his family to Egypt during a famine and remained there for over 400 years as foretold by God, Gen.15:12-18.
 - ✓ The time of the captivity, when the Jews were exiled to Babylon for 70 years for their disobedience.
 - ✓ In AD 70 when the Romans razed Jerusalem to the ground, destroyed their temple and scattered the Jews among the nations of the earth because of their rejection of Christ, Lk.21:20-24. Yet God promised that in the last days He would return them to their land. He would not let His people be destroyed, nor their distinct identity be lost, Jer.30:11; 31:35-36.
- 5) Each time Israel was not dwelling in their land it was still referred to as theirs. Ownership has never been transferred to another nation. God always said He would return them to 'their land', Ezek.36:24; Amos 9:15.
- 6) God has a special care for this land (Deut.11:12) and has warned that He will deal in judgment with any nation which seeks to possess His land, Psa.10:16. Likewise, He will not countenance with favour any attempts by Israel to trade His land for peace. Any such 'peace' will be a false peace with disastrous consequences.

The issue of the land is not one of whose side we are on or who is more worthy of the land, but whether or not we are submitted to the counsel of God as revealed clearly in His Word. It is not a question of being pro-Jewish or pro-Palestinian, but pro-Biblical.

The Modern State of Israel

The holocaust, as horrific as it was, became a catalyst for complacent Jews to seek a homeland, Isa.43:6; Jer.31:8. After the holocaust there was a mass migration of Jews to what was then called Palestine. By 1947 the UN announced that the then 800,000 Jews in Palestine be given a piece of land for themselves. In 1948 the State of Israel was birthed and Arabs in Palestine, together with other Arab nations, went to war against Israel. They have never known a day of peace since they became a nation, including several all-out wars:

- ✓ **The War of Independence.** Israel, a fledgling nation, were poorly armed and grossly outnumbered yet overcame the might of the Arab world.
- ✓ **The Suez War, 1956.** Only 8 years old as a nation Israel defeated Egypt who were strongly aligned to the Soviet Union.
- ✓ **The Six-Day War, 1967.** Israel miraculously overcame the combined forces of Syria, Egypt and Jordan. They took control of the Golan Heights and also the West Bank, including Jerusalem.
- ✓ **The Lebanon War, 1982.** Israel again, defeated Syria and the PLO who were based in Lebanon.

Jerusalem –a cup of drunkenness for the nations (Zechariah 12)

- ✓ Like a cup of wine Jerusalem will appear like a cup of wine, enticing the nations who gather against her to lay siege, v.2. But the cup will intoxicate them and send them staggering back, startled.
 - ✓ This will be the time of Jacob's trouble when the nations attempt to destroy Israel as a nation.
 - ✓ But like a heavy stone, Israel will roll back on them and crush them to pieces, because the LORD will fight for Israel and be known to both Israel and the nations at this time, Zech.12:4-10; Ezek.38:23.
- ✓ At this time will come the judgment of the Gentile nations and Israel's salvation.