

Overview of Revelation

February 21, 28 2021

John the Apostle is on the Island of Patmos (perhaps as a prisoner) and is “in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day” when he sees a vision of Jesus. It is interesting to note that this vision parallels what Daniel saw in Daniel 10.

1. Revelation states seven times that the prophecies it speaks to were for the author’s time (2000 years ago).

*Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ....-things which **must shortly take place**.*

*Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he who reads for **the time is near**.*

*Rev. 22:6the things which must **shortly take place**.*

*Rev. 22:7 "Behold, **I am coming quickly!** Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy*

*Rev. 22:10 "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for **the time is at hand**....*

*Rev. 22:12 "And behold, **I am coming quickly**....*

*Rev. 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely **I am coming quickly**."*

2. **The seven churches** of Asia (Revelation 2-3) are real churches read about in the book of Acts. Within these seven churches we learn two important ideas: first, a church that does not purpose divine purposes or permits error will lose its candle stand (i.e. divine sanction). Second, that being small, weak or struggling is not something that will condemn anyone. There are also keys to the ideas in the rest of Revelation at the end of each part.

3. The vision of heaven in Revelation 4-5 is a retelling of the Gospel – Jesus is the lamb who is slain so that this prophecy could come true. Jesus had to die before this prophecy (pertaining to Jerusalem’s destruction) could be fulfilled. The vision of heaven is almost identical to that of Ezekiel in Ezekiel 1-4.

John Saw	Ezekiel Saw
A door opened in Heaven	Heavens opened and with visions of God
Flashes of lightning	A cloud with lightning
4 living creatures	4 living beings with human form:
Had many eyes, each with 6 wings	4 faces and four wings
Face of a man, a bull, an eagle, a lion	Face of a lion, a man, eagle and bull
7 lamps of fire	Among them were fires darting around
7 lamps of fire = 7 Spirits of God	Each creature followed a Spirit
Something like a sea of crystal	A great expanse of something like crystal
A sound like thunder	A loud rushing noise like abundant waters
The Throne of Jasper and Sardius	The Throne appeared of Lapis Lazuli
A rainbow like an emerald at the throne	Radiance like a rainbow

4. Revelation 6 – 9 parallels the events Jesus listed would occur before the temple was destroyed in Matthew 24. **The seven seals** speak to the events Jesus said would occur before the destruction, and **the seven angels** reflect the destruction itself, a parallel to the plagues of Egypt.

6 Seals Opened:	Jesus' Prophecy in Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13:
White Horse: Christ is crowned	(Matthew 28:19; overcome the world)
Red Horse: War	Matthew 24:6; war and rumor of war
Black Horse: Famine	Matthew 24:7; There will be famines
Pale Horse: Death/Famine/Pestilence	Luke 21:11; There will be plagues and famine
Martyrs of the Cause of Christ	Luke 21:12-16; persecution and death
Earthquake, darkened sun, falling stars	Luke 21:25-26; signs from heaven, signs in the sun, moon and stars, the powers of heaven
The men of the world calling the mountains and rocks to fall on them	Luke 23:30 Some will call the rocks to fall on them (on the road to the cross)
A fig tree example	Mark 13:28 a fig tree example

6 Trumpets	Plagues of Egypt
First Trumpet: Hail and Fire	Plague of Hail and Fire from the Sky
Second Trumpet: A third of the sea becomes blood	Plague of Blood in the Water
Third Trumpet: A great star (Wormwood) poisoned 1/3 of the water	Plague of Blood in the Water
Fourth Trumpet: Sun, moon and stars darkened	Plague of Darkness
Fifth Trumpet (woe): The abyss is opened and locusts come out	Plague of Insects
Sixth Trumpet (woe): The 4 angels kill 1/3 of mankind	Plague of the Death of the Firstborn

5. Revelation 10:11 states that the prophecy changes to one about the Gentile nations. The largest Gentile nation is Rome.

6. **The Two Witnesses** are Elijah and Moses, who personify the Law and the Prophets (The Old Testament), which bear witness of Jesus (John 5:39).

7. **The Lady** in Revelation 12 is the church, and her child is the individual Christian. We see this language elsewhere in 2 John, and we were told that the child is the Christian who overcomes in Revelation 2:27

8. **The Greater Beast** of Revelation 13 is the Roman Empire. We are told in Daniel 7:23 that the beast is the fourth empire after Babylon (Persia, Macedonia). Later we are told the **Harlot of Babylon** is a city that sits on seven hills (Rev. 17:9); Rome is universally known as the City on Seven Hills. **The Lesser Beast** of Revelation 13 is the Head of

the Greater Beast. This is the Roman Emperor. It is likely Nero, since he is the six Roman emperor since the first (Julius Caesar) as identified in Revelation 17:10, and his name number in *gematria* (numbers = letters) is 666 (Rev. 13:18). Nero was the great persecutor of Christians.

9. Revelation 15-18 speaks to the punishment of the Roman Empire and the city of Rome itself. Revelation 19 speaks about the wedding of the Lamb of God and the Bride.

10. Revelation 20 is the only part that seems to be in the future. It looks at the Day of Resurrection and the Judgment of all men. The **first resurrection** is baptism (Romans 6:3-6), **the second resurrection** is the one at the end of time for all men (John 5:28-29). **The first death** is in the body when we die, and **the second death** is eternity in hell (Rev. 20:14).