

## Recap of Last Week...

- sunteleia v. telos
- oikoumene v. cosmos
- you watch out, be on guard, etc.
- this generation will not pass away...
- signs for destruction of the Temple, but concerning that day (sunteleia) no one knows

## To whom was Revelation written?

- 7 Churches of Asia Minor – actual historical churches
- 1<sup>st</sup> Century culture with OT language
- We cannot take Revelation from all of Church History

## When was Revelation written?

- Late 60s – proponents of this view believe Revelation is referencing the destruction of the Temple
- Early to Mid 90s – proponents believe that Revelation is referencing either an end times persecution or 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Century Roman persecution.

## Numbers in Revelation

- Numbers in our culture (23, 3, 99)
- 4 and 7 – completeness/perfection (7 Churches, Seals, etc.)
- 6 and 10 – evil (Rev. 13, 17:3)
- 12 – People of God (144,000; 24 Elders)

## Symbols in Revelation

- Why use all the symbols and pictures? Because a picture is worth 1,000 words. Pictures stick with people better than words, and it is with pictures that the Jews taught/wrote.
- In Revelation 5:6 Jesus is pictured as a lamb with 7 eyes and 7 horns. What is this picture trying to tell us about Jesus?

## How is Revelation Structured?

- Revelation is not written chronologically or in a linear fashion. The timeline of Revelation is very messy. Some have tried to make sense of book by using a timeline and have failed.
- Recapitulation – cycling through the same story over and over to get a different perspective. Different shows (Lost) have done this successfully, and it is something that we see in the Bible (Gospels – 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles – Daniel's Interpretation of Dreams – etc)

- After each major section, the world ends and you are taken back to the throne (a reference back to 4:5)

## Summary of Each Major Section

### 1:1-1:20 – Introduction, Jesus is the Son of Man

- Notice that the time is near and obedience is required (verse 3)
- The ascension is mentioned in verse 7
- The description of Jesus is seen also in Daniel 7

### 2:1-3:22 – Letters to the Seven Churches

- Ephesus – I know your deeds, hard work and perseverance...but you've forsaken your first love
- Smyrna – I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich!...
- Pergamum – You remain true to my name...yet you hold to the teaching of Balaam
- Thyatira – I know your deeds, your love, and faith, your service, and perseverance...yet you tolerate that woman Jezebel
- Sardis – I know your deeds...but you are dead. Wake up!
- Philadelphia – you have kept my word and have not denied my name...
- Laodicea - ...you are neither hot nor cold, and I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

### 4:1-12 – The Throne

- After each major section of Revelation, 4:5 is referenced. As the end of the world approaches, John takes us back to the throne to show that God is ultimately in control.

### 5:1-14 – The Scroll

- There is a scroll with seven seals. When each seal is opened, a new catastrophe is described. Jesus, the slain lamb, the lion of Judah, is the only one that can open the seals to reveal what will take place.
- Notice the numbers in verses 9, 12, and 13

### 6:1-8:5 – The Seals (ENDURE!)

- First Seal – White Horse, rider bent on Conquest.
- Second Seal – Red Horse, rider causes War
- Third Seal – Black Horse, rider causes Famine
- Fourth Seal – Pale (Green) Horse, rider causes Death
- Fifth Seal – “How much longer, Lord?” – “Wait a little longer, more will die...”

- Sixth Seal – Begins with a negative view of the final Judgment. 7 aspects of creation mention, indicating total destruction (earth, sun, moon, stars, sky, mountains, island). And 7 people groups mentioned, indicating every person (kings, princes, generals, rich, mighty, slave, free man). They long for the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the wrath of God.

Chapter seven begins with the positive view of the final judgment. Notice that the 12 tribes of Israel are not the 12 literal tribes (Dan and Ephraim are missing and replaced by Levi and Joseph). The number 144,000 is a number that symbolically represents the people of God (12 x 12,000)

- Seventh Seal – This seal acts like a precursor to the seven trumpets. Notice at the end of this section we are taken back to the throne with a reference to the peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

### 8:6-11:15 – The Trumpets (REPENT)

- First Trumpet – Hail and Fire mix (Exodus 9:22-25) a third of earth burned, third of trees burned, all grass.
- Second Trumpet – Huge mountain thrown into sea and a third of sea turned into blood (Exodus 7:20-24), a third of sea creatures died, and a third of ships destroyed.
- Third Trumpet – Star named Wormwood falls on a third of the rivers and springs, and a third of the water turns bitter
- Fourth Trumpet – a third of the sun (Exodus 10:21-23), moon, and stars are struck so that a third of the day/night is without light.
- Fifth Trumpet – locusts (Exodus 10:12-15) are released that torture people.
- Sixth Trumpet – Four angels kill a third of mankind (Exodus 12:29-30).
- There is a break in chapter 10 that serves as an interlude between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals. This section begins with the 7 Thunders. What happens, or is to be revealed, is unknown to us and everyone but the Apostle John.

The two witnesses appear in chapter 11. Some believe that Moses and Elijah will literally appear on earth, and some believe that this is symbolic. Notice in 11:8, Israel is called Sodom and Egypt...

- Seventh Trumpet – Final Judgment once again, with the end of the chapter once again taking us back to the throne.

### 12:1-14:20 – The Dragon, the Beasts, and the Lamb

- The woman is symbolic for the people of God (12 stars). She is pursued by a dragon who sweeps a third of the stars to the sky (What are the stars? Why a third?). The dragon desires to eat the child she is about to give birth to, but God intervenes and protects. Jesus, who is the child, is taken to Heaven (notice the Birth, Life, Death, Burial, and Resurrection are encompassed here).

- Great war in heaven breaks out – Michael and the angels fight against the dragon and his angels. He was hurled to the earth; notice that the Kingdom comes Now (or then). It is at the Christ event (1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus) that the Kingdom comes. Notice how Satan is overcome – by the blood of the lamb and the word of the testimony of the saints. Satan’s work is lessened as he is ultimately bound to keep from destroying the Church.
- Chapter 13 introduces two beasts. The one from the sea represents anti-Christian government (even 1 central political figure) and the beast from the land represents anti-Christian religion. The second beast forces everyone to worship the first and requires a mark in order to determine allegiance. Those refusing to get the mark suffer consequences (not buying or selling goods)
- The beginning of chapter 14 we are once again taken back to the throne (verse 2), and the end we are taken once again to the final judgment. Jesus is pictured with a crown and a sickle, signifying that he is both king and judge.

### 15:1-16:21 – The Bowls (REPENT!)

- First Bowl – we progressed from a fourth, to a third, to now total destruction. God’s wrath is being completely poured out, but repentance still seems to be the key (16:9,11).
- Second Bowl – the sea is affected once again, only it is the entire ocean being turned to blood.
- Third Bowl – the rivers and springs are affected next, which is still in connection to the plague on Egypt (Exodus 7:14-24).
- Fourth Bowl – even while being scorched (and getting a taste of hell on earth) these individuals still refuse to repent.
- Fifth Bowl – darkness comes over the land (Exodus 10:21-23)
- Sixth Bowl – to prepare the way for the kings of the East (Parthians). Demon frogs come up (Exodus 8:1-14).
- Seventh Bowl – The end has come...the total destruction language is the same as that of Revelation 6:15ff.

### 17:1-18:24 – Judgment of Babylon

- The point of this section is mentioned in 17:1, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters...” Who is the great prostitute? Looked at the “all caps” sectioned that lists what is on her head (Babylon the great). What is Babylon? Rome...Just as Babylon destroyed the Temple, so did Rome. The connection would have been made by John’s readers. Also look at 16:9 (Rome is called the city of seven hills) and 16:18 (one city that rules over the kings of the earth = Rome).
- In chapter 18, a very short amount of time is listed to indicate the destruction of Babylon (one hour, one day).

## 19:1-21 – Second Coming and Judgment of the Beasts

- Judgment is coming in reverse order of our introduction to characters. The dragon is mentioned first, followed by the beasts. The beasts are now being judged, soon to be followed by the dragon. The chapter begins with worship, and quickly shifts to a battle scene.
- Jesus' robe has been dipped in blood...to whom does the blood belong? It's His – because he has won the war already by His blood. The point of this section is to show that there will be no battle – the beasts are captured and thrown into the lake of burning sulfur.

## 20:1-15 – Second Coming and Judgment of the Dragon

- The 1,000 year reign of Christ is inaugurated by the binding and locking up of Satan. As we've seen in Chapter 12, the Kingdom comes at the Christ event. Even in chapter 12, Satan's power is limited (he is no longer the accuser). Be sure also to look at Matthew 12:25-29. In Revelation, when throne is used for God, Jesus, and the saints every time the scene is in Heaven (44 times). The debated instance is in verse four. Are the thrones in Heaven or on Earth?
- The scene is opened up again as Satan gathers an army for one final attack. Fire devours them before anything happens, and the devil is thrown into the lake of fire, along with the beasts, to be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- The section ends with the world being judged once again. People are either ushered to heaven or thrown into the lake of fire.

## 21:1-22:6 – All Things New

- New Heavens and New Earth (καινός) are established. New Jerusalem is prepared as a beautiful bride. What is the bride of Christ in the NT?
- God will wipe every tear from their eyes...Revelation 7:17
- River of the water of the water of life and tree of life will be in Heaven...and we will reign forever and ever.

## 22:7-21 – Be Ready, Jesus is Coming Soon (OBEY!)

- Jesus is coming soon, and we must keep the words of the prophecy of this book (obey)
- He says that He is coming soon 3 times in this short passage.