

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 56

The Tribulation Period

Part 4. The Book of Revelation

Scenes in heaven and scenes on earth

We have now finished our exercise of noting which scenes in Revelation occur in heaven, and which occur on the earth.

Group Discussion

Let's now discuss what we have learned.

<1st handout – Discussion Guide>

Connections between scenes in heaven and scenes on earth

Rev 4:1-5:14 in heaven connects with **Rev 6:1-17** in an interesting way. Note the introduction of the Lamb, the 7 seals, and the 4 creatures in Rev 4 and 5.

Notice that in chapter 6:1-8, the scene shifts from heaven to earth and back again every other verse.

Verse 1 is in heaven, and connects with verse 2 on earth;
likewise for 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 7 & 8.

Rev 6:9-11 is in heaven, and has no earthly counterpart.

Rev 6:12a is in heaven and connects to Rev 6:12b – 17.

What connects these various passages to one another?

Rev 7:9 – 8:6 in heaven connects with **Rev 8:7 – 9:21 on earth**. How?

Rev 12:10-12 in heaven connects with **Rev 12:13 – 14:20 on earth**.

Let's work through this together.

Rev 15:1 – 16:1 in heaven connects to **Rev 16:2-4, 8-21 on earth**.

What's the connection?

Rev 16:2-4 on earth in turn connects with **Rev 16:5-7 in heaven**. How?

Rev 15:1 in heaven connects with **Rev 16:17 on earth**. How?

Rev 16:6 in heaven connects with **Rev 18:24 on earth** which in turn connects with **Rev 19:2 in heaven**.

What's the connection?

Conclusion: A scene in heaven leads to a scene on earth where what is declared in heaven is carried out on earth.

Connecting Flights

Now let's branch out and look at "connecting flights" more generally in Revelation.

Here are a bunch to get us started. Can you find more?

Departing	Arriving	What is the connection?
Rev 1:6	Rev 5:10	
Rev 1:10	Rev 4:2; 17:3; 21:10	
Rev 1:14	Rev 19:12	
Rev 1:16	Rev 2:12,16; Rev 19:15,21	
Rev 1:19	Rev 4:1; 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1; 20:3	
Rev 2:7	Rev 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21; 12:11; 21:7 ¹	
Rev 2:13	Rev 13:2; 16:10	
Rev 3:3	Rev 16:15	
Rev 9:11	Rev 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3	

¹ Read the larger passage as well: Rev 21:1-8, so you get the full context.

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

A few points to get us started:

1. The book of Revelation is about the Revelation – unveiling - of **Jesus Christ at His Second Coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords**. Rev 1:1-7, 19:16. The central figure throughout the book is **the Lamb in the center of the Throne**; Rev 7:17.
2. Revelation is a book of **apocalyptic prophecy**. It consists of a series of visions given by the LORD's angel to His bond-servant John. "things which must soon take place". Review the handout "Apocalyptic Literature". <2nd handout>
3. The visions move back and forth between scenes in heaven and scenes on earth.
4. The book does not proceed in chronological order.

For example, in Rev 6:12-14, the 6th seal is broken. The events which occur at this time match precisely the signs that Jesus prophesied would mark His Second Coming. See Matt 24:29-30. They also match up with Rev 16:18-20 (the seventh bowl judgment). But we also find the Second Coming described in much more detail in Rev 19:11-21. What does that tell you about the chronology of Rev 6?
5. The book of Revelation deals with **Israel and the Gentile nations** in the run-up to the Second Coming of Christ, followed by the Judgments of Israel and the Gentile nations, the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Judgments of satan and unbelievers (Lake of Fire), and the New Jerusalem in the Eternal State.
6. The entire book is **prophecy**, Rev 1:3; 22:18-19..
7. The entire book is addressed to the seven assemblies in Asia; Rev 1:4; Rev 22:16.
8. These seven assemblies bear little or no resemblance to the body of Christ in Paul's epistles. (make sure you do your homework assignment this week – see below!)
9. The Rapture is **not** found in this book of prophecy.

a. Two passages in Revelation are often thought to be referring to the Rapture. They are **Rev 3:10** and **Rev 4:1-2**. *Let's read them now.*

- b. We know that **1 Thess 4:13-18** describes the Rapture. *Let's read this passage together.* Are the events described in 1 Thess 4:13-18 also found in either Rev 3:10 or Rev 4:1-2? Let's see for ourselves.
- c. See the **3rd Handout "The Rapture of the Church: Comparing Revelation passages to 1Thess 4:13-18"**.
- d. See also the **4th handout "Revelation 3:10 – the Greek verb *tereo*"**.

10. As you proceed through the seven assemblies in Rev 2-3, **the Second Coming of Christ** gets closer and closer.

Ephesus	Rev 2:5 <u>or else</u> I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place	
Smyrna	{none}	
Pergamum	Rev 2:16 <u>or else</u> I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them	
Thyatira	Rev 2:25 hold fast <u>until</u> I come.	
Sardis	Rev 3:3 Therefore <u>if</u> you do not wake up, I <u>will come like a thief</u> , and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.	
Philadelphia	Rev 3:11 ' I <u>am coming quickly</u> ;	
Laodicea	Rev 3:20 Behold, <u>I stand at the door</u> and knock;	

Homework for this week

Read through Revelation 1 – 3 a few times.

Then go through it again two more times, doing this exercise:

1. Write down any reference you find to **the nation of Israel, the Jews, the Second Coming, and the Day of the Lord.** (first read-through)
2. Write down any references you find to the **unique features of the body of Christ – the Church.** (see 5th handout for a list) (second read-through)