

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

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

### Teaching Summary for Week 59

## The Tribulation Period

**Update on the Timeline of end times events: we are going to have to study the timing of the Gog campaign in Ezekiel 38:1-39:16. What is the basis for placing it between the Rapture and the beginning of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week?**

## Part 4. The Book of Revelation

### Revelation 1-3 work

1. Write down any references you find in Revelation 2 and 3 to the **unique features of the body of Christ – the Church. (COMPLETED)**
2. Write down any reference you find in Revelation 1, 2, and 3 to **the nation of Israel, the Jews, the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation martyrs, and the Second Coming.** Question: **do they also relate to the body of Christ?**

Let's do the second assignment together. We will read Revelation 1 – 3 to spot these references. Such references would point to the Old Testament, the gospels Matthew-Luke, Romans 9-11, and the book of Revelation chapters 4-22. See **the 1<sup>st</sup> handout.**

Here's the upshot of our findings from these two exercises:

- (A) The things that are unique to the body of Christ are not found in Revelation 2-3.**  
In fact, in many cases we find the opposite situation.
- (B) On the other hand, many things that are found in Revelation 1-3 pertain to Israel/the Jews (but not to the Church, the body of Christ).**

## Connecting Flights

Now let's branch out and look at "connecting flights" more generally in Revelation. A connecting flight occurs when something mentioned earlier in Revelation is mentioned again later 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;<br>18:1; 19:1; 20:3                      |                         |
| Rev 2:7      | Rev 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5;<br>3:12; 3:21; 12:11; 21:7 <sup>1</sup> |                         |
| 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   |                         |
| Rev 14:19-20 | Rev 19:15  |                         |

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<sup>1</sup> 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". <2<sup>nd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. (discuss Rev 1:10, 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. (our work demonstrated this).
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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Handout "The Rapture of the Church: Comparing Revelation passages to 1Thess 4:13-18"**.
- d. See also the **4<sup>th</sup> handout "Revelation 3:10 – the Greek verb *tereo*"**.
- e. Revelation is a book of prophecy. If the body of Christ is in Revelation, the Rapture (the one church-age prophetic event) must also be in Revelation. If it isn't, then the body of Christ is not in the book of Revelation.

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<br>or <u>else</u> I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place  |  |
| Smyrna       | {none}  |  |
| Pergamum     | Rev 2:16<br>or <u>else</u> I am coming to you <u>quickly</u> , and I will make war against them   |  |
| Thyatira     | Rev 2:25<br>hold fast <u>until</u> I come.  |  |
| Sardis       | Rev 3:3<br>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<br>' I <u>am coming quickly</u> ;  |  |
| Laodicea     | Rev 3:20<br>Behold, <u>I stand at the door</u> and knock;   |  |