

We are going to study the book of Revelation for one week. On Sunday, I am going to seek to overview of Revelation. This book from God's Word has often been dwindled down to systems and speculation. Although there are many difficulties in trying to understand particular pieces in Revelation, there are many concepts are easy to understand. We will focus on the main storyline of Revelation.

Ch. 1: John's initial vision of Jesus Christ

Ch. 2-3: Jesus' letters to the seven churches

Ch. 4 The Throne

Ch. 5 The Lamb

Ch. 6-20 A Storm (8:5, 11:19, 16:19)

Ch. 21-22 A City

Day One – Read Revelation 1

In v. 1, What do you learn about the revelation?

In v. 3, Who is blessed?

In vv. 4-5, we observe a Trinitarian greeting. What do you learn about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

In v. 9, where is John and why is he there? What happened to him?

Who was speaking to him? Does Jesus look different in vv. 12-15, than he did in Matthew? Describe him?

How did John respond to his encounter? What did Jesus do to him?

Day Two – Read: Revelation 2-3

Since our time is limited I want you to note a couple of things. First the letter was written to the churches in Asia. These city churches are actual places in ancient Asia. There are tours to many of the ruins of these cities even today. There are seven churches that receive a clear message.

The letters to the churches have an almost identical structure. They begin with a description of Christ, drawn from the opening vision, citing elements that have special relevance for the church address; praise for the commendable features of the church follows and then criticism of its faults. They conclude with a promise of rewards to be bestowed at the advent of Christ, usually relating to features in the vision of the city of God at the end of the book.¹

Let's look briefly at the message to the church in Ephesus (2:1-7).

Church Name:

How does he commend this church?

How does he criticize this church?

How should they respond?

If they repent, what does he promise them?

Day Three – Read: Revelation 4-5

Chapter 4 is the setting for the scene in Chapter five, What does John describe in Ch. 4? What word is repeated over and over in this chapter?

How is the 'throne' described?

Who is on the throne? What is taking place around the throne?

¹ Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary : 21st century edition* (4th ed.) (Re 2:1–3:22). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

What do the four living creatures say to him who sits on the throne? How often does this take place? How do the 24 elders respond to him who sits on the throne? What do they say?

Why does John cry in the first few verses of chapter 5?

Why did the elder tell John to stop crying in v. 5?

What does the one called both a lion and a lamb do in v.7?

How do the four creatures and 24 elders respond? What do you learn about God the Father and God the Son?

What do you learn from their worship?

Day Four – Read: Revelation 8:5, 11:19, 16:18

In Revelation chapters 6-20, there are three series of judgments in this book. There are seven in each series.

Starting at Ch. 6:1 we have the Seven _____.

Starting at Ch. 8:6 we have the Seven _____.

Starting at Ch. 16 we have the Seven _____.

Early you were asked to read Rev. 8:5, 11:19, and 16:18. These are the conclusion of each of these judgments. What takes place at the end of these judgments?

At the end of each series of judgments is a storm. These chapters appear to record a progression of events, but it is not a simple progression. Many events seem to repeat, yet they also seem to intensify. So you cannot read the book of Revelation and assume that some event recorded in chapter 17 must occur later in time than some event in chapter 9. The book does not work that way. Instead, you should pay attention to this intensification from one series to the next.²

What do you learn about the horror of God's judgment in 6:15-17?

What should we do with the knowledge of God's Judgment? Should we rejoice? Should we be afraid? Should we tell others? Why?

Day Five – Read Revelation 21:1-7

We have observed A Throne, The Lamb, A Storm, and now we will look at A City.

What do you learn about the future for God's people (21:1-7)?

Who reigns in this city? How does that relate to the joy of the city 21:22-27?

Who will and who will not be in this city 21:7-8?

Read 22:14-21, What do you learn from the conclusion of this book?

Have you come to Jesus? Do you long for him to return, will you pray that he come quickly?

² Dever, Mark. The Message of the New Testament, Revelation: What are we waiting for, 535.