

Revelation— The Future Foretold

*This is a self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible,
some important basic truths about
the future.*

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions
and noise.

2. Read each question carefully.

3. Look up the Scripture reference given after
each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture
passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking
up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.

4. Answer the question from the appropriate
Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to
answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a
“yes” or “no” always give the reason for your answer . . . “Yes,
because. . . .”

5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order
to look up words you don’t understand.

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6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 79.

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 80.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answers in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES						
INTRODUCTION	1	2	3	4	5	6
						7

THE SEVEN SEALS						
THE HEAVENLY VISION	1	2	3	4	5	6
						THOSE SAVED DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION
						7

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS						
1	2	3	4		WOE	
				5		6
						THE LITTLE BOOK THE TWO WITNESSES
						WOE
						7

THE SEVEN PERSONAGES						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						THE THREE ANGELS HARVEST VINTAGE

THE SEVEN VIALS						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
						THE THREE FROGS
						7

THE SEVEN DOOMS						
1	2	3	4	THE MILLENNIUM		
				5	6	7
						NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH



Introduction

1:1-8

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ” 1:1

This is the real title of the book—the *unveiling* of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The words, “things which must shortly come to pass,” have been translated, “things which must swiftly come to pass in their time.”

1. What had Jesus once said to His disciples?

JOHN 16:12, 13 _____

2. What does God say of “his servant John”?

1:1, 2 _____

“Blessed is he that readeth . . . this prophecy”
1:3

Many say, “I can’t understand Revelation.” God foresaw this excuse. He doesn’t expect us to understand it all perfectly, but He does promise blessing for reading the book. Verse 3 is the first of seven beatitudes in Revelation. Those who read the book prayerfully and use the Bible itself as a commentary on its symbolism receive, not only great blessing, but much light on world trends today.

The Old Testament is a remarkable commentary on the symbols in Revelation. There are actually 245 Old Testament quotations in the book—more than in the four Gospels and Acts combined.

3. Is this a book to be used merely for speculative purposes, or is it practical?

1:3; Titus 2:11-13 _____

The hope of Christ's return is not a matter for speculation and star gazing, but is an incentive to sanctity and service. If this study does not make you a more consistent and earnest Christian, you have missed the message entirely.

Three schools of interpretation

Generally speaking, there are three schools of interpretation of the book:

a. Historicist. Those of this school believe that the visions represent, in continuous form, the history of the Church age on to the consummation.

b. Praetorist. Those of this school take all except the last two or three chapters as fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem and the old Roman Empire.

c. Futurist. Those of this school take the greater part of the book, following the letters to the seven churches, as having to do with the end time and the coming of the Lord in power.

This course holds the futurist view—that the book is principally occupied with the events of the consummation of the age—for the Church, for Israel and for the nations. The key verse of the book is 1:19.

The salutation to the seven churches 1:4-8

The number *seven* denotes *completeness* in Scripture; therefore, the phrase, “the seven churches,” suggests the universal Church.

The words, “the seven Spirits which are before his throne” (1:4), refer to the Holy Spirit in all the fullness of His office and power.

4. What seven titles of the Holy Spirit do you find in the following passages?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Hebrews 9:14 _____ | e. Romans 8:2 _____ |
| b. John 14:17 _____ | f. Romans 1:4 _____ |
| c. Ephesians 1:13 _____ | g. Hebrews 10:29 _____ |
| d. I Peter 4:14 _____ | |

5. What three titles are given Christ in 1:5?

As “the faithful witness,” He is Prophet. As “the first begotten of the dead,” He is Priest. As “the prince of . . . kings” (literally, “sovereign of sovereigns”) He is King.

6. To whom is heaven’s anthem addressed?

1:5b, 6 _____

Note the tenses: “Unto him that loved us” is, literally, “Him that loves us all the time.” It is not in the past tense. There is no end to the love of Christ. The words “washed us” are, literally, “loosed us from”—past tense. Don’t forget that this is an accomplished fact. Some Christians pray, “At last save us.” We can experience Romans 8:1 now.

7. What has He made us?

1:6 _____

Some authorities read: “. . . made us a kingdom and priests.” We do not have the office of *kings* on earth.

8. What did God say to the blood-washed of Israel long ago?

Exodus 19:5, 6 _____

9. What similar words does God say to the New Testament saints?

I PETER 2:5, 9

A dramatic presentation of all consummations

As the panorama of the future was unveiled to John, he saw in astounding detail the closing scenes—the forces of good and evil, angelic and Satanic, divine and human, struggling in fiercest battle. He saw Satan's brief reign of madness brought to an end by the glorious return of the King immortal, and the ransomed of the Lord reigning with Him.

Everyone who thinks, in these days, knows that human history approaches a climax. That climax is pictured in the Book of Revelation. It has to do especially with the outpouring of wrath for a period known as forty and two months, or three and one-half years, or 1260 days, set forth in Daniel as well as in Revelation. In fact, an understanding of the prophecies of Daniel is important to an understanding of Revelation.

Revelation is Daniel expanded and explained

By John's time the first three empires foretold in the great image revealed through Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar had passed away. The head of gold was the Babylonian Empire. The shoulders and arms of silver represented the succeeding Medo-Persian Empire. The belly and thighs of brass represented the Grecian Empire that followed. John was living in the time of the Roman Empire—the legs of iron—also seen in Daniel as the fourth beast. Read Daniel 2 and 7 carefully.

The iron, or Roman part of the image, was in three divisions:

- a. Strong, united—legs down to the ankles
- b. Weakened by the introduction of clay in the feet—the principle of division
- c. final stage—10 toes

In John's time the kingdom was united. The visions given him were looking forward to the consummation. We may expect therefore to find in Revelation, in great detail, the conditions related to the time of the final stage of the Roman Empire.

Before putting on holy garments, the priests of old washed themselves. As believers, we have a sublime priesthood because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. We have direct access to God. We enter into the holiest to offer spiritual sacrifices. We are given unction in prayer for spiritual ministry. Every one of us who lives up to his privileges in Christ, however obscure, has a great work to do.

10. What is the keynote of the book?

1:7 _____

11. What did the prophet Daniel foresee?

DANIEL 7:13; compare ACTS 1:9, 11 _____

While "every eye" shall see Him, all will not see Him at the same time, or in the same phase of His return. Some will see Him at the rapture of the Church. Some will be added to the redeemed in heaven during the seventieth "week" of Daniel. Some will see Him when He comes in judgment to establish His millennial kingdom.

12. What special class is here addressed in connection with His coming in glory?

1:7; ZECHARIAH 12:10 _____

13. Does Jesus claim for Himself the same honor ascribed to God the Father?

1:4, 8 _____

Verse 8 may be translated, "I am the Alpha and the Omega. . . ."

14. In the light of this verse, of what may the Christian be assured?

COLOSSIANS 2:10 _____

check-up time No. 1

You have just studied some important truths about the revelation of the Lord Jesus. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you wish, you may use the self-check test as an aid in reviewing your lesson. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. The book of Revelation gives us the unveiling of Jesus Christ. _____
2. One of the titles given to the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is "the Spirit of Life." _____
3. In Revelation, chapter 1, the Lord Jesus is called "the Great High Priest." _____
4. The keynote of the book of Revelation is the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. _____
5. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ is clearly set forth in Revelation, chapter 1. _____
6. The people of God are described in Revelation, chapter 1, as "kings and queens." _____
7. The anthem of Revelation 1:4, 5 is addressed to God the Father. _____
8. The book of Revelation was written to satisfy the natural desire to speculate about the future. _____
9. When Jesus comes again the peoples of the earth are going to be forcibly reminded of the way He was treated when He came the first time. _____
10. The apostle Paul wrote the book of Revelation. _____

Turn to page 80 and check your answers.