

REVELATION




VISIONS OF JUDGMENT AND GLORY


WILLIAM MACDONALD



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.



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Revelation

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STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

We are living in momentous days. Even those who do not believe the Bible are using biblical words to describe events around us. There is a feeling abroad that something has to happen, and that we are moving toward some type of climax in world events. People are resorting, in increasing numbers, to astrologers, soothsayers, and false prophets.

But what does the Bible say about days such as these? Are we in the last days? Does the Bible speak with relevance and authority about today's problems and issues? Does it shed light on what's to come?

It certainly does! The book of Revelation unveils what lies ahead. As you study this course, you will have a different outlook on today's world and will see events in a new and proper perspective. You are certain to find this study challenging, interesting, and exciting.

LESSONS YOU WILL STUDY

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

1

INTRODUCTION

(REVELATION 1:1-3)

The Outline of the Book

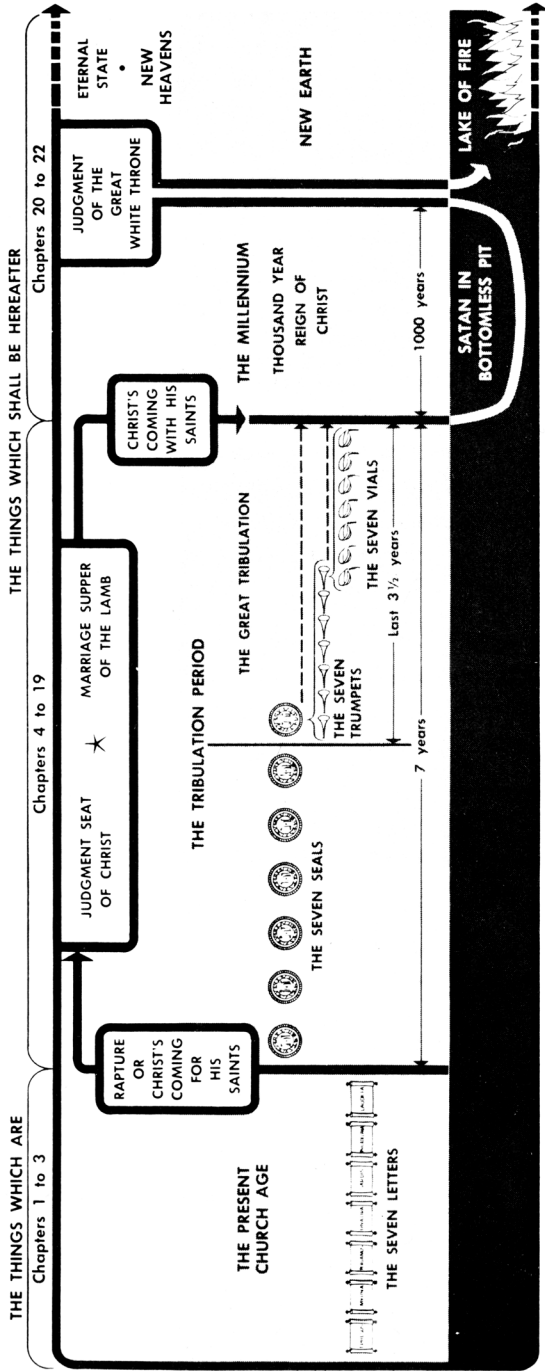
A simple key to the understanding of the book of Revelation is to realize that it is divided into two main parts. The first three chapters have to do with the Church age, in which we now live. The remaining nineteen chapters have to do with future events following the close of the Church age. We may outline the book as follows:

- I. The Things Which Are—an outline of the Church period from the death of the apostles to the time when Christ will take His saints to heaven (chapters 1–3).
- II. The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter—an outline of future events from the rapture of the saints to the eternal state (chapters 4–22).

We see from this that the major part of the book is occupied with future events (chapters 4–22). An easy way to remember the contents of this second section of the book is as follows:

- A. Chapters 4 through 19 describe the Tribulation, a period of at least seven years during which God will judge the unbelieving nation of Israel, and unbelieving Gentiles as well. These judgments are described under the figures of:
 1. Seven seals.
 2. Seven trumpets.
 3. Seven vials or bowls.

CHART SHOWING OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

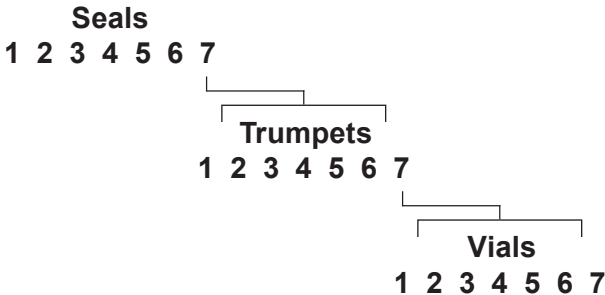


B. Chapters 20–22 deal with Christ’s kingdom on earth, the judgment of the Great White Throne, and the eternal state.

Thus the book can be easily remembered by the following outline.

- I. The Things Which Are (chapters 1–3).
- II. The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter (chapters 4–22).
 - A. The Tribulation (chapters 4–19).
 1. The seven seals.
 2. The seven trumpets.
 3. The seven vials.
 - B. The Kingdom of Christ and the Eternal State (chapters 20–22).

In the tribulation period, the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments. Also the seventh trumpet contains the seven vials. Thus the tribulation period might be pictured as follows:



The Parentheses in the Book

This diagram gives the main line of thought through the book of Revelation. However, as the narrative proceeds, there are frequent interruptions to introduce the reader to various great personalities or events of the tribulation period. Some writers call these “parentheses” or “insets.” Some of the principal parentheses are as follows:

- (a) The 144,000 sealed Jewish saints (7:1-8).
- (b) Gentile believers of this period (7:9-17).
- (c) The mighty angel with the little book (chapter 10).

- (d) The two witnesses (11:3-12).
- (e) Israel and the dragon (chapter 12).
- (f) The two beasts (chapter 13).
- (g) The 144,000 with Christ on Mt. Zion (14:1-5).
- (h) The angel with the everlasting gospel (14:6-7).
- (i) Preliminary announcement of Babylon's fall (14:8).
- (j) Warning to worshippers of the beast (14:9-12).
- (k) The harvest and the vintage (14:14-20).
- (l) The destruction of Babylon (17:1–19:6).

General Information about the Book

But before going further into the study of the book, we should pause to remind ourselves about its author and time of writing. Though there is disagreement concerning the author of the book, we accept the view that it was written by “the disciple whom Jesus loved”—the same John who wrote the Gospel and three epistles. As to the date when he wrote it, we are content to give the three most widely held theories—during the reign of Claudius, AD 41–54; during the reign of Nero, AD 54–68; during the reign of Domitian, AD 81–96. The title of the book in the King James Version is “The Revelation of St. John the Divine.” It is more accurate, however, to think of it as the Revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1).

The Symbols in the Book

Much of the language of this book is symbolic. Numbers, colors, minerals, jewels, beasts, stars, lampstands, and people are all used to represent certain persons, things, or truths.

Fortunately, some of these symbols are clearly explained in the book itself. For instance, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches (1:20); the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches (1:20); the great dragon is the Devil, or Satan (12:9). Clues to the meaning of other symbols are found in other parts of the Bible. The four beasts (living creatures) for example (4:6) are almost identical with the four living creatures of Ezekiel

1:5-14. In Ezekiel 10:20, they are identified as cherubim. The leopard, bear, and lion (13:2) remind us of Daniel 2 and 7 where these animals refer to the world kingdoms of Greece, Persia, and Babylon respectively. Other symbols do not seem to be clearly explained in the Scriptures, and we must be extremely careful in seeking to interpret them. It is significant that “seven,” the number of completion, occurs fifty-four times in this, the final book of the Bible.

The Scope of the Book

In studying Revelation, as in all Bible study, the student should constantly keep in mind the distinction between the Church and Israel. The Church is a heavenly people, blessed with spiritual blessings, and called to share Christ’s glory as Bride. Israel is God’s earthly people to whom God promised the land of Israel and a literal earthly kingdom under the rule of the Messiah. The true Church is mentioned in the first three chapters, but is not seen again until the marriage supper of the Lamb in chapter 19:6-10. The tribulation period (4:1–19:21) is primarily Jewish in character; it is the time of *Jacob’s* trouble.

Before closing this introduction, it is only fair to state that not all Christians interpret the book of Revelation in the manner outlined above. Some think that the book was entirely fulfilled in the earthly history of the Church. Others teach that Revelation presents a continuous picture of the Church age from John’s day to the end. For the child of God, the book of Revelation teaches the folly of

————— ❖ —————
**For the child of
 God, the book of
 Revelation teaches
 the folly of living
 for things that will
 shortly pass away.**
 ————— ❖ —————

————— ❖ —————
**For the unbeliever,
 the book of
 Revelation is a most
 solemn warning of
 the terrible doom
 which awaits all who
 reject the Savior.**
 ————— ❖ —————

living for things that will shortly pass away. It spurs him to witness to the perishing and encourages him to await with patience the Lord’s return. For the unbeliever, the book of Revelation is a most solemn warning of the terrible doom which awaits all who reject the Savior. Lest any of our students should ever share in this doom, we should like to explain clearly God’s way of salvation in this first lesson. How can a person be sure

that he will never suffer the wrath of God? First of all, he must sincerely repent of his sins. By this we mean that he must acknowledge the fact that he is a guilty sinner, deserving nothing but hell. He must take sides with God against himself. Second, he must believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died as his substitute on Calvary's Cross, paying the penalty which his sins demanded. He should also understand that the Savior rose from the dead and is now alive at God's right hand in heaven, offering eternal life as a free gift to all who will receive Him by faith. Finally, by a definite act of faith, he must believe in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, committing himself to Christ—spirit, soul, and body. When a person does this in true sincerity, God saves that person, gives him eternal life, and makes him fit for heaven. Have you ever been saved?

The Introduction to the Book (1:1-3)

The first three verses announce the main subject of the book, namely, the things which must soon take place (v. 1). The book of Revelation is primarily an unfolding of the future. This revelation of future events was given by God to Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus, in turn, committed it to an angel, and the angel made it known to John. John's purpose in writing the book was to share the information with the Lord's servants, that is, with all true believers (v. 1). In doing this, John bore witness to the prophetic word which God had spoken to him and to the testimony to which the Lord Jesus had borne witness; in short, John testified to all the things which he had seen in heavenly visions (v. 2).

It was obviously God's intention that this book should be read in the Church because He promised a special blessing to the one who would read it aloud and also to all those in the assembly who would hear and obey it. The time for the fulfillment of the prophecies was at hand (v. 3).

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EXAM BOOKLET AK '16 (2 UNITS) REV

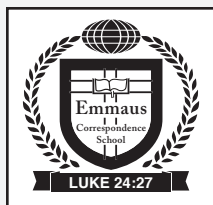
STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmas Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a Single Page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| A. blue | C. yellow |
| B. green | D. orange |

 B

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Under this heading we invite you to put into words something you have learned from that chapter, and to share that with us.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES

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NOW I HAVE A QUESTION . . .

As you complete the exams, you may have additional questions about the course material that have not been answered. On the lines below, you may ask any question you have related to the chapters you have studied. Your instructor will respond to your questions as best as he or she can.

(Leave the below area empty so that your instructor can respond to your questions.)

CHAPTER 1 EXAM

INTRODUCTION

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet. Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. "The things which are" relate to
 - A. the period covered by the Gospels.
 - B. events which took place during John's lifetime.
 - C. the Church age.
 - D. current events in every age._____

2. The events described in Revelation relating to the Seven Trumpets have to do with
 - A. events which will precede the Lord's coming for His Church.
 - B. events taking place during the period of the great tribulation.
 - C. the Kingdom Age.
 - D. the Eternal State._____

3. The sealing of the 144,000 Jewish saints is
 - A. part of the general chronological unfolding of truth in Revelation.
 - B. related to the Church age.
 - C. one of the great parenthesis of the book of Revelation.
 - D. the first thing recorded in Revelation after the close of the Church age._____

4. The longest parenthesis in Revelation concerns itself with
 - A. the two witnesses.
 - B. the two beasts.
 - C. the everlasting gospel.
 - D. the destruction of Babylon._____

5. The author of the course takes the view that
- A. Revelation was written during the reign of Nero.
 - B. the symbolism of Revelation is proof it was written by a Greek mystic.
 - C. the correct title for Revelation is “the Revelation of St. John the Divine.”
 - D. the book of Revelation was written by the apostle John. _____
6. Which of the following symbols is explained in the book of Revelation itself? The symbol of
- A. the burning mountain.
 - B. the living creatures.
 - C. the leopard, the bear and the lion.
 - D. the seven stars. _____
7. In the book of Revelation, the true Church
- A. is not mentioned directly at all.
 - B. occupies the prominent place in the book between 4:1 and 19:21.
 - C. is mentioned in the opening three chapters but is not seen again until the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - D. dominates the first three and the last three chapters. _____
8. The tribulation period is
- A. already past.
 - B. taking place right now.
 - C. a theological myth.
 - D. primarily Jewish in character. _____
9. Which of the following best states the case? The revelation of future events recorded in the book of Revelation was
- A. given by God to Jesus, who committed it to an angel, who, in turn, revealed it to John.
 - B. given by God the Holy Spirit directly to John.
 - C. given by the Lord Jesus directly to John.
 - D. given by the Holy Spirit to an angel to be given by him to John. _____

10. The special blessing connected with the book of Revelation is for those who
- A. own a copy of it.
 - B. read and understand it.
 - C. read it aloud and for those who hear and obey it.
 - D. spend years studying it.
- _____

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Give a statement describing your personal salvation from sin.
