

Keys to Understanding the Book of Revelation

I. The Book Of Revelation Is A MISUNDERSTOOD Book.

There are **SIX ATTITUDES** that people have about the book of Revelation.

WHY is it a misunderstood book?

A. Uninformed.

- People outside the church who have no interest in the Bible or God.

B. Unbelieving.

- They know about the book, but not spiritually inclined to its truth.
- "The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Cor 2:14).

C. Uninterested.

- Christians, but just not into prophecy.
- They want something practical to help them with their life. (If you approach the Book of Revelation right it is practical and will help you with your Christian life.)

D. Unfriendly.

- Christians who do not accept the Book of Revelation at face value in its literal interpretation.
- They spiritualize the truth of it away so that it means absolutely nothing.

E. Untaught.

- The vast majority of Christians when it comes to the Book of Revelation are untaught.

F. Understanding.

- The desire of my heart is that all of us will come to this position or attitude about the book of Revelation.
- I want to encourage you during our study to read and comprehend and discover what a thrilling book this is... and ... how simple the book is if we approach it from the right perspective.

II. The Book Of Revelation Is A MESSIANIC Book.

- The Book of Revelation is about the Messiah.
- The supreme subject of this book is ... Jesus Christ.

III. The Book Of Revelation Is A MYSTERIOUS BOOK.

The Book of Revelation is a **MYSTERIOUS** mainly because it is a **book filled with symbols**.

WHY is all of this symbolism in the book?

THREE REASONS Why Symbolism Is Used in the Book of Revelation ...

1. Symbolism is **not weakened by time**.
2. Symbolism **imparts values and arouses emotions**.
The symbols are **graphic and colorful**.

3. Symbolism is used in this book as a **kind of spiritual code**.

At the time this book was written, the Emperor Domitian had established a state religion that was anti-Christian. The believers of that day were under severe persecution. That was the reason John was living in exile on the Isle of Patmos when he wrote this book. The symbolism was used to “mask” its meaning so that during this perilous political situation the book could be circulated and read.

IV. The Book Of Revelation Is **A MEANINGFUL Book**.

Let me tell you why it is meaningful. There are **THREE REASONS why this is a very meaningful book**. It’s meaningful because ...

A. The Spirit of God OPENED the book for us to read (Rev 22:10).

B. The Spirit of God OUTLINED the book (Rev 1:19).

This is the **THREEFOLD OUTLINE of the book of Revelation**:

I. “*The Things Which Thou Hast Seen*” (Revelation 1) ... **PAST**.
[Visions of God in Glory]

II. “*The Things Which Are*” (Revelation 2-3) ... **PRESENT**.
[Vision of the Church on Earth]

III. “*The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter*” (Revelation 4-19) ... **FUTURE**.
[Visions of Government that will be Established in the Future]

IV. [Visions of Glory] (Revelation 20-22).

C. The Spirit of God OPERATES within the book.

- A vast majority of the symbols in the book are explained right in the context.

V. The Book Of Revelation Is **A MIRACULOUS Book**.

- The Book of Revelation is a **MIRACULOUS** book because **it tells us what is going to happen in the future**.
- It writes history before history is accomplished.
- It is the **ONLY PROPHETIC** book in the New Testament.

VI. The Book Of Revelation Is **A MOTIVATIONAL Book**.

- This is the only book in the Bible that **MOTIVATES its readers by promising a blessing for those who will read and obey the book** (Rev 1:3; 22:7).

VII. The Book Of Revelation Is **A MAJESTIC Book**.

- **This book is filled with the MAJESTY of God.**
 - “**Throne**” appears 46 times.
 - “**King**” is found 37 times.
 - “**Power and authority**” is found 40 times.
- Nothing reveals the MAJESTY of this book like the reaction of John to the personal message of Jesus Christ (Rev 1:17).

VIII. The Book Of Revelation Is The MAXIMAL Book.

- **All that began in Genesis is completed in Revelation.**
- Great subjects of prophecy throughout the Bible find their ultimate destiny in this book.

IX. The Book Of Revelation Is A MILITANT Book.

- The overriding theme of the Book of Revelation is the victorious return of Jesus Christ to defeat all His enemies and establish His Kingdom. Even God's people are seen as overcomers.

The FORMULA For Being An Overcomer ...

1. They Overcame **BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.**
2. They Overcame **BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY.**
3. They Overcame **BECAUSE THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH.**

As we begin our study in this book, let's all pray that God will equip us to become overcomers in Christ. Our study in the Book of Revelation ought to motivate us to set a new standard of righteousness for our lives and for those around us.

The outline **Keys to Understanding the Book of Revelation** are adapted from the book, Escape the Coming Night by David Jeremiah © 1994.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Study Outline Based on Revelation 1:19

I. *"The Things Which You Have Seen"* (Revelation 1:1-20).

A. Introduction (1:1-8).

B. The Revelation of Christ (1:9-20).

II. *"The Things Which Are"* (Revelation 2:1 - 3:22).

A. Message to the Church at **EPHESUS** (2:1-7).

B. Message to the Church at **SMYRNA** (2:8-11).

C. Message to the Church at **PERGAMOS** (2:12-17).

D. Message to the Church at **THYATRIA** (2:18-29).

E. Message to the Church at **SARDIS** (3:1-6).

F. Message to the Church at **PHILADELPHIA** (3:7-13).

G. Message to the Church at **LAODICEA** (3:14-22).

III. *"The Things Which Will Take Place After This"* (Rev. 4:1 - 22:21).

A. PERSON of The Judge (Revelation 4:1 - 5:14).

1. The Throne of God (4:1-11).

2. The Sealed Book (5:1-14).

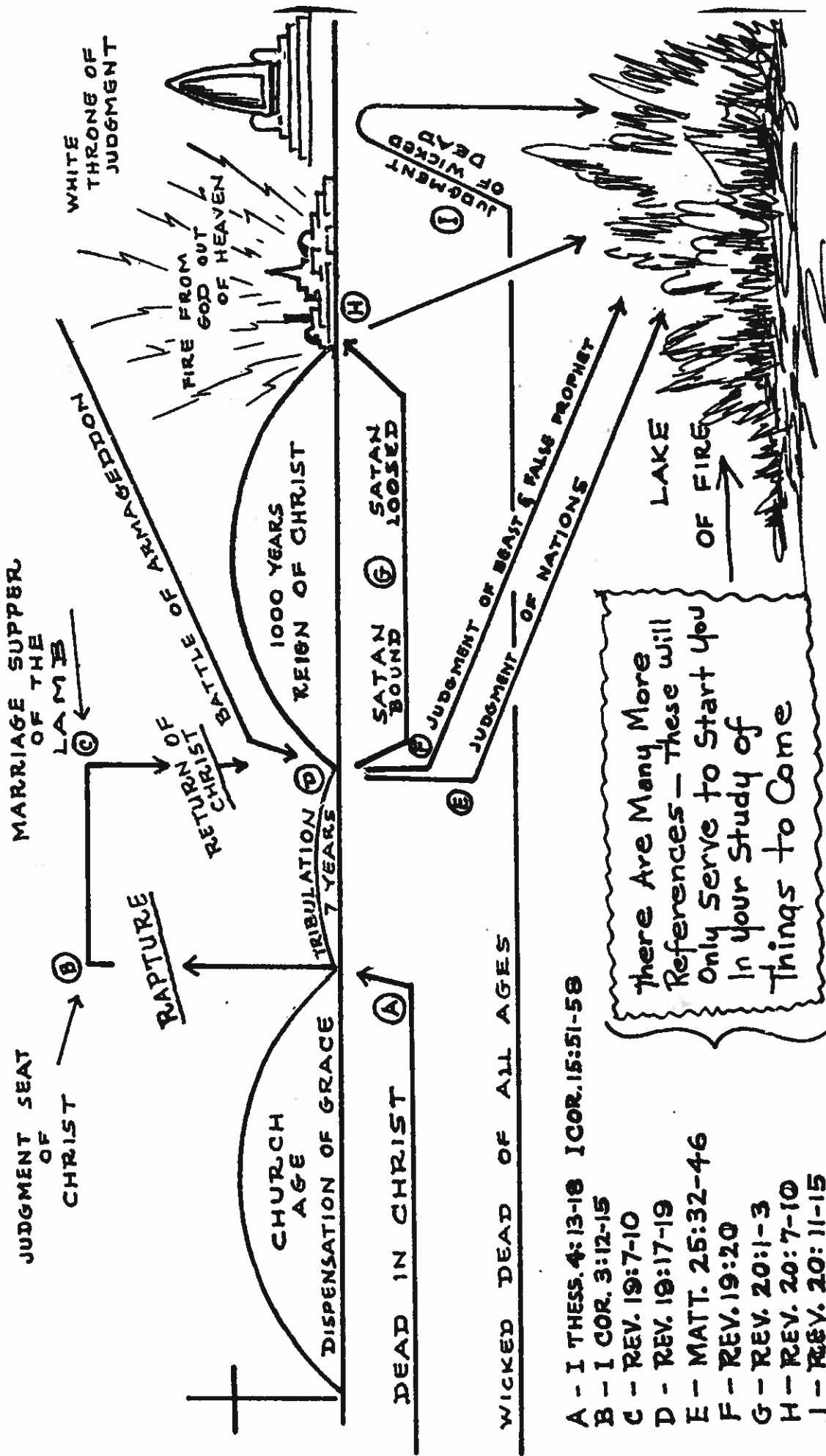
A Chronology of The Book of Revelation

The Basic Outline of The book of Revelation is found in Revelation 1:19.

“The Things Which You Have Seen”	“The Things Which Shall Take Place After These Things”						
Revelation Chapter	Before Tribulation or Earlier	First Half of The Tribulation	Middle of the Tribulation	Second Half of The Tribulation	Immediately After The Tribulation	Millennial Kingdom	Eternal State
1	Vision of the Glorified Christ						
2	Seven Churches ... Ephesus Smyrna Pergamum Thyatira						
3	Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea (Representative of Church Age)						
RAPTURE occurs here.							
4	Throne Scene in Heaven						
5	Lamb worthy to open The Book						
6	First 6 Seals Opened						
7	144,000 of Israel sealed						
	Great multitude (Gentiles) out of The Great Tribulation with Christ						

Revelation Chapter	Before Tribulation or Earlier	First Half of The Tribulation	Middle of the Tribulation	Second Half of The Tribulation	Immediately After The Tribulation	Millennial Kingdom	Eternal State
8		7th Seal					
9		First 4 Trumpets	5th & 6th Trumpets				
10			7th Trumpet				
			"Delay no longer"				
11		Two Witnesses prophesy 1260 days.	2 Witnesses slain and 7th Trumpet	Gentiles tread down Jerusalem 42 months			
12	Dragon (Satan) vs Christ		Michael vs Dragon (Satan)	Dragon (Satan) persecutes Israel 1260 days			
13		The Beast (Antichrist) rises.	Beast receives fatal wound and resuscitated. He begins sole worldwide dominion.	The Beast in power 42 months. All required to worship him.			
14				144,000 safe with the Lamb.	Christ & sickle at Armageddon.		
15				Bowl angels appear.			
16				7 Bowls of wrath poured out on earth.			
17		Great Harlot (False Religion) rides Beast.	Great Harlot (False Religion) burned / destroyed.				
18				Babylon the Great burned / destroyed.			

Revelation Chapter	Before Tribulation or Earlier	First Half of The Tribulation	Middle of the Tribulation	Second Half of The Tribulation	Immediately After The Tribulation	Millennial Kingdom	Eternal State
19				The Marriage Supper of The Lamb	Christ's Revelation and Armageddon		
20						Satan bound. Tribulation saints resurrected. Satan loosed. Final Battle of Gog & Magog. Great White Throne Judgment	
21							Descent & Description of the New Jerusalem
22							Eternal life and blessing in the New Jerusalem. (Eternity)



- A - I THESS. 4:13-18 I COR. 15:51-58
- B - I COR. 15:51-58
- C - REV. 19:7-10
- D - REV. 19:17-19
- E - MATT. 25:32-46
- F - REV. 19:20
- G - REV. 20:1-3
- H - REV. 20:7-10
- I - REV. 20:11-15