

# The Book of Revelation: A letter to the Church in Times of Crises

## Revelation Notebook

August-October 2020

### Analysis of Revelation

#### I. Introduction (1:1-20)

A. Prologue (1:1-3)

B. Salutation (1:4-8)

C. John's Commission and the 'One Like a Son of Man' (1:9-20)

1. John's Commission (vv. 9-11)

--John on Patmos

--Vision and Composition

2. The "One Like a Son of Man" (vv. 12-18)

3. The Seven Stars and Lampstands Explained (vv. 19-20)

#### II. The Messages to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (2:1-3:22)

Location

Genre

Interpretational Approaches

Opposition in the Seven Messages

False apostles (2:2)

Nicolaitans (2:6, 15)

Those who "hold to the teachings of Balaam" (2:14)

Jezebel (2:20)

Those who "call themselves Jews but are not" (2:9; 3:9)

A. The Message to the Church at Ephesus (2:1-7)

1. Recipients (v. 1a)

2. Christological Statement (v. 1b)

3. The State of the Church (vv. 2-3)

4. Exhortation to Repent (vv. 4-6)

5. Call to Listen (v. 7a)

6. Divine Promise (v. 7b)

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2. Christological Statement (v. 8b)

3. The State of the Church (v. 9)

4. Exhortation to Endure (v. 10)

5. Call to Listen (v. 11a)

6. Divine Promise (v. 11b)

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  6. Divine Promise (v. 17b)
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- E. The Message to the Church at Sardis (3:1-6)
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- F. The Message to the Church at Philadelphia (3:7-13)
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      - ii. The Heavenly Throne (vv. 2-3)
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      - iii. The 24 Elders (v. 4)
        - The Description:
        - Interpretative Options:
      - iv. Signs around the Throne (vv. 5-6a)
      - v. The Four Living Creatures (vv. 6b-8a)
        - Ezekiel 1:5-14

- vi. The Unending Worship (vv. 8b-11)
- b. The Scroll and the Lamb who is Worthy (5:1-14)
  - i. The Sealed Scroll (vv. 1-2)
  - ii. No One Found Worthy (vv. 3-4)
  - iii. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (v. 5)
  - iv. The Lamb and the Scroll (vv. 6-7)
    - Why the "Lamb"?
  - v. The New Song of the Living Creatures and the Elders (vv. 8-10)
  - vi. The Worship of the Angels and all Creation (vv. 11-14)
- 2. The First Six Seals (6:1-17)
  - a. The First Seal: the Rider on the White Horse (vv. 1-2)
    - Relation to Rev 19?
  - b. The Second Seal: the Rider on the Red Horse (vv. 3-4)
  - c. The Third Seal: the Rider on the Black Horse (vv. 5-6)
  - d. The Fourth Seal: the Rider on the Pale Horse (vv. 7-8)
  - e. The Fifth Seal: the Souls under the Altar (vv. 9-11)
  - f. The Sixth Seal: the Great Earthquake and Signs in the Heavens (vv. 12-17)

[Excursus: Judgments and Signs in the Heavens

Cosmic Judgment in the Old Testament

Cosmic Judgment in the Synoptic Gospels

On Interpreting the Judgments

The Relationship Between Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

Successive/Sequential

7 Seals 7 Trumpets 7 Bowls

Parallel/Recapitulation

7 Seals

7 Bowls

7 Trumpets

Significance of the Judgments]

- 3. Interlude (7:1-17)
  - a. The Sealing of the Servants of God (7:1-8)
    - i. Four Angels at the Four Corners of the World (vv. 1-3)
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    - ii. 144,000 Sealed (vv. 4-8)
  - b. The Multitude in Heaven (7:9-17)
    - i. The Multitude Dressed in White (vv. 9-10)
    - ii. The Worship of the Angels (vv. 11-12)
    - iii. Angelic Explanation of Those in White Robes (vv.13-17)
- 4. The Seventh Seal (8:1)
- B. Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)
  - 1. Introduction to the Seven Trumpets (8:2-6)
  - 2. The First Four Trumpets (8:7-12)
    - a. The First Trumpet: Judgment on the Earth (v. 7)

- b. The Second Trumpet: Judgment on the Sea (vv. 8-9)
    - c. The Third Trumpet: Judgment on the Rivers and Springs (vv. 10-11)
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  - 3. The Fifth Trumpet/First Woe (8:13-9:12)
    - a. The Warning of the Eagle (8:13)
    - b. The Opening of the Abyss (9:1-6)
    - c. The Demonic Locusts from the Abyss (9:7-10)
      - Sources of Imagery
    - d. The King of the Locusts (9:11)
    - e. Transition: Two More Woes (9:12)
  - 4. The Sixth Trumpet/Second Woe (9:13-21)
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    - b. The Demonic Cavalry (vv. 17-19)
    - c. The Refusal to Repent (vv. 20-21)
      - Repentance in Revelation
  - 5. Interlude (10:1-11:14)
    - a. John, the Mighty Angel, and the Little Scroll (10:1-11)
      - i. The Mighty Angel, Little Scroll, the Seven Thunders (vv. 1-4)
      - ii. The Proclamation of the Mighty Angel (vv. 5-7)
      - iii. John and the Little Scroll (vv. 8-11)
    - b. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)
      - i. Measuring the Temple and the Worshipers (vv. 1-2)
      - ii. The Prophetic Ministry of the Two Witnesses (vv. 3-6)
      - iii. The Victory of the Beast (vv. 7-10)
      - iv. The Resurrection of the Witnesses (vv. 11-12)
      - v. An Earthquake in the Great City (v. 13)
      - vi. Transition: One More Woe (v. 14)
  - 6. The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
    - a. The Proclamation of the Kingdom (v. 15)
    - b. The Response of Heaven (vv. 16-18)
    - c. The Opening of the Temple in Heaven (v. 19)
- C. Heavenly Signs (12:1-14:20)
  - 1. The Woman and the Dragon (12:1-13:1a)
    - a. The Woman, Her Son, and the Dragon (vv. 1-6)
    - b. Conflict in Heaven (vv. 7-9)
    - c. Proclamation of Victory (vv. 10-12)
    - d. Conflict on Earth (12:13-13:1a)
  - 2. The Two Beasts (13:1b-13:18)
    - a. The Beast from the Sea (13:1b-10)
      - i. The Description of the Beast (vv. 1b-4)
      - ii. The Authority of the Beast (vv. 5-8)
      - iii. Endurance and Faithfulness Needed (vv. 9-10)

[Excursus: John and Roman Imperial Power

Roman Imperial Power in Asia Minor

Persecution, Christians, and the Roman Emperor

Unmasking the Roman Imperial Ideology

Is the Beast Merely the Emperor?]

b. The Beast from the Land (13:11-18)

i. The Description of the Beast from the Land (vv. 11-17)

[  
Excursus: Roman Emperor Worship in the First Century  
Of “Gods” and Men  
The Nature and Impact of Roman Emperor Worship  
Christians and Emperor Worship]

ii. A Call for Wisdom: the Number of the Beast (v. 18)

3. The 144,000 and the Lamb (14:1-5)

4. Pronouncement of the Three Angels (14:6-13)

a. The First Angel: Fear and Worship God (vv. 6-7)

b. The Second Angel: the Fall of Babylon the Great (v. 8)

c. The Third Angel: Judgment for Those Who Worship the Beast (v. 9-12)

d. Blessing for Those Faithful unto Death (v. 13)

5. The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20)

a. The Harvest of Grain (vv. 14-16)

b. The Harvest of Grapes (vv. 17-20)

D. Seven Bowls (15:1-16:21)

1. Introduction to the Seven Bowls (15:1-8)

a. The Song of Moses and the Lamb (vv. 1-4)

b. The Seven Angels with the Seven Bowls (vv. 5-8)

2. The Seven Bowls (16:1-21)

a. The Judgments Commanded (v. 1)

b. The First Bowl: Sores on the Worshipers of the Beast (v. 2)

c. The Second Bowl: Sea Turned into Blood (v. 3)

d. The Third Bowl: Rivers and Springs Turned into Blood (vv. 4-7)

e. The Fourth Bowl: the Sun Intensified (vv. 8-9)

f. The Fifth Bowl: Darkness over the Kingdom of the Beast (vv. 10-11)

g. The Sixth Bowl, Part 1: Evil Spirits Released (vv. 12-14)

h. Interjection: Warning and Blessing (v. 15)

i. The Sixth Bowl, Part 2: Kings Gathered to Armageddon (v. 16)

j. The Seventh Bowl: Great Earthquake and Hail (vv. 17-21)

## The Sequences of Judgment: An Overview

Seals Trumpets Bowls

1 Conquest Hail and Fire (mixed with blood) on the earth

Sores (on followers of the beast)

2 Civil war Sea turned to blood (1/3 of creatures killed; 1/3 of ships destroyed)

Sea turned to blood (every living thing dies)

3 Famine Waters (1/3) turned bitter Freshwaters turned to blood

4 Plague (1/4 of earth killed)

Sun, moon, and stars darkened (1/3)

Intensity of sun increased

5 Souls under the altar  
Locusts Throne and kingdom of beast plunged into darkness

6 Earthquake and signs in the heavens

Angels bound at Euphrates released; demonic cavalry ride forth (1/3 of mankind killed)  
Euphrates dried up; kings of the earth gathered for battle

Interlude (7:1-17) (10:1-11:14) (-)

7 Silence  
Lightning, thunder, earthquake, great hailstorm

Lightning, thunder, great earthquake; 100 pound hailstones

#### IV. Judgment and Vindication (17:1-20:15)

##### A. The Judgment of Babylon the Great (17:1-19:10)

###### 1. The Great Prostitute (17:1-18)

a. The Invitation of the Angel (vv. 1-2)

b. The Depiction of the Prostitute (vv. 3-6a)

c. The Imagery Explained (vv. 6b-18)

i. The Beast (vv. 6b-8)

ii. The Seven Heads (vv. 9-11)

iii. The Ten Horns (vv. 12-14)

iv. The Many Waters (vv. 15-18)

###### 2. The Fall of Babylon the Great (18:1-24)

a. The Announcement of Judgment (vv. 1-3)

b. A Call to “Come Out” (vv. 4-8)

c. The Mourning of the World (vv. 9-20)

d. The Finality of Judgment (vv. 21-24)

###### 3. The Rejoicing of Heaven (19:1-10)

a. The Celebration in Heaven (vv. 1-5)

b. The Wedding of the Lamb (vv. 6-8)

c. The Blessing of Participation (vv. 9-10)

--“Worship God!”

##### B. The Parousia and the Judgment of the Beasts (19:11-21)

###### 1. The Rider on the White Horse (vv. 11-16)

###### 2. The Gathering of the Birds of Prey (vv. 17-18)

###### 3. The Defeat of the Beast and Its Followers (vv. 19-21)

##### C. The Vindication of the Saints and the Judgment of Satan (20:1-10)

###### 1. The Millennium (20:1-6)

a. The Binding of Satan (vv. 1-3)

b. The Vindication of the Saints and the Millennium (vv. 4-6)

[Views on the Millennium

Amillennialism

Postmillennialism

Historic Premillennialism

Dispensational Premillennialism

What about the rapture?]

###### 2. The Final Rebellion and Judgment of Satan (20:7-10)

- D. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
- V. The New Heavens and New Earth (21:1-22:5)
  - A. The Arrival of the New Heavens and the New Earth (21:1-8)
    - 1. Introduction of the New Heavens and the New Earth (vv. 1-2)
    - 2. The Dwelling of God with Man (vv. 3-4)
    - 3. The Words of the One Seated on the Throne (vv. 5-8)
  - B. The Glory of the New Jerusalem (21:9-27)
    - 1. The Holy City and Its Gates (vv. 9-14)
    - 2. The Measurements and Materials of the Holy City (vv. 15-21)
    - 3. The Glory of the Holy City (vv. 22-27)
  - C. The Restoration of Eden (22:1-5)
- VI. Epilogue (22:6-21)
  - A. The Validation of the Book (vv. 6-7)
  - B. The Commands of the Angel (vv. 8-11)
  - C. The Saying of Jesus (vv. 12-16)
  - D. The Call to Come (v. 17)
  - E. A Word of Warning (vv. 18-19)
  - F. A Plea for the Parousia (v. 20)
  - G. Benediction (v. 21)