A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

Revelation at a Glance

Short Studies for the Christian Life



The whole last book of the Bible in seven parts, with a picture, a map and questions for each

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

Revelation at a Glance

A Seven-Part Mini Study of the Last Book of the Bible

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Revelation at a Glance: A Seven-Part Mini Study of the Last Book of the Bible

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A note before you begin. This book is written to teach the Bible and encourage faith. It shares my understanding of Scripture and is offered for study and spiritual growth. It is not counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice. If you are facing a crisis, a health problem, or a legal or money problem, please reach out to a qualified professional as well as your pastor and church family. To the fullest extent the law allows, Andrew Dominguez, Trinfinity Enterprises, and Andrew Dominguez's heirs, estate, successors, and assigns accept no liability for how this material is used.

A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

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Introduction

> *Blessed **is** the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things written in it; for the time **is** near.*
>
> Revelation 1:3 (SLB)

Revelation was my first study. I was young, and it intrigued me. I wanted to know what all those seals and trumpets and beasts meant, and I wanted to know how the story ends. Years later I wrote a full verse-by-verse study of the book. This little book is the short version. It is the map you look at before you start the hike.

A lot of people never finish Revelation because they get lost in the middle of it. You start strong with Jesus and the seven churches, then somewhere around the locusts and the dragon you lose track of where you are. That's not because the book is a mess. It is laid out very carefully. You just need to see the whole thing at once before the details start to make sense.

Seven Parts

Revelation tells us how it is laid out. In the first chapter Jesus tells John what to write.

> *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which are about to take place after these.* (Revelation 1:19)

"The things which you have seen" is the vision of Christ in chapter 1. "The things which are" is the church age, the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. "The things which are about to take place after these" is everything from chapter 4 to the end.

Inside that plan, the book falls into seven parts. Here they are:

- Part 1: Christ and the Seven Churches (Chapters 1-3)
- Part 2: The Throne and the Seven Seals (Chapters 4-7)
- Part 3: The Seven Trumpets (Chapters 8-11)
- Part 4: The Great Conflict (Chapters 12-14)
- Part 5: The Seven Bowls and the Fall of Babylon (Chapters 15-18)
- Part 6: The Return of Christ (Chapter 19)
- Part 7: The Millennium and the New Creation (Chapters 20-22)

Where I Stand

I hold the Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture. I believe Christ will take His church to be with Him before the seven years of the Tribulation begin, and that He will come back with His church at the end of those years to set up His thousand-year kingdom on earth. I explain the other views, and why I hold this one, in my full study. In this little book I simply tell you where I stand when it comes up. Good, faithful Christians see the timing differently, and it won't affect anyone's salvation either way.

How to Use This Book

Each chapter covers one of the seven parts. You will find a picture of the part, a short overview, a passage guide that tells you where everything is, a few notes on what it means, and questions for personal study or a small group. Read the chapters of Revelation listed at the top of each part along with it. This book is meant to send you to the Bible, not replace it.

At the back is a one-page chart of the whole book, a chart of the three series of judgments, and the places Revelation counts out three and a half years. If you want to go deeper, my full *Revelation Bible Study: A Verse-by-Verse Study* is free on my website.

Chapter 1: Christ and the Seven Churches



Christ among the seven golden lampstands (Revelation 1-3)

> *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not fear; I am the First and the Last, and the Living **One**; and I was dead, and look, I am living to the ages of the ages. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."*
>
> Revelation 1:17-18 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 1-3

Revelation does not open with a beast or a war. It opens with Jesus. The first words are "The revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1). Before God shows us one thing about the future, He shows us His Son. That tells me what this whole book is really about. It is not a puzzle about the Antichrist. It is a book about Jesus Christ, who He is, and what He is going to do.

John was an old man by then, exiled on the island of Patmos "because of the word of God and because of the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9). On the Lord's day he heard a voice like a trumpet behind him. He turned around and saw Jesus standing among seven golden lampstands, with hair white as snow, eyes like a flame of fire, and a voice like the sound of many waters. John fell at His feet as if he were dead. Jesus laid His right hand on him and told him not to be afraid.

Then Jesus dictated seven letters to seven real churches in what is now western Turkey.

Passage Guide

- 1:1-8 The prologue, with a blessing on everyone who reads, hears, and keeps this book
- 1:9-20 John's vision of Christ among the seven golden lampstands
- 2:1-7 Ephesus: hard-working and sound, but they left their first love
- 2:8-11 Smyrna: poor and persecuted, but rich, with nothing to correct
- 2:12-17 Pergamum: faithful under pressure, but tolerating false teaching
- 2:18-29 Thyatira: growing in love and service, but tolerating "Jezebel"
- 3:1-6 Sardis: a name for being alive, but dead
- 3:7-13 Philadelphia: little power, but faithful, with nothing to correct
- 3:14-22 Laodicea: lukewarm, rich in their own eyes, and blind to their need

What It Means

Jesus tells John the lampstands are the churches, and the stars in His right hand are the angels, or messengers, of the churches (Revelation 1:20). Notice where Jesus is standing. He is in the middle of His churches. He knows what is going on in each one. Every letter starts with "I know your works."

Some teachers say the seven churches stand for seven ages of church history. I don't necessarily agree with that. I believe they show the different places a Christian, or a church, can be in at any time. I have been a Laodicean at times in my life, comfortable and lukewarm. By God's grace I have also had seasons where I was more like Philadelphia. Every one of these letters is for us.

Each letter ends with a promise "to the one who overcomes" and the same call: listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. And there is one promise in the Philadelphia letter I hold onto.

> *Because you kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to test those who dwell on the earth.* (Revelation 3:10)

I believe that "hour of testing" is the Tribulation, and that Jesus will keep His church out of it, not just carry it through it. That is the first place the Pre-Tribulation view finds its footing in Revelation.

Then there is Laodicea. Jesus is outside the door of His own church, knocking.

> *Look, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* (Revelation 3:20)

That invitation is still open to anyone reading this.

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 1:12-18. Which part of John's picture of Jesus stands out most to you, and why?
2. Why do you think the book opens with Jesus before it shows anything about the future?
3. Which of the seven churches sounds most like you right now? Which would you like to be more like?
4. What does Jesus mean when He says to Ephesus that they "left your first love" (Revelation 2:4)? How does a believer get it back?
5. Read Revelation 3:20. Is there a door in your life you have kept closed to Him?

Chapter 2: The Throne and the Seven Seals



The throne of God and the Lamb (Revelation 4-7)

> *After these things I saw, and look, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard, like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."*
>
> Revelation 4:1 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 4-7

Chapter 4 is a turning point. After the letters to the churches, John sees a door opened in heaven and hears the same trumpet-like voice: "Come up here." From this point on, the word "church" does not show up again on earth until the very end of the book (Revelation 22:16). In the Pre-Tribulation view I hold, that is no accident. I believe the church has been caught up to be with the

Lord before what comes next (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). John's trip up through that door is a picture of it.

What John sees first is not judgment. It is worship. God is on His throne, with a rainbow around it like an emerald. Twenty-four elders sit on thrones around Him, dressed in white with gold crowns, and four living creatures never stop saying, "Holy, holy, holy." Before anything happens on earth, Revelation wants us to know who is in charge.

Passage Guide

- 4:1-11 A door opened in heaven, the throne of God, the 24 elders, and the four living creatures
- 5:1-14 The scroll with seven seals, and the Lamb who alone is worthy to open it
- 6:1-8 Seals 1-4: the four horsemen (a rider on a white horse, then war, famine, and death)
- 6:9-11 Seal 5: the souls of the martyrs cry out for justice
- 6:12-17 Seal 6: a great earthquake, and people hide from the wrath of the Lamb
- 7:1-8 A pause: 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel are sealed
- 7:9-17 A great multitude from every nation, coming out of the great tribulation

What It Means

In chapter 5, God holds a scroll sealed with seven seals. No one in heaven or on earth is able to open it, and John weeps. Then one of the elders tells him to stop crying, because the Lion of the tribe of Judah has overcome. John looks, and he sees a Lamb standing as if it had been slain. That is Jesus. The Lion is the Lamb. He won by dying for us.

> *And they sing a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain, and You purchased us for God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"* (Revelation 5:9)

I think of the scroll as the title deed to the earth. Only Jesus has the right to take it back from the usurper and set things right. As He breaks each seal, judgment begins. The first rider on a white horse goes out "overcoming and so that he might overcome" (Revelation 6:2). I believe this is the coming world ruler, not Christ, because he brings the war, famine, and death that follow right behind him. Christ comes on a white horse in chapter 19, and the two could not be more different.

The sixth seal shakes the whole world, and people of every rank hide in the caves and cry out to the mountains to fall on them. Then the book pauses. Before the seventh seal, God seals 144,000 Jewish servants, and John sees a crowd too big to count from every nation, washed in the blood of the Lamb. Even in the worst days the world will ever see, God is still saving people.

Study Questions

1. Why do you think John sees worship in heaven before he sees judgment on earth?
2. Read Revelation 5:5-6. John is told to look at a Lion, and he sees a Lamb. What does that tell you about how Jesus wins?
3. What do the four horsemen bring to the earth? Why does it matter that the Lamb is the one who opens the seals?
4. Read Revelation 7:9-14. Who are these people, and where did they come from?
5. Chapter 4 opens with "Come up here." How does the hope of being with Christ change the way you face the future?

Chapter 3: The Seven Trumpets



The seven trumpets (Revelation 8-11)

> *And the seventh angel sounded, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world have become **those** of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign to the ages of the ages."*
>
> Revelation 11:15 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 8-11

When the Lamb opens the seventh seal, heaven goes completely silent for about half an hour (Revelation 8:1). I have always found that one of the most sobering verses in the Bible. All the worship we saw in chapters 4 and 5 stops. Then seven angels are given seven trumpets. The seventh seal does not end the judgments. It opens the next series of them.

An angel offers incense with the prayers of the saints at the altar, then fills the censer with fire from the altar and throws it to the

earth. The prayers of God's people, including the martyrs who cried out for justice under the altar, are being answered.

Passage Guide

- 8:1-6 Seal 7: silence in heaven, the prayers of the saints, and seven trumpets given out
- 8:7-12 Trumpets 1-4: a third of the land, the sea, the rivers, and the sky are struck
- 8:13 A warning: three woes are still to come
- 9:1-12 Trumpet 5 (the first woe): locusts from the abyss torment people for five months
- 9:13-21 Trumpet 6 (the second woe): four angels released at the Euphrates, and a third of mankind killed
- 10:1-11 A pause: the mighty angel, the seven thunders, and the little scroll John eats
- 11:1-14 The temple measured, and the two witnesses in Jerusalem
- 11:15-19 Trumpet 7: the kingdom of the world becomes our Lord's and His Christ's

What It Means

The first four trumpets hit nature: hail and fire, a burning mountain thrown into the sea, a star called Wormwood that makes the waters bitter, and a third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened. The fifth and sixth trumpets hit people directly. It is getting worse, and that is on purpose.

Here is the part that breaks my heart. After all of that, the people who survived "did not repent" (Revelation 9:20-21). They kept worshiping idols and kept on with their murders, drugs, immorality, and theft. Judgment by itself does not change a heart. Only God's grace does that.

Then there is another pause. God sends two witnesses who prophesy in Jerusalem for 1,260 days. No one can stop them until their work is done. The beast kills them, and the world throws a party over their dead bodies. After three and a half days, God raises them up and calls them to heaven while their enemies watch. Some believers see the Rapture of the church here. In the view I hold, the church was already taken up before chapter 4, and this is God's own vindication of His two witnesses.

Then the seventh trumpet sounds, and heaven announces the outcome before the last battles are even fought. The kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. That is how sure the ending is.

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 8:1-5. What do you think the half hour of silence in heaven means?
2. What do the prayers of the saints have to do with what happens next? What does that tell you about your own prayers?
3. Read Revelation 9:20-21. Why do you think people still refused to repent?
4. What do the two witnesses teach us about being faithful when the whole world is against us?
5. The seventh trumpet announces victory before the end. How does knowing the ending help you today?

Chapter 4: The Great Conflict



The woman, the dragon, and the beast (Revelation 12-14)

> *And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night."*
>
> Revelation 12:10 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 12-14

Chapters 12 through 14 step back from the judgments and show us what is going on behind them. This is the war behind the war. John sees a woman clothed with the sun, giving birth to a male child, and a great red dragon waiting to devour the child the moment He is born.

Revelation tells us who the dragon is. He is "the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan" (Revelation 12:9). The child is Jesus, who will "shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron" and

was caught up to God and to His throne (Revelation 12:5). I believe the woman is Israel, the nation the Messiah came from. Her crown of twelve stars points back to Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9, where the sun, moon, and eleven stars stood for Israel's family.

Passage Guide

- 12:1-6 The woman, the male child, and the great red dragon
- 12:7-12 War in heaven: Michael and his angels throw the dragon down
- 12:13-17 The dragon goes after the woman, and she is protected in the wilderness
- 13:1-10 The beast out of the sea, given authority for 42 months
- 13:11-18 The beast out of the earth (the false prophet), the image, and the mark
- 14:1-5 The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion
- 14:6-13 Three angels: the eternal gospel, the fall of Babylon, and a warning against the mark
- 14:14-20 The harvest of the earth and the winepress of God's wrath

What It Means

This is the middle of the seven years. Thrown out of heaven, Satan comes down "having great fury, knowing that he has a short time" (Revelation 12:12). He goes after the woman, and God protects her in the wilderness for 1,260 days. Then he calls up two helpers. The beast out of the sea is the world ruler most people call the Antichrist. The beast out of the earth is a religious leader, later called the false prophet, who makes the world worship the first beast and forces everyone to take his mark to buy or sell.

Notice the counterfeit. The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet are a fake trinity. The beast even has a wound that was

healed, a cheap copy of the resurrection. Satan has never had an original idea. He copies God and twists it.

But look at how the believers win. They don't win by out-fighting the dragon.

> *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life until death.* (Revelation 12:11)

Chapter 14 shows the other side. The Lamb is standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000. An angel flies through the sky preaching the eternal gospel to every nation. God is still calling people to fear Him and give Him glory, right up to the end. Then comes a sober warning: anyone who worships the beast and takes his mark will drink the wine of God's wrath. Then the harvest begins.

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 12:1-6. Who are the woman, the child, and the dragon?
2. Why do you think Satan copies God instead of creating something new? Where do you see counterfeits of the truth today?
3. Read Revelation 13:16-17. Why would control over buying and selling give a ruler so much power?
4. According to Revelation 12:11, how do believers overcome Satan? What does that look like in your life?
5. Read Revelation 14:6-7. What does it tell you about God that the gospel is still preached this late in the story?

Chapter 5: The Seven Bowls and the Fall of Babylon



The seven bowls of wrath (Revelation 15-18)

> *And they sing the song of Moses the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous **are** Your works, Lord God Almighty! Righteous and true **are** Your ways, O King of the saints!"*
>
> Revelation 15:3 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 15-18

The third and last series of judgments is the seven bowls. Some charts call them vials. The word means a wide, shallow bowl, the kind used in the temple. The bowls are poured out at the end of the seven years, and they come fast, one right after another. With them, John says, "the fury of God is finished" (Revelation 15:1).

Before a single bowl is poured, though, John sees the people who overcame the beast standing on a sea of glass mixed with fire, holding harps and singing the song of Moses and the song of the

Lamb. Just like with the seals, heaven worships before judgment falls.

Passage Guide

- 15:1-8 Seven angels with the seven last plagues; the song of Moses and of the Lamb
- 16:1-9 Bowls 1-4: painful sores, the sea and the rivers turn to blood, the sun scorches people
- 16:10-11 Bowl 5: darkness on the throne and kingdom of the beast
- 16:12-16 Bowl 6: the Euphrates dries up, and the kings of the world gather at Armageddon
- 16:17-21 Bowl 7: "It is done!" The greatest earthquake ever, and huge hail
- 17:1-18 The great harlot riding the scarlet beast
- 18:1-24 Babylon the great falls in one hour

What It Means

If you compare the trumpets and the bowls, they hit the same places: the land, the sea, the rivers, the sun, and so on. The difference is how far they reach. The trumpets struck a third. The bowls strike everything. God gave the world warning after warning, and this is the end of the warnings.

Even so, Revelation says twice that people "did not repent" of their deeds and instead blasphemed God (Revelation 16:9, 11). That is the hardest thing in this whole book for me to read. God is not short on mercy. People are set on refusing it.

The sixth bowl gathers the armies of the world to a place called Armageddon. Revelation names the place here, but the battle itself is fought when Christ returns in chapter 19. The seventh bowl ends with a voice from the throne saying, "It is done!"

Chapters 17 and 18 then slow down to explain the fall of Babylon, the great city that rules over the kings of the earth and has made the nations drunk on her immorality and her wealth. In chapter 17 she is a woman riding the beast, a picture of false religion and the world's system working hand in hand with the Antichrist. In chapter 18 she is a city that falls in one hour, while kings, merchants, and sea captains stand far off and weep. Some teachers say she is Rome. I believe she is a real city that will be the Antichrist's capital and the center of his world system, and I don't think we can be sure today which city that will be.

God's call to His people in the middle of it is simple.

> *And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, "Come out of her, My people, so that you may not share in her sins, and so that you may not receive of her plagues"* (Revelation 18:4)

Study Questions

1. How are the bowls like the trumpets, and how are they different?
2. Read Revelation 15:2-4. What are the overcomers singing about? Why does heaven worship before the bowls are poured?
3. Read Revelation 16:9-11. Why do you think people still would not repent?
4. What does Babylon stand for in chapters 17 and 18? Where do you see her kind of pride and greed in the world now?
5. Read Revelation 18:4. What does it look like for a believer to "come out of her" today?

Chapter 6: The Return of Christ



The Rider on the white horse (Revelation 19)

> *And I saw heaven opened, and look, a white horse, and the One sitting on it* ***is*** *called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*
>
> Revelation 19:11 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 19

This is the chapter the whole book has been building toward. Babylon has fallen, and heaven erupts. A great multitude shouts "Hallelujah!" four times in the first six verses. Then comes the announcement that "the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). The bride is clothed in fine linen, pure and bright, which is "the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:8).

Then heaven opens. Jesus rides out on a white horse.

Passage Guide

- 19:1-6 Hallelujah in heaven: God has judged the great harlot
- 19:7-10 The marriage of the Lamb, and the blessing on those invited to the supper
- 19:11-16 The rider on the white horse: Faithful and True, The Word of God, King of kings and Lord of lords
- 19:17-21 Armageddon: the beast and the false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire

What It Means

Compare this rider with the one in chapter 6. The first rider on a white horse came with a bow and brought war, famine, and death. This Rider is called Faithful and True, and "in righteousness He judges and makes war" (Revelation 19:11). His eyes are a flame of fire. He wears many crowns. His robe is dipped in blood. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh.

> *And He has on the robe and on His thigh a name written: "King of kings and Lord of lords."* (Revelation 19:16)

An army follows Him from heaven on white horses, dressed in the same white linen the bride wore a few verses earlier. I believe that army includes the church, taken up before the Tribulation and now coming back with Christ. That is what I mean when I say the Rapture and the Second Coming are two different events. At the Rapture He comes for His church. At the Second Coming He comes with His church.

The battle of Armageddon is hardly a battle at all. The beast and the kings of the earth gather their armies to make war against Him. There is no back-and-forth. The beast and the false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire, and the rest are

killed by the sword that comes out of His mouth. All He has to do is speak.

The first time Jesus came, He came as a baby in a manger and rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The next time, every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7), and He will come as King.

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 19:6-9. What is the marriage of the Lamb, and who is invited?
2. Compare the rider in Revelation 6:2 with the Rider in Revelation 19:11-16. What is different?
3. What are the names given to Jesus in this chapter? Which one means the most to you, and why?
4. Why is the battle of Armageddon over so quickly?
5. How does knowing Jesus will return as King change the way you live this week?

Chapter 7: The Millennium and the New Creation



The new Jerusalem and the river of water of life (Revelation 20-22)

> *And the One sitting on the throne said, "Look, I make all things new." And He says to me, "Write, because these words are true and faithful."*
>
> Revelation 21:5 (SLB)

Read: Revelation 20-22

The last three chapters answer the question every reader has been waiting for: how does it end? An angel binds Satan and throws him into the abyss for a thousand years. Christ reigns on the earth, and His people reign with Him. The phrase "a thousand years" shows up six times in the first seven verses of chapter 20. I take it to mean what it says.

Passage Guide

- 20:1-3 Satan is bound in the abyss for a thousand years

- 20:4-6 The first resurrection, and the saints reign with Christ a thousand years
- 20:7-10 Satan is released, gathers the nations one last time, and is thrown into the lake of fire forever
- 20:11-15 The great white throne judgment
- 21:1-8 A new heaven and a new earth, where God dwells with His people
- 21:9-27 The holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven
- 22:1-5 The river of water of life and the tree of life
- 22:6-21 The epilogue: "I am coming quickly"

What It Means

At the end of the thousand years, Satan is let loose for a short time, and he still finds people to deceive. A thousand years of Christ's perfect rule, and some hearts still rebel. That tells me the problem was never our surroundings. It was always the human heart. Satan's last revolt is crushed with fire from heaven, and he is thrown into the lake of fire, where the beast and the false prophet already are, forever.

Then comes the great white throne. The dead, great and small, stand before God and are judged by what they have done. This is the hardest scene in the Bible.

> *And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* (Revelation 20:15)

Please don't skip past that verse. The only question that matters is whether your name is written in "the book of life of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:27). It can be. That is what the rest of this chapter is about.

Then John sees a new heaven and a new earth, and the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God. God Himself will live with His people. No more tears. No more death. No more mourning, crying, or pain. The river of water of life flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and the tree of life is there for the healing of the nations. What was lost in the Garden of Eden is given back, and more.

The book ends with Jesus' own promise and an invitation.

> *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who thirsts come; and the one who wishes, let him take the water of life freely.* (Revelation 22:17)

> *The One who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus!* (Revelation 22:20)

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 20:1-6. What happens during the thousand years?
2. Why do you think Satan can still deceive people after a thousand years of Christ's rule? What does that tell you about the human heart?
3. Read Revelation 20:11-15. What decides where a person spends eternity?
4. Read Revelation 21:3-5. Which of God's promises in these verses means the most to you?
5. Revelation ends with an invitation to come. Have you come to Jesus? Who in your life needs to hear that invitation?

A Closing Word

> *And look, I am coming quickly, and My reward **is** with Me, to give to each one as his work will be. I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the** Beginning and **the** End, the First and the Last.*
>
> Revelation 22:12-13 (SLB)

I often call Revelation a book of love. You might ask, "Why do you think that?" It's simple. God didn't have to tell us how the story ends. He told us anyway, so we could be ready and not be caught on the wrong side of it. He shows us the judgment that is coming, and He shows us the way out of it, and the way out is Jesus.

When I look at all seven parts together, I see one story. Jesus walks among His churches. He takes the scroll because He alone is worthy. He judges the world in righteousness. He defeats the dragon and the beasts. He comes back as King of kings. And He makes all things new. Every part of this book points to Him.

If you haven't yet entered into a relationship with Jesus, or if you want to deepen the one you already have with Him, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Lord Jesus, You are the Savior of the world, and You forgive all who come to You. I come before You to confess that I have sinned against You. I have rebelled against You and put myself first above You and all others. I want to have a deep, meaningful relationship with You where I can show others by my demeanor and character that You are first in my life. I am asking for Your forgiveness for all my sins. You died for me on the cross so that I could be forgiven and made right with God. Please help me not forget that You gave Your very life for me. I am asking that You take control of my life and make me a new creation, the person You want me to be. I thank You, Lord, and I love You. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, tell another believer, ask a pastor about being baptized, and find a church where you can devote yourself to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:41-42).

Revelation at a Glance

Here is the whole book on one chart. A larger one-page version is free to print from my website.

Passage	What happens
Part 1	**Christ and the Seven Churches (Chapters 1-3)**: *The church age: "the things which are"*
1:1-8	Prologue: a blessing on all who read and keep it
1:9-20	John on Patmos sees Christ among seven golden lampstands
2:1-3:22	Seven letters: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
Part 2	**The Throne and the Seven Seals (Chapters 4-7)**: *The church is taken up; the Tribulation begins*
4:1-11	A door opened in heaven; the throne of God
5:1-14	The Lamb takes the sealed scroll
6:1-8	Seals 1-4: the four horsemen
6:9-17	Seal 5: the martyrs cry out. Seal 6: the great earthquake
7:1-17	Pause: 144,000 sealed; a great multitude from every nation
Part 3	**The Seven Trumpets (Chapters 8-11)**: *First half of the seven years*
8:1-6	Seal 7: silence in heaven; seven trumpets given
8:7-13	Trumpets 1-4: earth, sea, rivers, and sky struck
9:1-12	Trumpet 5: locusts from the abyss
9:13-21	Trumpet 6: four angels released at the Euphrates
10:1-11:14	Pause: the little scroll and the two witnesses
11:15-19	Trumpet 7: the kingdom of the world becomes Christ's
Part 4	**The Great Conflict (Chapters 12-14)**: *The middle and second half: 42 months*
12:1-17	The woman, the child, the dragon, war in heaven

Passage	What happens
13:1-10	The beast out of the sea
13:11-18	The beast out of the earth; the image and the mark
14:1-5	The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion
14:6-13	Three angels: the eternal gospel and the warnings
14:14-20	The harvest and the winepress
Part 5	**The Seven Bowls and the Fall of Babylon (Chapters 15-18)**: *The end of the seven years*
15:1-8	Seven angels with the last seven plagues
16:1-11	Bowls 1-5: sores, sea, rivers, sun, darkness
16:12-16	Bowl 6: the Euphrates dried up; the gathering at Armageddon
16:17-21	Bowl 7: "It is done!"
17:1-18	The great harlot riding the beast
18:1-24	Babylon the great falls
Part 6	**The Return of Christ (Chapters 19)**: *The Second Coming*
19:1-6	Hallelujah in heaven
19:7-10	The marriage of the Lamb
19:11-16	The rider on the white horse: King of kings
19:17-21	Armageddon: the beast and false prophet thrown into the lake of fire
Part 7	**The Millennium and the New Creation (Chapters 20-22)**: *The thousand years, then forever*
20:1-6	Satan bound; Christ reigns a thousand years
20:7-10	Satan released, defeated, and thrown into the lake of fire
20:11-15	The great white throne judgment
21:1-8	A new heaven and a new earth
21:9-22:5	The New Jerusalem and the river of water of life
22:6-21	"I am coming quickly"

The Three Series of Judgments

The judgments come in three series of seven. The seventh seal opens the trumpets, and the seventh trumpet leads to the bowls. Each series reaches farther than the one before it.

No.	Seals (Chapters 6-8)	Trumpets (Chapters 8-11)	Bowls (Chapter 16)
1	White horse: a conqueror (6:1-2)	Hail and fire; a third of the land burned (8:7)	Painful sores on those with the mark (16:2)
2	Red horse: war (6:3-4)	A burning mountain; a third of the sea turns to blood (8:8-9)	The sea turns to blood (16:3)
3	Black horse: famine (6:5-6)	The star Wormwood; a third of the waters made bitter (8:10-11)	Rivers and springs turn to blood (16:4-7)
4	Pale horse: death (6:7-8)	A third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened (8:12)	The sun scorches people (16:8-9)
5	The martyrs cry out (6:9-11)	Locusts from the abyss (9:1-12)	Darkness on the beast's kingdom (16:10-11)
6	The great earthquake (6:12-17)	Four angels released; a third of mankind killed (9:13-21)	The Euphrates dried up; the kings gather at Armageddon (16:12-16)
7	Silence in heaven; the seven trumpets given (8:1-5)	The kingdom announced (11:15-19)	"It is done!" The great earthquake and hail (16:17-21)

Three and a Half Years

Revelation never uses the words “seven years.” That number comes from Daniel 9:24-27, where the last “seven” is a period of seven years, split in the middle (Daniel 9:27). Revelation then counts out half of it five times, in three different ways:

Passage	How it is counted	What it measures
Revelation 11:2	42 months	The nations trample the holy city
Revelation 11:3	1,260 days	The two witnesses prophesy
Revelation 12:6	1,260 days	The woman is cared for in the wilderness
Revelation 12:14	A time and times and half a time	The woman is protected from the serpent
Revelation 13:5	42 months	The beast is given authority

Two halves make seven years. I believe the church is taken up before those seven years begin, and that Christ returns with His church at the end of them.

About This Book

Revelation at a Glance is a short Bible study that walks through the whole book of Revelation in seven parts.

It starts with Jesus among the seven churches, then follows the seven seals, the seven trumpets, the great conflict with the dragon and the beasts, the seven bowls and the fall of Babylon, the return of Christ, and the thousand-year reign and the new heaven and new earth. Each part has a picture, a short overview, a passage guide that shows where everything is, notes on what it means, and study questions for personal reading or a small group. It is written from a Pre-Tribulation, premillennial view.

A one-page chart of the whole book, a chart of the three series of judgments, and the five places Revelation counts out three and a half years are at the back.

All Scripture quotations come from the Steadfast Literal Bible, which is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.