

# Revelation Review

## Chapter 1

The 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians were suffering horrible persecution by the Romans and even by unbelieving Jews. It was about to get worse! Many were wondering who was really in control. Should they quit? They needed a revelation from God.

These Christians were familiar with the Old Testament revelations of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, etc. God used variations of many of the same symbols He used in their prophecies when He gave this revelation to John.

These 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians were also familiar with Jewish history. They knew how God worked through the course of that history. This revelation makes references to past world empires. It reminds all Christians that God is still in control regardless who sits on an earthly throne.

God gave this revelation to Jesus, who gave it to an angel, who showed it to John, who sent it to the seven churches of Asia to assure them (*and us*) that **We Win In The End!**

## Chapters 2 & 3

### Letters to the Seven Churches:

- |                 |                           |                                |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ephesus      | ( <i>Good &amp; Bad</i> ) | The Legalistic Losers          |
| 2. Smyrna       | ( <i>All Good</i> )       | The Poor Little Rich Church    |
| 3. Pergamos     | ( <i>Good &amp; Bad</i> ) | The Tragic Tolerators          |
| 4. Thyatira     | ( <i>Good &amp; Bad</i> ) | The Helpers vs. The Hypocrites |
| 5. Sardis       | ( <i>All Bad</i> )        | The Living Dead                |
| 6. Philadelphia | ( <i>All Good</i> )       | The Beloved Brothers           |
| 7. Laodicea     | ( <i>All Bad</i> )        | The Rich Little Poor Church    |

These churches (*as representatives of all churches*) were urged to follow Christ. If we do, **We Win In The End!**

## Chapter 4

### The Throne Room of God!



John was called to “*Come up hither*”. He saw God on His throne! The rainbow over His throne symbolized He is a promise keeping God. He will keep His promises to Christians!

There were Twenty-four crowned elders on smaller thrones before God’s throne. They fell and worshiped God. These represented all of God’s people under both the Old and the New Testaments (*Twelve tribes of Israel from the Old Testament & Twelve Apostles from the New Testament*).

There were also “*creatures*” flying around Him and praising Him! These “*creatures*” were the same as the “*creatures*” Ezekiel saw in Ezekiel Chapter 1. There could be no mistake that the one on the throne was God, the Father, and He was worthy to be worshiped! No Roman Emperor or any world leader past, present, or future could match His supreme power and control! This gives us complete confidence that **We Win In The End!**

## Chapter 5

### The Lion of Judah! The Lamb of God!



In the right hand of God there was a scroll with seven seals. John was told the Lion of the Tribe of Judah was worthy to open the book to reveal its contents. John turned to see a sacrificial lamb take the book from God's right hand. These, of course, represented Jesus! The Twenty-four elders and four "creatures" worshiped the Lamb of God! Jesus is worthy to be worshiped! If we worship Him, **We Win In the End!**

## Chapter 6

### Six of the Seven Seals are broken!



God has judged human governments throughout history. He allows Christians to suffer during those times. The First Century Christians were experiencing the same things that other believers in the past have experienced. In the end, faithful believers will be saved!

1. **White Horse** - Governments Conquer
2. **Red Horse** - Wars Occur
3. **Black Horse** - Famine Follows
4. **Pale Horse** - Death Comes
5. **Souls Under the Altar** - Assurance that God will judge the wicked
6. **Judgment** – Kings call for the rocks to fall on them to hide them from God's wrath.

This is more assurance that if we don't quit, **We Win In The End!**

## Chapter 7

### 144,000 Sealed!



Before the Seventh Seal is opened, God reveals that only His people can be saved. John heard the number of the saved! It was 144,000 (*Twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes*). Upon close inspection of the list of the tribes, we see that Joseph and Levi are listed. The tribe of Levi was not numbered with the twelve and Joseph is not a tribe at all!

We also see that the tribes of Dan and Ephraim are missing.

This list shows two things: 1) The 144,000 number is not to be taken literally ; 2) There are some that will be "lost". Only the saved can be sealed! When John turns around he doesn't see 144,000, he sees a great number that no man could number from ALL nations, not just Jews! This answers who and how many will be saved! If we are sealed, **We Win In The End!**

# Chapters 8 & 9

## The Seventh Seal Opened & The Sounding of Six of the Seven Trumpets!



When the Seventh Seal was opened there was silence in heaven for ½ an hour. There has been a lot of “noise” and “activity” to this point. This could simply be a pause in the action to prepare the readers for the next phase of activity. It could also be symbolic of the peace and rest the saved, sealed, suffering, saints will enjoy in heaven. The first Six Seals prophesied judgment upon non-believers, but the Seventh Seal was reserved to give hope to the sealed! The Seven Trumpets offer the same message as the Seals. The first Six Trumpets prophesied judgment upon non-believers.

1. **1/3 Part of Trees** - Judgment on People
2. **1/3 Part of Sea** - Judgment on Nations
3. **1/3 Part of Rivers** - Judgment on Communities
4. **1/3 Part of Sun, Moon, & Stars** - Judgment on Rulers / Governments
5. **Bottomless Pit Opened** - Judgment on all those who do not have the seal of God
6. **Army Released From Euphrates River** – Judgment is executed yet they didn’t repent!

Those who don’t repent will be punished, but we who repent of sin know **We Win In The End!**

# Chapter 10

## The Angel & The Little Book!



Before the Seventh Trumpet was sounded. John saw a vision of an angel standing on the sea and the land holding a little book in his hand. The book was open! It was not sealed! It was to be shared with the whole world!

John was told that there would be “*time no longer*”. He was told that in the days of the Seventh Angel sounding, the “*mystery of God should be finished*”. Then John was told to eat the little book! The Word of God is sweet to talk about in the mouth, but it will make the “*belly bitter*” for those who digest it!

John was going to “*prophesy again*” before many people. It is a bitter/sweet thing to do! If we stay faithful to His Word and preach his Word to the world, **We Win In The End!**

# Chapter 11

## The Two Witnesses; The Two Olive Trees; & The Seventh Trumpet!



Before the Seventh Trumpet was sounded. John saw another vision! He was just told that he would “*prophesy again*”. He was given a ruler to measure the “*temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein*”. John was told not to measure the court outside the temple because the “*Gentiles*” would be allowed to “*tread under foot*” there for 42 months.

The 3 ½ Years; 42 Months; 1,260 Days; and the “*Time, Times, and ½ Time*” that repeatedly occur are all the same period. Since it is ½ of Seven (*which represents completeness*), this period is “*incomplete*” or limited. If Christians will be patient and endure, they will not suffer forever. Their suffering is temporary.

These Two Witnesses “*are the Two Olive Trees and the Two Candlesticks standing before God*”. This takes the reader to Zechariah Chapter 4 where the Olive Trees and Candlesticks are symbols of the Spirit of God. They are the “*Anointed Ones*”!

Some believe the Two Witnesses are Moses and Elijah since they did the same miracles that Moses and Elijah did, but these are not literal men. These are symbols indicating that the people of God need to preach the Word of God even though they will be killed for it! The people of God are the “*anointed ones*” that must preach the Word, and they can rest assured they will be saved in the end.

The Seventh Trumpet sounded revealing that the wicked would be destroyed and the servants of God will be rewarded. Heaven will surely be worth it all because **We Win In The End!**

# Chapter 12

## The Woman; The Dragon; & The Man Child!



The First Century Christians were wondering why they were suffering! This is the reason! The Dragon, Satan, wants to destroy Jesus Christ and all who follow Him. When Satan was defeated in his attempt to destroy Christ, he desperately tried to destroy His Church, but she was preserved. The gates of hell will never destroy her (Matthew 16:18)! However, individual Christians will suffer the wrath of Satan who is making war with them all the time!

Persecutions, trials, tribulations, and even death are often part of the Christian experience.

**God’s people will overcome by three things:**

1. The blood of the lamb
2. The word of their testimony
3. They loved not their lives unto the death

If we overcome, **We Win In The End!**

# Chapter 13

## The Beast & The False Prophet



To make war with the saints, the Dragon, Satan, gave power to a “Beast”. This beast had qualities of a Leopard, Bear, and Lion which is exactly the qualities of three of the four beasts described in Daniel Chapter 7! The beasts in Daniel represented the World Empires of history. The Babylonian Empire is represented by the Lion. The Medo-Persian Empire is represented by the Bear, and the Grecian Empire is represented by the leopard. The fourth beast of Daniel was “*dreadful and terrible*”! He represents the Roman Empire. Many believe the fourth beast of Daniel Chapter 7 is the Beast of Revelation Chapter 13. Others believe the Beast of Revelation is a particular Emperor of the Roman Empire, perhaps Nero. Since “*the number of his name*” is 666 they count it like this:

“*Nero Caesar*” in the Hebrew alphabet is **נרון קסר** NRON QSR

**N = 50 ; R = 200 ; O = 6 ; N = 50      Q = 100 ; S = 60 ; R = 200      = 666**

Some manuscripts say the number is not 666, but 616. If you drop the last “N” off NRON, it will take away 50 and the numbers add up to 616.

Those that reject this view simply acknowledge the fact that three “Sevens”- 777 is the Perfect Number for God and three “Sixes” - 666 is the Number for all that is Evil and against God.

Still others believe the “Beast” to be the Papacy of the Catholic Church that so many have been willing to bow down to and worship as “*The Holy Father*”.

The False Prophet of this chapter is a lamb (*just as Christ is represented by a lamb*), yet he speaks as a Dragon. This is false doctrine! Some say it is the false doctrine of Emperor Worship which directly affected the First Century Christians. If they didn’t worship the Emperor, they would be killed. Others believe it is the false doctrine of Catholicism which would spring from the Roman system and pervert Christianity.

Then there are those that believe the beast is some future “*Antichrist*” that will arise and deceive the world into worshiping him. He will be supported by a false religion that will urge everyone to give him their devotion and reverence.

Regardless of the specific meaning of The Beast & The False Prophet, we know they will not win in the end! God is in complete control! His followers are under His ultimate protection! If we follow Him, we can rest assured that **We Win In The End!**

# Chapter 14

## The Lamb Returns!



The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, comes with His sealed and saved people! He pronounces judgment against “*Babylon*” and those who “*worship the beast*”.

This is GOOD NEWS for the Christians that have been suffering at the hands of the wicked. Christians receive great comfort and assurance when they hear:

*“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works to follow them!”*

It is truly comforting to know that **We Win In The End!**

# Chapters 15 & 16

## The Seven Bowls/Vials!



Now for the seven last plagues. Seven angels were given seven bowls, or vials, full of the wrath of God! This wrath was to be poured out on the wicked and non-believers that were causing great harm to the Christians. This is GOOD NEWS for the Christians! The message of the Bowls is the same message we have already seen from the Seals and the Trumpets:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. <b>Sore on Men</b>                           | - | Judgment on People                           |
| 2. <b>Sea into Blood</b>                        | - | Judgment on Nations                          |
| 3. <b>Rivers into Blood</b>                     | - | Judgment on Communities                      |
| 4. <b>Sun Scorched Men</b>                      | - | Judgment on Rulers / Governments             |
| 5. <b>Wrath on the Throne of the Beast</b>      | - | Judgment on God's Enemies                    |
| 6. <b>Kings Cross Euphrates River to battle</b> | - | Judgment is executed yet they didn't repent! |
| 7. <b>“It Is Done”</b>                          | - | Heaven is given to The Believers!            |

Once again, we see that judgment will come to the wicked who refuse to repent but Heaven is promised to the Believers. If we are a Believer, **We Win In The End!**

# Chapters 17 & 18

## The Harlot!



The Harlot is “*Babylon*”. She “*sits on a beast*”. Since many say the “*Beast*” is the Roman Empire, the Harlot must be Rome. Their interpretation of the seven heads & seven mountains:

- 1) Egypt
- 2) Assyria
- 3) Babylon
- 4) Medo-Persia
- 5) Greece

***These are the “Five are Fallen”***

***The “One Is” is the current World Empire during the time John wrote the Revelation which is Rome.***

- 6) Roman Empire

***The other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space***

- 7) The Western Roman Empire In 476 AD the Western Empire fell. It lasted a short period.

***And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.***

- 8) Holy Roman Empire - 800 AD – 1806 AD

If not Rome, perhaps she is a particular Emperor of Rome. This is how some identify her:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) Julius Caesar                | First General to help usher in the Roman Empire |
| 2) Augustus ( <i>Octavian</i> ) | 27 BC – 14 AD                                   |
| 3) Tiberius                     | 14 AD – 37 AD                                   |
| 4) Caligula                     | 37 AD – 41 AD                                   |
| 5) Claudius                     | 41 AD – 54 AD                                   |

***These are the “Five are Fallen”***

***The “One Is” is the Caesar in power at the time John wrote the Revelation – Nero.***

- |         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 6) Nero | 54 AD - 68 AD |
|---------|---------------|

***The other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space***

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7) Galba  | 68 AD – 69 AD (June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 68 AD – January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 69 AD)                           |
| Otho      | 69 AD (January 15 <sup>th</sup> – April 16 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| Vitellius | 69 AD (April 17 <sup>th</sup> – December 20 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>(Otho &amp; Vitellius are not counted)</b> |

***And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. They believe Vespasian is the “resurrected Nero” who was the head “wounded to death”. Vespasian carried on Nero’s work to destroy Jerusalem therefore he represents the “deadly wound was healed”.***

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 8) Vespasian | 69 AD – 79 AD |
|--------------|---------------|

Some believe that John wrote the Revelation later in the First Century thus Domitian, a later Emperor, would be the Beast of the Chapter.

There are many who think the “*Harlot*” and her “*Beast*” is still yet to come. It is unlikely God gave First Century Christians assurance by telling them about someone who will arrive thousands of years later, but if a “*Harlot*” like person arises on the world scene in our future, we can be assured that they, like all world leaders who refuse Christ and persecute His followers, will be judged by God.

Whoever or whatever the Harlot represents, Christians of the past, present, and future can be confident that evil will be punished and those of us who believe can know **We Win In The End!**

## Chapter 19

### The Kings of Kings Comes in Judgment against The Beast & The False Prophet!



The King of Kings, Jesus Christ, comes riding on a White Horse, not a donkey as he came before. He executes judgment on The Beast & The False Prophet! They are cast into the lake of fire! This is GOOD NEWS to the suffering saints who have been persecuted by them! This, once again, assures us that **We Win In The End!**

## Chapter 20

### The Judgment of Satan and his followers!



The Dragon, Satan, who had given power to The Beast & The False Prophet is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. This 1,000 years could be interpreted as the “*Church Age*”. During this time Satan is bound (*limited in his power*). One day he will be released, and the final judgment will occur. This is when Satan will be cast into the lake of fire where The Beast & The False Prophet are. In addition to Satan, anyone whose name is not written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Those who believe that Christ will set up a 1,000 year reign on earth are called “*Millennialist*”. They believe there will be a “*Rapture*” where all believers will be taken away from the earth. They also believe there will be a “*Great Tribulation*” period where the people of the earth will suffer greatly under the rule of Satan and his “*Beast*” and “*False Prophet*”. The Millennialist who think the “*Rapture*” happens BEFORE the “*Great Tribulation*” are PRE-Millennialist. Those who think the “*Rapture*” happens AFTER the “*Great Tribulation*” are POST-Millennialist. This futuristic interpretation doesn’t consider that we are now living in “*The Last Days*”, that the world will be destroyed, and that Jesus never said he would set foot on the earth when he returns. These facts don’t allow for such a 1,000 year reign, however, if this scenario occurs, the only “*End Time*” event we really need to concentrate on is that **We Win In The End!**

## Chapters 21 & 22

### HEAVEN!



New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ, the Church! It is all the saved people of God! There will be no more curse! The curse against mankind for the sin of Adam will be lifted and the people of God will enjoy the “*Water of Life*” and “*The Tree of Life*” for all eternity!

## We Win In The End!