

## **Golgotha Fellowship**

As we begin our journey through the Book of Revelation, I want you to know how deeply grateful and genuinely excited I am to be teaching through this portion of God's Word with you. This book is not one to fear, avoid, or sensationalize, it is a book the Lord Himself gave to bless His people. At the same time, I want to say something very clearly and very lovingly: I do not want you to take anything I teach simply because I say it. I never want you to follow blindly. The Scriptures never call us to blind faith, they call us to tested faith, rooted faith, examined faith.

The Bereans were called noble because they searched the Scriptures daily to see whether the things taught to them were so. That is my prayer for us. Study along with me. Open your Bible like never before. Compare Scripture with Scripture. Ask questions. Dig deep. Let the Word of God interpret the Word of God. Revelation is not a book meant to confuse us, but to prepare us. It reveals truth, exposes deception, and anchors us in the certainty that Christ reigns. And as we look around the world today, it is becoming increasingly clear that the time is indeed drawing near. Now more than ever, the Church needs to know what God has said, what He is doing, and what is yet to come.

My desire is not merely that we gain information, but that we grow in discernment, confidence, hope, and worship. Above all, that we see Jesus more clearly, His glory, His authority, His love for His Church, and His faithfulness to finish what He began.

Father God,

I thank You for this fellowship and for the privilege of opening Your Word together. I pray that as we study the Book of Revelation, You would grant us wisdom, humility, and discernment. Bless those who read, those who hear, and those who keep the things written in this book. Stir our hearts to search the Scriptures diligently and to grow in the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this study draw us closer to You, steady us in uncertain times, and fix our eyes firmly on Your Son.

In the name of Jesus, amen!

# **Commentary on the Book of Revelation**

## **Introduction & Chapter 1**

***Note:** All Scripture quoted is from the New King James Bible, unless otherwise noted. Thomas Nelson. (1982). The Holy Bible, New King James Version. Thomas Nelson.*

### **The Beginning of the Revelation**

The Book of Revelation marks both a new beginning and a familiar truth. While it is a new book of study for many believers, it is not a “new” message in the sense of novelty. Revelation unveils what has always been true but not always fully seen.

Revelation is unique among the books of Scripture. It opens with a promised blessing, contains a God-given outline, and closes with a solemn warning. These features show that God intends this book to be read, understood, and obeyed.

### **The Title and Meaning of Revelation**

The book is properly titled “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” The Greek word apokalypsis means an unveiling or disclosure. This book removes the veil so that Jesus Christ may be clearly seen. This is not the Revelation of John, nor merely a map of future events. John is the recipient, not the subject. Jesus Christ is the focus.

### **What the Book Reveals**

Revelation reveals the condition of the Church, the failure of human government, a coming time of tribulation, divine judgment, the defeat of Satan, the Millennial Kingdom, and the creation of a new heaven and new earth. Yet above all else, Revelation reveals Jesus Christ.

### **The Central Theme: Jesus Christ**

Revelation is not first about events, but about a Person. It unveils Christ’s identity, authority, glory, and reign. Missing Jesus in this book means missing the meaning of it.

This revelation concerns His Person, His People, and His Plan.

### **Revelation 1:1–3**

**“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.”**

## **Revelation 1:1-3**

**V.1** God the Father is the source of the revelation. Jesus Christ is the revealer. John is the receiver. God's servants are the recipients.

**V.1** The phrase "things which must shortly take place" refers not to immediacy in time, but certainty and speed once events begin.

**V.2** The Lord will allow John to physically see this Revelation.

**V.3** A blessing is promised to those who read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy.

## **John the Apostle and the Nature of Revelation**

John was chosen as the human instrument to record this revelation while exiled on the island of Patmos. Though many men penned Scripture, God is the ultimate Author.

The revelation was communicated through signs and symbols, most of which are explained elsewhere in Scripture, especially in the Old Testament.

## **Understanding the Symbols**

Revelation interprets itself through Scripture. Symbols are explained either directly in the book or elsewhere in the Bible. This shows the unity and depth of God's Word.

## **The Structure of Revelation (Revelation 1:19)**

**"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."**

**The book is divided into three sections:**

1. The things which you have seen – Chapter 1
2. The things which are – Chapters 2–3
3. The things which will take place after this – Chapters 4–22

## **A Call to Read and Obey**

Revelation is meant to be understood. God attached a blessing to it to encourage believers to read, heed, and obey. The book ends not in chaos, but in Christ, and that ending is the beginning of eternity with Him.

# Sermon Bullet Points

## *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

### Week 1 — Introduction & Chapter 1

#### 1. A New Book and a New Beginning

- a) While this is a new book of study for us, it is not a new message
- b) Truth does not change:
  - i. If it is new, it is not true
  - ii. If it is true, it is not new
- c) Today serves primarily as an introduction
- d) Focus will be on Revelation 1:1–3

#### 2. What Makes the Book of Revelation Unique

- a) Revelation is the only book of the Bible that:
  - I. Promises a blessing to those who read, hear, and obey it
  - II. Provides its own inspired outline for interpretation
- b) The book opens with a blessing and closes with a warning
  - I. A warning against adding to or taking away from its words
  - II. A reminder that God Himself guards this revelation

#### 3. The Title and Meaning of Revelation

- a) The title is singular: **Revelation**, not Revelations
- b) It is not:
  - i. “The Revelation of John”
  - ii. “The Revelation of St. John the Divine”
- c) The proper title is **“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”**
- d) The Greek word for “Revelation” is *apokalypsis* and it means:
  - i. An unveiling
  - ii. An uncovering
  - iii. A disclosure of what was previously hidden

#### 4. What Revelation Reveals (But Not Primarily)

- a) Revelation reveals:
  - I. The strengths and weaknesses of real first-century churches
  - II. Timeless truths for the Church throughout history
- b) It reveals:
  - I. The future of human government
  - II. Humanity’s inability to bring lasting peace
- c) It reveals:
  - I. A coming Antichrist system
  - II. A future seven-year tribulation
- d) It reveals:
  - I. God’s righteous judgment poured out on a Christ-rejecting world
  - II. A series of escalating judgments
  - III. God’s mercy even within judgment

- e) It reveals:
  - I. The defeat and final judgment of Satan
  - II. The Millennial Kingdom
  - III. A new heaven and a new earth

## **5. The True Focus of Revelation**

- a) Revelation is not primarily about future events
- b) Revelation is about:
  - i. A personal, present, and eternal Savior
  - ii. Jesus Christ Himself
- c) This book unveils:
  - i. His Person
  - ii. His People
  - iii. His Plan
- d) Missing Jesus in this book means missing the meaning of the book

## **6. Christ-Centered Themes in Revelation**

- a) Revelation is about:
  - I. His identity, inheritance, and intentions
  - II. His beauty, His bride, and His biblical rule
  - III. His authority, His assembly, and His agenda
  - IV. His supremacy, His saints, and His sovereignty
- b) It reveals:
  - I. Who He is - Who we are in Him
  - II. His plan for the earth
  - III. His plan for all creation

## **7. The Revelation of Christ's Glory**

- a) Revelation reveals:
  - i. The Lamb who was slain
  - ii. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- b) His first coming:
  - i. Lowly
  - ii. Riding a borrowed donkey
  - iii. Declaring peace
- c) His second coming:
  - i. Glorious
  - ii. Riding a white war horse
  - iii. Declaring victory
- d) He returns:
  - i. Faithful and True
  - ii. With eyes like fire
  - iii. Wearing many crowns
- e) He comes with:
  - i. The armies of heaven
  - ii. His redeemed people

## **8. The Ultimate Victory of Christ**

- a) Every earthly ruler will be humbled
- b) Every proud empire will fall
- c) Every knee will bow - *Jesus Christ will reign forever*
- d) History ends not in chaos, but in Christ
- e) The end of this age is the beginning of eternity

## **9. Revelation 1:1–3 — The Divine Chain of Revelation**

- a) God the Father is the source
- b) Jesus Christ is the revealer
- c) The angel is the messenger
- d) John is the receiver
- e) God's servants are the recipients
- f) This revelation discloses what was previously hidden

## **10. “Things Which Must Shortly Take Place”**

- a) The word “must” indicates certainty, not possibility
- b) God has sovereignly ordained these events
- c) “Shortly” (*en tachei*) does not mean immediately
- d) It means:
  - i. Once events begin, they will unfold rapidly
  - ii. They will come with unstoppable momentum

## **11. John the Apostle and the Authorship of Revelation**

- a) John identifies himself as the human writer
- b) God is the ultimate Author of Scripture
- c) Revelation was written:
  - i. Around A.D. 94–96
  - ii. Near the end of Domitian's reign
- d) John wrote while exiled on the island of Patmos

## **12. Revelation Is Given Through Signs**

- a) The book was “signified” — communicated through signs
- b) Signs are not meant to obscure truth
- c) Most symbols are explained:
  - i. Elsewhere in Scripture
  - ii. Or within Revelation itself
- d) Understanding Revelation requires familiarity with the rest of the Bible

## **13. Old Testament Foundations of Revelation**

- a) Revelation contains hundreds of Old Testament allusions
- b) Many symbols are explained through earlier Scripture
- c) Of its 404 Verses, it is said that 278 of them have allusions to the Old Testament
- d) Example:
  - i. Revelation 12 interpreted through Genesis 37
  - ii. The woman represents Israel
  - iii. The dragon represents Satan
- e) *Scripture interprets Scripture*

**Revelation 12:1-5** “Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with **the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.** <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.”

**Genesis 37:9-11** “Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, **“Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”** <sup>10</sup> So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” <sup>11</sup> And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter *in mind.*”

- f) *Joseph is the 12<sup>th</sup> Star – Sons of Jacob who is Israel*
  - i. Context: Israel was used by God to give birth to the Messiah
  - ii. Satan tried to kill Him through Herod and failed
  - iii. Jesus ascended into Heaven “Harpadzo”
  - iv. This is clearly Israel in Chapter 12 of Revelation

#### **14. Symbolism of the Throne Room (Revelation 4)**

**Revelation 4:2-3a** “Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and **One** sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> And He who sat there was like a **jasper and a sardius stone** in appearance;...”

- a) Jesus is described using:
  - i. Jasper stone (pure and clear)
  - ii. Sardius stone (blood red)
- b) These stones appear on the High Priest’s breastplate
  - i. They represent: Holiness and purity - Sacrifice and redemption
- c) They correspond to:
  - i. Reuben (“Behold a Son”) (1<sup>st</sup> Born and 1<sup>st</sup> Stone)
  - ii. Benjamin (“Son of My Right Hand”) (Lastborn and last stone)
- d) Christ is:
  - i. The First and the Last - Holy – Redeeming – Enthroned
- e) “Behold a Son, the Son of My Right Hand, He is the First and the Last, He is holy and pure, His blood redeemed the Church for all eternity.” (Jasper and Sardius)

## **15. The Importance of the Number Seven**

- a) Seven represents completeness or fullness
- b) Revelation repeatedly uses groups of seven:
  - i. Seven churches
  - ii. Seven lampstands
  - iii. Seven seals
  - iv. Seven trumpets
  - v. Seven bowls
  - vi. Seven spirits
  - vii. Just to name a few...
- c) Each group is unified and purposeful

## **16. The God-Given Outline of Revelation (Revelation 1:19)**

- a) **The things which you have seen**
  - i. Chapter 1: The glorified Christ
- b) **The things which are**
  - i. Chapters 2–3: The seven churches
- c) **The things which will take place after this**
  - i. Chapters 4–22: Future events
- d) “After this” (*meta tauta*) marks a clear transition

## **17. Why Revelation Must Be Studied**

- a) God attached a blessing to this book
- b) Revelation is meant to be understood
- c) Believers are called to:
  - i. Read it - Hear it
  - ii. And... Keep it
- d) The time is near — the season is recognizable
- e) The church is called to stay awake and faithful

## **Closing Exhortation**

- a) Revelation invites believers to go deeper
- b) The book rewards careful study
- c) Christ is revealed as:
  - i. Savior
  - ii. King
  - iii. Judge
  - iv. Redeemer
- d) This study is meant to:
  - i. Strengthen faith
  - ii. Sharpen discernment
  - iii. Fix our eyes on Jesus