

REVIEWING REVELATION – ACTION AND PAUSES

THE BACKGROUND:

- IN THE BEGINNING ... God created the heavens and earth.
- Lucifer sinned and became Satan - Revelation 20:2 - that old serpent, the dragon.
- BABYLON is a key city throughout the Bible history, world history, and the future.
- God chose Abraham and created the nation of Israel
- Daniel 2, 3, 7, 8 – prophecy about empires, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the statue, and Daniel’s dreams about beasts and rams and goats.
 - a) Nebuchadnezzar was king over Babylon, represented by the Lion... which attacked Israel and took them into exile.
 - b) The Bear represents the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians which conquered Babylon. (and God used Cyrus of Persia to send Israel back to their land)
 - c) The Goat represents the kingdom of Greece – Alexander the Great –who conquered more territory than anyone before him. (In Daniel 7 – this kingdom is depicted as a leopard, in Daniel 8 as a goat) He brought the Greek language and culture to all the territories he conquered. His great empire was divided into 4 parts.
 - d) A BEAST ... dreadful and terrifying, with huge iron teeth... devouring and trampling everything it conquered. When compared to the details in the dream about the statue... this fourth beast is understood to be the historical kingdom of Rome. This beast - this kingdom – develops again in Revelation 13 and 17, but with more horrific features and mutations.
- Jesus’ FIRST COMING. He was rejected by Israel. Crucified. Buried. And rose again. And ascended into Heaven. The disciples watched Jesus- the man – ascend into Heaven... and an angel told them – He’s coming back the same way! In the clouds.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION BEGINS:

Revelation 1:1-20: John on Patmos, Vision of Jesus, Instruction to John

Revelation 2:1-3:22 – Letters to 7 churches: 1 – Ephesus, 2 – Smyrna, 3 – Pergamum, 4 – Thyatira, 5 – Sardis, 6 – Philadelphia, 7 – Laodicea: Church age with 7 real, historical churches that received letters from Jesus Himself, through John.

After chapter 3, the church is not mentioned, until it’s referred to as the bride of Christ in chapter 19. With Paul’s information in 1 Thess 4, this leads us to expect the gathering of the church age saints, the rapture, sometime before the things described in revelation 4-19.

Revelation 4:1 – 5:14: John called up to Heaven: Jesus told John: COME UP HERE!

Vision of Throne Room and The Lamb opened the scroll.

ACTION!

Revelation 6:1-17: Seals opened: The 4 horsemen of the apocalypse showed up ... one by one. The symbolic images in revelation represent real things on earth.

1st seal: white horse – indicates the arrival of the ANTICHRIST (bringing false peace)

2nd seal: red horse – indicates war that shatters (false) peace

3rd seal: black horse – indicates famine, economic hardship

4th seal: pale horse – indicates death by the sword, hunger, plague, and wild animals; ¼ population killed

Daniel and Paul made it clear that the Tribulation will not begin until the antichrist makes a 7 year treaty with Israel. 7 years – equals 3 ½ plus 3 ½ years. 7 years equals 1260 days plus 1260 days. These are real numbers.

(extra info: based on Revelation 11, 2 witnesses will show up at the beginning of the Tribulation and proclaim truth, and survive all attempts at killing them. Until... the midpoint of the tribulation.)

(extra info: based on Revelation 17, during the 1st half of the Tribulation... the Harlot – all false religion, and a false church – will work with the Beast. Riding the beast even shows some control over the beast. This will be part of the deception carried out by the Antichrist (who is the beast)

5th seal: Martyrs in Heaven ask the Lord - “how long until you avenge our blood?” ... shows that there will be followers of Jesus killed in the 1st half of the Tribulation, but there will be more to come. It also shows that the Lord WILL JUDGE those who kill His people.

6th seal – thunder, lightning, and an earthquake, enemies of God know that God and the Lamb are pouring out their wrath.

SHORT PAUSE FOR MORE INFORMATION **Revelation 7:1-17** - God will seal 144, 000 Israelites. The impact of their testimony is shown through the Multitudes of every nation, tribe, people and tongue from the Tribulation who rejoice in Heaven for salvation from the Lamb

ACTION!

Revelation 8:1 – 9:21 – 7th seal: trumpet judgments begin

1st trumpet – trees, land burned

2nd trumpet – sea turns to blood, sea creatures die, ships destroyed

3rd trumpet – waters become bitter, many people die

4th trumpet – sun, moon, stars struck

5th trumpet – demon locusts torment

6th trumpet - 200 million horsemen (cavalry), 3 plagues, 1/3 population dies

PAUSE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rev. 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are all a pause in the action of revealing the judgments of God.

Revelation 10:1-11 – mighty angel announces “No More Delay!”

Revelation 11:1-19 –

2 witnesses prophesy in Jerusalem 1260 days

7th trumpet blown, scene in Heaven as God is worshipped: **Revelation 11:15** ¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 12 and 13 - John sees signs explaining the backstory of the dragon and Israel, as well as what is to come in the future.

Woman with Child is Israel and Jesus (Rev. 12)

Dragon described, war in Heaven, dragon thrown down to Earth, dragon pursues woman

Dragon empowers Beast from sea (Rev.13)

1st Beast from sea and 2nd beast from earth rule the world (Rev. 13)

(extra info based on Rev. 17 - The harlot (false church and false religion), and the kings of the earth... have been working with the Antichrist – ruling the world – but at mid-point, the harlot is destroyed... no more false religion... no more false church.)

Beginning at mid-point of Tribulation, after fatal wound and resurrection of Antichrist, he institutes: ONE WORLD RULER/GOVERNMENT, ONE WORLD RELIGION, ONE WORLD CURRENCY/ECONOMY.

ALL MUST WORSHIP THE BEAST, whose image is on display at the Temple in Jerusalem – the Abomination of Desolation.

The false prophet (the second beast) directs all to worship the Beast and take his number – 666.

Revelation 14:1-20: Victorious Lamb stands on Mt. Zion with 144,000 sealed Israelites

This is a SNEAK PREVIEW OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS!

Winepress of wrath of God - When Jesus returns the grapes of wrath will be crushed. The winepress of the wrath of God will overflow with blood from the enemies of God.

Revelation 15:1-4

Scene in Heaven

Bowls of wrath announced

ACTION!

Revelation 15:5 – Action begins again

During the second half of the Tribulation, when the 7 bowls of the wrath of God are poured out, these things are happening:

The dragon, Satan, is persecuting Jews and followers of Jesus more than ever before. He wages war against them.

Antichrist is in full DICTATOR mode.

He demands worship, and has taken over Jerusalem and the temple.

He demands all political and economic allegiance and makes Babylon his capital city.

And all on earth who have taken his mark will suffer – 7 plagues / bowls of wrath

Revelation 16:1-21 – 7 bowls of wrath are poured out

1st bowl: painful boils on all with mark of the Beast

2nd bowl: oceans become blood

3rd bowl: rivers and springs become blood, polluted

4th bowl: sun scorches the unrepentant

5th bowl: beast's kingdom is darkened, people experience intense pain

6th bowl: Euphrates river dries up, unclean spirits (like frogs) gather kings to Armageddon

7th bowl: mega-earthquake, 100 lb. hailstones