

A STUDY OUTLINE FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Introduction

1. The book of Revelation is considered to be one of the most difficult books of the Bible.
 2. While it has many features that are certainly problematic, it nevertheless has one of the most simple messages of Scripture.
 3. Its central message simply teaches us that if we are faithful to Jesus we cannot be defeated, even by death (1:18; 2:10).
 4. A simple message, but a truth that is most profound!
- I. The Introduction (1:1-20).
 - A. A message for seven churches (though symbolically representing the whole church) in the Roman province of Asia.
 - B. In a symbolic form Jesus appears to John to symbolically reveal much needed information to the churches.
 - C. Note how 1:1, 3 show that the main emphasis of the book was about to happen.
 - II. The Letters To The Seven Churches (2:1-3:22).
 - A. The churches are being reviewed to determine both their strength and the amount of preparation needed for the upcoming battle.
 - B. While this battle will in some ways be fought on the earth, there are heavenly perspectives to consider.
 - C. Ultimately the battle will be spiritual and it will be waged in the hearts of men and women.
 - D. Strengths and weaknesses are therefore evaluated in a spiritual context.
 - III. The Throne Room Of God (4:1-11).
 - A. The earthly perspective gained from a review of the seven churches is far from encouraging.
 - B. How could these churches stand in the face of mighty foe?
 - C. John is taken up into heaven to see that the churches do not go to war alone.
 - D. The Holy God of heaven is there seen in His awesome might.
 - IV. The Sealed Book And The Worthy Lamb (5:1-14).
 - A. A book is presented that contains information vital to the churches—but it is sealed!
 - B. No mere creature is found worthy to open the book and reveal its contents to the churches.
 - C. But the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the one who turns out to be the Lamb, He is worthy to open the book.
 - V. The Seven Seals—The First Cycle Of Visions (6:1-8:1).
 - A. The first four seals reveal the calamities God will use in 1/4 measure against a rebellious foe (6:1-8).
 - B. The fifth seal reveals that there are martyrs who seek vindication, but are told to wait until martyrdom has reached its end (6:9-11).
 - C. The sixth seal shows that powers standing in opposition to God will be shaken (6:12-17).
 - D. 144, 000 are sealed for a special service to God—the remainder of the martyrs (7:1-8).
 - E. A larger multitude will also be victorious—the faithful church (7:9-17).
 - F. The seventh seal opens to silence, an ominous portent of things to come (8:1).
 - VI. The Seven Trumpets—The Second Cycle Of Visions (8:2-11:19).

- A. The first four trumpets introduce the calamities God sends in 1/3 measure against the opposition (8:2-13).
 - B. The fifth trumpet brings woe on all, save those sealed for martyrdom—they have a special fate (9:1-11).
 - C. The sixth trumpet brings death to 1/3 of mankind—God is not opposed without cost—but there is still no repentance.
 - D. A Little Book now appears to reveal what will happen since the forces of evil did not cease their rebellion (10:1-11).
 - E. Two witnesses are the center of attention in a brief review of the story of the Little Book (11:1-14).
 - F. The seventh trumpet reveals the ultimate defeat of those who oppose God and the victory of those who are on His side (11:15-19).
- VII. The Message Of The Little Book Is Revealed In Greater Detail As The Cast Of Characters For The Coming Decisive Conflict Are Revealed—The Second Major Division Of The Book, Where The Same Message Repeats Itself In Many Different Cycles (12:1-14:20).
- A. The reason for the war is seen in Satan's conflict with Christ and His followers (12:1-17).
 - 1. The woman here represents the concept of God's people.
 - 2. First, the Jews, from whom came Jesus, and then the church, in which are found all who follow Christ.
 - B. Satan's forces—the emperor and those who carry out his policies (13:1-18).
 - C. The Lamb and His martyr army (14:1-20).
- VIII. The Seven Bowls Of Plagues That Are Poured Out Against The Enemies Of God (15:1-16:21).
- A. The first four bowls reveal an even greater judgment on all the opposition—this is to destroy the opposition, not to bring repentance (15:1-16:9).
 - B. The fifth bowl deals with the shaking of earthly powers (16:10-11).
 - C. The sixth bowl reveals the Battle of Harmagedon where God's forces defeat the forces of Satan (16:12-16).
 - D. Judgment comes on Babylon the Great—Rome (16:17-21).
- IX. The Judgment Of The Great Harlot—The Mystique And Power Of Rome (17:1-19:10).
- A. The identity of the harlot (17:1-18).
 - B. Babylon—Rome—judged (18:1-24).
 - C. Victory for the Lamb (19:1-10).
- X. The Great Battle (19:11-20:6).
- A. The Lamb and His army (19:11-18).
 - B. Satan's army (19:19).
 - C. The battle (19:20-21).
 - D. Satan bound (20:1-3).
 - E. Martyrs' cause vindicated (20:4-6).
- XI. The Last Great Battle, Judgment, And Eternal Consequences (20:7-22:5).
- A. The Last War (20:7-10).
 - B. Judgment (20:11-15).
 - C. Victory for the faithful (21:1-22:5).
- XII. Final Encouragement, Invitation, And Warning (22:6-21)—note 22:6, 7, 10, 12 show immediacy.
- Conclusion
- 1. The book of Revelation shows the certain victory for all who die in the Lord.
 - 2. The battle has been won by Christ, we need only align with Him to win!

