

Revelation Study Guide Intro and Chapter 1  
Pastors Raymond Solberg and Joe Mason

Introduction to the Only prophetic book in the New Testament: Three views of Bible Prophecy

1. Preterist View: The Preterist view: symbolizes the struggles of the Church against Rome.

2. Historical View: symbolizes the historic problems the Church has had with the world.

3. Spiritual view: a spiritual allegory without direct application to actual events.

4. Futurist view: A literal account of what is to come.

→→ Some upfront, key clues for a Literal future Unveiling/Unfolding/Apocalypse/Revelation.

1:1 “the things that must soon take place.” 1:3 “the time is near.”

1:7 “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him.”

1:19 “Write therefore the things you have seen, those that are, and those that take place after this.”

**A. Premillennialism:** the belief that Jesus will physically return to the Earth (the Second Coming) before the Millennium, a literal thousand-year golden age of peace.

**B. Amillennarism:** interprets the thousand years symbolically to refer either to a temporary bliss of souls in heaven before the general resurrection, or to the infinite bliss of the righteous after the general resurrection

**C. Sees Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> coming** is after the “millennium,” a golden age or era of Christian prosperity and dominance.

**A. Pre-Tribulation Rapture:** The Bride of Christ (the Church) ascends to heaven before the seven year tribulation begins.

**B. Mid-Tribulation Rapture:** The Church) will ascend to heaven sometime during the Tribulation, usually thought of as near the mid point (3.5 years).

**C. Post-Tribulation Rapture:** The Bride of Christ (Christ’s church) will ascend to heaven at the very end, or immediately after the Tribulation.

**Important:** You cannot understand Revelation without understanding the Old Testament.

Chuck Missler Notes:	Old Testament	Behold He Comes
	Gospels	Behold He Dies
	Acts	Behold He Lives
	Epistles	Behold He Saves
	Revelation	Behold He Reigns

Also... this book was prophesied: However: I heard, but I did not understand (Hidden). Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end” (Hidden). Daniel 12:8-9

Note: The Book of Revelation, Chapters 4-22 in particular, refer to seven years known as the Tribulation, The Day of the Lord (Is 13:6; Joel 1:15; 2 Pet 3:10, The Great Day of the Lord (Zeph 1:14), The Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Jer 30:7), The day of Wrath (or God’s wrath Zeph 1:15; Rom 2:5; Rev 6:17), etc. Important: this is a major theme in every prophetic book in the O.T.

Revelation an unveiling: Like a movie, God is the Director: He will unveil the Hero, Nemesis, Players, Plot, and Climax. In Chapter One: Player #1 God Player #2 Jesus Player #3 The Angels Player #4 John Player #5 His servants  
 ...Notice...no bad guys are mentioned up front.

Notes:

Church	Church History Typified	Dates	Israel's History Typified <sup>7</sup>	Verses
Ephesus	The Apostolic Church	A.D. 30-100	The Day of Israel's Espousals (Exodus)	Rev. <a href="#">2:1-7+</a>
Smyrna	The Church of the Roman Persecution	A.D. 100 - 313	The Period of Israel's Wanderings (Numbers)	Rev. <a href="#">2:8-11+</a>
Pergamum	The Church of the Age of Constantine	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	A.D. 313-600 <sup>8</sup>	Rev. <a href="#">2:12-17+</a>
Thyatira	The Church of the Dark Ages	A.D. 600-1517 <sup>9</sup>	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	Rev. <a href="#">2:18-29+</a>
Sardis	The Church of the Reformation	A.D. 1517-1648	The Period of Israel's Kings (1 and 2 Kings)	Rev. <a href="#">3:1-6+</a>
Philadelphia	The Church of the Great Missionary Movement	A.D. 1648-1900	The Period of Israel's Removal (1 and 2 Chronicles)	Rev. <a href="#">3:7-13+</a>
Laodicea	The Church of the Apostasy	A.D. 1900-present day	The Period of Judah's Kings (2 Chronicles)	Rev. <a href="#">3:14-22+</a>

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

## **Greeting to the Seven Churches**

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

## **Vision of the Son of Man**

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one.

I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. 20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.