

Through the Bible Course

May 14, 1950

Revelation

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Key Verse: 1:19

Date: 95 or 96 AD

Author: John, the beloved apostle (Revelation 1:4a and 22:8)

Occasion: The Church of Asia Minor was suffering persecution under the Roman government.

The Purpose: It seems to be to testify to the faith and hope of Christians and to comfort and inspire them by the assurance of the end of the conflict between good and evil as well as between Satan and Christ with final victory of Christ. It shows the final completion of God's redemptive plan.

Four Theories of Interpretation:

1. The Preterist Theory – the whole concern is for first century. Book has only literary interest for us.
2. The Genuinuous-Historical Theory – first three chapters directed to early Church with other events and predictions being fulfilled at various states in world's history.
3. The Futurist Theory – concerned not with page, but with the future; a prediction of "last things." This is the opposite of the Preterist Theory.
4. The Symbolical Theory – concern for the Universal Church. A symbolic picture of the continuous struggle between good and evil, the Church and the world.

(By Joseph M. Gettys)

- I. Chapter 1 – Prologue and Vision of Christ
- II. Chapters 2 and 3 – Letters to Seven Churches
- III. Chapters 4 and 5 – A Vision of Heaven
 1. The throne of God
 2. The Lamb on the throne
 3. The seven-sealed book
 4. The Lamb worthy to open the book
 5. Lamb worshiped because of His redemptive work
- IV. Chapters 6 and 7 – The Seven Seals and a Parenthesis
 1. 6:1-17 – The six seals
 - a. The white horse
 - b. The red horse

- c. The black horse
 - d. The pale horse
 - e. The souls of the slain
 - f. The earthquakes eclipse, etc.
 - 2. 7:1-17 – The Parenthesis
 - a. 7:1-8 – The sealing of the redeemed
 - b. 7:9-17 – The bliss of redeemed in heaven
- V. Chapters 8 through 11 – The Seven Trumpets (Seventh seal was seven trumpets)
- 1. 8:1-5 – A heavenly vision of angels
 - 2. 8:6 – 9:21 – The seven trumpets
 - a. on earth
 - b. on sea
 - c. on streams
 - d. an eclipse
 - e. the woe of locusts
 - f. the woe of army of horsemen
 - 3. Chapter 10 – The angel and the little book
 - 4. 11:1-13 – The vision of the two witnesses
 - 5. 11:14-19 – The seventh trumpet
- VI. Chapters 12 through 14 – The Seven Mystic Figures
- 1. 12:1-2 – The sun-clothed woman
 - 2. 12:3-4 – The red dragon
 - 3. 12:5-17 – The child and war in heaven
 - 4. 13:1-10 – The beast from the sea
 - 5. 13:11-18 – The beast from the earth
 - 6. 14:1-13 – The Lamb on Mt. Zion
 - 7. 14:14-20 – The Son of Man and doom on the earth
- VII. Chapters 15 and 16 – The Seven Vials
- 1. 15:1-8 – A vision of heaven. The triumph of the redeemed.
 - 2. 16:1-21 – The seven vials
 - a. Earth
 - b. Sea
 - c. Waters
 - d. Sun
 - e. Realm of beast
 - f. The great river Euphrates
 - g. The air, i.e., storm; cup of wrath poured on Babylon
- VIII. Chapters 17 and 18 – The Doom of Babylon
- 1. 17:1-6 – Description of woman
 - 2. 17:7-15 – The interpretation of beast by the angel
 - 3. 17:16-18 – The destruction of the harlot
 - 4. 18:1-24 – The doom of earth

IX. Chapter 19 – 20:10 – The Manifestation of Christ and Final Doom of Satan

1. 19:1-6 – A hallelujah chorus
2. 19:7-10 – Marriage of Lamb
3. 19:11-21 – The appearance of King of Kings and smiting of nations
4. 20:1-3 – Binding of Satan
5. 20:4-6 – First resurrection
6. 20:7-9 – Satan loosed for season
7. 20:10 – Final doom of Satan

X. Chapter 20:11 – 22:6 – Vision of New Heaven and New Earth

1. 20:11 – 21:7 – The believers dwelling in New Jerusalem
2. 21:8 – The second death
3. 21:9-27 – The New Jerusalem described: size and beauty
4. 22:1-21 – The completion of God's redemptive process and last message of the Bible
 - a. 22:1-6 – The final redemption shown by reappearance of tree of life and appearance of river of life flowing from throne of God
 - b. 22:7-22 – Last message of Bible