Revelation is the only book in the Bible with a promise of direct blessings if we read and heed it.

- Revelation 1:3 (NASB)
- Revelation 22:7 (NASB)

THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

John the Apostle is exiled to the Island of Patmos where he gets this Revelation from Jesus: Revelation 1:19 (NASB).

1. WHAT HE HAS SEEN.
   - Vision of Jesus: Revelation Chapter 1

2. THE THINGS WHICH ARE.
   - The state of the seven churches: Revelation Chapters 2-3

3. THE THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THESE THINGS.
   - What will take place in the future: Revelation Chapters 4-22
   - These things will take place.

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While in prayer, John hears a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet and sees:

I. Revelation 1:20 (NASB)
   A) The Seven Golden Lampstands signify the Seven Churches.
      1. In the middle of the lampstands John sees “one like a son of man”
         • Revelation 1:12-13 (NASB)
      2. This is the title Jesus applies to Himself 80 times.
      3. John sees Jesus in His glory.

II. Revelation 1:14-16 (NASB)
   A) The Seven Stars signify the Angels of the Seven Churches.
      • This means each Church has an Angel (which can also be translated
         “Messenger, one who brings a message” and would be a reference
         to the Pastor of the Church).
   B) Verse 20 tells the meaning of the 7 Stars and 7 Lampstands.
We are to know that Jesus is always present amongst us and upholding His Church in His right hand of power and might. Because of this, He has a message for His Churches.

I. To understand the letters written to the Seven Churches in Asia Minor you must look at:
   A) The person of Christ.
   B) The positive characteristics He sees in them, if any.
   C) The problems they have, if any.
   D) The prescription to solve these problems.
   E) The promise from Jesus.

II. Five of the Seven Churches are rebuked to some degree and two are not.
An example of what Jesus says to two of the churches:

A) The Church in Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7 (NASB)
   1. Positive Characteristics: Ephesus has been laboring for the Lord and standing against immorality and evil. They have knowledge, serve faithfully, and have endured persecution.

   2. Problem: Ephesus has left their first love.


B) The Church in Laodecia: Revelation 3:14-22 (NASB)
   1. Positive Characteristics: None.

   2. Problem: Laodecia is lukewarm -Revelation 3:15-16 (NASB).

   3. Promise: His love and desire for intimacy with those who choose Him. -Revelation 3:19-20 (NASB)
THE THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THESE THINGS

Revelation 4:1 (NASB)
Meta Tauta means "After these things."
It is the same phrase used in Revelation 1:19.

I. Scene in Heaven: Revelation 4-5 (NASB)

A) John is caught up into Heaven and sees God on His throne.
   1. The colors of Heaven are vibrant.
   2. The sounds of Heaven are majestic and loud.
   3. The lightening is flashing & there are peals of thunder.
   4. There are 4 Archangels and 24 Elders worshipping God passionately.

B) The Scroll with seven seals is the will of God.
   1. John hears the proclamation that no one is worthy to open it.
   2. John cries because he wants the will of God to be done.
   3. Revelation 4-5 (NASB)
      a. Jesus has the scars from the crucifixion.
      b. Jesus is now going to enact the will of God upon the earth.

II. The Seven Seals: Revelation 6-8 (NASB)

Remember, Jesus said His coming would be like birth pains that start far apart and get closer and harder.
• Matthew 24:8 (NASB)
• 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 (NASB)
• First Four Seals Unleash the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse, which are angels. -Zechariah 1:8-10 (NASB)

A) First Seal: The White Horse is the Church coming forth to conquer.
   -Revelation 6:1-2 (NASB)
   1. We know this is the Church because the Angel is wearing a crown (Stephanos), which is promised to the Church.
      -Revelation 2:10, 3:11 (NASB)
   2. We know this is the Church because the Angel goes forth to conquer (nikao) like the Church is commanded to.
      -Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21 (NASB)
3. Happened in the 1800’s when the Church awakened and began to go forth with the Gospel in a missionary movement to take the world for Christ.

**B) Second Seal:** The Red Horse is peace being taken from the Earth.  
- Revelation 6:3-4 (NASB)
1. Occurred in 1948 after WWII when the United Nations was founded to bring peace on earth and Israel became a nation. We have not had one day of peace since.

**C) Third Seal:** The Black Horse signifies economic unbalance.  
- Revelation 6:5-6 (NASB)
1. The scales are out of balance and some people have the luxuries of life while others struggle.
   a. Oil and wine are luxuries. Proverbs 21:17 (NASB)
   b. Makings of bread cost a full day’s wage.
2. Occurred in the 1970’s with the Mega Famine. Today the bottom billion are living in extreme poverty.

**D) Fourth Seal:** The Pale Horse signifies the coming of death.  
- Revelation 6:7-8 (NASB)
1. 1/4 of the Earth's population will die by Four Severe Judgments of God. -Ezekiel 14:21 (NASB)
   - Sword or War
   - Famine
   - Disease
   - Wild Beasts
2. The Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization are planning for a world-wide pandemic which will wipe out 1/4 of the world's population.

**E) Fifth Seal:** Worldwide persecution of Christians.
1. There is a last person who is to be reached and who is to die.
2. Revelation 6:9-11 (NASB)

**E) Sixth Seal:** Terror
1. There are earthquakes. The sun becomes black and the moon like blood red.
2. The sky rolls up like a scroll.
3. World leaders hide in caves.
4. This could be when Russia attacks Israel. -Ezekiel 38-39 (NASB)
   • Earthquake -Ezekiel 38:19 (NASB)
   • Stars falling -Ezekiel 38:22 (NASB)
   • Mountains moved -Ezekiel 38:19-20 (NASB)
   • Kings hide -Ezekiel 38:20 (NASB)

F) Revelation 7: An interlude, or the calm before the storm.
   1. Sealing of the 144,000 Jewish men who will be martyred.
   -Revelation 6:9-11 (NASB)
   2. These martyrs are to be brought before the throne.
      -Revelation 6:9-11 (NASB)
   3. The Lord will answer their prayer and bring judgment upon the Earth.

G) Seventh Seal: The Seven Trumpets of God. -Revelation 8:1-2 (NASB)

III. The Seven Trumpets: Revelation 8-14 (NASB)
   We are hit by objects from outer space during the first three trumpets.

A) First Trumpet Sounds: An asteroid smashes into our atmosphere.
   -Revelation 8:7
   • 1/3 of the Earth, trees, and grass is burned.

B) Second Trumpet Sounds: An asteroid the size of a mountain slams into
   the ocean. - Revelation 8:8-9
   • Sea becomes like blood.

C) Third Trumpet Sounds: Wormwood hits and poisons waters.
   -Revelation 8:10-11
   • Meteorites are poisonous ice.

D) Fourth Trumpet Sounds: Sun and Moon Darkened. -Revelation 8:12
   1. This would be a natural effect from the three strikes by the asteroids.
       The dust from the impact of the asteroids would cause 1/3 darkness.
   2. Three Woes because of the next three trumpets. -Revelation 8:13
       • A “woe” is a scream of terror. An archangel is terrified because
         three worse things are about to occur.

E) Fifth Trumpet Sounds: The first "woe" and the unleashing of demons
   from the abyss. -Revelation 9:1-12
   1. The abyss is where Jesus sent demons. Luke 8:31
   2. These demons torment people for five months but Christians are
      protected by God. -Joel 2:9, Revelation 9:4
F) Sixth Trumpet Sounds: The second "woe" and there is a 200 million man army in war. -Revelation 9:13-19

1. This army incites leaders east of Israel to attack Israel.

2. In John's time there were 170 million people on the Earth. Today, China and India could do this alone.

G) Seventh Trumpet Sounds: The third "woe," Satan is cast out of Heaven, and the rapture occurs.

1. The Shout of the Archangel. -Revelation 10

2. The Two Witnesses: Elijah and Enoch.
   a. Revelation 11 describes their 3 1/2 year ministry.
   b. Elijah will come before the day of the Lord. -Malachi 4:5-6
   c. They preach Christ at the Temple in Jerusalem.
   d. They do miracles like stopping the rain for 3 1/2 years. Elijah did this while he was on earth. -James 3:17
   e. They will be killed by the Anti-Christ and their bodies will lie in the streets for 3 1/2 days while the world watches. Then they will arise and be caught up into Heaven.

3. Rapture occurs at this time and Christians are caught up to be with the Lord.
   a. Angels cries with a loud voice. -Revelation 10:3
   b. Shout of the Archangel. -1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
   c. There will be no more delay. -Revelation 10:6
   d. The mystery of God is finished.
      -Revelation 10:7, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

4. Revelation 11:15-19; Revelation 12:10-12
   a. Satan is cast out of Heaven to Earth.
   b. There is a woman who appears in the sky with 12 stars which signify Israel. She gives birth to a child, which is the Church. Remember Revelation 2:26-27.

5. The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet. -Revelation 13-14
   a. The Anti-Christ
      • World leader who ascends from the sea of humanity.
      • When he reaches power, there is an attempt to assassinate him. He is healed, yet blind in his right eye and his right arm is paralyzed. Because of this, people love and worship him. -Zechariah 11:17
   b. He persecutes the Christians who are left or who become Christians after the rapture.
   • Leader with a worldwide influence to support the Anti-Christ.
     -Revelation 13:11

7. Together they institute the mark of the beast and no one can buy or sell without it. -Revelation 13:16-18
   a. Revelation 19:20
   b. Anyone who takes the mark will go to Hell. -Revelation 14:9-13

IV. The Seven Bowls of Wrath: Revelation 15-16 (NASB)
   Now God is going to pour His wrath out on the Earth.

   A) First Bowl is poured out: Malignant sores. -Revelation 16:2
      1. Loathsome and malignant sores on anyone who took the mark.
      2. There are 7 women to every 1 man. -Isaiah 3:16-26

   B) Second Bowl is poured out: Sea turns to blood. -Revelation 16:3

   C) Third Bowl is poured out: Fresh water turns to blood. -Revelation 16:4

   D) Fourth Bowl is poured out: Sun scorches people on the earth.
      -Revelation 16:8

   E) Fifth Bowl is poured out: Darkness and pain. -Revelation 16:10-11
      They are in such pain, they gnaw on their tongues. Yet, they still will not repent.

   F) Sixth Bowl is poured out: Armageddon. -Revelation 16:13-16
      Where the first and last battle is fought.

   G) Seventh Bowl is poured out: Cataclysmic events. -Revelation 16:17-21

V. The Judgment of Babylon: Revelation 17-18
   A) Babylon is a political and religious empire.

   B) The leader of Babylon is the Anti-Christ.

   C) God is judging Babylon for:
      1. Leading out in the persecution of Christians.
      2. The immorality she fostered around the world.

   D) Babylon is called the mother of harlots and all the abominations of the earth. -Revelation 17:5
VI. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ: Revelation 19

A) Jesus comes with majesty and power to judge the earth.

B) Jesus throws the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire.

C) All above the age of accountability are killed.

VII. Satan is Bound and Jesus Reigns: Revelation 20

A) Satan is imprisoned in the Abyss.

B) The First Resurrection: We reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

C) Earth is returned to what it is supposed to be. -Isaiah 11:6-9

D) We will be used by the Lord to minister to the people as they grow up.

E) This is one reason you need to be using your spiritual gifts now. You will be using it then.

F) This 1,000 years answers two questions before we enter into Heaven:
   1. Lord if you just showed yourself then, all would believe.
   2. Lord, if there was not a devil, then the world would not be so bad.

G) Satan is released at the end of the thousand years.
   1. Russia and other nations choose him and rebel.
   2. They come to attack Jesus and us.
   3. They are destroyed in a moment and Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire.

H) The Great White Throne of Judgment is the time for all to be judged.
   -Revelation 20:11-15
DOOMSDAY PREPPERS

HEAVEN AND ETERNITY: REVELATION 21-22

- Revelation 21:3-4
- Revelation 21:8
- Revelation 21:27
- Revelation 21:17

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THIS WEEK’S READING PLAN:

☐ 11/02- 3 John ☐ 11/05- Proverbs 21 ☐ 11/08- Psalm 100-101
☐ 11/03- Jude ☐ 11/06- Proverbs 22
☐ 11/04- Psalm 26-27 ☐ 11/07- Psalm 103
COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Our Study Guide is a great resource to help you direct your time with the Lord during the week and with your group. You can find the Study Guide each week at: www.crossroadschurch.com/Ministries and then click on “LIFE Group Resources.” Enjoy your time and let God lead you!

KICKING IT OFF: 1) What’s your favorite thing about Fall? 2) Would you rather spend time vacationing in the mountains, beach or woods?

KEY IDEA: Revelation: A book of judgement and promise.

MEMORY VERSE: Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near (Revelation 1:3).

GROUP DISCUSSION:
LifeGroup Video Question - What evidence do you currently see that we are in the end times?

1. What have you learned or what insight has God given you this week as you’ve spent time with Him through your daily Bible reading and in prayer? (What has God been teaching you?)

2. Revelation can be one of the more challenging books of the Bible to understand. Does studying the book of Revelation all at once help you to understand it further? What main idea or thought did you take away from the message?

3. In the same way Pastor Chuck compared and contrasted the churches of Ephesus and Laodicia, review the churches of Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29) and Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6). What were they doing well? Where did they need to grow or change? What actions did they need to take? How do you think Crossroads would compare with the seven churches of Revelation?

4. If Jesus were to send you a letter today, what do you think He might write? What are you doing well? Where do you need to grow or change? What actions do you need to take? How can your group help you?

LOVE LIKE JESUS LOVES:
Revelation brings us face to face with the fact that people will spend eternity in heaven or hell. How should this spur you to share the message and love of Jesus with the people in your life? What are you going to do about it?

INTENTIONAL INTIMACY:
List some of the ways John describes Jesus in Revelation, Chapters 1-3. What do you think John discovered about Jesus from this encounter? What did you learn about Jesus from this passage?

FULLY SURRENDERED:
What does total surrender look like in Revelation 1:3 & 22:7? How was John’s response in Revelation 1:17 and 22:8 an act of surrender? How can we heed the words of ‘the revelation of Jesus Christ’ (1:1)?

EXPERIENCE MORE:
We have a tendency to read the Bible chapter by chapter while the authors often wrote letters or books of the Bible as a single narrative. Have you spent much time reading whole books of the Bible in one sitting? How do you think doing so would help you understand the big and little picture better?