

The Main Points of the Book of Revelation

- I. The revelation of God to John and a warning to the churches to be ready for the Lord's return Rev.1-3
- II. The preparation for the tribulation in the throne room of God Rev.4-5
- III. The judgments of the tribulation period sent by God upon the earth Rev.6-18
- IV. The return of Jesus Christ to bring judgment for unbelievers and blessing for believers Rev.19
- V. The binding of Satan, the 1,000 year millennial kingdom, and the final judgments of Satan and all unbelievers. Rev.20
- VI. The eternal kingdom of God the Father and God the Son which lasts forever. Rev.21-22

The Theme of the Book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation is a revelation God gave to John the apostle while he was on the island of Patmos revealing God's plan for the last days.

The major theme of the book is revealed in Chapter 4-5.

It opens with a scene in heaven. God the Father is on his throne and in His hand is a scroll, which is the title deed of the earth.

Jesus Christ then appears as the one who alone is worthy as the God-man who died for man's sin to take the scroll and thus take back possession of the earth.

In Gen.1 God gave to Adam and Eve possession of the earth and its direct control when he told them to subdue the earth.

However, because of Adam and Eve's sin, they, the earth and its creatures, were all corrupted.

In order to redeem the earth and restore righteousness on it, Jesus Christ came to earth and died on the cross and resurrected from the dead. Forty days later he ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God.

In Rev.4-5, the time has come for Jesus, the one who died on the cross (symbolized by his appearance as a Lamb that was slain), to take back possession of the earth and rule upon it.

He does this by opening the scroll, which has seven seals.

In ancient times, title deeds to property contained seven seals. In order to take possession of property, all seven seals needed to be opened.

The Book of Revelation is a book chronologically organized around the opening of the seven seals by Jesus Christ during a seven-year tribulation period as he prepares to return and take possession of the earth and its inhabitants and set up his kingdom.

Each seal that Jesus opens represents a judgment as Jesus judges a corrupted earth populated by corrupted human beings and takes back possession of it through those judgments.

The Judgments of the Book of Revelation

Rev.6-18 describes the seven year tribulation period on the earth initiated by God.

We know from Dan.9:24-27 and Matt.24:3-31, and other Biblical prophecies that the tribulation is divided into two 3 ½ year periods. The first three ½ years the antichrist comes to power and makes a covenant with Israel and other nations. It looks like a covenant of peace. Then at the end of the first 3 ½ years he breaks the covenant and demands that Israel worship him or his image as god. Then a great persecution of Israel breaks out.

The seals, trumpets, and bowl judgments are described in the Pictorial Outline of the Book of Revelation in this section.

The Seven Seals The first six seals represent what happens during the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation. They take us to the midpoint of the tribulation (Rev.6-8).

The seventh seal is opened and the second half of the tribulation begins. When the seventh seal is opened seven angels with seven trumpets appear.

The Seven Trumpets The seventh seal is actually the seven trumpet judgments.

In chapter 8, the seventh seal is opened and the seven trumpets begin. The intensity and devastation of Christ's judgment upon the earth significantly increases. The second half of the tribulation is characterized by the judgments of the seven trumpets. As these trumpets were blown devastating judgments are released upon the earth and its unbelieving inhabitants (Rev.8-10).

The Seven Bowls The seven bowls are poured out in chapters 15 and 16. The seventh trumpet is the seven bowls. So, the seventh seal is the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet is the seven bowls.

Seven angels appear with seven bowls of plagues. These bowls are filled with God's wrath. This means they represent God's wrath. As each bowl is poured out, a plague is released on the earth, which is God's wrath upon the unbelieving earth dwellers.