



**Outline of the Book of Revelation** by [John T Polk II](#)  
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*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

## I. Introduction 1:1-3

- A. It is a symbolic book written for the immediate future of 1st century Christians.
1. "things which much shortly take place," *tackos* - with quickness and speed, **1:1; 22:6;** (**Luke 18:7, 8; I Timothy 3:14**)
  2. "signified" *semaíno* - give a sign, indicate, **1:1;** (**John 12:32-33**)
  3. BUT the symbolism is NOT designed to obfuscate the "revelation."
- B. John wrote a first-hand account ("all things that he saw"), not a second-hand account, or version edited from other witnesses **1:2**
- C. **Revelation** is designed and written to be understood, thus it is not the most difficult book in the Bible to comprehend **1:3**
1. "Reads," "hear the words," "and keep those things which are written in it"
  2. "time is near" *engoos* - things imminent, soon to come to pass **1:3; 22:10;** (**John 2:13; John 11:55; Matthew 24:32-35**)
  3. There are 7 "beatitudes, "Blessed" ("happy") is the condition of those who:
    - a. read, hear, and keep these words **1:3**
    - b. "die in the Lord from now on" **14:13**
    - c. "watches and keeps his garments" **16:15**
    - d. "are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb" **19:9**
    - e. "has part in the first resurrection" **20:6**
    - f. "keeps the words of the prophecy of this book" **22:7**
    - g. "those who do His commandments" **22:14**

## II. DISCUSSION 1:4 - 22:21

- A. **Jesus Christ is King of His Churches 1:4-3:22**
1. **Described to the Churches 1:4-20**
    - a. As The **SUPREME POWER 1:4**
    - b. As The **SAVIOR 1:5a**
    - c. As The **SACRIFICE 1:5b-6**
    - d. As The **SIGHT To End All Sights 1:7**
    - e. As The **SUPPLIER Of All Blessings 1:8** (**Cf Genesis 17:1**)
    - f. As The **SPEAKER to John, the secretary 1:9**
    - g. As The **SON OF GOD to His body, the church 1:10-20** (**Cf Colossians 1:18, Colossians 1:24**)
  2. **Describes the Churches 2:1 - 3:22**
    - a. **Ephesus** - legal but loveless **2:1-7**

- b. **Smyrna** - materially poor but spiritually rich **2:8-11**
- c. **Pergamon** - persistent in persecution but permissive in purity **2:12-17**
- d. **Thyatira** - true worshippers but tolerant of a whore **2:18-29**
- e. **Sardis** - outwardly dedicated but outnumbered devoted **3:1-6**
- f. **Philadelphia** - slight but strong **3:7-13**
- g. **Laodiceans** - materially rich but spiritually poor **3:14-22**

## B. Jesus Christ is King of His Earth **4:1 - 11:19**

### 1. **The God of Heaven 4:1-11**

- a. On the throne of light **4:1-3 Cf I John 1:5; James 1:17**
- b. Surrounded by 24 praising elders **4:4** (Cf as in David's days - **I Chronicles 24:6-19; 25:9-31**)
- c. Spiritual authority emanates from the throne **4:5**
- d. Throne distanced by crystal purity, and protected by 4 beasts **4:6-11**

### 2. **The God of Earth 5:1 - 8:5**

- a. The 7-sealed book is opened only by the Lamb slain **5:1-8:1**
  - 1) Lion of Judah, Root of David, Lamb slain **5:1-7**
  - 2) elders and beasts present incense of saints' prayers **5:8**
  - 3) new song sung along with 10M X 10M + M's & M's **5:9-14**  
(Cf **Genesis 13:16; 22:17**)
  - 4) **the seals** indicate the nature of book's message: **6:1-8:1**
    - a) **white horse**, conquering rider **6:1-2**
    - b) **red horse**, sword-killing rider **6:3-4**
    - c) **black horse**, harsh times rider **6:5-6**
    - d) **pale horse**, Death rider and Hades followed **6:7-8**
    - e) **martyred souls** under throne asking vengeance **6:9-11**
    - f) **great earthquake, black sun, blood moon, stars fell, sky split apart**, all men fear for "the great day of His wrath has come" **6:12-17**
      - (1) **1st interlude** - 4 angels "at the four corners of the earth" hold winds back from 144,000 "of all the tribes of the children of Israel" **7:1-8**  
(Cf **Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 6:16; Colossians 2:11-14**)
      - (2) **2nd interlude** - numberless blood-cleansed multitude "who come out of the great tribulation" serve God "day and night in His temple" **7:9-17**
      - (3) **3rd interlude** - 30 minute silence, then the golden incense censer poured out upon the earth "with the prayers of all the saints" **8:1-6**
- b. The **7 trumpets** sound judgments **8:7 - 11:19**
  - 1) **Trumpet 1** - hail, fire, blood, 1/3 trees, all green grass burned **8:7**
  - 2) **Trumpet 2** - burning mountain thrown into the sea, 1/3: of sea became blood, sea creatures died, ships destroyed **8:8-9**
  - 3) **Trumpet 3** - great fiery star ("Wormwood") fell on 1/3 of the rivers and springs, many men died from bitter water **8:10-11**
  - 4) **Trumpet 4** - 1/3: sun, moon, stars, and a day darkened & an angel warns "Woe, woe, woe" for remaining trumpets **8:12-13**
  - 5) **Trumpet 5** - fallen star opens bottomless pit, releasing "locusts" whose "king" is Abaddon/Apollyon, only given power to torture "those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads" **9:1-12**
  - 6) **Trumpet 6** - 4 angels [**II, B, 1, d**], (**6, (a)**) released to kill 1/3 of mankind with fire, smoke, brimstone, but "the rest of mankind" remained unrepentant of idolatry and immorality **9:13-21**
    - a) Angel with little book roared, John forbidden to write it, but final trumpet would finish God's prophetic "mystery" **10:1-7**
    - b) John eats the little book with sweet taste but bitter stomachache and prophesies "about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings" **10:8-11**

- c) Measured temple "given to the Gentiles" to "tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months" **11:1-2**
- d) Two witnesses: **11:3-14**
  - (1)"will prophesy 1260 days" **with power to stop rain**, turn water to blood, and strike earth with plagues "as often as they desire" **11:3-6**
  - (2)will be killed by Abbadon/ Apollyon in spiritual Sodom and Egypt, "the great city...where also our Lord was crucified" **11:7-10**  
(Cf **Matthew 16:21; Luke 24:46-49**)
  - (3)after 3 1/2 days they were raised and ascended into heaven as witnessed by their enemies, and 7000 men and 1/10 of the city perished in a great earthquake **11:11-14**
- 7) **Trumpet 7 - 11:15-19**
  - a) "loud voices in heaven, saying" worldly kingdoms are now the Lord's and "He shall reign forever and ever" **11:15** (Cf **Matthew 28:18**)
  - b) the 24 elders praise God's wrath destroying "those who destroy the earth" **11:16-18**
  - c) "the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen" **11:19**

### C. Jesus Christ is King of Palestine **12:1 - 22:21**

- 1. **The Woman With Child 12:1-17** (Cf **Psalm 2:1-12; Matthew 2:1-23**)
  - a. Clothed with sun, moon underfoot, head garland of stars **12:1**
  - b. "Being with child" cried out and in pain gave birth **12:2**
  - c. Enter the "great, fiery red dragon" with 7 heads and diadems, and 10 horns, and tail throwing 1/3 stars to the earth, waiting "to devour her Child as soon as it was born" **12:3-4**
  - d. Child born as Ruler of all nations, "caught up to God and to His throne" **12:5**
  - e. Woman fed and protected by God in wilderness 1260 days **12:6**
    - 1) The War in Heaven **12:7-12** (**Colossians 1:15-16**)  
      - a) NOT where God is **12:7-8** (Cf **I John 1:5**)
      - b) Devil deceives world & accuses brethren **12:9-10**
      - c) Devil given "a short time" and can be overcome by: those in the Lamb's blood, their testimony, and not loving their lives to the death **12:11-12**
    - 2) Devil persecuted woman:
      - a) who flew into wilderness for "time, times, & 1/2" **12:13-14**
      - b) earth swallows flood to save woman **12:15-16**
    - 3) Devil makes war with "the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" **12:17**
- 2. **The 2 Devilish Beasts 13:1-18**
  - a. Beast "from the sea" **13:1-10**
    - 1) 7 heads with a blasphemous name, 10 horns, 10 crowns, leopard- like, bear feet, lion's mouth **13:1-2a**
    - 2) authorized by "the dragon" **13:2b**
    - 3) worshiped by the world & blasphemed God 42 months **13:3-6**
    - 4) warred with the saints, followed by lost souls **13:7-10**
  - b. Beast "out of the earth" **13:11-18**
    - 1) 2 lamb's horns, spoke like a dragon, performs deceptive signs, endorses worship of first beast's image **13:11-14**
    - 2) required "mark or name of beast" on forehead for economic security **13:15-17**
    - 3) his number ("666") proves his authority is from men **13:18**
- 3. **Lamb's Flock 14:1-13**
  - a. redeemed, undefiled, Father's name on their foreheads, 144,000 strong **14:1-5**

- b. **Angel #1** shows everlasting gospel for all **14:6-7**
- c. **Angel #2** pronounces fall of Babylon **14:8**
- d. **Angel #3** anyone worshiping beast or his image, or receiving his mark on his forehead or hand, will receive "the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out full strength" **14:9-13**
- 4. **Lamb's Fierceness 14:14 - 16:21**
  - a. **Angel #1** urged harvesting of the earth and it was done **14:14-16**
  - b. **Angels #2 & #3** threw men into "the great winepress of the wrath of God ... outside the city" blood flowed 1600 furlongs horse-bridle deep **14:17-20**
  - c. The wrath of God completely seen in 7 angels with 7 last plagues **15:1-4**
  - d. Temple of tabernacle in heaven was opened **15:5-6**
  - e. Throne creatures (**4:6-11**) give **7 angels "golden bowls full of the wrath of God" 15:7-16:1**
    - 1) **Bowl #1** - upon earth, foul sore on those marked by the beast **16:2**
    - 2) **Bowl #2** - on the sea, turned to blood, killed all creatures **16:3**
    - 3) **Bowl #3** - on rivers and streams that turned to blood **16:4-7**
    - 4) **Bowl #4** - on the sun and scorched men blasphemed God and repented not **16:8-9**
    - 5) **Bowl #5** - on beast's throne and beast's kingdom filled with darkness and men blasphemed God and repented not **16:10-11**
    - 6) **Bowl #6** - poured on Euphrates and dried it up, 3 unclean spirits like frogs perform signs and gather them into Armageddon **16:12-16**
    - 7) **Bowl #7** - into the air, greatest earthquake in history, dividing "the great city" (Babylon), great hail fell, "men blasphemed God" **16:17-21**
- 5. **Great Harlot Sitting On Many Waters Shown 17:1-18:24**
  - a. Caused many to drink of her wine of fornication, whose name was Babylon, "drunk with the blood of the saints" and "martyrs of Jesus" **17:1-6**
  - b. **Beast has 7 heads = 7 mountains 17:7-9**
    - 1) **7 kings** = 5 past + 1 present + 1 future **17:10**
    - 2) **beast** = "is himself also the eighth" **17:11**
    - 3) **10 horns = 10 kings** to be authorized for "an hour" **17:12-14**
    - 4) **waters = all peoples and nations 17:15**
    - 5) 10 horns will turn on and destroy harlot ("great city") **17:16-18**
  - c. Babylon is repaid double according to her works **18:1-8**
  - d. World, not righteous, mourn harlot's demise **18:9-20**
  - e. Babylon is sunken like a millstone into the sea **18:21-24**
- 6. **Great Rejoicing In Heaven 19:1-22:17**
  - a. Praising God for victory **19:1-10**
  - b. Word of God rides white horse **19:11-16**
  - c. Vanquished "cast alive into the lake of fire" **19:17-21**
  - d. Devil and Satan bound in bottomless pit 1000 years **20:1-3**
    - 1) those beheaded for Christ reign with Him 1000 years **20:4-6**
    - 2) Satan released to deceive nations and surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city" then cast into lake of fire **20:7-10**
    - 3) Great white throne judgment of the dead **20:11-15**
  - e. New heaven and new earth, New Jerusalem [*church of Christ, jtpII*]
    - 1) coming down out of heaven from God **21:1-2a, 10-21**  
(**Cf Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:24-28; Hebrews 11:13-16; Hebrews 12:22-24**)
      - a) comes down "out of heaven from God" NOT man-made church
      - b) as a bride adorned for a wedding **21:2b, 9** (**Cf 2 Corinthians 11:2**)
      - c) "the tabernacle of God is with men" **21:3-8, 22-27** (**Cf Hebrews 8:1-2; Hebrews 9:7-12; 13:10; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22**)
      - d) [delivered **up** to God at 2nd coming, **1 Corinthians 15:22-26**]

- 2) "the holy city, New Jerusalem" **21:2, 5-8, 10-27**
  - a) walled with 12 gates of pearl and 12 angels (3 per side) **21:12, 21**;
  - b) 12 Israelite tribal names written over gates **21:12-13**;  
(Cf **Numbers 2:1-34**; **Hebrews 11:39-12:2**)
  - c) 12 foundations to wall with 12 apostles' names **21:14**  
(Cf **Matthew 19:27-28**; **Ephesians 2:19-20**;  
**I Corinthians 12:27-31**)
  - d) foundations adorned with precious stones **21:19-20**
    - (1) square (12M furlongs @ length, breadth, height) **21:15-16**;
    - (2) wall = 144 cubits [= 216 feet] **21:17**
  - e) city pure/ clear and wall is of jasper, street pure gold **21:11, 18, 21**
- 3) God and the Lamb "are its temple" & "Lamb is its light" **21:22-24**
- 4) gates never shut but NO defilements can enter it **21:25-27**
- f. "pure river of water of life" comes from God & Lamb's throne **22:1-5**
7. **True Words From God Are: 22:6-17**
  - a. "shortly" to take place **22:6 Cf 1:1** (*tackos*)
  - b. "I am coming quickly" **22:7** (*tacku* - without delay, **2:5, 16; 3:11; 11:14**;  
**22:7, 12, 20**)
  - c. Don't worship angels who bring God's message **22:8-9**
  - d. Do not seal this book's prophecy "for the time is at hand" (*engoos*)  
**22:10-11; 1:3**
  - e. Do not reject God's open invitation to change **22:12-17**
- D. **Jesus Christ Is King of This Book 22:18-21**
  1. **None Can Add or Remove Without Penalty 22:18-2**
  2. **"I Am Coming Quickly" (22:12, 20) and the righteous have nothing to fear, for God knows those who are His 22:20-21 (Cf I Timothy 2:19)**

## Revelation Reviews:

### 1. This book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" 1:1

- "Revelation" is in Greek, *apokalypsis* ("laying bare," **Ephesians 1:17-18**), and never was intended by God to be difficult to read, hear, and keep (**1:3**);
- NOR was it intended to have little or no meaning to Christians of the 1st century. According to its beginning with **1:1, 3; 2:5**; and ending with **22:6, 7, 10**, these events within the book were to take place in their lifetimes (**Matthew 24:1-34; Mark 9:1**). **THEREFORE, THE BOOK OF REVELATION WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN A.D. 70!**
- NOR was it designed to fully explain steps of salvation to enter the church or actions of worship within the churches of Christ.
- IT IS a final decree of God's earthly judgment against those who reject God's authority & power, Christ's gospel salvation, and Holy Spirit's Bible teaching & all those who persecute Christians who have accepted all of these.
- USING "SIGNS" (**1:1** - "signified"), often using figures of speech borrowed from, and meaning what they did in the Old Testament prophecies, John pictures:
  - **Jesus as Head of His churches (1:1-3:22);**
  - **Jesus in Heaven in charge of Judgment of Jerusalem (4:1-5:14);**
  - **Jesus opening the 7 seals of the Scroll of Judgment (6:1-8:1);**
    - Angels poised to punish (**6:1-17**);
    - Punishment praised by the saints (**7:1-17**);
    - 7th seal silence emphasizes destruction to come (**8:1**);
    - Jerusalem's Judgment answers prayers of saints (**6:9-11; 8:2-5**);
  - **7 trumpets sounding alarms (8:6-11:15);** Before 7th trumpet—
    - John ate the prophecy of condemnation (**10:5-11**);
    - Jerusalem is specified as the object of condemnation (**11:1-19**);
  - **Everlasting Gospel of Christ is preached as unchanged (12:1-15:8)**
    - Jesus came regardless of Satan's efforts (**12:1-13:18**);
    - The saved are still saved (**14:1-5**);
    - The Gospel is still preached (**14:6-7**);
    - The Damnation is still sure (**14:11-15:1**);
    - The "temple of testimony" is in Heaven, not Jerusalem (**15:2-8**);
  - **Jerusalem's Judgment (later carried out in A.D. 70) (16:1-21);**
    - Rome's Judgment also pictured (**17:1-18**);
    - Victorious relief for saints (**18:1-19:21**);
    - Satan's power is restricted while the church exists (**20:1-10**);
    - Satan's power is destroyed in the final Judgment (**20:11-15**);
- **Church of Christ on earth survives and leads into Heaven (21:1-22:5);**
- **Book of Revelation written to always encourage saints (22:6-21)**

### 2. The message contained within this book of symbols is also plainly taught elsewhere: **Luke 21:5-33; I Thessalonians 2:14-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6.**

God promised Abram to "bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (**Genesis 12:3**). The Old Testament notes the passing of kingdoms who were hostile to Abraham's descendants (e.g., **Isaiah 13:1-14:27; Jeremiah 25:15-33**). When Christians obey the Gospel of Christ, they "are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (**Galatians 3:24-29**). Thus, when the Jews persecuted Christians, then Jerusalem (and Judaism) had to be destroyed, and Jerusalem was like Babylon of old. Hence destruction is aimed at the city "where also our Lord was crucified" (**Revelation 11:7-8**). This was done at the hand of the Romans, described as "a beast rising up out of the sea," who were themselves then to be brought down (**Revelation 13:1-10**), and Jerusalem (Judea)



pictured as the "beast coming up out of the earth" (**Revelation 13:11-18**). God's judgment announced through angels (**Revelation 14:1-16:21**).

3. **The origin of Babylon** is found in **Genesis 11:1-9**:

- its use against rebellious Jews is seen in **2 Chronicles 36:15-21**,
- its destruction discussed in **Jeremiah 50:1,17,18,24-25; 51:7,11,24,29**.
- The Jerusalem (and Jews) in Jesus' day likewise were rebellious and crucified God's only begotten Son (**Matthew 13:10-17; 27:15-26; Acts 3:13-24**), therefore
- His blood was upon them and their children as they, indeed, had cried (**Matthew 27:25; Acts 2:22-24, 36-41**).
- They (Israel/Jews) were thus to be punished (**I Thessalonians 2:14-16; Revelation 18:1-6**).

4. **Numbers obviously play a significant part in the Revelation.** Their significance may be obvious to students of the Bible.

- **7** often represents God's completed power, and it occurs in:
  - ❖ **1:4** (churches, Spirits),
  - ❖ **1:12** (golden lampstands),
  - ❖ **1:16** (stars), **1:20; 4:5**;
  - ❖ **5:1** (seals),
  - ❖ **5:6** (horns, eyes);
  - ❖ **8:2** (angels, trumpets);
  - ❖ **10:3** (thunders);
  - ❖ **11:13** (people killed);
  - ❖ **12:3** (heads, diadems);
  - ❖ **15:1** (angels, plagues);
  - ❖ **15:6** (angels, golden bowls of wrath);
  - ❖ **17:10** (kings).
- **10** signifies inadequacies of human power: **2:10; 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16**
- **12** often represents God's total people, whether tribe or nation, and occurs in:
  - ◆ **7:5-8** (**12,000 sealed from each tribe** of "the children of Israel" **7:4**);
  - ◆ **12:1** (woman's head **garland of 12 stars**);
  - ◆ **21:12** (**gates, angels, names of the 12 tribes** of the children of Israel);
  - ◆ **21:14** (**foundations, names of the 12 apostles** of the Lamb);
  - ◆ **21:16** (**12,000 furlongs each for length, breadth, height of New Jerusalem**);
  - ◆ **21:21** (**pearl gates**);
  - ◆ **22:2** (**fruits of the tree of life**).