

**The Book of the
Revelation of
Jesus Christ**
Study Pack

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Revelation BI402

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I. Course Description

An in-depth study of the book of Revelation. This course expounds on the prophetic teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ as given to John.

II. Course Objectives

As a result of taking this class, the student should be able to:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of the end times events
- B. Explain the difference in the Rapture and the Second Coming
- C. Know and demonstrate the differences in pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation rapture arguments, and what evidence the Scriptures give.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the Millennial reign of Christ

III. Course Requirements

A. Required Reading:

The Book of Revelation

B. Recommended Reading:

Recommended books are listed in the Bibliography

C. Class work:

Student will listen to the lectures and complete the corresponding material and tests.

D. Bible Study Projects:

none

E. Bible Memorization:

Memory verses will be given throughout the lectures.

IV. Tests & Grading

Tests are graded on a percentage basis, with an 80% minimum passing grade. Scores less than 80% require that the student repeat the material.

The lesson to test ratio is as follows:

Study Pack 1 & 2 = Test 1

Study Pack 3 & 4 – Test 2

Study Pack 5 & 6 – Test 3

Study Pack 7 & 8 – Test 4

Study Pack 9 & 10 – Test 5

Study Pack 11 & 12 – Test 6

Study Pack 13, 14, 15 – Test 7

Study Pack 16, 17, 18 – Test 8

Study Pack 19 & 20 – Test 9

Study Pack 21, 22, 23 – Test 10

Note of Encouragement:

One of the most often-asked questions is “What comes next? What about the end times?” A study of Revelation will strengthen your faith, enable you to answer questions about the end, and challenge you to live for the Savior as we see that day approaching.

**The BOOK of the REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST
COURSE OUTLINE**

STUDY PAK	TITLE	PAGE
1	The Introduction to the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ, 1:1-3	5
2	The Unveiling of Christ, Chapter 1	12
3	The Letters to the Seven Churches, Chapter 2	18
4	The Letters to the Seven Churches, Chapter 3	25
5	Around the Throne in Heaven, Chapter 4	29
6	The Seven-Sealed Book, Chapter 5.....	32
7	The Seven Seals, Chapter 6.....	36
8	The Great Saved Multitude, Chapter 7.....	39
9	The Trumpet Angels, Chapter 8.....	43
10	The Fifth and Sixth Angels, Chapter 9.....	47
11	A Mighty Angel and Seven Thunders, Chapter 10	51
12	The Two Witnesses, Chapter 11.....	54
13	The War in Heaven, Chapter 12.....	58
14	The Two Beasts, Chapter 13	61
15	The Six Angels, Chapter 14	64
16	The Seven Last Plagues, Chapter 15	67
17	The Seven Vials of the Wrath of God, Chapter 16.....	69
18	Mystery Babylon, Chapter 17	73
19	Economic Babylon, Chapter 18.....	77
20	The Return of the King, Chapter 19	81
21	Satan’s Last Chapter, Chapter 20	85
22	The New Jerusalem, Chapter 21.....	89

STUDY PAK	TITLE	PAGE
23	The Last Message of the Bible, Chapter 22	93
	Bibliography	96
	The Revelation 22:14 Controversy!	97

**INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF THE
REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**
Chapter 1:1-3
Study Pak 1

“The last book of the Bible is ‘The Unveiling of Christ’. Here, as nowhere else, is our adorable Saviour and Lord manifested in all His glory. ‘the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14). _____ it is needful that we should study this book.”

~~ William Pettingill, *The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*, p. 1. ~~

I. PROMISED SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Revelation 1:3 promises special blessings to those who:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

L. W. Munhall wrote that he read the book of Revelation every six weeks just for the promised blessings.

II. REVELATION IS AN OPEN BOOK NOT A CLOSED ONE

M. R. DeHaan writes:

“There is probably not a book in the entire Bible which is less read and understood than the book of the Revelation. To the average person the last book of the Bible is a deep mystery, consisting of strange fantastic predictions which cannot be understood, as a result the average Bible reader knows little or nothing about either its content or its meaning. No greater delusion, however, could occur than to call the book of the Revelation a dark book and one difficult to understand.”

~~ M. R. DeHaan, *Revelation*, p. 11. ~~

- A. The book of Daniel was _____
(Daniel 12:4).
- B. By definition Revelation _____
(Revelation 22:10).
- C. Revelation is not hard to understand, it is just hard to believe.

D. Four main approaches to the book of the Revelation.

1. The _____ suggests that all of the prophecies of the book were fulfilled during the days of the Roman Empire.
2. The _____ suggests that all of the prophecies of the book were fulfilled during the church age.
3. The _____ suggests that the events of the book of Revelation never actually take place but are symbolic of spiritual lessons that we need to learn.

These first three approaches are all based on the idea that the book is to be interpreted symbolically and not literally.

4. The _____ teaches that the book (from 4:1 on) is prophetic of events that remain in the future and will yet be fulfilled literally.

E. Literal fulfillment of the prophecies of Revelation is to be expected.

As Mr. DeHaan writes:

“The coming of the Holy Spirit and God’s program for the church were all foretold and fulfilled in minutest detail. These same prophets, writing at the same time and under the inspiration of the same infallible Spirit, also foretold the course of this age and the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet many accept the prophecies of His first coming as literal because they are literally fulfilled, whereas they spiritualize the unfulfilled prophecies of His second coming, and argue them away. How inconsistent! The prophecies of His First and Second Advents were written at the same time by the same men, indited by the Holy Spirit, and those which had already come to pass were literally fulfilled, then simple logic must cause us to expect the same literal fulfillment of those which are yet to be fulfilled.”

~ Revelation, p. 13. ~

A belief in the literal interpretation of the Bible demands a futurist interpretation of the book of Revelation.

F. The Types of Theology Concerning Prophecy.

1. _____ believes that there is no 1,000 years reign of Christ upon the earth. The 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation is merely symbolic.

2. _____ believes that man will achieve a 1,000 years of peace upon the earth and that Christ will then return to the earth. Postmillennialists interpret some prophetic Scriptures literally and some symbolically.
3. _____ teaches that Christ will return and then rule and reign on this earth for a thousand years. Premillennialists interpret the Bible literally and thus it is the correct interpretation.

G. Symbols in the book of Revelation.

John does use symbols in the book of Revelation but he always interprets them for us. As J. Vernon McGee writes:

“To those who claim that it is all symbolic and beyond our understanding, say that the Book of Revelation is to be taken literally. And when a symbol is used, it will be so stated. Also it will be symbolic of reality, and the reality will be more real than the symbol for the simple reason that John uses symbols to describe reality. In our study of the book, that is an all-important principle to follow. Let’s allow the Revelation to say what it wants to say.”

~~ *Thru the Bible*, vol. 5, p. 881. ~~

III. THE HUMAN AUTHOR

The Scripture declares that the apostle John is the human author 1:1, 4, 9, 22:18. The book was written while John was exiled on the Isle of Patmos, 1:9.

Critics of the literal approach to the book of Revelation have tried to make the author of the book a different John. They have even claimed that the Apostle John was never exiled upon the Isle of Patmos.

In the Second Century A.D., Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and Tertullian quote from the book and refer to it as written by John the apostle. So do Eusebius, Origen and Clement of Alexandria in the Third Century.

Origen, Irenaeus and Eusebius all refer to the Apostle John being exiled to Patmos and returning from exile and living in Ephesus.

_____ referred to the book as,
The Revelation of Saint John the Divine.

IV. THE DATE

The book is generally thought to have been written during the reign of Domitian around 91 to 96 A.D.

V. THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Sometimes people are confused by the book of Revelation because they assume that it covers future events in direct chronological order. Actually chapters 6-11 cover the tribulation period from an earthly viewpoint; then chapters 12-14 cover the same period from heaven's viewpoint. Chapters 15-19 cover the last half of the tribulation, yet again. Understanding the book of Revelation will require careful study and rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

VI. THE BOOK OF REVELATION REMINDS US THAT SATAN IS NOT YET IN HELL

Satan is still on this earth and is our active foe and adversary.

VII. REVELATION AND GENESIS

Many commentators have described how the book of Revelation concludes many themes developed in the book of Genesis.

Harry Ironside puts it this way:

“The Word of God is one absolutely perfect, unbroken and unbreakable circle. A comparison of Genesis and revelation will readily make this plain, and show how we have the types in Genesis and the completion of the truth in Revelation - in the one book the beginning, in the other the consummation.

Genesis gives us the creation of the heavens and the earth. Revelation presents a new heaven and a new birth.

Genesis shows us the earthly paradise, with the tree of life and the river of blessing, lost through sin. Revelation gives us the Paradise of God with the Tree of Life and the pure river of water of life proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb - Paradise regained through Christ's atonement.

In Genesis we see the first man and his wife set over all God's creation. In Revelation we behold the Second Man and His Bride ruling over a redeemed world.

In Genesis we are told of the first typical sacrificial lamb. In Revelation the Lamb once slain is in the midst of the throne.

In Genesis we learn of the beginning of sin, when the serpent first entered the garden of delight to beguile Adam and Eve with his sophistries. In Revelation that old Serpent called the Devil and Satan is cast into the lake of fire.

In Genesis we have the first murderer, the first polygamist, the first rebel, the first drunkard, etc. In Revelation all such, who refuse to accept God's grace in Christ Jesus, are banished from His presence forever.

In Genesis we have we view the rise of Babel, or Babylon. In Revelation we are called to contemplate its doom.

In Genesis we see man's city; in Revelation the city of God.

Genesis shows us how sorrow, death, pain and tears, the inevitable accompaniments of sin and rebellion, came into the world. Revelation does not close until we have seen God wiping away all tears, and welcoming His redeemed into a home where sin, death, pain and sorrow never come.

And so we might go on and on contrasting and comparing these two books..."

VIII. A BOOK OF SEVENS

A. Dr. W. B. Riley said:

"This Book of the Apocalypse has been called the Book of the Sevens. There are seven visions, seven Spirits of God, seven candlesticks, the seven stars, seven lamps of fire, seven seals, seven horns and seven eyes of the Lamb, seven angels with seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven heads of the beast with seven crowns upon the heads, the seven plagues, seven vials, seven mountains and seven regencies."

B. The promise of Christ's return is stated seven times in the book of Revelation: 1:7; 2:25; 3:3, 11; 22:7, 12, 20.

C. Seven blessings are listed:

1. the blessed challenge - 1:3
2. the blessed comfort - 14:13
3. the blessed cautiousness - 16:15
4. the blessed calling - 19:9
5. the blessed conquest - 20:6
6. the blessed cherishing - 22:7
7. the blessed conformity - 22:14

IV. GRAMMAR AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Many commentators have referred to the fact that the Greek text of Revelation violates so many normal rules of Greek grammar. As a result, it is very difficult to produce an English translation that follows the rule of English grammar.

God is greater than all man-made rules (including grammar) and the information He wishes to communicate to us is above all human guidelines.

X. PROPHETIC UNDERSTANDING

There are 404 verses in Revelation. _____ contain references
_____.

The book of Revelation brings fulfillment and organization to all of the prophetic statements scattered throughout the other 65 books of Scripture.

XI. A LIST OF SYMBOLS

John Walvoord gives this helpful list of symbols as scattered throughout the book, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 29-30:

The seven stars (1:16) represent seven angels (1:20).

The seven lampstands (1:13) represent seven churches (1:20).

The hidden manna (2:17) speaks of Christ in glory (cf. Exodus 16:33-34; Hebrews 9:4).

The morning star (2:28) refers to Christ returning before the dawn, suggesting the rapture of the church before the establishment of the Kingdom (cf. Revelation 22:16; II Peter 1:19).

The key of David (3:7) represents the power to open and close doors (Isaiah 22:22).

The seven lamps of fire represent the sevenfold Spirit of God (4:5).

The living creatures (4:7) portray the attributes of God.

The seven eyes represent the sevenfold Spirit of God (5:6).

The odors of the golden vials symbolize the prayers of the saints (5:8).

The four horses and their riders (6:1 ff.) represent successive events in the developing tribulation.

The fallen star (9:1) is the angel of the abyss, probably Satan (9:11).

Many references are made to Jerusalem: the great city (11:8), Sodom and Egypt (11:8), which stand in contrast to the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city.

The stars of heaven (12:4) refer to fallen angels (12:9).

The woman and the child (12:1-2) seem to represent Israel and Christ (12:5-6).

Satan is variously described as the great dragon, the old serpent, and the devil (12:9, 20:2).

The time, times, and half a time (12:14) are the same as 1,260 days (12:6).

The beast out of the sea (13:1-10) is the future world ruler and his empire.

The beast out of the earth (13:11-17) is the false prophet (19:20).

The harlot (17:1) variously described as the great city (17:18), as is usually interpreted as apostate Christendom.

The waters (17:1) on which the woman sits represent the peoples of the world (17:15).

The ten horns (17:12) are ten kings associated with the beast (13:1; 17:3, 7, 8, 11-13, 16-17).

The Lamb is Lord of Lords and King of kings (17:14).

Fine linen is symbolic of the righteous deeds of the saints (19:8).

The rider of the white horse (19:11-16, 19) is clearly identified as Christ, the King of kings.

The lake of fire is described as the second death (20:14).

Jesus Christ is the Root and Offspring David (22:16).

XII. MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther said that the greatest truth in the book of Revelation is that,
“_____!”