

# REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT  
Through CHRIST  
(the LAMB of GOD)*

*Based upon Jim McGuigan's work on the book of Revelation*

# REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT*

*Through CHRIST*

*(the LAMB of GOD)*

*Lesson One*

*Past, Present, or Future?*



# LESSON PLAN

1. Past, Present, or Future?

2. The Old Testament

**Basic  
Background**

3. Rome and God's People

4. A Woman, A City, and Witnesses

5. The Serpent and The Christ

**Major  
Characters**

6. Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

7. Armageddon, New Jerusalem

8. Numbers and Their Message

**Major  
Images**

9. Chapters 1-10 (Two Lessons)

10. Chapters 11-22 (Two Lessons)

**Putting it  
Together**

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# Rules for Studying & Understanding Revelation

- **Believe God gave us this book to understand just as much as the rest of the Bible**
- **Drop any preconceptions or previous beliefs NOT based on your own thorough Bible study**
- **Remember the prime rule for understanding any Scripture**
  - **Context, Context, Context**
- **Revelation must harmonize with the rest of the Bible**

# Rules for Studying & Understanding Revelation

- **It was written in a distinctive style**
  - **It must be understood based on the rules of that style**
- **John uses OT terms, but in a NT context**
  - **An understanding of the OT is a prerequisite for understanding Revelation**
- **Be content to grasp the main messages contained in the visions or pictures**
  - **Don't get lost in the figurative details**
- **Use your God-given common sense**




# The Good Samaritan

- **The Man** Adam, Human Race
- **Jerusalem** Heavenly City
- **Jericho** Profane City
- **Fell to Robbers** Sinned
- **Stripped of Garments** Stripped of Righteousness
- **Beaten, Left for Dead** Man is Dead in His Sins
- **Priest** Can't Save Man
- **Levite** Can't Save Man
- **Good Samaritan** Jesus Christ
- **Dresses Wounds w/Oil** With the Holy Spirit
- **Dresses Wounds w/Wine** With His Own Blood
- **Inn** Church
- **Two Shillings** The Word and Sacraments
- **Will Return** Judgments

# The Antichrist

- **The Pope**
- **Charlemagne**
- **Napoleon**
- **Aliester Crowley**
- **FDR, JFK,**
- **Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler**
- **Francisco Franco**
- **Kissinger**
- **King Juan Carlos of Spain**
- **Ayatollah Khomeini**
- **Gorbachev**
- **Saddam Hussein or his son**
- **Maitreya, the Christ**
- **Sun Myung Moon**
- **Yassir Arafat**
- **Louis Farrakhan**
- **Karl Hapsburg**
- **Barney the Dinosaur**
- **Reagan, Clinton, Bush**
- **Sam Donaldson**
- **Bill Gates**
- **Prince Charles of Wales**
- **Jacques Chirac**
- **Assad of Syria**





# “666”

- **Adolf Hitler**
- **Micro Chip**
- **UPC Bar Code**
- **Barney**
- **ATM Cards**
- **Cashless Society**
- **Soviet Union (Russia)**
- **Red China**
- **Invisible Laser Tattoo**
- **New York Yankees**
- **Social Security Card**

# Use of Symbols

- **Rev 1:1 – “Signify” or Express by Signs**
- **Safety of Writer and Reader (Code)**
- **Used During Times of Difficulty**
- **Written to Emphasize Virtue & Loyalty**
- **Express Ideas with Descriptions**
- **Describe the Indescribable**
- **John uses Over 350+ Allusions to OT**



# Why Study Revelation?

- **Misunderstood Book**
- **Ignored Book**
- **Intimidating Book**
- **Abused Book**

# Why Study Revelation?

- **SO WHY STUDY IT?**

- *Part of God's Word*

- *False Teaching*

- *Applicable Today*

- *Rev 1:3 – Blessed is he who Reads, Hears, Understands*

- *Rev 22:7 – Blessed is he who keeps the words ...of this book*



# Apocalyptic Literature

- **REVELATION DEFINED**

- An uncovering, revealing

- **LIMITED PROPHEPIC**

- Foretold immediate future

- **SYMBOLIC** (*1:1 – Signify*)

- Take as figurative first, literal second

- **SEQUENTIAL**

- Same story told from different perspectives

# Major Elements of Revelation

- **Predictive Elements**

- Revelation does predict certain events
- These have been fulfilled
- Focused in the Roman Emperor
- Daniel 2 and 7 – Done!

- **Timeless Truths**

- God alone is worthy to be worshiped
- Trust in God no matter what comes



# Has Revelation Been Fulfilled?

- **“MUST” – Morally Necessary (Matt 16:21)**
- **“SHORTLY TAKE PLACE”**
  - *1:1 – Must Shortly come to pass*
  - *1:3 – ...for the time is near*
  - *22:6 – Must shortly take place*
  - *22:7 – Behold, I come quickly*
  - *22:10 – Time is at hand*
  - *22:12 – I am coming quickly*
  - *22:20 – Surely I am coming quickly*

# Why Was Revelation Written?

- **Rev 22:10** – “**Do not seal** the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.”
- **Dan 8:26** – “And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore **seal up** the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.”
- **Ezekiel 12:21-28** - ...the days are at hand
  - Book of Daniel Was Written in 535 BC
  - Antiochus IV Epiphanes Died in 164 BC (400 Yrs Later)
  - If 400 Years Is A Long Time, What About 2,000?
  - Ezekiel – within 6 years Jerusalem would be destroyed!



# Messages of the Revelation

- **WARNING TO THE CHURCH**
  - *Keep Yourself Pure*
  - *What Makes a Congregation and Worship Acceptable*
- **WARNING TO THE ENEMIES OF THE CHURCH**
  - *Through Christ the Church Will Triumph*
  - *Who Are God's Enemies*

# Messages of the Revelation

- **COMFORT TO THOSE WHO HURT**
  - *God's Care, Concern, and Protection of His Children*
- **HOPE FOR THE DISCOURAGED**
  - *Lift Up Your Heads*
  - *God Is Still On His Throne*



# Purpose of Revelation

## COMFORT – CONSOLATION – ASSURANCE

*God Sees Their Tears (7:17; 21:4)*

*Their Prayers Rule The World (8:3-4)*

*Their Deaths Are Noticed (11:4; 20:4)*

*Heaven Is Worth The Pain (14:2; 20:4)*

*Final Victory Is Assured (15:2)*

*Their Blood Will Be Avenged (6:9; 8:3)*

*Christ Lives And Reigns (5:7-8)*

# Relevance of Revelation

- **To Satan (1:8)**
  - *Christ, as Eternal Power, is the First Power, and Will be the Last Power*
- **To The Church In General (3:14-22)**
  - *Draw Closer to the Holy Spirit*
- **To Individual Saints (22:14)**
  - *In Troubled Times, You have a Friend*



# Relevance of Revelation

- **To The Lost (22:17)**
  - *Come to God*
- **To The Reader (22:18-19)**
  - *Do Not Change Anything About God's Message*

# THEME OF REVELATION

- **Rev 17:14** - ... He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.
- **Rev 19:6** - ... “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”
- **Rev 11:15** - ... He shall reign forever and ever!”



# Recipients, Author, and Date

- **“The seven churches which are in Asia”**
- **His servant John (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)**
  - The Apostle John
- **Date:**
  - Early Date (54-68 AD) Nero (Jerusalem)
  - Middle Date (69-79 AD) Vespasian (Rome)
  - Late Date (94-96 AD) Domitian (Rome)

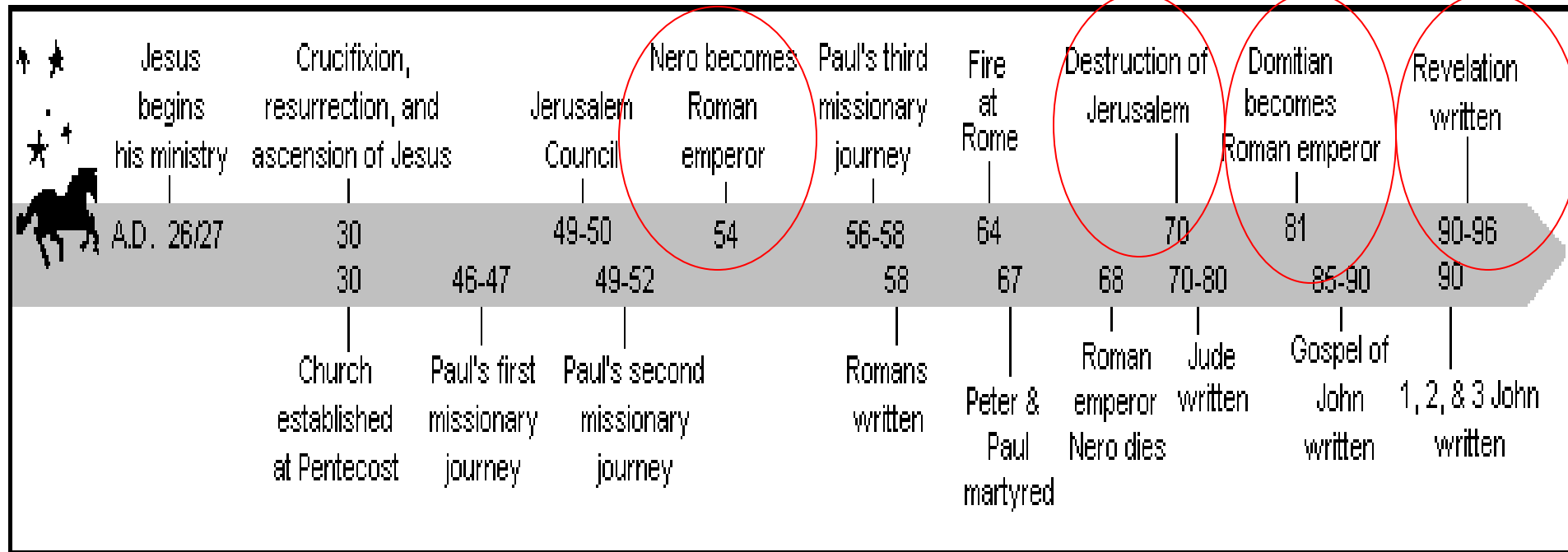
# Seven Churches of Asia





# Timeline of Revelation

## TIMELINE OF REVELATION



# Lesson One: What We Learned

- Written in pictures rather than words and sentences.
- Rooted in the Old Testament and a good grasp of OT history will help us to more easily understand the book.
- Nearly 2000 years ago John said the events of the book of Revelation were to happen soon and that, back then, the time for fulfillment was near.



# Lesson One: What We Learned

- There are two major elements in the book of Revelation
  - Predictive elements already fulfilled
  - Timeless truths
- The central message is summed up in this statement: comfort to the Christians who were about to come into conflict with the Roman Empire

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Next Lesson

The Old Testament