

# Found Ahead - Session 6

## Approaching the Apocalypse

### I. The Apocalypse of St. John - The Book of Revelation

#### A. Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

#### B. John's Prologue prepares the reader (Rev. 1:1-3)

1. *esmanen* (verb) denotes communication by means of visual signifiers, from *shmeion* (noun) meaning miraculous sign, miracle; sign, that by which something is known or distinguished, indication, mark, signal; portent, warning sign
2. Brighton's Translation: "The revelatory-unveiling of Jesus Christ which God gave to him to show to his slaves what things are necessary to come about quickly, and he [Christ] communicated in visible signs these things as he sent them through his angel to his slave John..."

### II. Structure of the Apocalypse

#### A. Linear Chronology (Premillennial & Dispensational View)

1. Seven Churches are seven periods of time
2. Seven Seals, Trumpets, & Bowls describe events taking place in succession during the Tribulation
3. Revelation 20 is the 1000 year reign of Christ

#### B. Progressive Parallelism (Amillennial View)

1. Seven Churches are descriptive of principles, commendations, and warnings that apply to the church in all times
2. Revelation is structured in a series of cycles
  - a. Each cycle describes the time of the church
  - b. Each cycle is more intense than the previous cycle
  - c. Each cycle ends with the end of all things

## **BREAK**

### III. Revelation 20:1-6 and the Millennium

#### A. Satan Thrown into the Abyss [Bottomless Pit]

1. Satan bound, unable to deceive the nations
2. Christ exercising power (Mt. 12:29, Jn 12:31-33, 2 Pt 2:4)

#### B. The 1000 years - 10 x 10 x 10 = The Mission (Church) Age

#### C. The First Resurrection and the Second Death

## The Structure of Revelation

### I. Introduction

- A. The Prophet is Commissioned to Write
  - 1. Prologue (1:1-8)
  - 2. Commissioning Vision of Christ (1:9-20)
- B. Preparation for Receiving the Prophetic Message
  - 3. The Message to the Seven Churches (2-3:22)
- C. The Inaugural Vision of Heaven
  - 4. The Vision of the Throne (4)
  - 5. The Sealed Scroll and the Lamb (5)

Transition: The prophecies are about to begin. They are viewed from different angles through several cycles, each with a different emphasis, but it is always the same time period that is being described

### II. The Prophecy – Earthly Cycles

- A. Tribulations for Mankind – Cycle 1
  - 6. First Four Seals, The Four Horsemen (6:1-8)
  - 7. Fifth Seal, The Suffering Saints (6:9-11)
  - 8. Sixth Seal, The End (Terror) (6:12-17)
  - 9. Sealing the 144,000 (7:1-8)
  - 10. Victorious Heavenly Multitudes (7:9-17)
  - 11. Opening the Seventh Seal (8:1-5)
- B. Tribulations for Mankind – Cycle 2
  - 12. First Four Trumpet Blasts (Nature) (8:6-13)
  - 13. Fifth Trumpet Blast (The Abyss) (9:1-12)
  - 14. Sixth Trumpet Blast (Destruction) (9:13-21)
    - 15. Gospel Still Proclaimed (10:1-11)
    - 16. Saints Give Witness (11:1-14)
  - 17. Seventh Trumpet Blast – The End (11:15-19)

### I. First Sweeping View of Cosmic Struggle

- 18. The Pregnant Woman & Dragon (12:1-18)
- 19. The Beast from the Sea (13:1-10)
- 20. The Beast from the Earth (13:11-18)
- 21. Conquering Lamb on Mt. Zion (14:1-5)
- 22. Defeat of Dragon Prophesied (14:6-13)
- 23. Vision of the Harvest at the End (14:14-20)

- C. Tribulations for Mankind – Cycle 3 (Terror/Evil)
  - 24. Preparation for Last Plagues (15:1-8)
  - 25. First Six Bowls of God's Wrath (16:1-16)
  - 26. Seventh Bowl – Evil Destroyed (16:17-21)

### III. The End – The Son of God in Victory

- A. Judgment of the Forces of the Dragon
  - 27. Judgment of the Harlot (17:1-18)
  - 28. Fall of Babylon (18:1-19)
  - 29. Rejoicing of the Saints (18:20-24)
- B. Victory Celebration
  - 30. Song of Victory in Heaven (19:1-4)
  - 31. Marriage Feast of the Lamb (19:5-10)
  - 32. Vision of the Crowned Victor (19:11-21)

### II. Second Sweeping View of Cosmic Struggle

- 33. The Millennium (20:1-6)
- 34. The Overthrow of Satan (20:7-10)
- 35. Resurrection and Last Judgment (20:11-15)

- C. A New Heaven and New Earth
  - 36. Vision of New Heaven/Earth (21:1-22:5)
  - 37. Epilogue: Christ's Coming (22:6-21)

### Biblical Numerology

- 3 = Holy Trinity – God
- 4 = Earth – Four Corners & Four Winds
- 7 = Holiness – Day of Rest
- 10 = Completeness – 10 Commandments
- 12 = God's People – 12 Tribes, 12 Disciples

### Examples:

- 12 x 12 x 10 x 10 x 10 = 144,000 = All the Saved
- 10 x 10 x 10 = 1000 = Completeness Cubed

### Revelation 20: 5 & 6

- First Death - - - - - Unbelief
- First Resurrection - - - - - Conversion
- Second Resurrection - - - - - Physical Resurrection
- Second Death - - - - - Damnation