

## **REVELATION SUMMARY**

### **What does God reveal about this book in the title?**

- Literal Meaning:
  - APO (non or un)
  - KALUPSO or KALUPSIS (veiled)
  - So the title of the book literally means “The unveiling of Jesus Christ”
- It will “shortly come to pass” or in Greek “in speed”
  - The coming of Christ is imminent
  - When he does come, things will happen in a short period of time
- This book is about the RETURN OF THE KING.

### **What is John’s purpose in writing?**

- John is instructed to pass on what he sees to us
- John is not having a dream or hallucination. God miraculously transports John to literally see and hear all of these things in the future.

### **Why does God want us to study this book?**

- God promises nothing to those that just “read” the book.
- God promises blessings to those that respond with action in their lives
- God meant for this book to lead us to obedience knowing that every knee will one day bow to the coming king.

## **THE RAPTURE**

I believe there is ample scriptural evidence the rapture of the church happens before the judgements for a number reasons including 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9, Revelation 3:10, and Revelation 8:1. There are competing views for this, but the most solid answer according to Scripture is that believers will not be on earth when tribulation begins.

## **CHAPTER ONE - THREE**

John was praying, and hears a loud voice call him. Jesus has visited him there on earth. He turns and sees 7 golden lampstands with Jesus standing in the center. Jesus has seven stars in his hand. Jesus explains himself what these represent.

- The 7 lampstands represent 7 prominent churches of that time
- The 7 stars are the 7 angels assigned to each church or some think it represents the preacher of each church.

Jesus instructs John to write down his “assessment” of each church and to send it to them. The goods and the bads. We are meant to study the problems these churches had because it is the same problems that plague churches to this day. We are also meant to study the good things in these churches and try to implement those in our lives.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

John is now invited into heaven to be “shown” all the things that “must take place”. John visits heaven and saw a manifestation of God sitting on a throne. John does his best to describe what he saw, but it was indescribable. John sees three groups of beings around the throne worshipping God: 24 elders, 7 lamps of burning fire, and 4 beasts.

- **24 elders represent all redeemed men and women:** Most bible scholars take this view. Is it a coincidence there exactly 24 patriarchs listed in Genesis?
- **7 lamps of burning fire represents the Holy Spirit:** This is the holy spirit and His seven attributes found listed throughout the bible (truth, holiness, faith, wisdom, power, grace, and glory).
- **4 beasts represent all creation (cherubim possibly):**
  - They’ve been around already
    - Ezekiel saw them in a vision
    - Isaiah witnessed them in a vision
    - They are mentioned guarding the entrance to the Garden of Eden
    - Figures of the cherubim were constructed as overshadowing the ark of the covenant
  - Each had a unique appearance
    - Like a lion
    - Like a calf
    - Had a face like a man
    - A flying eagle
  - God created all living things, animals and humans. All creation is represented here worshipping God.
    - **The Lion:** Represents the beasts of the earth with the lion the supreme among the wild beasts and represents nobility
    - **The Ox/Calf:** Represents the domestic animals with the calf being supreme among domestic animals and represents strength
    - **The Eagle:** Represents the fowl of the air with the eagle supreme of all flying creatures and represents swiftness
    - **Face like a Man:** Mankind is God’s supreme of all His creation and represents intelligence.
  - Why no beasts representing the “fish of the sea” or “creeping things”?
    - Not sure. Rev 21:1 states in the new earth there will be “no more sea”, and creeping things refers to serpents and scorpions which are depicted in Scripture as enemies of mankind.

**All three groups are worshipping God and sharing a relationship of love with Him.**

## CHAPTER FIVE

John saw in God’s hand a scroll, written on the inside and outside, locked up with seven seals. This scroll held the course of events that must occur to bring about the end of sin and the return of Christ. All heaven was distressed and weeping because there was no one that could open the scroll. One of the elders told John that the “Lion of Judah” and “The Root of David” could open it.

John then sees a little lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes who is a representation of Jesus. This imagery represents the Holy Spirit and His divine attributes of omnipotence (all-powerful) and omniscience (all-knowing). God the Father hands the scroll over to the Lamb, transferring all authority to Jesus.

Weeping turns to praise and worship as all the elders and four living creatures fall down before the Lamb, representing all creation praising Jesus. Golden bowls full of incense were brought which represented every single prayer by His people from the beginning of time. These prayers were never forgotten and will be addressed.

Chapter 5 ends with the angels praising as well. The Lamb has dominion over the angels as well and the sound was a roar heard throughout the entire universe. Taking John's number literally, a myriad, that would be two hundred million angels. All of creation joins in on this praise fest.

## CHAPTER SIX

Revelation tells us a severe "storm" is coming to the earth, and it will be the fiercest storm the world has ever experienced. It's the storm of God's wrath on those who willingly choose to deny God's gift of love and forgiveness and insist on being rebels against what is good and holy. Although the storm hasn't come yet, we need to pay attention to the warning signs on the horizon. This "storm" is what is called "tribulation"

The majority of Biblical scholars agree that the church will not be present during the great tribulation. For Scriptural support of this view, see the detailed notes (Rev-9).

The Lamb (Jesus Christ) breaks the first seal of the scroll which contains God's final plan for humanity which are the things that must happen before Christ's second coming to establish his millennial kingdom. There will be much suffering.

### What is the purpose of the Tribulation?

- **The Salvation of the Elect:** Israel is given one last chance to repent and accept Jesus as their Messiah before His final judgement. Though the primary focus is on Israel, many Gentiles will be saved during this time as well.
- **The Condemnation of Unbelievers:** A truly holy God will not let evil go unpunished. God's greatest desire is that no one would receive his wrath, *"not wanting for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9). You either choose to accept God's grace embodied in His Son, Jesus Christ, or you choose to stay an enemy of God. There is no other way except through Christ.

### An Overview of the Tribulation Judgements:

- **The Seven Seals:** The first series of judgements, with an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal
- **The Seven Trumpets:** The opening of the seventh seal introduces the seven trumpet judgements, which are more devastating than the seven seals. There is an interlude before the seventh trumpet.
- **The Seven Bowls:** This sounding of the seventh trumpet introduces the series of seven bowl judgements, called the "seven plagues, which are last, because in them the wrath of God is

finished” (Rev 15:11). The last of which will result in the battle of Armageddon and the second coming of Christ.

**The First Seal (white horse):** The rider on the white horse is seen riding forth ushering in the beginning of the judgements on earth. Some say this is Christ, some say this is the Anti-Christ. I believe this is the Anti-Christ but not certain. For a more detailed look, refer to the notes (Rev-10).

**The Second Seal (warfare):** Warfare including civil unrest, crime, anarchy, and bloodshed. Peace will be removed from the earth and people and nation’s destructive instincts will turn them against each other.

**The Third Seal (famine):** Famine will come, more than likely results of previous warfare, price controls, sky-high inflation, etc. At the time the seal is opened, Scripture indicates food is EIGHT TIMES more expensive. It appears there will be shortages of necessary foods but not luxury items and the poor will suffer while the rich thrive, but even the rich won’t be able to hide from the judgements that are coming.

**The Fourth Seal (death):** Hunger, wars, murdering, fighting, famine, starvation, and diseases will bring death to one-fourth of the earth’s population. Mankind in his depravity will be the primary source of all this.

**The Fifth Seal (Martyrdom):** While all this unfolds, many will search for truth in Scripture and find salvation in Christ even at the cost of their lives. These are considered the “Tribulation Saints” who receive salvation after the rapture during the time of Tribulation.

**The Sixth Seal (Cosmological Disturbances):** Whatever description John tries to give, it will seem like the universe is coming apart. Some great cataclysmic event will suddenly strike while the earth is still suffering under the famines, plagues, and violence that has rocked the earth. Possibly earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tectonic plate instabilities, asteroids/meteorites? We just don’t know for sure.

This chapter ends on everyone, from kings to slaves, running to the mountains to hide. What were they hiding from? Not earthquakes, volcanoes, or meteors. They will be saying “*hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne*”. They would rather be crushed to death by the mountains than face the presence and judgement of God.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

There is an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal in which Jesus tells us about those who will stand during the tribulation. 144,000 witnesses who receive salvation during tribulation will be sealed by God and commissioned to serve as evangelists to bring the gospel to the entire world before Jesus final return. There is no question, Scripture identifies these 144,000 as Israelites, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

John also notices those in white robes worshipping God along with the angels, 24 elders, and four beasts and asks who they are. He is told they are the believers that came to faith in Christ during the Tribulation and after the Rapture had already occurred.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

There is a moment of silence for half an hour before the seventh trumpet judgement begin. The seventh seal is broken, the scroll completely unrolled, and everybody could see what was fixing to take place on earth. An angel added the incense (representing every prayer that has ever been uttered) to the burning coals and the smoke rose to God as pleasing aroma. The angel fills it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth, followed by peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and earthquakes. The Return of Christ is near and every wrong will soon be made right again.

**The First Trumpet (fire on earth):** Not sure what John was seeing exactly, but the first trumpet was directed at vegetation and a third of the world burned up.

**The Second Trumpet (blood in the sea):** Maybe John saw a meteor shower, maybe nuclear warfare, but whatever it was, it was directed at the oceans and a third of sea animals were killed. Maybe the oceans became blood, a blood-like substance, or simply looked like blood?

**The Third Trumpet (contamination of fresh water):** Not sure what this “star” could be (meteor, asteroid, etc) but it targets fresh water sources such as rivers and springs. To only fall on a third of rivers and springs would mean they were divinely instructed to do so by a powerful being that could control this.

**The Fourth Trumpet (darkness of heavenly bodies):** Think of everything that has happened up to this point. What could cause this? An eclipse, air pollution, smoke from fires, but either way, this reduction of sunlight will come and have devastating consequences. A third of the day would mean a reduction of sunlight for 8 hours.

The judgements up to this point may have affected people, but was directed at the environment, but now the final three trumpet judgements will be against people. An eagle (possibly an angel) is reported sending a warning of “woe, woe, woe” as any unbeliever left at this point can no longer question the reality of God and His power. These people have made their home on earth and nothing will move them to salvation.

## CHAPTER NINE

God sent an eagle/angel to declare what was coming to all the people, then there was a pause. It was a final chance for unbelievers on earth to repent. God makes it clear that man is either on His side or not, there is no in-between or such thing as not choosing a side. The first four trumpet judgements were against earth, but the final three will be against all those that remain enemies of God.

**The Fifth Trumpet (demonic tormentors):** A star, called “him” fell from heaven. Lucifer was told to have “fallen from heaven” as well. This fallen angel is best viewed as demonic and given the keys to the bottomless pit (*abyssos*). (For an understanding of the different “places of hell”, see notes for Rev-13) Scorpion-like locusts with some unique physical features were let loose from the abyss, being allowed to torment but not kill unbelievers without God’s seal for 5 months. God will not allow their wickedness to continue.

**The Sixth Trumpet (a demonic army):** Some sort of demons that God had imprisoned at the “great river Euphrates” were released. Their purpose to amass an army of possibly 200 million people and slay 1/3 population. It is unknown if this is a human or demonic army, but either way, it will be empowered by Satan and led by a demon.

Can you believe that even these things would not bring many humans to acknowledge God and cause them to turn from their evil ways. Instead, they would continue to sin even more frequently and intensely.