

THE BOOK OF REVELATION, REVISITED

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with Pastor Dan Betzer

Finale!

Final in the Revelation Revisited Series

After 34 years of Bible studies here at First Assembly of God, including nearly forty major series and hundreds of pages of notes, we come to the “finale” tonight. The book of Revelation has had my attention for many years, going back to my very first pastorate in Vermilion, Ohio in the early 60's. In my opinion, it is folly to ignore this final book in holy Scripture.

This book contains the vision, the “revealing” or “revelation” of both Jesus Christ and the final days of life as it has been known for millennia. John, the youngest of the apostles and the only one to live out his life and die a natural death somewhere in his 90's was given this vision while serving in exile on the Greek island of Patmos.

There is a picture of Patmos on the following page. This relatively small island is situated in the Aegean Sea between Greece (on the west) and Turkey (on the east). It has been my privilege to visit this sacred place on quite a few occasions, hiking it, and even riding over it via a reluctant donkey. You will remember that John pastored the great church in Ephesus, Turkey, much of his adult life and even had some supervisory role over other churches in that country: Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea (all of which are referenced by Jesus Himself in Revelation chapters 2 and 3).

Somewhere between 3 and 4, in my opinion, the great event of the Rapture of the Church (“Church” = all the followers of Jesus) takes place. Note verse 1 of the fourth chapter:

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.



1
2 *The island of Patmos, looking down from what was believed to be John's cave on the little town of*
3 *Scala. There are several other such towns on this picturesque spot on the Aegean Sea island.*

4
5 From chapter 4 through chapter 18, we are given a graphic description of
6 the Tribulation, that time after the rapture when the world is ruled by Satan
7 and his hellish regime, the unholy trinity...

8
9 Satan (the unholy father)
10 Antichrist (the unholy son) and the
11 False Prophet (the unholy spirit).

12
13 But upon opening chapter 19, what a thrilling and remarkable change in
14 content as we find ourselves with God in eternity:

15
16 Revelation 19:1-5
17 *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven,*
18 *saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the*
19 *Lord our God: [2] For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath*
20 *judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her*
21 *fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. [3]*
22 *And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.*

1 *[4] And the four and twenty elders * and the four beasts **fell down and*
2 *worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. [5] And*
3 *a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his*
4 *servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.*

5
6 * 24 elders - the redeemed saints of God

7 ** the four beasts - the mighty seraphim angels who flank the
8 divine throne

9
10 I believe this is the transcendent scene confronting us when the saints get
11 to Heaven. Small wonder Esther Rusthoi wrote the classic song, *It will be*
12 *worth it all when we see Jesus! One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow*
13 *will erase; so bravely run the race til we see Christ!*

14 15 **The Divine Plan for Us**

16
17 Do you like the phrase “brand new?” If so, you will love the eternity God
18 has prepared for us:

19
20 Revelation 21:1

21 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the*
22 *first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

23
24 I often teach that the Bible is the story of real people, who lived in a real
25 place in real time. That principle holds true here as well for Heaven is a
26 real place prepared for God's real people. As this chapter opens we have
27 escaped “time” and are now in eternity. But oh, that changes await us:

- 28
29 1. No more sin. Satan has been defeated for the next thousand years so
30 there will be a total absence of his presence.
- 31
32 2. All of the celestial bodies in our solar system will revolve around
33 the New Jerusalem.
- 34
35 3. Talk about “space travel.” The New Jerusalem will be the center of
36 life and we will have access to and from.

1
2 4. The sun will no longer be needed for heat and energy. Those gifts
3 will come from God as they did back in Genesis 1-3.

4
5 5. Seas will no longer occupy so much space on earth, if, indeed, any
6 at all.

7
8 6. Perhaps we will all be vegetarians in eternity, though I would
9 certainly miss a good steak or filet of Tilapia!

10
11 7. The center of our existence in Heaven will be the actual presence of
12 God Who occupies His throne.

13
14 The Scripture clearly teaches that this present order of creation is to pass
15 away in order to make room for a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus
16 Himself said, ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away”*** (Matthew 24:35).

17
18 Isaiah 65: 17

19 ***For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall***
20 ***not be remembered, nor come into mind.***

21 22 The Holy City

23
24 Revelation 21:2

25 ***And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God***
26 ***out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

27
28 What a description of loveliness! Prepared as a bride, adorned for her
29 husband! I have seen some gorgeous places on this old planet, but none
30 as magnificent as that city God is preparing for our eternal home!

31
32 One of our favorite spots on earth is located in the heart of the Austrian
33 Alps - the ancient paradise known as Hallstatt, Austria. It is a tiny place,
34 only a thousand or so inhabitants, but it is at least 3,000 years old. Situated
35 on very blue, deep lake, and surrounded by snow-capped mountains, it is
36 picturesque beyond belief. We stayed there for our 50th anniversary many

1 years ago in a hotel that was several hundred years old. Beautiful! The
2 most relaxing place I have ever seen. Yet the Bible promises that we have
3 never seen anything on earth to compare with what God has prepared for
4 those who love Him.

5



6

7

Hallstatt, Austria

8

9 Revelation 21:3-4

10 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle*
11 *of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his*
12 *people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And*
13 *God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more*
14 *death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:*
15 *for the former things are passed away.*

16

17

1 What is this “tabernacle of God?” Is it not Christ Jesus Himself? “He will
2 dwell with us!” This is beyond human comprehension. Think of it – Jesus
3 will dwell among us.

4
5 “God will wipe away all tears!” Yes, there will be tears until then, to be
6 sure. In this world we will have trouble, Jesus informed us. We're not
7 home yet! And there will be no more death! Oh, what God has prepared
8 for us who love Him!

9
10 Yes, the future is bright for the redeemed, saved, born-again child of God.
11 But what about those who never accepted Christ as their Lord, Savior
12 and King?

13
14 Revelation 21:8
15 ***But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers,***
16 ***and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall***
17 ***have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which***
18 ***is the second death.***

19
20 It is vital for us to understand here that although so much was made
21 “new,” the realities of eternal damnation. The lake of fire is forever, the
22 second death (physical death is the first death) and it is eternal separation
23 from God.

24 **The Gates of the City of God**

25
26 Revelation 21:12-16
27 ***And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates***
28 ***twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the***
29 ***twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On the east three gates; on***
30 ***the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three***
31 ***gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them***
32 ***the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [15] And he that talked***
33 ***with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof,***
34 ***and the wall thereof. [16] And the city lieth foursquare, and the length***
35 ***is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve***

1 *thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it*
2 *are equal.*

3
4 When the Israelites camped around the Tabernacle in the Wilderness
5 during their long sojourn from Egypt to the Promised Land of Israel, this
6 is the order in which they spent the nights enroute. Note that everything
7 faces the eternal city. The children of Israel will enjoy this eternal
8 relationship with God - no more separation.
9

10 **The Foundations of the City**

11
12 Revelation 21:14

13 *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names*
14 *of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

15
16 There is always this debate: when Judas died, the disciples selected
17 Matthias as his replacement. But we don't hear about him again. Many, if
18 not most, Bible students believe Judas' replacement should have been the
19 Apostle Paul. But what heroes these men were! And God honors them
20 through eternity, including naming the foundations of the Holy City in
21 their honor.
22

23 **The Size of the City**

24
25 Revelation 21:15-18

26 *And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and*
27 *the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. [16] And the city lieth*
28 *foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured*
29 *the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the*
30 *breadth and the height of it are equal. [17] And he measured the wall*
31 *thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure*
32 *of a man, that is, of the angel. [18] And the building of the wall of it was*
33 *of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*
34

35 12,000 furlongs relates to about 1500 miles. Apparently this city is a cube,
36 of sorts, 1500 miles in all directions. The city lies foursquare. This makes
37 for a massive city!
38

1 Why a wall? Peace will reign in the city and nothing will be allowed inside
2 the city to threaten that peace. The wall or walls are 144 cubits or about
3 216 feet thick. When one considers the makeup of those walls, we can tell
4 that they are for beauty even more than protection.

5



6

7

8 Revelation 21:19-20

9 *And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all*
10 *manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second,*
11 *sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; [20] the fifth,*
12 *sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl;*
13 *the ninth, topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; and*
14 *the twelfth, an amethyst.*

15

16 Here you see pictures of the texture and color of those stones. Each of
17 these stones allows light to pass through them. Can you even imagine with
18 God as the source of light, passing through these brilliant stones? Can you
19 comprehend the beauty?

How About the Street?

Revelation 21:21

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Note: one street! Not streets (s) - plural. But, those streets are made of transparent glass. And - each gate (sometimes in tandem) are made of pearls. So where do we get pearls? Oysters. Think about it.

No Temple There

Revelation 21:22-23

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. [23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

God's very presence will light the city beyond anything we have known on earth.

THE FINAL INVITATION

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

What a profound open invitation from God to the one who wants to be saved, but feels he or she might have gone too far. God will never violate your WILL. The one who wants God can still come to Him, repenting and committing to the will of the Father.

1 Revelation 22:18-21

2 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of*
3 *this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto*
4 *him the plagues that are written in this book: [19] And if any man shall*
5 *take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take*
6 *away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from*
7 *the things which are written in this book.*

8 *[20] He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.*
9 *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

10 *[21] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

11

12 Based on these verses, I would fear for anyone who strips verses AWAY
13 from Scripture or adds to them.