

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A Summary

IN THIS ARTICLE I summarize the book of revelation in a nutshell commentary for a bird's eye view of the three wraths/judgments outlined in the Book of Revelation. Understanding these judgments will help us to understand the ordering of last day events. This summary is from my book, *REVELATION and the Age of the Antichrist*, which can be downloaded from hope-for-today.com.

THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST (SEVEN SEALS)

Since the inception of the church, the Devil has been working hard to deceive it. He will continue to do so until the deception is so great that even the strongest of Christians will find it difficult not to conform (Matt. 24:24). In this apostate environment, the world will be willing to receive the man called the Antichrist (Rev. 2-3).

When this apostasy reaches its peak, preparations are then made in heaven to release the Antichrist and let him rule on earth (Rev. 4-5). When the Antichrist is released, He will bring war, famine, death, and the killing of Jews and Christians for about three and a half years, killing one fourth of the world's population (Rev. 6). Many of those killed are revealed in 6:9-11 to be those who belong to God. The majority of God's people will be killed at this time.

THE WRATH OF CHRIST (SEVEN TRUMPETS)

During the Antichrist's three and a half years of terror, God sends a great earthquake upon the earth as if to say, "Antichrist, that's enough!" In heaven, preparations are made to release the wrath of Christ. A distinction is made here between the wrath released by the Antichrist, the wrath of Christ, and the wrath of God. In this preparation, 144,000 birth-born Israelites are sealed with God's protective seal (Rev. 7). After the preparations, the wrath of Christ is poured out in the form of the trumpet judgments (Rev. 8-11). During this time, the Jewish and Christian remnants will be empowered through the Holy Spirit to execute judgment in Christ's name in the manner of Elijah and Moses (Rev. 11:6). Through tribulation fire the church awakens.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

So much has happened in Revelation's 2-11 that Revelation 12 and 13 give more details concerning the personalities involved and the great battle of the ages that has been revealed up to this point. In Revelation 12, Israel is revealed as a woman clothed with the sun who gives birth to the Christ. The great red dragon (the Devil) incites a rebellion in heaven, causing one third of the angels to rebel and enter the earth with him to destroy the Christ child, but doesn't succeed. After completing His mission, Jesus then dies at the hand of the Devil, overcomes death, and ascends into heaven to sit at the right hand of God and His throne. Israel and the temple are destroyed, and the Jewish people are scattered into the nations of the world. When Israel became a nation again, another war broke

out in heaven between Michael and his angels and the Devil and his angels. The Devil loses this war and is cast out with his angels into the physical earth. Now in the earth, he and his angels influence the world to receive the Antichrist through the politics, religion, education, culture, and the various systems of the nations. To help him in this task, the two horns of the false prophet, Catholicism and Islam, influence the beliefs and hearts of the people toward the Antichrist and will culminate as the final false prophet of Catholicism, the Pope, and the final messiah of the Muslims, the Mahdi.

THE WRATH OF GOD (SEVEN VIALS)

Next, we are shown the preparations taking place in heaven to release God's hour of wrath upon the earth. Christ will physically return to Mt. Zion with the martyred 144,000 Israelites. He comes to complete the judgment of the earth, which is Babylon. Before He does, He raptures out His people and brings them to Him. Those left upon the earth then suffer God's wrath through the pouring out of the seven vial judgments (Rev. 14-15).

God's wrath is poured out upon everyone left on the earth, for none are His people. All water, the sun, and every city, island, and mountain disappear (Rev. 16). We are given understanding as to why the earth/Babylon is judged (Rev. 17-18). All the nations of the earth gather at Armageddon to fight against Christ, who appears on a white horse with His angelic army. All people are killed, and the marriage supper of the lamb begins in order to clean up the dead bodies that are everywhere (19:1-9; 17-18).

After the battle, those martyred by the Antichrist have the privilege to rule with Christ for one thousand years. After these one thousand years, the Devil is released from his prison to deceive many nations to once again fight against God's people. The battle is short as God swiftly defeats the Devil and throws him into the lake of fire. God's great white throne appears, and the present heaven and earth are completely melted and dissolved. The judgment of all—saint and sinner—will now take place at the great white throne of judgment (20:3-15).

After the final rewards and punishments are given, a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem are revealed (Rev. 21). God's people begin their eternal life with God as kings and joint-heirs with Jesus (22:7-21).

LAST THOUGHTS

God has given the Book of Revelation to offer hope, strength, and courage during the most difficult time in history. As the prophecy is read and understood, allow it to strengthen your faith and increase your patience as you realize the hard times we will soon experience will be short and lead to eternal life and rule with God.

When I was in the Navy, many of my shipmates couldn't wait for their future discharge. What gave them hope and patience to endure what they felt were extreme injustices was knowing their discharge date. As they focused on that date, they were able to endure whatever came their way. So it is with our faith. No matter what the future has in store, focusing on our eternal reward will give us the strength to persevere. Let us hold firmly to the faith of the Apostle Paul, who said, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

There is no doubt that we are the generation witnessing the fulfillment of this revelation. Let us muster all the gusto we can so that we may live as people of faith with patience as our dominant characteristic.