



Revelation

Central Teaching Preview

Focus

The last six months have brought a radical change in our world as the uncertainties of politics and a global pandemic have led many to question how these circumstances fit into God's larger story. It is important, as shepherds of God's church, to provide a biblical framework for understanding the circumstances of life. We desire to equip the family of God in a practical working theology that informs and motivates us in the midst of our real-life circumstances.

From a theological perspective, Revelation is the capstone of the Bible because it "seals up the prophecy." This means that it provides the necessary information (from God's perspective) that the children of God need to live the sacrificial lives that He requires of us. Without this framework, our "hope" is uninformed and will certainly fail us in our deepest times of need.

Our focus for this study will certainly have an aim toward inspiring our "hope" in such a way that it practically informs and motivates our lives together as the family of God. Not only this, but we also desire to inform our family of an accurate hermeneutic with regard to apocalyptic literature in the Bible and how that hermeneutic can guide us into understanding the truth and identifying the various false interpretations of Revelation.

Outline

Section 1 - Introduction

Teaching 1

- Date: December 27, 2020
Section: Introduction
Passages: Revelation 1:1-3
Topic: Genre, Scope, Sequence, Focus

Application: The one who hears, believes, and orders one's life around this revelation has an informed "hope."

Teaching 2

Date: January 3, 2021

Section: Introduction

Passages: Revelation 1:4-20

Topic: Jesus as Judge

- Jesus has all authority over the Church and to Judge sin.
- The church must relate to Jesus for all that He is.

Application: Jesus is the ultimate authority and judge over all things, including the Church.

Section 2 - Pre-Tribulation

Teaching 3

Date: January 10, 2021

Section: Pre-Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 2:1-2:7

Topic: Ephesus

- Challenge: Do not lose your first love
- Reward: Eat of the Tree of Life

Application: The church must commit to faithfully love and follow Jesus.

Teaching 4

Date: January 17, 2021

Section: Pre-Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 2:8-17

Topic: Smyrna and Pergamum

- Challenge: Suffer well/Hold to sound doctrine
- Reward: No shame at the Bema Seat/Eat hidden manna/New name

Application: The church must stand for the truth of Jesus above all else.

Teaching 5

Date: January 24, 2021

Section: Pre-Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 2:18-3:6

- Topic: Thyatira and Sardis
- Challenge: Sexual Purity/Spiritual Authenticity
 - Reward: Ruling with Christ/Morning star/White garments/Verbal confession
- Application: The church must represent the pure, holy, and authentic nature of Jesus.

Teaching 6

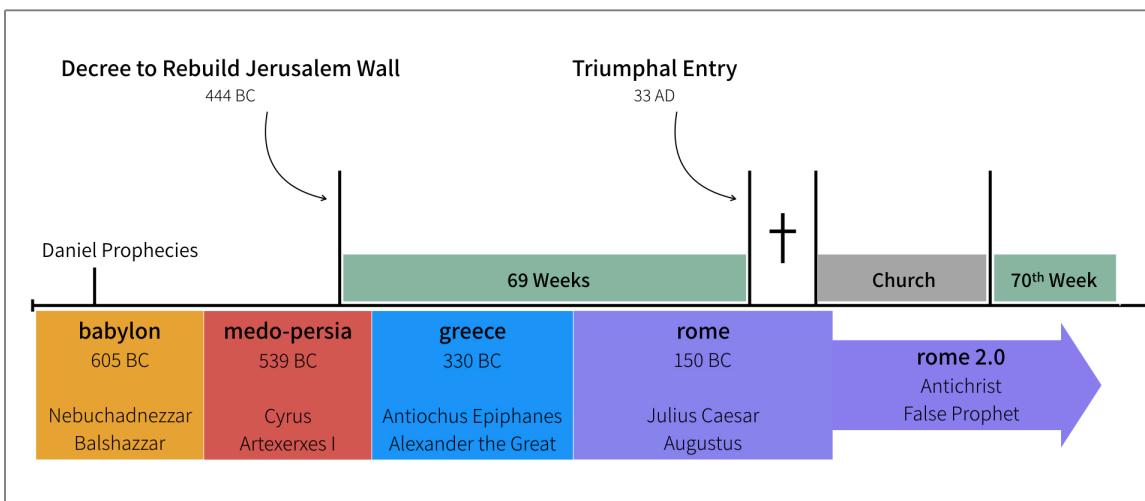
- Date: January 31, 2021
- Section: Pre-Tribulation
- Passages: Revelation 3:7-22
- Topic: Philadelphia and Laodicea
- Challenge: Obedience/Spiritual Apathy
 - Reward: Pillar and stamp of the name of God/Intimacy with God
- Application: The church must fervently obey Jesus Christ as its life, authority, and judge.

Teaching 7

- Date: February 7, 2021
- Section: Pre-Tribulation
- Passages: Revelation 4-5
- Topic: The Heavenly Scene Prior To The Onset Of God's Earthly Judgment
- The Holy Throne of God the Father
 - 24 Representative Elders of the Church (rewarded)
 - Four Eternal Worship Leaders
 - The Lamb of God
 - The Judgment Scroll with seven seals (symbol of God's impending judgment)
- Application: Jesus Christ is the life, authority, and judge over the church.

Section 3 - The Tribulation

Timeline Graphic: Background



Teaching 8

Date: February 14, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

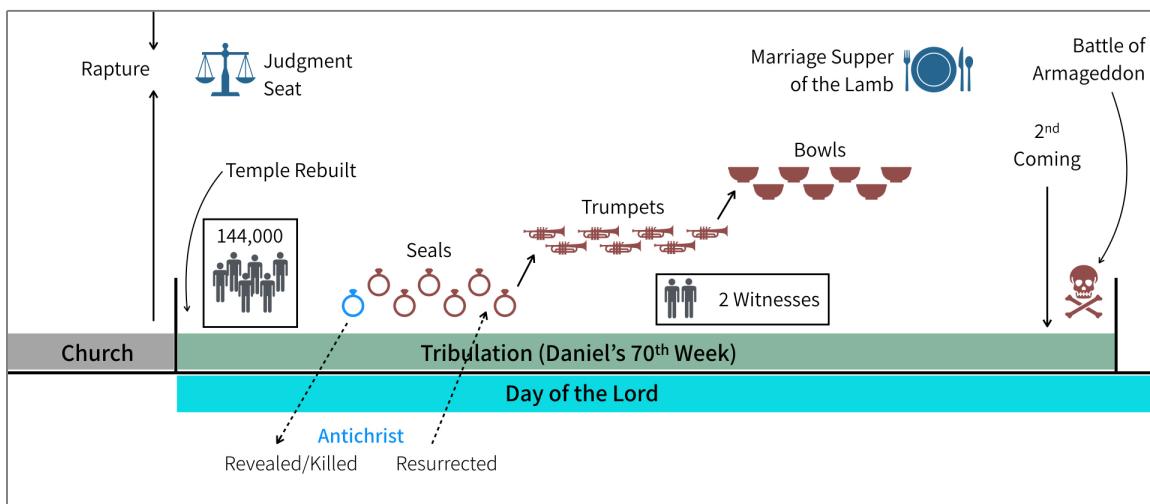
Passages: Daniel 7:15-18, 23-27 (Four Beasts/Kingdoms), 9:24-27 (70 Weeks)

Topic: **Timeline** - The Tribulation Prophesied

- 70 Weeks represent the events of human history around the rise and fall of the 4 main human kingdoms, and how they historically lead up to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Four Beasts that represent Four Kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome
- A future, Roman-style world power (political and religious) will rise again as a federation of 10 nations governed by the Antichrist.

Application: God's strategy in human history is an eternal one, prophesied before and fulfilled in the future.

Timeline Graphic: The Tribulation



Teaching 9

Date: February 21, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 6

Topic: **Timeline** - The Seal Judgments

- First seal: Rider on a white horse (6:1, 2)
- Second seal: War/Rider on a red horse (6:3, 4)
- Third seal: Famine/Rider on a black horse (6:5, 6)
- Fourth seal: Death/Rider on a pale horse (6:7, 8)

- Fifth seal: Martyred Saints/Prayer of the martyred remnant (6:9-11)
- Sixth seal: Earthquake/Day of Wrath (6:12-17)
- Marks the Mid-point of the Tribulation

Application: Even though the circumstances will be interpreted, God's ultimate sovereignty will insure that judgment will be served for sin.

Teaching 10

Date: February 28, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 7

Topic: **Interlude** - The Global Mission Effort Of The Tribulation

- 144,000 Jewish missionaries sealed (7:1-8)
- Redeemed from the Tribulation in Heaven (7:9-17)

Application: Jesus will faithfully and fully judge the earth.

Teaching 11

Date: March 7, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 8-9

Topic: **Timeline** - The Trumpet Judgments

- Seventh seal: Intro to seven trumpets (8:1-6)
- First trumpet: Trees burnt (8:7)
- Second trumpet: Seas become blood (8:8, 9)
- Third trumpet: Fresh water becomes bitter (8:10, 11)
- Fourth trumpet: Sun, moon, stars smitten (8:12, 13)
- Fifth trumpet: Fallen star/Plague of locusts (9:1-12)
- Sixth trumpet: Angels loosed at river Euphrates (9:13-21)

Application: Jesus will faithfully and fully judge the earth.

Teaching 12

Date: March 14, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 10-11

Topic: **Interlude** - Revelation Scroll Affirmed

- Strong angel with little scroll (10:1-7)
- John eats the little scroll (10:8-11)
- The two witnesses (11:1-12)
- The second woe: great earthquake (11:13, 14)

Timeline - Seventh trumpet: End of Tribulation/Heavenly temple (11:15-19)

Application: There is eternal wisdom and hope to those who take his revelation seriously.

Teaching 13

Date: March 21, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 12-13

Topic: **Interlude** - Key Actors Of The Tribulation

- The woman/Israel (12:1, 2)
- The red dragon/Satan (12:3, 4)
- The child of the woman/Jesus Christ (12:5, 6)
- Michael, the archangel, wars with the dragon (12:7- 12)
- The dragon persecutes the woman/Israel (12:13-16)
- Remnant of Israel (12:17)
- Wild beast out of the sea/A political power and a person (13:1-10)
- Wild beast out of the earth/A religious leader (13:11-18)

Application: God's providence is on display as he orders future events into His plan.

Teaching 14

Date: March 28, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 14

Topic: **Interlude** - The Final Gospel Push and Foreshadowing Of The End (1)

- Lamb with the 144,000 (1-5)
- Proclamation of the everlasting gospel (6, 7)
- Judgment on Babylon (8)
- Judgment on those who received mark of the beast (9-12)
- Praise for those who die in the Lord (13)
- Preview of Armageddon (14-20)

Application: God is long-suffering, giving all people every possible opportunity to believe in Him; yet, His judgment is unchanging and impending.

Teaching 15

Date: April 11, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 15-16

Topic: **Timeline** - The Final Gospel Push and Foreshadowing Of The End (2)

- Tribulation saints in heaven worship God (15:1-4)
- Temple of the tabernacle opened/Seven bowls of Judgment (15:5-16:1)
- First bowl: Boils for Beast worshipers (16:2)
- Second bowl: Sea to blood/All sea life dies (16:3)
- Third bowl: Rivers to blood/All river life dies (16:4-7)
- Fourth bowl: Scorching sun (16:8-9)

- Fifth bowl: Darkness, pain, torture to the Beast and his followers (16:10-11)
 - Sixth bowl: Euphrates dries up/Preparation for Battle of Armageddon (16:12)
- Interlude** - Kings of Earth to Armageddon (16:13-16)
- Seventh bowl: Thunder, lightning, earthquake (16:17-2)

Application: God's judgment is full, final, and inescapable.

Teaching 16

Date: April 18, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 17-18

Topic: **Timeline** - The Apostate Church and World System Judged

- Great harlot/Apostate church riding the wild beast (17:1-7)
- Wild beast destroys the great harlot (17:8-18)
- Announcement of fall of commercial and political Babylon/World System (18:1-8)
- Anguish in the world because of Babylon's judgment (18:9-19)
- Anticipation of joy in heaven because of judgment on Babylon (18:20-24)

Application: God's judgment is aimed at full and final restoration of His original, intended created order.

Teaching 17

Date: April 25, 2021

Section: The Tribulation

Passages: Revelation 19

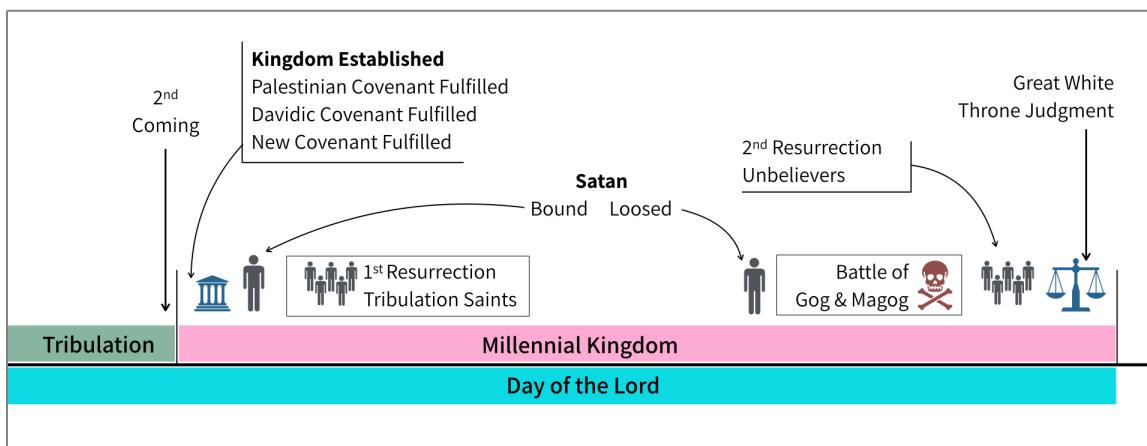
Topic: **Timeline** - Second Coming and Armageddon

- The Marriage of the Lamb (19:1-10)
- Second Coming of Christ and Armageddon (19:11-18)
- Hell opened (19:19-21)

Application: God's judgment is aimed at full and final restoration of His original intended created order.

Section 4 - The Millennial Kingdom

Timeline Graphic: The Millennial Kingdom

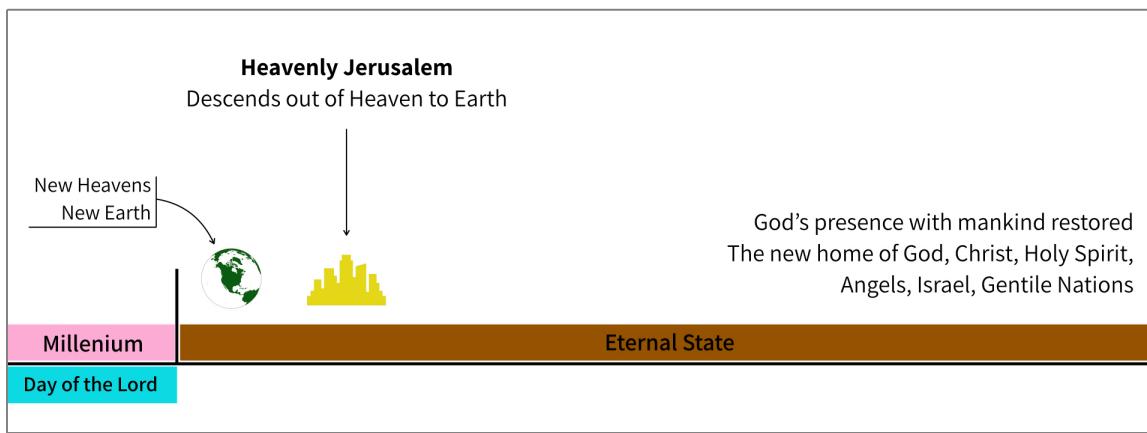


Teaching 18

- Date: May 2, 2021
Section: The Millennial Kingdom
Passages: Revelation 20, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Romans 8:16-17, 1 Peter 1:3-7
Topic: **Timeline** - Second Coming and Armageddon
 - Satan bound (20:1-3)
 - Reigning saints (20:4-6)
 - Satan released and defeated at Gog & Magog (20:7-10)
 - Great White Throne Judgment/Sinners to Hell (20:11-15)
Application: God's judgment is aimed at full and final restoration of His original intended created order.

Section 5 - The Eternal Kingdom

Timeline Graphic: The Eternal Kingdom



Teaching 19

Date: May 9, 2021
Section: The Eternal Kingdom
Passages: Revelation 21-22:5
Topic: **Timeline** - New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem

- New Heaven and Earth (21:1-9)
- New Jerusalem (21:10-22:5)

Application: God's ultimate aim in His judgment is restoration. He will fulfill His promise and return the earth to its intended state.

Teaching 20

Date: May 16, 2021
Section: Warning and Exhortation
Passages: Revelation 22:6-21
Topic: The Proper Response To Revelation

- New Heaven and Earth (21:1-9)
- New Jerusalem (21:10-22:5)

Application: An informed eternal hope must be met with a resolved faith.

Doctrine

In terms of the doctrinal considerations in this series, there are too many individual areas of interpretation to discuss at length. But, we can and must, at least, have a basic understanding of the fundamental theological systems that stand in contrast to our base view and interpretation of Revelation.

For starters, it is important to note that every major theological system acknowledges the event of the Second Coming of Jesus (parousia) and an Eternal Kingdom of God's restored reign and presence on Earth. The issue in dispute with most eschatological systems is the existence of a Rapture and a literal 1,000-year reign of Jesus (Millennium) on earth prior to the Second Coming and Eternal Kingdom. This is the most significant difference of theological interpretation. In this preview, we will outline the three main systems of Millennial interpretation: Amillennialism, Pre-Millennialism, and Post-Millennialism.

Amillennialism

Paul Enns provides a well described summary of the fundamental view of Amillennialism when he writes,

“Amillennialists do not deny the literal return of Christ, but they reject a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. According to amillennialism, the kingdom of God is present in the

church age, and at the consummation of the present age, the eternal state is inaugurated without any intervening millennium. For this reason some amillennialists suggest a term such as realized millennialism to indicate that they do not deny a millennium, but believe it is fulfilled entirely in the present age.

According to amillennialists, Revelation 20:4–6 describes “the present reign of the souls of deceased believers with Christ in heaven” while the Kingdom of God “is now present in the world as the victorious Christ is ruling his people by his Word and Spirit, though they also look forward to a future, glorious, and perfect kingdom on the new earth in the life to come.”¹

Pre-Millennialism

Paul Enns succinctly summarizes the Pre-Millennial view in this fashion,

“Dispensational pre-millennialism can be identified through two basic features: (1) a distinction is made between God’s program for Israel and His program for the church; (2) a consistently literal interpretation of the Scriptures is maintained. Dispensational pre-millennialists believe that the church will be raptured (1 Thess. 4:13–18) prior to the Tribulation period; God will judge unbelieving Gentiles and disobedient Israel during the Tribulation (Rev. 6–19). At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will return with the church and establish the millennial kingdom on earth. Following the thousand-year reign, Satan will be freed once more, whereupon he and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7–10). The eternal state will follow.”²

Post-Millennialism

Paul Enns describes the Post-Millennial view in this way,

Post-millennialism may be defined as “that view of the last things which holds that the Kingdom of God is now being extended in the world through the preaching of the Gospel and the saving work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of individuals, that the world eventually is to be Christianized, and that the return of Christ is to occur at the close of a long period of righteousness and peace commonly called the ‘Millennium.’”

The term post-millennialism means that Christ will return after the Millennium. The present age will develop morally and spiritually until it issues in the millennial age, with Christ returning to earth at the conclusion of the Millennium.”³

Application

There are various potential applications in Revelation, many of which focus on lies that have been portrayed and believed regarding the end times. These are important and necessary to address at their given times in the book.

¹ The Moody Handbook Of Theology, Paul Enns

² The Moody Handbook Of Theology, Paul Enns

³ The Moody Handbook Of Theology, Paul Enns

Living For An Eternal Earthly Home

One example of this is the eternal destiny or home of all believers. Many Christians falsely assume that the eternal home of all believers is Heaven, specifically, an ethereal/spiritual existence. This is particularly addressed in Revelation 20-22 where we learn that the Millennial Kingdom reign of Jesus is on the present earth for 1,000 years, and then, this is followed up with an Eternal earthly kingdom where God the Father resides again with people on a physical earth.

Sacrifice

Revelation is very compelling with regard to how we view our temporary earthly existence. As we begin to understand and believe the reality of the future judgment and reward, we will certainly face the inevitable challenge to reorder our lives more intentionally. This reordering is usually aimed initially at our excess as Western people. There is no escape from sacrifice if we are to pursue lives of eternal significance.

Urgency

Another very obvious area of application, as we consider the end times, is our present-tense engagement in the furthering of God's mission into the lives of the lost. As we see and understand the unescapable judgment of God on sin, it should compel us to consider how we are doing in our commitment to boldly proclaim the gospel. Often times, if we are honest, we will realize that our drive to pursue gospel-motivated relationships with the lost is exemplified in a way that seems to show that we do not truly consider the reality of judgement on our unbelieving friends. This should be deeply challenged in us as we study through Revelation.