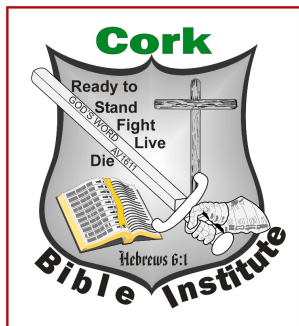


The Bible Companion Series

The Book of the Revelation

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion



BY PASTOR CRAIG A. LEDBETTER

Bible Baptist Church

Unit B, Enterprise Park
Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland
+353-21-4871234

www.biblebc.com biblebc@gmail.com

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Cork Bible Institute

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CLASS

1. Read through the book of the Revelatuion TWICE by the end of the Semester
2. Write a running verse by verse commentary of a chapter of your choice of the Book of Revelation (should be at least 3 pages)
3. Physically attend at least 80% of all classes (unless given special permission by the teacher for an absence)
4. Fill in the blanks in the Student Worksheets
5. Have and average of at least 70% score on all quizzes, and Final Exam

The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Study Introduction

I. Some Preliminary Information

A. The Title of the Book - The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. This Book is all about _____, NOT *hiding* things.
2. This is Jesus Christ's revelation. He is about to do some revealing - Jesus Christ was revealed to man in the Gospels, but here in the Book of the Revelation, Jesus is going to reveal the future.
3. The word Revelation even in Greek ("Apocalypse") means *Unveiling* as in "Revealing". Yet, why does everyone approach the Book like it is a "mysterious" book? People actually fear this Book!

NOTE: The *entire Bible* is the Book of *Revelation* - the revealing of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ!

B. The Author: _____ (1:4) the son of Zebedee

The writer of this Book is the apostle John (Matt 4:21; 10:2) under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:19-21; 2 Tim 3:16). John not only wrote this Book, but four others: St. John, First John, Second John, and Third John.

C. The Date of writing: _____ A.D.

A very contested issue. Why? Because, if John write the Revelation before Titus had Jerusalem destroyed in 70 AD, then all the "prophecies" in the Book would seem to have all taken place in 70 AD and they would have no relevance after. Yet, if the Book was written after 70 AD, then the prophecies must apply to still future events!

D. John's audience - to the _____ as listed in chapters 2 and 3, comprising both Christians and agnostics! As we will see, these 7 churches will have many problems, and will directly apply in one way or another to churches throughout history.

This is a very interesting concept - The Lord Jesus Christ will dictate letters to seven literal local churches as listed in chapters 2 and 3, and yet, the letters will apply to a total of four sets of churches:

1. Seven literal, local churches in Asia minor that really existed at the time of the writing.
2. Seven _____ of churches that will exist over the next two thousand years from the cross to the rapture.
3. Seven _____ of church history that span the two thousand years since Christ came.
4. And finally, this Book is directed doctrinally right at literal, local churches in Asia-minor in the future, in the time of the Great Tribulation. These concepts will be demonstrated throughout our study.

E. Its Importance and Significance

1. This Book represents one of the most "mysterious" Books in the Bible due to people's predisposition to the Book - people from the start determine that it cannot be understood, so they don't even try. Yet, note 1:3 - Nothing is said about completely "understanding" this Book, just _____ and _____ it. See Deut 29:29.
2. This Book is primarily *prophetic* - both of _____ (it generates a real fear of God. See 2 Cor 5:10,11) and of _____. The purpose of prophecy is not just for _____ (see 1 Cor 8:1), but to _____ (see 1 John 3:1-3), and to _____ (Rom 15:4)!
3. This is the only Book other than the "_____" as mentioned in Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 that provides for a special blessing upon those that read it (1:3)!
4. How you approach this Book will determine how you approach the _____ of Christ (2 Tim 4:8)!

F. Its Theme - "_____"

Genesis starts out with "the beginning" of everything, and Revelation ends up with the completion of all of God's plans. Nothing is left "undone". Everything is restored. Watch how things match between Genesis and Revelation in the following table:

In Genesis	In Revelation
The first Adam and his wife reigning over the earth (Gen 1:27,28)	The last Adam (Christ) and His wife (the Church) reigning over the universe (Rev 21:9)
The creation of the sun, moon (1:5,16)	There is no further need for the sun or moon (21:23)
The tree of life is denied to man (3:22)	The tree of life made available to man (22:2)
The ground becomes cursed, woman becomes cursed, man becomes cursed (3:17)	"And there shall be no more curse" (22:3)
Satan appears (3:1)	Satan is banished forever (20:10)

Table 1 - Comparison of Genesis Themes with Revelation's¹

Prophetic subjects that will be dealt with in this study will include:

- The Tribulation
- The Rapture
- The literal reign of Jesus Christ on this earth in the near future
- The Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Great White Throne Judgment
- The Antichrist
- The Two Witnesses
- The 144,000 witnesses

G. Canonicity - Whether it should be considered as part of the Bible.

Why would this Book be questioned?

1. It clearly shows the end of: Satan, the end of the Church, the Jew, the Gentile, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Nations, Time, and the Universe.
2. It is primarily NEGATIVE about the future (I Kings 22:13-28; Zech 3:8). Contrary to Darwin. Every politician is trying to work out history contrary to Rev 19-22!

Higher Criticism: it means the demonstration of the superiority of a man's education instead of the authority of the word of God! People have always had problems with the Bible and have questioned significant portions, like:

- Daniel: saying that it is "Too prophetic and accurate to be prophecy"
- Genesis: saying that it is "Too scientific to be literal"
- Esther: saying that "There is no mention of God"

H. Its Interpretation

There are basically three "scholarly" approaches to this Book:

1. The _____ (Latin word meaning *past*)- Believes that the details are unimportant. This view is primarily allegorical. Makes-up some 95% of all theologians. An A-millennial position on the Second Coming.
2. The _____ - Believes that everything happened already in the past. Only half-literal. These people have nothing to look forward to - they are like the Sadducees that did not believe in a future life (Matt 22:23).
3. The _____ - Believes that most everything in the Book is YET to happen. This view is literal and is termed "The Pre-Millennial approach." There are those that are "Post-Millennial" in their interpretation that are Futurist as well, but they are not Literal in their acceptance of prophetic Scripture, especially in two specific areas:
 - The Millennium - Does Christ return before, or after the millennium?
 - The Rapture - Does Christ come for His bride before, during, or after the Tribulation?
4. Then there are the Atheists which say that the Book is *Fictional*.

¹Wilmington, H.L., Wilmington's Guide To The Bible, Pg 537

I. Its Placement in the Bible

Dispensationally, right at the end of both the New Testament as well as the Bible making it the LAST Book. Being the LAST Book of the Bible, you should expect it to deal with primarily LAST things on God's calendar. *Dispensations* are distinct ways that God dealt with man for a particular time (i.e., God deals with man differently after Adam's fall, than He did before the fall. See Heb 1:1,2).

Understanding dispensations will help the student correctly place the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ - Is it *Post-Tribulation*, *Pre-*, *Mid-* or *A-*? As well as the Millennium - i.e., is it real or figurative?

The Book of the Revelation is a part of the set of "_____ " Books grouped together just as several other Books are grouped:

- The Pentateuch (Genesis., Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) called, "The Books of Moses" (Luke 16:29), or "The Law"
- The Poetical Books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
- The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- The Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
- The Major and Minor Prophets - called, "The Prophets" (Luke 24:27)
- The End Time Books (Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude, and Revelation) which are primarily directed at people living during the end times.

NOTE: The Bible is not laid out *chronologically* (like the Jews had their Scriptures), but rather *Dispensationally*. All attempts to make events flow from one into another run into so many problems that literal interpretation is usually abandoned! Literalism is not the problem, but rather its application!

II. Our Approach:

- A. We will approach this Book of the Bible as well do all other: as Literal, as opposed to symbolic. We may not understand everything, but we BELIEVE it, and take it SERIOUSLY!
- B. We will approach this Book according to the English of the 1611 King James Bible. We may refer to other translations, or other languages, but our reference point will be the infallible, preserved word of God, the King James Bible!
- C. Our approach will be based upon a _____ view of events - which shows God dealing with man _____ at different times (2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:24-30; Heb 1:1,2).
- D. Finally, we will approach this Book trembling, and with tears of joy, that God would give us such a Book! Just as evolutionists make no apology for believing their evidence, we Bible-believers make no apologies for believing this Book of books, from cover to cover! What man needs, and is looking for is a completed revelation that is NOT founded upon unverifiable opinions and traditions, but rather on tested words that can be read, understood, tested and proved to be true!
- E. This Study is written in Outline format with much comment associated with the outline as opposed to being associated with the words in the Bible. The reason being that this Study primarily is to be used as a Guide, not a commentary. I have listed at the end of this Introduction several good commentaries for your reference when you do further study.
- F. At the end of each chapter, a set of Study Questions are provided for the student to fill in.

III. Some Practical Information

A. A Simple Outline Of The Book (1:19) The "Three-Fold Division"

1. "_____..." **The Past** - Chapter 1
2. "_____..." **The Present** - Chapters 2 and 3
3. "_____..." **The Future** - Chapters 4 - 22
 - a. The soon rapture of the church (Rev 4 and 5)
 - b. The tribulation of seven years (Rev 6-19)
 - c. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ for 1000 years (Rev 20)
 - d. The new heavens and new earth (Rev 21)

B. An Expanded Outline of Future Events

1. The soon rapture of the Church which will take place without warning (1 Thes 4:13-18).
2. The “mystery of iniquity” which will set in on this earth and will increase rapidly as described in 2 Thes 2. The antichrist will appear during this time as a conqueror of all the world’s problems.
3. Israel will be safe in its own land. The antichrist will make a peace pact with Israel protecting it from kings both to the north and south that desire to destroy it. Daniel’s’ 70th week will be in motion as described in Daniel 9.
4. Judgment from God falls on this planet throughout the next seven years. God begins to punish the Gentiles and purge the Jews. The judgments are brought about by the commands of the two witnesses that appear for the first 3 1/2 years.
5. In the middle of the seven year time called the Tribulation, the Beast (antichrist) will break his covenant with Israel and conquer it, setting himself up as God on the throne of the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thes 2:4). The false prophet will appear on the earth, directing all worship toward the Beast. Once enthroned, the Beast will slay the two witnesses out in the middle of a street with the whole world watching!
6. The Beast will assume a world-wide dictatorship. During the last 3 1/2 years the worst of the judgments will fall on this world and its inhabitants, with the Jews being protected and fed out in the wilderness like it had been in Exodus through Deuteronomy.
7. The Beast will prepare a massive army to wipe out the Jews in one final battle.
8. Jesus Christ will appear in the heavens with millions of battle-ready soldiers riding behind Him. These soldiers will do no fighting though. The Sword that will proceed out of Jesus Christ’s mouth will devour the enemy completely.
9. The beast and the False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).
10. Satan shall be bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, allowing Jesus Christ to reign on the earth as King of kings during the millennium.
11. After the millennium, Satan will be loosed “for a season” and many will be deceived into following him in a rebellion against God at the final last war to end all wars - the battle of Gog and Magog (Ezek 38 and 39). At the completion of this battle, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, forever banished from this earth (Rev 20:10).
12. All the unsaved of all time will then stand before God and be judged. They will then be cast into the lake of fire, to join the devil and his angels, in torment (Rev 20:11-15).
13. This present earth and heaven will then be burned with fervent heat, and a new heaven and earth will replace it (Rev 21; 2 Pet 3:10).
14. For the rest of eternity (if you can comprehend that), God, and His people will enjoy this universe as it was intended to be, yet without sin, and its curse!!!

C. The SEVEN SEVENS in the Book of Revelation

1. The Seven _____ (Chapters 2, 3)
2. The Seven _____ (Chapters 6, 7, 8)
3. The Seven _____ (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)
4. The Seven _____ (Chapters 12, 13) - The Beast, False Prophet, the Dragon, the Woman, the Man Child, the Lamb, the Archangel.
5. The Seven _____ (Chapters 15, 16)
6. The Seven _____ (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20) - Armageddon, the destruction of Babylon, the destruction of Mystery Babylon, The Beast and False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire, the battle of Gog and Magog, the Great White Throne Judgment, the casting of Satan himself into the Lake of Fire!
7. The Seven _____ (Chapters 21, 22) - New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, New Nations, New River, New Tree, New Throne

A GUIDE TO THE TRIBULATION

What's Happening in Heaven

Judgement Seat of Christ
 Rev 4 & 5; Rom 14:10-13; 2 Cor 5:10,11; 3:11-15

Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 Rev 19:8-9; Matt 22:1-14

What's Happening on Earth

SEVEN CHURCHES	Trib Event	Judgements										
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th (Last)				
Ephesus <i>No Love</i>	7 Seals (6:1-8:1) 7 Years	White Horse Antichrist False Peace	Red Horse Wars	Black Horse Famine	Pale Horse Death & Hell	Great Persecution Genocide	Earthquake Sun Darkened Moon to blood	144,000 Witnesses	Silence Just before 2 nd Coming			
Smyrna <i>Persecuted</i>	7 Trumpets (8:2-11:19) Last Half				Fire, Hail and Blood	Mountain Exploding 3 rd of Sea to blood	Comet "Wormwood" 3 rd of Rivers poisoned	Sun & Moon Darkened 8 hours lost each day!	Plague of Locusts 5 months of torture	<i>The Little Book</i> Army of 200,000,000 approach Palestine!	The "Last" Trumpet	
Pergamos <i>Worldly</i>	7 Persons (12:1-14:20) Last Half				A Woman (Israel) Flees	A Red Dragon (Satan)	A Man Child (Jesus) appears	Michael (Battle in Heaven)	The Beast (The Antichrist)	<i>The Lamb and the 144,000</i>	Another Beast (The False Image of the Beast)	The "Living Image of the Beast"
Thyatira <i>Lax Church</i>	7 Vials (15:1-18:24) Last Half				Grievous Sores	Sea becomes Blood	Rivers become Blood	The Sun Novas	Darkness	<i>Babylon</i>	Euphrates Dries Up	"It is DONE"
Sardis <i>Dead</i>	The GREAT Tribulation (Matt 24:29)											
Philadelphia <i>Faithful</i>	The Tribulation (Matt 24:29)											
Laodicea <i>Lukewarm</i>	The Tribulation (Matt 24:29)											

The Rapture
(Catching Away)
 Rev 4:1-3
 1 Thes 4:13-18

Abomination of Desolation
(By the Antichrist in the Temple)
 2 Thes 2:3-8; Mt 25:15;
 Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11

The Return
(Coming Again)
 Rev 19:11-16
 2 Thes 1:6-10

- BRIEF OUTLINE OF REVELATION**
- A. Jesus Christ Our High Priest in Heaven (1)
 - B. Church History (2-3) - Past, Present, and Future
 - C. The Rapture of the Church, and Description of Heaven (4-5)
 - D. The Judgment of the Seven Seals (6)
 - E. The 144,000 Witnesses (7)
 - F. The Judgments of the Seven Trumpets (8-9)
 - G. The Little Book (10)
 - H. The Rebuilt Jewish Temple, and the Two Witnesses (11)
 - I. Israel in the Tribulation (12)

- J. The Beast and False Prophet (13)
- K. The Wrath of God - Winepress of His Wrath (14)
- L. Preparation for the Seven Last Plagues (15)
- M. The Seven Vial Judgments (16)
- N. Mystery Babylon - The Religion (17)
- O. Destruction of Physical Babylon (18)
- P. The Second Coming (19)
- Q. The Great White Throne Judgment by God (20)
- R. The New heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem (21)
- S. The Final Exhortation (22)

Figure 1 A Guide to the Events of the Tribulation

D. Concerning The Dispensations:

There are basically Seven *dispensations* in man’s history (preceded and followed by eternity):

<i>Eternity past...</i>	
1.	_____ (Gen. 1:28 - 3:6; ends at the fall)
2.	_____ (Gen. 3:7 - 7:16; ends with the flood)
3.	_____ (Gen. 8:15 - 11:7; ends with the confusion of Babel)
4.	_____ (Gen. 12:1 - Exod 20:1; ends at Mt. Sinai when the Law began to be given)
5.	_____ (Exod 20:2 - Matt 27:50; ends at the Cross)
6.	_____ (Matt 27:51 - Rev 3:22; ends at the beginning of the Tribulation)
<i>Return to the Law in the Tribulation (Rev 4:1 - 19:21)</i>	
7.	_____ (Rev 20:1 - 20:6; ends at the final battle)
<i>Eternity future... The day of God begins and never ends (2 Pet 3:12; Eph 1:10)</i>	

Table 2 - List of Dispensations.

Specifically, these *dispensations* are periods of time where God dealt with man in a different way in order to bring about their salvation (Heb 1:1,2; Acts 17:24-30). Suffice it to say that for now, this list is just provided for your reference. The entire scheme will be more fully explained as we go through the study.

IV. Conclusion

A. Answer the following questions from memory:

1. Who is the author of the Book of the Revelation? _____
2. When was the Book written? _____
3. Revelation “clearly” shows the end of many things. Name two things: _____, _____.
4. Give the THEME to this Book: The _____ of ALL things
5. Our approach to this Book involves the LITERAL, or ALLEGORICAL (circle one) method of interpretation?
6. Define *dispensation*: _____
7. How many dispensations are there in man’s history? _____
8. Revelation is divided into how many basic divisions? _____
9. There are how many SEVENS in the Book of Revelations? _____

B. A Short List of Associated Study Materials

1. The Books of Daniel and Ezekiel in your King James Bible. They parallel much of what Revelation reveals.
2. *Dispensational Truth*, by Clarence Larkin
3. *The Book of the Revelation*, by Clarence Larkin
4. *The Bible Believer’s Commentary on the Revelation*, by Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, Bible Believer’s Press, 1980
5. *Wilmington’s Guide To The Bible*, by Dr H.L. Wilmington, Tyndale House, 1984