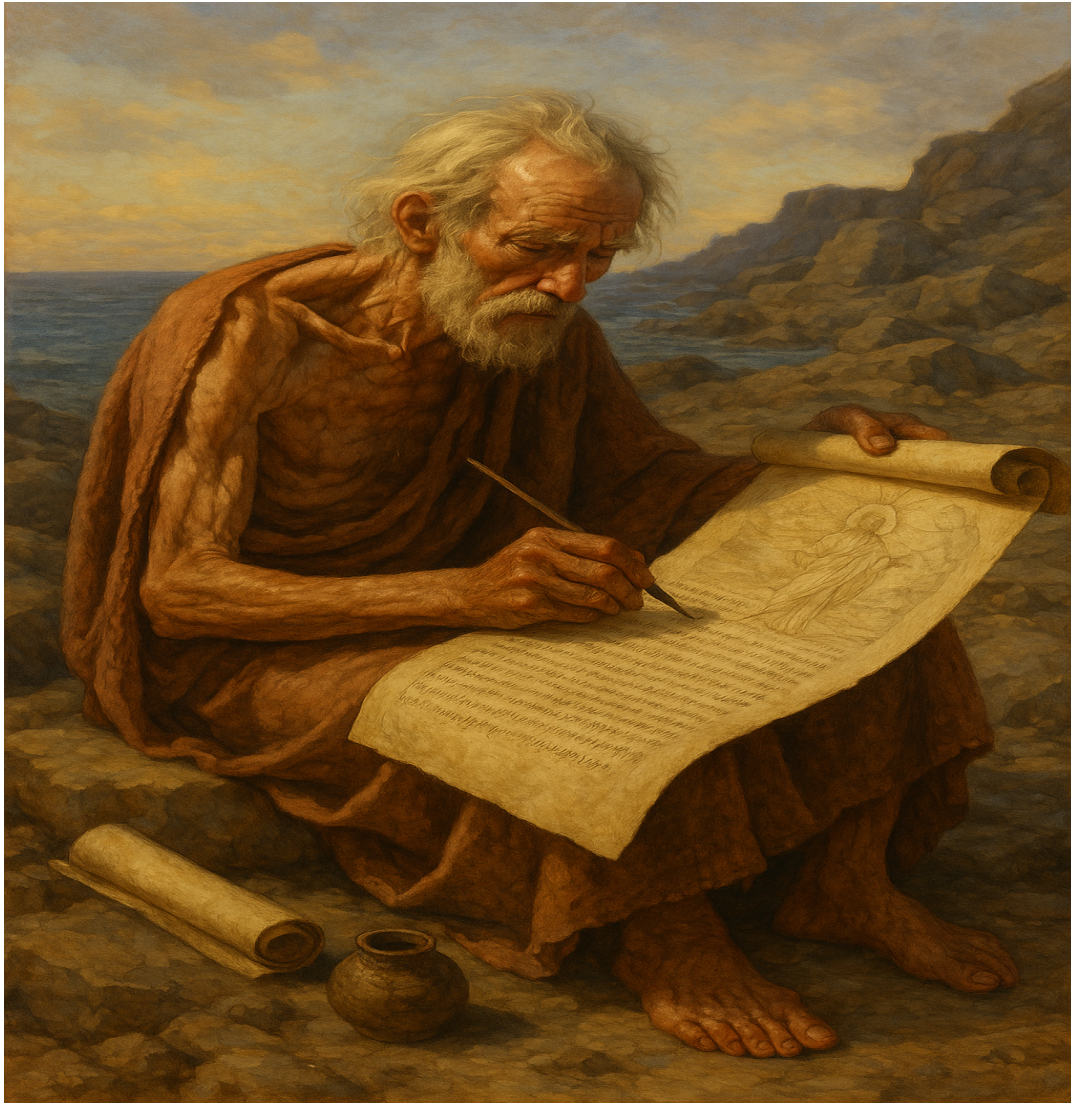


Study Notes

Book of Revelation



Revelation Study Notes

Revelation in Christian theology expresses the significant self-disclosure of God to man. The Greek language possesses various terms and expressions relevant to this process. Revelation from the Greek *apokalyptoō*, is a compound word formed from *kalyptoō* (hide, conceal) and *apo* (from). The word denotes the unveiling of something previously hidden. God the Father, through His Son Jesus Christ, impart to John “the things which must soon take place” (Revelation 1:1). John describes himself as a “brother” and “fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance” (Revelation 1:9). As a result of John’s devotion, the apostle dwells on the island of Patmos because of “the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 1:9b). On the isolated island Christ supernaturally unveils his eschatological plan for humanity. Seven churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), receive word of comfort and correction. Then the scene shifts to the glorious throne of the Father and His marvelous acts to restore paradise lost. Satan attempts to distort the words of blessings. One should not approach the book of Revelation with fear but faithful expectation. The wonderful Father assures the followers of His Son that Satan’s lease on earth and reign of tyranny has come to an end. May this study in Revelation renew your hope and increase your faith in Christ Jesus.

Four Interpretations of Revelation

- 1) Preterist- The term *preterist* comes from the Latin *praeter*, meaning “past.” Prophecies of Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25) and Revelation were fulfilled during the destruction of the temple in AD 70 during the first century. Revelation records events during John’s life and offers a contemporary and imminent historical document. John records information to encourage the faithful to remain steadfast. Seven churches of Asia minor in Revelation 1-3 describe events before Jewish war (AD 66-70). Matthew 24-25 and Revelation 4-22 describe the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans.

2) Idealist/Spiritualist- Contents of Revelation are poetical, symbolic, and spiritual. Hence, it is referred to as the “spiritual view.” Interpreters spiritualize and symbolize events as pictures and symbols of timeless truths. None of the events are literal or historical elements of a particular period. Idealist view applies an allegorical method of interpretation. Origen (AD 185-254) initiated this approach but Augustine (AD 354-420) popularized the view.

3) Historicist- Present history from the apostle's to the end of human history. This view started with Joachim of Floris (1202), a monastic who claimed to have received on Easter night a special vision that revealed to him God’s plan for the ages. He attributes a day-year value to the 1,260 days of the Apocalypse. Revelation 1-3 describe the historic churches. Revelation 4-19 provides symbols that correlate to fall of Rome, the papacy, Protestant Reformation, Mohammedanism, the French Revolution, and other rulers. Revelation 20-22 address final judgment, millennium, and eternal state.

4) Futurist View- Revelation 1-3 describe historic church. Revelation 4-19 consist of visions of the future tribulation containing judgments on the world prior to and following the second coming of Christ. Seals, trumpets, and bowls refer to are future; the beasts of chapter 13 & 17 are identified with the future Antichrist, who appear at the last moment in world history and will be defeated by Christ in his second coming to judge the world. Revelation 20-22 describe the millennial kingdom, judgement of the wickedness, and the eternal state.

Outline of Revelation

The book of revelation serves as God's self-revelation and solution for sin. Genesis 1-2 provides the account of creation. Everything exists as good dwelling in the presence of God. One act of disobedience by the man and woman mars the created order. The couple are banished from dwelling in the presence and glory Eden. Paradise is lost! Revelation presents God's solution for humanity's sin. Paradise is restored! The two supernatural powers, God and Satan, engage in their final battle for supremacy.

1. Revelation to John 1:1-2

A. Revelation of Jesus Christ 1:1

B. Process of Revelation 1:2

1) God the Father

2) Jesus Christ

3) Angel

4) John the pastor of Ephesus exile on the isle of Patmos.

2. Reward of the Reader/Church 1:3

A. First Beatitude 1:3a

B. Reward/blessing for reading, hearing, and obeying 1:3b

3. Revelation of Jesus Christ 1:4-20

A. Greeting from John and Jesus to the Seven Church 1:4-8

B. Person, presentation, and power of the resurrected Jesus Christ 1:9-18

C. Charge to John to record the events of the apocalypse 1:19

D. Explanation of seven stars and seven lampstands 1:20

4. Recognition and Reproof of the Seven Churches 2-3

A. Seven Churches of Asia Minor Revelation 2:1-3:22

1) Letter to Ephesus 2:1-7 “I have this against you”

2) Letter to Smyrna 2:8-11

3) Letter to Pergamum 2:12-17 “I have a few things against you”

4) Letter to Thyatira 2:18-29 “I have this against you”

5) Letter to Sardis 3:1-6 “I will come against you”

6) Letter to Philadelphia 3:7-13

7) Letter to Laodicea 3:14-22 “I will vomit you out of my mouth”

***Last key words of Jesus Christ to the Church:**

- ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’— Revelation 2:7
- ‘I know your deeds...’— Revelation 3:1

5. Retribution of the Lord 4:1-19:6

A. Scenes from the Throne of Heaven 4-5

1) Door in heaven and One on the throne in Heaven 4:1-3

2) Twenty-four elders: members and majesty of the royal court 4:4-5

3) four living creatures 4:6-7

1st beast – like a lion- six wings, full of eyes

2nd beast– like a calf- six wings, full of eyes

3rd beast – face of a man- six wings, full of eyes

4th beast – like a flying eagle- six wings, full of eyes 4:7

4) Praise and worship in the royal court. Revelation 4:8-11

- Praise of the four living creatures
- Praise of the twenty-four elders. 4:10-11

5) Book with seven seals: insufficient of humanity. 5:1-4

6) The Lion from the tribe of Judah: The sufficiency of the Lamb. 5:5-10

7) Praise around the throne. 5:11-14

- Angels: Myriads and myriads, and thousands and thousands
- Living creatures
- Elders

B. Tribulation over the world. 6-19:6

1) Opening of the Book with Seven Seals of Righteous Judgment 6:1-8:1

a. Open Seal #1 White Horse-conqueror 6:1-2

- Bow - Crown to conquer

b. Open Seal #2 Red Horse-war

- Take peace from the earth, war erupts 6:3-4
- Large sword in the riders' hand

c. Open Seal #3 Black Horse- famine 6:5-6

- A pair of scales in his hand - Voice from the center of the four living creatures - A quart of wheat (Rev 6:5-6)

d. Open Seal #4 Pale Horse- death 6:7-7

- Death and Hades follow him
- authority to kill one-fourth of the earth
- sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beast

e. Open Seal #5 Martyrs 6:9-11

- word of God and the testimony which they had maintained
- quest or plea for righteous justice
- Underneath the altar, cried out with a loud voice, white robe

f. Open Seal #6 Cosmic Chaos 6:12-17

- great earthquake
- black sun
- blood moon
- stars fall to the ground
- sky split
- fear, hiding, and disorientation

2) Interlude before the seventh seal 7:1-17

a. Warning to the four angels 7:1-3

b. Sealing of 144,000- Jews. Revelation 7:4-8

12 Tribes Israel

1. Judah
2. Reuben
3. Gad
4. Asher
5. Naphtali
6. Manasseh
7. Simeon

8. Levi
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph
12. Benjamin

*Dan and Ephraim are omitted.

c. Redemption of the mixed multitude- Gentiles. Revelation 7:9-17

d. Open Seal #7 Silence 8:1

3) Blowing of seven Trumpets of Judgment 8:2-9:21

a. seven angels and trumpets 8:2

b. priestly angels at the altar 8:3-5

c. The seven trumpets of judgment. Revelation 8:6-13

d. 1st Angel's Trumpet- hail and fire mixed with blood 8:6-7

- 1/3 earth burned
- 1/3 of trees burned
- All green grass burned.

e. 2nd Angel's Trumpet- great mountain burning thrown into the sea 8:8-9

- 1/3 of sea turn to blood
- 1/3 of sea creatures died
- 1/3 of ships destroyed

f. 3rd Angel's Trumpet- star called Wormwood fell from heaven 8:10-11

- 1/3 rivers and springs of fresh water turns to wormwood
- Many men died from the bitter water

g. 4th Angel's Trumpet- 8:12

- 1/3 of the sun struck
- 1/3 of the moon struck
- 1/3 of the stars struck
- 1/3 of day and night is dark

h. Warning of the three woes 8:13

i. 5th Angel's Trumpet- 9:1-11

Locust torment for five months

j. Conclusion of the 1st Woe 9:12

k. 6th Angel's Trumpet

- four angels bound near Euphrates released 9:13-21
- 1/3 mankind killed
- Plague of fire, smoke, and brimstone from the mouth of horses.
- Survivors refused to repent 9:20-21

l. Interlude 10:1-11:14

a. Strong angel open little book. 10:1-7

b. John eating the little book. Revelation 10:8-11

c. Times of the Gentiles- trampling of the temple for 42 months 11:1-2

d. Two witnesses. Revelation 11:3-13

e. Second Woe anticipation of the Third Woe 11:14

m. 7th Angel's trumpet- and temple of God. 11:15-19

- 4) Persons and Prophecies of the Tribulation 12-14:20
 - a. The woman 12:1-2

 - b. The red dragon 12:3-4

 - c. The male child of the Woman 12:5-6

 - d. The war in heaven: Michael the archangel and the dragon 12:7-12

 - e. The war on earth: dragon and the woman 12:13-17

 - f. The Beast out of the sea 13:1-10

 - g. The Beast out of the earth 13:11-18

 - h. The Lamb and 144,000 on Mount Zion 14:1-5

 - i. The three angels announcement 14:6-13

 - j. The Angels Reaping for Judgment 14:14-20

5) Seven Bowls of Judgment 15:1-16:21

a. Presentation of the Bowl Judgments-Great Tribulation 15:1-2

b. Tribulations saints worship God 15:3-4

c. Temple of the tabernacle: seven angels with bowls 15:5-16:1

d. Bowl #1 Pour on the earth.

- Loathsome and malignant sores on those with mark of the Beast and worshiped his image. 16:2

e. Bowl #2 Pour in the sea.

- All the sea turns to blood. 16:3
- All fish in ocean die. 16:3

f. Bowl #3 Pour into the rivers and springs.

- Rivers and springs turn to blood. 16:4-7

g. Bowl #4 Pour upon the sun.

- Men scorched by with fire, blasphemed God and did not repent 16:8-9

h. Bowl #5 Pour on the throne of the beast.

- Government of Beast darkened, gnawed their tongue, blasphemed God, and did not repent 16:10-11

i. Bowl #6 Pour on the great Euphrates River

- Euphrates dried up, prepared the way for kings of the east.
16:12

j. Interlude: Gathering for the battle of Har-Magedon 16:13-16

k. Bowl #7 Pour upon the air.

- Voice from temple declare, “It is done.”
- Flashes of lightning, sounds, peals of thunder, a great earthquake on the earth, the great city split into three parts. 16:17-21

6) Doom of the Great Harlot: two Babylons 17:1-18:24

a. Apostacy in the Great Tribulation: Spiritual Babylon 17:1-18

1) Mother of Harlots sitting on a scarlet beast 17:1-7

2) Explanation of the beast 17:8-13

3) Lamb overcome the harlot and beast 17:14-18

b. Doom of political and commercial Babylon 18:1-24

1) Fallen is political and commercial Babylon 18:1-8

2) World laments the doom of Babylon 18:9-19

3) Heaven praise and rejoice the doom of Babylon 18:20-19:6

a) Four Hallelujahs

#1 great multitude- judgment of the great harlot 19:1

#2 great multitude- harlot smoke rise 19:3

#3 twenty-four elders and four living creatures- worship 19:4

#4 great multitude- for the reign of the Lord God Almighty 19:6

6. Return of the Lamb: Marriage and Second Coming 19:7-20:15

A. Marriage and bride of the Lamb 19:7-10

B. Return of Christ: King of kings and Lord of lords 19:11-16

C. Assembling for the great supper of God: War of Armageddon 19:17-21

1) carnage from the war: humans and horses 19:17-18

2) beast and false prophet thrown into lake of fire 19:19-20

3) death of the enemies of the Lamb 19:21

D. Millennial Kingdom 20:1-15

1) Satan bound for 1,000 years 20:1-3

2) Saints of Tribulation reign 1,000 years with Christ 20:4-6

3) Satan released, deceives, then doom in the lake of fire 20:7-10

4) Great white throne judgment 20:11-15

7. Restoration of Righteousness 21-22

A. New heaven and earth 21:1

B. New Jerusalem Descend and Suspended in air 21:2-8

C. New Jerusalem Defined. 21:9-21

D. New Plan and Policies: no temple, no constellations, open gates, and nothing unclean 21:22-27

E. River of life and tree of life 22:1-5

F. Promised return of Christ soon. 22:6-7

G. John's affirmation and rebuke 22:8-9

H. John charge: Do not seal the book 22:10-21