

Overview of The Revelation by Charli Yana

- The Revelation was written sometime between 69AD-79AD [some say 96AD] (but definitely after the fall of Jerusalem which occurred in 70AD). The time of the writing was during Vespasian's reign (69-79 AD). The year 96 would have been too late to make preparations for the coming persecution since Domitian, who resumed Nero's (54-68) oppressive acts (see notes on 13:3) after about 13 years of relative calm for the saints, would no longer be Caesar (81-96). It concerned the fall of Jerusalem (chapters 5-12 where chapter 12 began the transition into revealing the true threat to the churches) in the form of what John had "seen" (1:19). Chapters 13 thru 20:7 then pertain to the churches of Asia according to what John was told would "take place after this" (1:19). (It is suggested here that a pre-destruction referencing of the "two witnesses" of chapter 11 'represent' the Law and the Prophets who prophesied "until John; since the good news of the kingdom [began being] preached" [Lk 16:16].) Verse 7 (chapter 20) to the end of the chapter has yet to happen. Chapters 21 and 22 describe the church, both as 'militant' (on earth in this physical realm) and 'victorious' (in the spiritual a.k.a. paradise). The Law and Prophets became "obsolete" (Heb 3:13) after being fulfilled (Mat 5:17) once the Gospel age began when both John (the immerser) and Jesus "began to preach, saying, **Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand**" (Mat 3:2; 4:17). But since the rebellious Jew, who didn't accept Jesus as the Messiah, continued the temple worship system, Jerusalem's destruction (under Titus as the new General of the Roman army) then finally ended it. Jesus 'revealed' to His disciples who lived in the city what was to happen shortly to Jerusalem in Mat 24 which was later addressed to converted Jewish Christians living there in Heb 10:16-25. The following study will encompass those who lived (and died) under the O.T. Jewish persecution (6:5) along with the subsequent Roman oppression.

Theme: **Victory** (Christians rule!) We have, as our Leader, the Eternal One.

Rev 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the First and the Last, 18 and the living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

- To have the keys to anything is to control entrance into whatever those keys have access to.

Rev 5:6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, ...

- John saw our crucified Lord as He appeared to His disciples **after** His resurrection. Jesus not only had the scars from the cross but also from the horrific beating He took from the Jews and Romans before that, which was prophesied.

Isa 50:6 I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting.

- Which is the main reason why He wasn't recognized by Mary until He spoke (Jn 20:16). Satan is too proud to realize that the war between good and evil was won the day Jesus resurrected. He is only chained (20:2) so he still has an influence on our human nature. There are many skirmishes the faithful saints have yet to battle until the end of the 1,000-year reign when he is released (20:7). Meanwhile we have our spiritual weaponry (Eph 6).
-

Timeframe: Once we understand this very critical aspect of the Revelation, everything else will fall into place.

Rev 1:19 Write therefore the things that you **have seen** (*past*), **those that are** (*present*) and **those that are** to take place **after this** (*future*). *The Revelation covers all three points of time during John's exile on Patmos; what he saw, what was to take place shortly [either during his life or soon thereafter], and what has yet to take place (20:7-15).*

Past: "have seen" (*Gk.1492-to know*)

- Jesus here points to some things that John saw (*things he already knew*). Among which was the destruction of Jerusalem (70AD) and of the seven churches of Asia, seven being a number of completeness. It only concerns us in that "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction" (*Rom 15:4*), and because of the future events that we need to be ready for that have yet to transpire, once the thousand-year reign has ended (20:7-15).

Rev 1:20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- Whatever John "saw" in The Revelation, such as "the souls under the altar" of 6:9, he was to write to the churches of Asia for encouragement and so they would get a 'heads-up' in order to not be caught off guard over what was about to happen to them. Why were those things written in such a mysterious form of language?

"It was written in highly symbolic language to accomplish these opposing concepts (*Reveal and Conceal*) at the same time. It was to REVEAL to God's people their need for faithfulness, the glory to come, of the vindication of their cause with the overthrow of the opposing forces. Yet, it was also written in such a manner as to CONCEAL these thoughts from the enemy. If the documents showing the overthrow of the persecuting force came into the hands of that government, it would only make the persecution stronger on God's people. To the persecutors, the highly symbolic language was of "fairy tale" proportions and they made nothing of it".

Rodney M. Miler- The LION and The LAMB on Planet Earth © 1976/1981
(Fair Use copyright codified #4 at 17 U.S.C. § 107)

Christians, in this case mostly Gentile converts in Asia, understood, or were learning, the emblematic nature of Old Testament writing, which the Romans could not decipher... (*Ex: 2 Sam 22:17-18/Rev 17:1*)

2Co 2:11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Present: "are"

Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must soon (*Gk.5034-a brief space [of time], in haste*) take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

- Specifically, to the church under the Roman government to “keep what is written in it”, to be ready to endure the persecution, but also “for our instruction” (*Rom 15:4*). The focus, though, was on the churches then. All that was about to happen to the churches of Asia at that time, was to happen very soon. Notice the instructions to Daniel about sealing up his prophesy concerning timeframe and then to John when it came to The Revelation.

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

- If John was told to not seal the book and Daniel was told to, wouldn't that help us understand that, for the most part, the prophesies of The Revelation were for that specific era and people and not for us nearly two thousand years in the future (*other than for our learning*)?

Future: “after this”

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth (*to be global*), Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

- The (*figurative*) thousand years concerning the (*literal*) Christian reign, thousand as a number of completion (*according to God's timeframe-2 Pet 3:8-9*), runs concurrent with the binding of Satan (20:3), which contrasted the short period of martyrdom (12:6 *the woman representing the church being “nourished”- Gk.5142-to stiffen*) (*42 months or 1,260 days*). The 1,000-year reign of the saints represents the age between Pentecost and the return of Christ. Then will come the general judgment in which all people from every status/walk of life are to attend. Only those written in the book of life will “not come into condemnation; but [will pass] from death into life” (*Jn 5:24*).

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him Who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life (*same book Moses alluded to in Ex 32:32*). And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

- books (*plural*): a huge library containing the names and deeds of the unrighteous.

Mat 7:13 "...and those who enter by it are many.

- another book (*singular*): comparatively much fewer names of the righteous and their deeds (13:8).

Mat 7:14 ... few there be that find it.

Php 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, **whose names are in the book of life.**

Heb 12:23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are **enrolled in Heaven**, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Luk 10:20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your **names are written in Heaven.**"

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, **according to what they had done.** 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- sea- not physical here. The physical sea is to be destroyed along with the earth (v. 11). This is the sea that is before the throne (15:2), it is part of the Hadean realm known as Paradise. The righteous dead will be separated from that realm first (1 Thes 4:16) and won't "come into judgment" (Jn 5:24), when it is cast, along with Death, "into the lake of fire" (20:14). It is upon this sea that the righteous dead stand, whose names are in the book of life. It's where Paul went to "be with Christ" (Php 1:23) since the "sea" here is spiritual, and...

Rev 7:15 "... they are **before** the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple (*denotes separation*); and He Who sits on the throne will **shelter them with His presence.** But, as John prophesied of the church victorious...

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

- Death and Hades- (6:8) The rider on the pale horse (*Death*) took lives and Hades collected them. Here both are delivered to be judged. Unlike those from the sea before the throne whose deeds were righteous, these according to their ungodly deeds.

- second death- For there to be a second to anything there must be a first. The first death and resurrection are spiritual for those who were "under the altar" (6:9) and those after Pentecost (*baptism according to Rom 6*), all who have been obedient (*under the O.T. to the Law and the Prophets and under the N.T. to the message of the Gospel*) even though everyone can expect to die physically (*unless Christ returns beforehand*). That's when we put Christ on (*Gal 3:27*) as a white garment, the same that was granted to the "souls under the altar" (6:9), those who died before Pentecost who awaited the coming of the Messiah. Our reigning with Christ begins at that point and will continue as we "walk in the light as He is in the light" (1 Jn 1:7). The first death is physical **and** spiritual then, for those who have **not** obeyed the Gospel message. Physical death is the soul's separation from the physical body, but spiritual death is separation from God (2 Thes 1:8-9). We will all experience a physical death. **Most**, though, will by their ultimate choice, face a second, spiritual death, being separated from God for an eternity.

Mat 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are **many.** 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few.**

When portions of The Revelation were written in past tense as though they had already happened as John was writing them (*such as 20:7-15*), they were written in such a manner because they were/are imminent, as are all prophecies originating from the mouth of God via Holy Spirit, Who inspired those chosen to pen the inspiration of truth (*2 Pet 1:21*).

In Acts 2:23 Peter, by inspiration, stated concerning Jesus how his Jewish audience were participants in “the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” telling them how Christ was “crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men”. Jesus also reminded His disciples of the things He told them during His earthly ministry when He was yet with them (*Lk 24:44*). They occurred just as the things John wrote that have occurred (*according to where we are with reference to history*) and those that are yet imminent (*20:7-15*). With the track record of evidence (*Heb 12:1*) concerning all these inspired prophecies that have been confirmed, why would anyone not want to be prepared for Christ's second and final coming? The Revelation was not only written for the preparation of the seven churches of Asia, but also “for our instruction” (*Rom 15:4*). Are we ready? Is the church ready? When Christ comes “will He find faith on earth?” (*Lk 18:8*)

The only portion of the Revelation yet to transpire is in chapter 20:7-15 with the end of the 1,000-year reign (*Rev 20:6- the present Christian dispensation, which began at Pentecost and will continue until the return of our Lord*) and the final judgment ...**all else has come to pass!**

Updated December 31, 2018
www.truthdiscovered.net

