

A Summary of Revelation 1:1 – 2:11

Overall Series: Part 1 of 30

The Book of Revelation!

Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 & 10:45 † Wednesday, May 4 at 7 PM

Second Sunday of Easter – 2011

General Information

1. Summary – *In Christ we win!*
2. Purpose – God gave the book of Revelation to encourage Christians – *in the face of persecution* – to ♦ stand firm, ♦ not shrink back, and ♦ look forward to Jesus' *final* victory over all the forces of evil!
3. Literary Form – Apocalyptic literature – “an effort to portray the future by means of strange and even fantastic symbolism.”¹
4. Interpretation – NT truths about the victory of good over evil.
5. Numbers – *Most or all* are to be taken *symbolically*. These are some examples:
 - a. 3 – God (Triune).
 - b. 3½ – NT era:
 - i. Time, times, and half a times.
 - ii. 1260 days.
 - iii. 42 months.

¹ Becker, Siegbert W., Revelation, The Distant Triumph Song (Milwaukee: Northwestern Pub. House, 1985), 12.

- c. 4 – World (NEWS).
 - d. 7 – God interacting with the world (3+4=7).
 - e. 10 and its multiples –Completeness.
 - f. 12 and its multiples – the Church.
6. Outline Comment: (See Becker, page 16)

Revelation 1:1-8

Introduction: ¹ The Revelation [**Αποκάλυψις**] of Jesus Christ, which **God** gave Him to show to His bond-servants [δούλοις], **the things which must shortly take place**; and **He [Jesus]** sent and communicated *it* by **His angel** to **His bond-servant John**, ² who bore witness...

1. **Αποκάλυψις** – “is an ‘unveiling,’ a ‘making known’ of things that have [before this time] been hidden.”²
2. “**shortly**” – *God’s perspective!* ^{NIV} **2 Peter 3:8** “...With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”

³ Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of the prophecy, and **heed** the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

A description of Jesus: ⁵ ...the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

² Becker, 25.

Revelation 1:9-20

Jesus' description of Himself: ¹⁷ ...I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living One [*the source of life*]; and I was dead [*Good Friday*], and behold, I am alive forevermore [*Easter*], and I have the keys of death and of Hades [*the power to release from the grave*].

The Seven Letters in General

1. The entire book of Revelation was written to the seven churches (1:4), *which represent all NT Churches*.
2. The seven churches are *real churches in real cities in real geographical order*.
3. Most of the letters have these *seven parts in this order*:
 - a. Command to write.
 - b. Description of the speaker.
 - c. Word of commendation.
 - d. Word of criticism.
 - e. Word of admonition.
 - f. Call to hear.
 - g. Word of promise.

Revelation 2:1-7

Letter to the Church in Ephesus

Word of Criticism: ⁴ ...you have left your first love. (See Becker, page 48)

Word of Admonition: ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen [*from the time in your life when you had and showed sincere gratitude for God's gift of salvation*], and repent and do the deeds you did at first... – **"A lack of daily repentance may lead finally to a complete loss of faith."** (Becker, 49)

Revelation 2:8-11

Letter to the Church in Smyrna

Word of Commendation: ⁹ "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)..." – **"The Christians in Smyrna either belonged to the poorer classes in the city or they had lost their possessions through persecution."** (Becker, 51-52).
2 Corinthians 8:9; (2 Cor. 6:1-10)

The Admonition: ¹⁰ "Do not fear what you are about to suffer....Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." – **"The seeming defeat they suffered when they died at the hands of their enemies will become their victory."** (Becker, 53) Hebrews 10:39 "...we are not of those who..."

The Promise: ¹¹ "He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." – **"This is the second death, the lake of fire."** (Rev. 20:14 NAU)

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