



MORAIN VALLEY CHURCH

OVERCOMERS: Revelation in One Sermon Rev 1:1-22:21 May 26, 2019

I. Introduction:

- A. Today I have a **large assignment** – **Preach from** a PANORAMIC view *the* WHOLE book of Revelation in ONE MESSAGE.
- B. To do this **you need to know** where I am COMING FROM *and* WHY. *There are* PRIMARY 4 WAYS people **interpret** the book of Revelation.
 1. **Preterist** - Revelation is like an ANCIENT NEWSPAPER. Events **already fulfilled in the first century AD.**
 2. **Idealist** - see Revelation as a non-historical and non-prophetic **allegorical** DRAMA about the **struggle between** the kingdom of **God** and the powers of evil.
 3. **Historic**
 - a) Revelation is like a HISTORY TEXTBOOK understanding the events in Revelation as **symbolic descriptions** of historical events throughout **CHURCH** history.
 - b) **Spiritualize** the Covenant Promises to be fulfilled by **Church.**
 4. **Futurist**
 - a) Revelation is like a ROAD MAP that describes the end of time and the years leading immediately to the end, things **yet to occur.**
 - b) Take Covenant Promises **Literally** to be fulfilled by Israel
 - c) **Church Participates** in Promises ~~through~~ the **seed** of Abraham and David – **Jesus Christ.**
- C. I PERSONALLY HOLD the 4th view **Futurist**, *which* some **call** DISPENSATIONAL. **This is the same** view MVC has held for over the last 60 years and **the same view** that MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE teaches. Let me give you just 3 REASONS WHY **I interpret** the book this way.

1. 1st *as* I said last week the ROOTS of all prophecy *are* found in the **Covenant promises** that **God** made to Israel. *And since* the **covenant promises** and many **prophecies** have ALREADY BEGUN to be FULFILLED LITERALLY *it is* reasonable to EXPECT THE REST of **them** to be FULFILLED LITERALLY.
2. 2^{ndly} **Because of** Israel DISOBEDIENCE and REJECTION of Jesus as Messiah – many say that the Church now REPLACES Israel as the New Israel and thus SPIRITUALIZE many prophecies as being symbolically fulfilled by the Church. They believe that ISRAEL FORFEITED their **right** to these promises.
 - a) *Not only does* Romans 11 indicate that **God** has a FUTURE PLAN for Israel *but* Listen to what **God** says about this in Ezek 36 *right before* He talks about GATHERING Israel from the nation **S** and BRINGING THEM BACK *into* their own land in the FUTURE!
 - (1) *at* a TIME WHEN:
 - (a) The land *will be* FRUITFUL and BLESSED
 - (b) *it will be like* the GARDEN OF EDEN again
 - (c) a *time when it will be* FORTIFIED, *and* at PEACE
 - b) *As* I read note that **God** *does not* ACT *or* REFRAIN from acting DEPENDING upon Israel's good or bad PERFORMANCE *but* to VINDICATE THE HOLINESS of His great NAME.
 - (1) Read Ezek 36:22-24
 - (2) *Then* he talks about the NEW COVENANT of forgiveness *and* a new Heart *with* the Holy Spirit inside of it
 - (3) Read V28 – My friends *this is* EXACTLY what we see happening *in* the book of REVELATION *after* **JESUS** RETURNS
3. **Finally** The CHARACTER of **God** – His **HESED** = His FAITHFULNESS to keep His Covenants *and* GRACE. – *If* **God** could TURN HIS BACK on Israel *when* **He** made COVENANT PROMISES to Israel *and* BREAK **HIS** PROMISES with them *what* KEEPS HIM FROM DOING THAT to the **Church** today.
 - a) *I will tell you what* KEEPS **Him** *from not* BREAKING HIS PROMISES with ISRAEL *or* the **CHURCH** – *it is* **His** FAITHFULNESS *and* GRACE. **His** HESED – **His** OWN LOVE *to* FULFILL **His** covenant Promises

- *So now* let's jump into

II. The Book of Revelation in One Message

A. The **Basic** OUTLINE of the Book is **simple**: Read Rev 1:19

1. Things Have SEEN – Ch 1 (VISION *of* the **Glory of Jesus**)
2. Things That ARE – Ch 2-3 (7 **CHURCHES**)
3. Things Which WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER These Things – Ch 4-22
 - a) TRIBULATION 6-18
 - b) RETURN of **Jesus** in Glory 19
 - c) KINGDOM of **God** 20-22

B. We **learned** last week:

1. **Theme** – The RETURN of **Jesus Christ** in GLORY as **Judge and King** to **destroy EVIL and set up** His KINGDOM
2. **Purpose** – To **encourage** the 7 Churches to persevere in HOLINESS, ALLEGIANCE to and WORSHIP of **Jesus**.

C. Let me show you HOW I came up with those, *let's start with* the THEME!

1. We saw in verse 1 the **book** STARTS with these words “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*” – we saw the **book is** PRIMARILY ABOUT **Jesus**.
2. Now look at v7 *where* his FIRST WORDS *after* he **finishes** his INTRODUCTORY words! Read
 - a) *Now* look at the END of the book *as* he COMPLETES THE HEART of the book *and* TRANSITIONS *to* his **closing words**! Read 22:7
 - b) The HEART OF THIS BOOK is about **Jesus** COMING BACK, the RETURN of **Jesus Christ**.
3. Now turn to 11:17-18 it **reveals to us the heart** of WHY HE IS COMING BACK. *As* he **starts** with the WORSHIP of the 24 elders *then moves* to the RESPONSE of the nations. Read
4. *Thus* the THEME of this book –The RETURN of **Jesus Christ** in GLORY as **Judge and King** to **destroy EVIL and set up** His KINGDOM

D. PURPOSE – To ENCOURAGE the 7 Churches to PERSEVERE in Holiness, Allegiance to and Worship of **Jesus**.

1. Read 1:3 **Heed**

2. We *must* REMEMBER the book was WRITTEN TO the **7 Church** who currently were experiencing **external persecution from Rome and internal struggles** of apostasy and immoral behavior
 3. Letters to the **7 Churches**
 - a) The letters to each **Church are** STRUCTURED basically the SAME – **Essentially it is**
 - (1) VISION of Jesus in His glory
 - (2) COMPLIMENTS about what they are doing well
 - (3) CRITICISM of where they are coming up short
 - (4) EXHORTATION to do something or a WARNING
 - (5) PROMISE to OVERCOMERS
 4. *Note that* each one of these PROMISES *has* something to do with a REWARD *in* the future KINGDOM!
 - a) V2:7 – **Eat** of the TREE OF LIFE *in* Paradise
 - b) V2:11 – *Will not be* HURT *by* the SECOND DEATH
 - c) Cr 21:7 – *This is* DURING the time *of* the FUTURE KINGDOM of God
 5. *This is important because* God is **encouraging CHURCHES to PERSEVERE and** live HOLY LIVES *with* full ALLEGIANCE to God *because* it is WORTH it, *the* eternal REWARD FAR OUTWEIGHS *the* current STRUGGLE *and* pain.
 6. PAUL would have **said it this way** Read 2 Cor 4:17-18
- E. *Then* we move to the **3rd section** of the book and the LARGEST section – “*the things that TAKE PLACE AFTER these things.*” Read 4:1
1. In Chapter 4 we get a **vision** of the THRONE Room *and* the one who SITS ON it *followed by* WORSHIP of Him.
 - a) Read v2
 - b) PURPOSE of this *is to* REMIND them *who is on* the THRONE or simply *who is* RULING *and* in CHARGE *of* these MESSY things going on earth!
 2. Then Chapter 5 we get a **vision** of Jesus as the one who is WORTHY TO OPEN the scroll *and* WORSHIP of Him *and* the Father.
 - a) Read v1-5

- b) PURPOSE is to **show** that Jesus is the ONLY ONE WORTHY *to* bring about the JUDGEMENT upon the earth that is about to take place.
 - 3. We have MODELED for us from this section **and** the 7 interludes of WORSHIP that take place in chapters 6-19 *during* the **severe judgment** upon the world **that** the **proper and natural** and HEAVENLY RESPONSE to Jesus as Judge and King is WORSHIP!
 - 4. And they are there to REMIND us that Jesus is the BACKDROP by which we should READ ALL OF THESE EVENTS. Reminder it is about Jesus PRIMARILY and the events SECONDARILY!
- F. **Then** in Chapter 6 the JUDGMENTS BEGIN *as* Jesus BREAKS the first SEAL of the scroll. Read v1
- 1. What we are going to see in Chapter 6-19 are a **series** of JUDGMENTS.
 - 2. **But** there are BREAKS IN THE CHRONOLOGY of these judgments *by* INTERLUDES that *are like* side bars *that* explain a bit more to us **what is going on** like
 - a) Key CHARACTERS *and* INSTITUTIONS,
 - b) **And** 7 interludes of WORSHIP *that* show us the PROPER RESPONSE of Heaven and God's people to these times
 - c) **and then finally** we see the RESPONSES OF MAN on earth *at* the time of these judgments!
- G. **So** the 1st series of JUDGMENTS *are* the seven SEALS – These judgments *are*:
- 1. **Seals:**
 - a) **First Seal:** White Horse—Conqueror by AntiChrist
 - b) **Second Seal:** Red Horse —War
 - c) **Third Seal:** Black Horse—Famine
 - d) **Fourth Seal:** Pale Horse—Death 1/4th of the Earth
 - e) **Fifth Seal:** Martyrs under the altar
 - f) **Sixth Seal:** Earthquake, signs in the Heavens
 - 2. Listen to the RESPONSE OF MANKIND to this – read 6:15-17
 - 3. Note the **Last Phrase** in v17 “**WHO WILL STAND?**” Chapter 7 is an **interlude** in the action that **answers** that for us telling us about the 144,000 JEWS *who will be* SEALED *and* the great MULTITUDE *from every nation that will be* SAVED!

4. *Then* the multitude breaks *into* WORSHIP **declaring** that SALVATION belongs to God.
- H. At the **start** of Chapter 8 the 7TH SEAL *was* BROKEN *which* INTRODUCED the 7 TRUMPETS *and* their was **complete silence** in heaven for 1/2 hour.
1. **Trumpets:**
 - a) **First Trumpet** – Hail, fire, blood
 - b) **Second Trumpet** – Fiery mountain in sea, 1/3 of sea *becomes* blood
 - c) **Third Trumpet** –Star falls, 1/3 of rivers Bitter
 - d) **Fourth Trumpet** – 1/3 of sun, 1/3 moon, 1/3 stars turn dark
 - e) **Fifth Trumpet**—Demon locust from the Abyss to torment mankind
 - f) **Sixth Trumpet**—200 million man army kills 1/3rd of mankind
 2. Again note MAN’S RESPONSE to all of this read 9:20-21
 3. *Then* in Ch 10-11 we see another INTERLUDE about
 - a) Ch 10 - a LITTLE BOOK *that had* 7 PEALS OF THUNDER in them *but* the **content** of these were SEALED and John *was not to* write about them
 - b) *Then* the 2 WITNESSES in Ch 11 who for 3 1/2 years will PROPHECY for God, *be* KILLED by the beast *and then* RAISED again to life *and* CAUGHT up into heaven. Read v13
 4. *Then* the 7TH TRUMPET Sounds *and* Christ’s REIGN **right here on** EARTH is **foreseen**. Listen to 11:15-19.
- I. *Then* in Chapters 12-14 there is another interlude *to* explain who some of the main characters are in this tribulation *and* what their roles are! We learn here about:
1. The WOMAN – Israel
 2. The Red DRAGON – **Satan**
 3. The MALE CHILD – Christ
 4. **Michael** *and* his angels WAR *with* **Satan** *and* his angels.
 5. The BEAST *from* the SEA – **AntiChrist**
 6. The BEAST *from* the EARTH – **False Prophet**
 7. The GREAT REAPER – Jesus

- J. **Then** in Chapters 15-16 we move *into* the FINAL JUDGMENTS the seven Plagues/Bowls. Read v1
1. **Then** in v3 we see WORSHIP again *where* they **declare** just how GREAT, MARVELOUS, RIGHTEOUS and TRUE *are* His judgments
 2. The Bowls of WRATH
 - a) **1st Bowl** Painful SORES
 - b) **2nd Bowl** Turns sea into BLOOD
 - c) **3rd Bowl** rivers and springs - BLOOD
 - d) **4th Bowl**—Sun SCORCHES people
 - e) **5th Bowl**—Plunges kingdom of the beast into DARKNESS
 - f) **6th Bowl**—DRIES UP the Euphrates for Battle of Armageddon
 - g) **7th Bowl**—Judgment against BABYLON
 3. Note MAN'S RESPONSES to **these judgments**. Read: 16:9, 11, 21
- K. **Then in** Chapters 17-18 we see the **judgment** of the Babylon the GREAT HARLOT her RELIGIOUS *and* POLITICAL systems during the Tribulation *along with* CITY itself *and* its great COMMERCE!
1. **And** note the RESPONSE OF MANKIND to this – Read 18:17-19
 2. **But** the SAINTS *are* actually **called** to REJOICE over this, listen – v20
- L. **Then** we start Chapter 19 with a great MULTITUDE WORSHIPPING God
1. Read v1-2
 2. **Then** we see the MARRIAGE FEAST of the Lamb *with* His bride, the Church
 3. **Then** the Lord appearing as a WARRIOR *for* His FINAL ACT of judgment *as* He RETURNS *with* the saints and the angels *to* DEFEAT the anti-Christ *and* all his allies who have **gathered** together *for* WAR AGAINST the Lamb.
- M. **Then finally** we move into the KINGDOM of God in TWO FORMS
1. 1st in Chapter 20 – 1000 YEARS here on **earth** *while* Satan is BOUND *then* at the end of that time he is RELEASED *and* he **deceives** the nations into one more LARGE WAR *against* the Saints *and* he is DEFEATED *and* thrown into the LAKE OF FIRE *where* the ANTI-CHRIST and the FALSE PROPHET already are.

- a) This is followed by the GREAT WHITE THRONE Judgment where everyone whose name was not written in the BOOK OF LIFE will be thrown into the LAKE OF FIRE
 2. In Ch 21-22 we see the ETERNAL ASPECT of the Kingdom of **God** as a NEW Heaven and earth is created and **God** DWELLS right here on this new earth WITH His people.
 - a) Read 21:3-4, 7
 - b) Read 22:1-5
 3. ***This is*** the CONCLUSION of **God**'s STORY ***and*** the FULFILLMENT of all His PROMISES!
 4. These **2 aspects** of the Kingdom ***are*** ESSENTIAL ***because it will*** REQUIRE BOTH a **1000 year** earthly kingdom ***and*** an eternal Kingdom ***with*** a new heaven and earth to FULFILL all the promises and prophecies made ***by*** the PROPHETS in the **Old Testament** ***and*** the promises in the **New!**
- N. ***And in*** the **final section** we see **Jesus** again PROCLAIMING that He ***is*** COMING Quickly ***and that*** His REWARD is with Him.
1. The CRY ***and*** PRAYER of the **Church**, the **Spirit** and **John** who wrote this book ***was*** "COME"
 2. ***And*** the INVITATION ***to those who are thirsty is*** "COME"
 3. And all of this was **written for them**, for the **Church** for **you** and **me** who live in a CULTURE THAT IS NOT FAVORABLE towards Christianity, (Rome/United States) to **persevere** in HOLINESS, ALLEGIANCE to ***and*** WORSHIP of **Jesus because Jesus Christ** is RETURNING ***in*** GLORY ***as*** **Judge and King to destroy** EVIL ***and set up*** His KINGDOM
- O. PRAY