

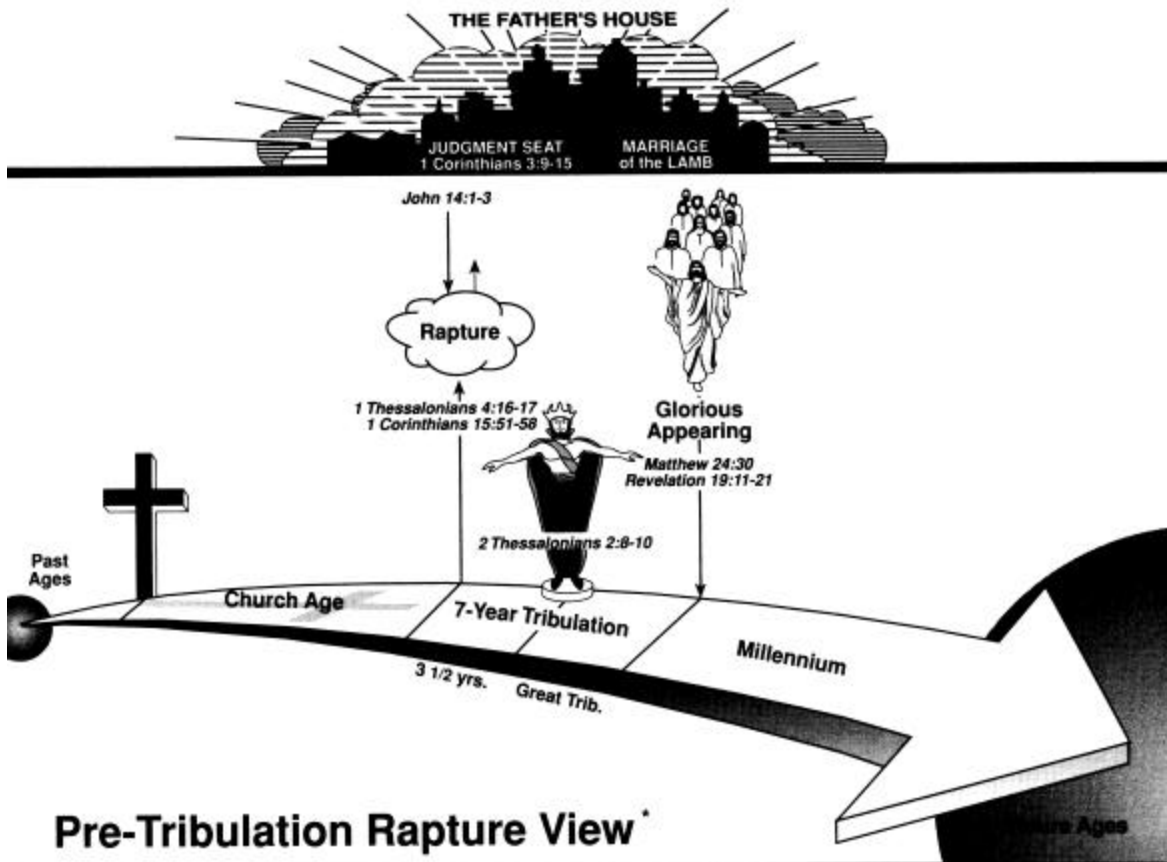
The Book Of Revelation - Chapter One

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John: **2** Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand. **4** John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; **5** And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, **6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. **7** Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. **8** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, **11** Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. **12** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; **13** And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. **14** His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire; **15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. **16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword; and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. **17** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: **18** I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. **19** Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; **20** The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

- Revelation = "apokalupsis" - "removing of a veil"
- this is an OPEN book (Rev. 22:10 vs. Daniel 12:4)
- v. 1 - "shortly" - not "soon," but "suddenly"
- v. 1 - "signified" = "symbolized" (to show by a sign); word used for Jesus' miracles - deeper message!
- v. 2 - "things that he saw" - see v. 19
- **Why does Revelation use SYMBOLS?**
 1. spiritual "code" to protect first-century Christians
 2. symbolic language is not weakened by time
 3. symbols impart information with emotion
- v. 3 - "blessed" - 7 blessings in Revelation (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14), also 7 curses
- v. 3 - "at hand" - church believed in imminent return!
- v. 4 - "him which is...was...is to come" - this is a Greek exposition of God's OT name "I AM"
- v. 4 - "seven spirits" - see 4:5, 5:6, Zechariah 4:6,10
- 7 - perfect number, signifies fulness or completion
- v. 5 - "and" = "even" (see v. 6)
- v. 5 - "washed" = "loosed and freed" (Amplified)
- v. 7 - "see" = "stare at something remarkable" - not Rapture but return to earth (Rev. 19, Matt. 24:29-30)
- v. 7 - "they which pierced him" - Jews (Zech. 12:10)
- v. 8 - Jesus Christ is Almighty God; Alpha & Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet
- First & Last Scriptures: Rev. 1:8, 22:12-13, 1:17-18
- v. 9 - we will see tribulation, not Great Tribulation!
- **Isle of Patmos (v. 9):**
 - 60 miles SW of Ephesus in Aegean Sea
 - island 10 by 6 miles, volcanic, mostly treeless
 - Roman penal colony containing granite quarry
 - John exiled in his 90's by Domitian (AD 95-96)
- v. 10 - "in the spirit" = "rapt in His power" (Amplified)
- **The Lord's Day (v. 10):**
 - the day of Christ's resurrection was always called "first day of the week" in NT, never "Lord's Day"
 - in the OT, the "Day of the Lord" represented a future time of God's judgment
 - John was propelled into the future by the Spirit!
- **The Seven Churches (v. 11):**
 - in Roman province of Asia (modern day Turkey)
 - in order of Roman postal route (30-45 miles apart)
 - more than 7 (ie: Colosse); these are representative
- v. 12 - "candlesticks" = Jewish Menorah; shows the church as the fulfillment of OT Judaism
- v. 13 - "Son of man" = OT title for the Messiah
- Jesus is clothed in priestly garments; girdle is about his chest - not waist - because his work is finished
- v. 14 - Daniel's vision of Ancient of Days (7:9)
- v. 16 - "seven stars" = angels, or "messengers"
- v. 16 - "sword" = God's Word (2:12,16; Heb. 4:12)
- v. 16 - power of His brightness - see 2 Thess. 2:8
- **note reaction of Jesus' apostle, beloved disciple, cousin; WHAT DOES YOUR JESUS LOOK LIKE?**
- v. 18 - "keys" - denote authority in a royal household
- v. 18 - "hell and death" - physical and spiritual death
- v. 19 - **PROPHETIC KEY TO INTERPRETATION**
- v. 20 - "mystery" = "mysterion," secrets known only to the initiated; many symbols defined by Scripture



* Church does not go through the Great Tribulation

The Seven Churches of Revelation

