

# The Book of Revelation: Part I

## The Christ

TEXT: Revelation 1:1-20 NKJV

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** The theme of the Book of Revelation is not the seven churches, the seven bowls, the seven trumpets, the Beast, the Anti-Christ or the symbolism. The theme is the Revelation of Jesus Christ as victorious King of Kings!!!! The title is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”. It is not the revelation of John... or Revelations... it is Revelation. There is only one. Revelation- “apokalupsis” is the Greek word meaning, “an uncovering”, “an unveiling” or “a disclosure”. Revelation begins with John, by now an old man, in exile on the small, barren island of Patmos, located in the Aegean Sea southeast of Ephesus. John had once been the pastor of the church at Ephesus. The Roman Emperor, Domitian, had banished him for preaching the gospel. Domitian was the Roman Caesar of his day, a ruler who saw himself as deity, as a god (little g). He would sign his letters as, “The Lord God, Domitian.” No wonder he would greatly persecute the early church and those who boldly proclaimed Jesus as the Way, the Truth & the Life. Domitian re-instituted what is known as emperor worship and made participation as the law of the land. If you did not go to the local emperor temple on the first day of the week (Sunday) and proclaim Caesar as “The Lord our God” then you faced death, persecution, banishment, etc. This first Chapter begins the unfolding hope found in having Christ as “Our Lord and our God.”

### **OUTLINE:**

- I. The Voice.
  
- II. The Vision.
  
- III. The Visit.

**CONCLUSION:** Though many are hesitant in studying the book of Revelation it is the only book of the Bible that promises a blessing to the reader. In the midst of the trees do not miss the beauty of the forest... Jesus is Victorious and He is our hope for a better future!

# The Book of Revelation: Part II

## The Churches

TEXT: Revelation 2 and 3

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** The seven churches described in Revelation 2-3 were seven literal churches at the time that John the apostle was writing Revelation. Though they are literal churches in that time, there is also spiritual significance for churches and believers today. The first purpose was to write to the literal churches and meet their needs at that time. The second purpose was to reveal seven different types of individuals/churches throughout history and instruct them in God's truth. A possible third purpose was to use the seven churches to represent seven different periods in the history of the church. The problem with this view is that each of the seven churches describes issues that could fit the church in any time in its history. So, although there may be some truth to the seven churches representing seven eras of the church, too many people go into far too much speculation in order to determine which church fits which era. Instead, our focus should be on what message God is giving to us through the seven churches. The seven churches are:

### **OUTLINE:**

- (1) Ephesus – The Loveless Church (Rev 2:1-7).
- (2) Smyrna – The Persecuted Church (Rev 2:8-11).
- (3) Pergamum – The Compromising Church (Rev 2:12-17).
- (4) Thyatira – The Corrupt (Rev 2:18-29).
- (5) Sardis – The Dead Church (Rev 3:1-6).
- (6) Philadelphia – The Faithful Church (Rev 3:7-13).
- (7) Laodicea – The Lukewarm Church (Rev 3:14-22).

**CONCLUSION:** God knew each Church -- their strengths and weaknesses. The strengths He praised and encouraged them to continue, their weaknesses were addressed and challenged for change. The same is true today. He knows all about our doctrines, traditions, faults, and strengths. The challenges are extended to us!

# The Book of Revelation: Part III

## The Celebration

TEXT: Revelation 4

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** What's going on here? If Jesus has told John that he's about to see "what must take place after this..." why would Jesus take John to be a "celebration"? Why not just get right down to the nitty gritty of it all and tell us all about what we really want to know about: the conflict between the forces of good and evil, between the forces of Satan and the angels of God? But instead we find ourselves being led into God's throne room. Why start here? Because that's where God KNEW we had to begin. We have to realize - when we read Revelation that it is possible to focus on the wrong things. Some commentators and preachers focus MORE on the powers of darkness; the Mark of the Beast - 666; the war of Armageddon; and so on. These are definitely important portions of Revelation but not the MOST important portion. Here we find Jesus taking care of His own and His own worshipping Him. From this point on in the book this scene should be kept in mind. God is seated on His throne and all is going according to His divine plan. Through John's words and the power of the Holy Spirit we can get a glimpse of Heaven.

### **OUTLINE:**

- I. The Summons to Heaven.
  
- II. The Sights in Heaven.
  
- III. The Song of Heaven.

**CONCLUSION:** John was translated to Heaven, away from the coming Tribulation! The future starts with this "catching away" and the celebration around the throne of God for those who find themselves there! No dark moments in the entire chapter -- it is a celebration. The rapture of the Church is indeed the "blessed hope." Will you be "caught up" when Christ calls?

# The Book of Revelation: Part IV

## The Champion

TEXT: Revelation. 5

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** The scene in Heaven continues with God on the throne holding in His right hand a large scroll, sealed with seven seals. This is typical of a Roman document similar to what we would refer to as a “Last Will and Testament.” Jesus died and as a result He left a plan of Consummation. The problem arises as there is no one worthy to open this document. Humanity left alone is on a collision course leading to ultimate destruction. But Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day and is now alive! He is able to open the document and fulfill God’s divine plan. Let’s examine this Chapter and the hope it holds for us today...

### **OUTLINE:**

I. The Seals.

II. The Sorrow.

III. The Solution.

**CONCLUSION:** The future unfolds with a dramatic moment in Heaven, there is a scroll with seven seals that represented the destiny of the Earth and mankind ... and at first there is tension in that no one seems worthy enough to open the scroll. If no one is found worthy what will the destiny of man be? This is the question in the minds of mankind to this day. What will happen tomorrow? Will we be destroyed? Will we destroy ourselves? Will we be just a blip in this universe only to disappear again? Is the future certain and is anyone in control? The answer is a resounding YES! Looking into the darkness of this world and the sometimes dark future we may wonder ... but if we look long enough we will see the Champion!

# The Book of Revelation: Part V

## The Calamities

TEXT: Revelation 6 – 8

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** In the book of Revelation there are three major judgments that come to the earth. The first wave is called the seal judgments. They unfold as the Lamb breaks the seals of the scroll. As each seal is broken, it unleashes a new barrage of God's judgment against an evil and Christ-rejecting world. Then, in chapter 8, another round begins as the angels blow the seven trumpets. Finally, the bowl judgments begin in chapter 16, as the final measure of God's wrath is poured out on a world which refuses to budge from its position of willful unbelief. Each series of judgments is worse than the other, and the bowls complete the work during the great Tribulation, just prior to the return of Christ. Let's take a closer look at the seal judgments...

### **OUTLINE (THE SEALS – JUDGMENT THE WORLD RUINED BY MAN):**

- I. The First Seal (6:1-2): White Horse – Deception.
- II. The Second Seal (6:3-4): Red Horse – War.
- III. The Third Seal (6:5-6): Black Horse – Famine.
- IV. The Fourth Seal (6:7-8): Pale Horse – Death 1/4 mankind dies.
- V. The Fifth Seal (6:9-11): Cries of the Martyrs.
- VI. The Sixth Seal (6:12-17): Heavenly Signs.
- VII. The Seventh Seal (8:1-6): Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets.

**CONCLUSION:** We can be encouraged because the wrath of God will happen progressively. This will allow an opportunity to repent. Now, is time to repent and take the warning seriously.

# The Book of Revelation: Part VI

## The Catastrophes

TEXT: Revelation 8-11

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** This section is about the sounding of seven trumpets and the events that follow. If you look in a concordance at the word trumpet you will find that the sounding of trumpets always signal something. They typically were not used to play a tune and entertain an audience. Most of the time trumpets performed two major tasks: They called the people to worship, and they sounded the signals for war. Are you ready to hear the sound of these trumpets? For all who are in Christ, this will be a call to eternal worship in the presence of our great God and King. For all who are not in Christ, it will be the terrifying sound of certain doom and destruction...

### OUTLINE (THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS):

- I. The First Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. The Second Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. The Third Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. The Fourth Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- V. The Fifth Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- VI. The Sixth Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- VII. The Seventh Trumpet: \_\_\_\_\_.

**CONCLUSION:** These trumpets have three purposes: 1) to warn that judgment is certain, 2) to call the forces of good and evil to battle, and 3) to announce the return of the Messiah. These warnings urge us to make sure of our faith is in fact firmly fixed on Christ.

# The Book of Revelation: Part VII

## The Choice

TEXT: Revelation 12-15

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** Revelation clearly reveals a day is coming when God will bring in the final harvest. Just as a farmer knows after a season of planting there will come a time of harvest we can know God will have a final harvest time. These chapters are widely known but seldom understood as Hollywood makes movies about these chapters. Although sometimes movies are biblically acceptable they seldom portray the entire truth of the Bible. While the world likes to ignore the possibilities of a final judgment it does not mean it doesn't exist. Far more people believe in Heaven than in Hell, how convenient! The drama between Satan and Israel continues to unfold with seven characters...

### OUTLINE:

- I. The Woman = Israel (12:1).
- II. The Male Child = Jesus (12:2, 5).
- III. The Dragon = Satan (12:3).
- IV. Michael = Archangel (12:7).
- V. Rest of Her Offspring = Seed of the Woman (12:17).
- VI. Beast of the Sea = Antichrist (13:1-3).
- VII. Beast of the Earth = False Prophet (13:11).

**CONCLUSION:** As seven angels prepare to pour their bowls a sound of joyful singing is heard in heaven above the sound of the Antichrist. Again, we are shown the glory of God's sovereignty! There is a choice to be made and this glimpse allows the reader of Revelation a chance to choose Jesus!

# The Book of Revelation: Part VIII

## The Cataclysm

TEXT: Revelation 16-18

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** The 7th Trumpet brings 7 bowls of wrath. This is the point for which we have been preparing. God's final judgment is now going to take place. The bowls of God's wrath are going to be poured out upon the earth. Let's take a look at the bowls and the unfolding of this cataclysmic event...

### OUTLINE (THE BOWL JUDGMENTS):

- I. The First Bowl: Painful Sores.
- II. The Second Bowl: Sea Turned To Blood.
- III. The Third Bowl: Rivers and Streams Turned to blood.
- IV. The Fourth Bowl: Sun Scorches Mankind.
- V. The Fifth Bowl: Earth Plunged into Darkness.
- VI. The Sixth Bowl: Armageddon.
- VII. The Seventh Bowl: It Is Finished!

**CONCLUSION:** The time BEFORE the Rapture and the Tribulation is called the "Age of Grace" or "Church Age". All that we have studied WILL HAPPEN ... BUT ... thank God ... He is the God of love and grace ... and He has provided a way of escape through Jesus Christ. He is the God of LOVE ... BUT ... He is ALSO the God of JUSTICE. As we live in this "Age of Grace" and as God is extending His grace to all... let's tell others about Christ before it is too late!



# The Book of Revelation: Part IX

## The Climax

TEXT: Revelation 19-22

Dr. Rich Denning

**INTRODUCTION:** Fellowship with God was lost with the Fall of Man (Genesis 3). Here we see the end result of His plan of Redemption.

### OUTLINE:

#### I. Hope – The Glorious Appearing

- A. The Appearance of the King (Rev. 19:11).
- B. The Apparel of the King (Rev. 19: 12-13, 15-16).
- C. The Armies of the King (Rev. 19:14).
- D. The Avenging of the King (Rev. 19:17-21).

#### II. Hell – The Gruesome Abandonment

- A. The Purpose of Hell (Rev. 21:10).
- B. The Place of Hell (Rev. 21:15).
- C. The People of Hell (Rev. 20:15).

#### III. Heaven – The Great Acceptance

- A. Description of the City (Rev. 21:1-2, 3, 5, 14, 17).
- B. Description of the Citizens (22:3-5).
- C. Description of the Christ (Rev. 22:6-7, 12-13, 20).

**CONCLUSION:** Be encouraged because one day we will be in the physical presence of God Himself! “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:11-13 NKJV).