

The Book of Revelation

Lesson 3 - Great Lessons in Revelation

1. The Outline of the Book
 - 1.1. The Introduction and Inaugural Vision – 1:1-20
 - 1.2. The Letters to the Seven Congregations of Asia – Chapters 2 and 3
 - 1.3. Visions of the Heavenly Throne and the Lamb – Chapters 4 and 5
 - 1.4. Visions of Christian Victory – Part 1 (6:1-11:18)
 - 1.5. Visions of Christian Victory – Part 2 (11:19 – 20:15)
 - 1.6. The Final State – 21:1 – 22:5
 - 1.7. Concluding Warnings and Exhortations – 22:6-21
2. Great Lessons in the Book
 - 2.1. God
 - 2.1.1. He is the eternal God of the past, present and future (1:4; 4:9).
 - 2.1.2. He is the Almighty (1:8).
 - 2.1.2.1. God is called the "Almighty" ten times in the New Testament and nine of those are in the book of Revelation.
 - 2.1.3. God is our creator who is worthy of the adoration of the entire creation because of his infinite holiness (4:8, 11; 14:7).
 - 2.1.4. Men will stand in judgment before him (20:11-15).
 - 2.2. Christ
 - 2.2.1. An offspring of David from the tribe of Judah (5:5).
 - 2.2.2. He is eternal as is God (22:13; 1 Tim. 6:16).
 - 2.2.2.1. He was human as well as divine (2:18).
 - 2.2.2.2. He is the object of worship (5:8-14).
 - 2.2.3. He was involved with God as creator of the universe (3:14; Heb. 1:2).
 - 2.2.4. He was put to death by crucifixion and in that capacity he was the Lamb of God by whom the price for sin was paid (11:8; 1:5; 5:9).
 - 2.2.4.1. Christ is designated "lamb" twenty seven times in the book of Revelation.
 - 2.2.5. He was raised from the dead and is alive for evermore (1:5, 18).
 - 2.2.6. He functions as prophet, and king (1:1, 5) and the garment of his visionary appearance was reminiscent of a priest (1:13; Ex. 28:4).
 - 2.2.7. Christ will return to render judgment and punish those who have stood against truth (19:11-16).
 - 2.3. Victory
 - 2.3.1. This book signals the ultimate victory of God's people. The Greek word *nikao* means: to conquer, to overcome, and to gain victory. This term is found twenty eight times in the New Testament, and seventeen of those are in Revelation.
 - 2.3.2. Christ overcame by virtue of his death and resurrection (3:21; 5:5), and ultimately will be victorious over all his enemies (17:14).
 - 2.3.3. As a consequence of Jesus' victory over death, the triumph of Christians is secured (12:11, 12).
 - 2.3.3.1. The letters to the seven churches of Asia make it clear that the victory is conditional – saints must be faithful if they are to overcome.
 - 2.3.4. Those who overcome will:
 - 2.3.4.1. Eat of the tree of life (2:7).
 - 2.3.4.2. Not be hurt by the second death (2:11).
 - 2.3.4.3. Be given hidden manna and a white stone on which a new was inscribed (2:17).
 - 2.3.4.3.1. All symbols of victory.
 - 2.3.4.4. Be given authority over nations (2:26)
 - 2.3.4.5. Granted the morning star (2:28).
 - 2.3.4.6. Be arrayed in white garments with their names in the book of life and confessed before the Father (3:5).
 - 2.3.4.7. Be made a pillar in God's temple, find security, and be given a new name (3:12).
 - 2.3.4.8. We will join Christ in victory (3:21).
 - 2.4. The Blessedness of Obedience
 - 2.4.1. In times of persecution, there is a temptation to abandon the faith and take the path of least resistance. The book of Revelation pronounces blessedness upon those who maintain faithfulness.
 - 2.4.2. Blessed are those who:
 - 2.4.2.1. Read, hear, and keep the words of this book (1:3; 22:7).

- 2.4.2.2. Die in the Lord (14:13).
 - 2.4.2.3. Watch and keep their garments (16:15).
 - 2.4.2.4. Are bidden to the Lamb's marriage supper (19:9).
 - 2.4.2.5. Have part in the first resurrection (20:6).
 - 2.4.2.6. Wash their garments (22:14; 7:14).
- 2.5. The Final State of the Righteous
- 2.5.1. The final glory of the Lord's people is characterized in both a negative and positive fashion in this book.
 - 2.5.2. The negative aspect is emphasized by a series of "no-mores"
 - 2.5.2.1. There will be no more "going out" (3:12) – a suggestion of an eternal abiding place where there is no failure.
 - 2.5.2.2. There will be no more hunger, thirst or scorching heat (7:16).
 - 2.5.2.3. There will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain (21:4).
 - 2.5.2.4. There will be no more curse such as was imposed in the Garden of Eden (22:3)
 - 2.5.2.4.1. There shall be no more sinning against God, so there shall be no more curse of God upon the people; for they shall be all his servants, and serve him. (Ref. Adam and Eve)
 - 2.5.2.5. There will be no more Babylon (18:21-23).
 - 2.5.2.6. There will be no more material earth and sea (21:1).
 - 2.5.3. The saints' ultimate triumph is also frequently represented under the descriptive of something "new."
 - 2.5.4. The Greek word *kainos*, which denotes qualitative newness, or freshness, is found eight times in this book.
 - 2.5.4.1. We will have a new name (2:17; 3:12).
 - 2.5.4.2. New Jerusalem (3:12; 21:2).
 - 2.5.4.3. A new song (5:9; 14:3).
 - 2.5.4.4. A new heaven and a new earth (21:1).
 - 2.5.4.4.1. Consistent with New Testament teaching concerning "final things," the phrase "new heavens and new earth" stands for the saved environment, following the Judgment Day; this environment is more commonly called "heaven" (Mt. 6:19-20).
 - 2.5.4.4.2. John wrote, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more" (Rev. 21:1). The expression "heaven and earth" stands for a place of existence – our familiar environment, i.e., land and sky. But what John saw was not the first heaven and earth. It was gone. So, he describes, in symbolic fashion, the place of the realm of the saved, where they shall reign "for ever and ever" – not a mere 1,000 years.
 - 2.5.4.4.3. This environment of the saved is simply heaven. Paul wrote that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). The apostle also said that we have one hope, and that our hope is in heaven (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:5).
 - 2.5.4.4.4. In every respect, heaven will be characterized by newness. It is a place never before inhabited by Christians. It is the first time the saved, in a glorified state, will be in the very presence of God – face to face (1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 22:4). This new state, where sin and death are no more, will be the eternal abode of the saved when the Lord returns, and the living are caught up with the redeemed of all ages to be with the Lord forever (1 Thes. 4:13-18).
 - 2.5.4.5. All things are to be made new (21:5).
- 2.6. The Destiny of the Wicked
- 2.6.1. The same document that addresses the eternal abode of the saints also deals with those who have set them selves up against God and stand in opposition against Christ.
 - 2.6.2. When Christ returns, his enemies will "mourn" in view of their anticipated judgment (1:7).
 - 2.6.3. God's opponents will be subjected to "the second death" (2:11; 20:14; 21:8).
 - 2.6.4. The "second death" is the ultimate separation from God (2 Thes. 1:9).
 - 2.6.5. Satanic forces will be victims of a divine war in which they will be crushed like fragile pottery (2:16, 27; 19:11).
 - 2.6.6. The ungodly will be tormented (14:10; 20:10) with no rest forever (14:11) in the crushing winepress of Heaven's justice (14:19; 19:15), even in everlasting fire (19:20; 20:14-15; 21:8).