

Revelation

Unlocking the Future



Lesson 03

What in the World is Happening?

Revelation 1

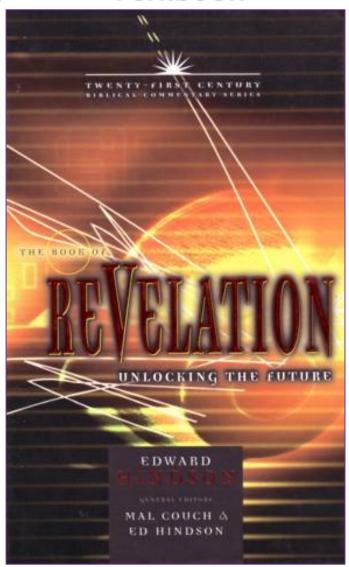
Philip Giorgio

Sojourners Sunday School Class



Textbook

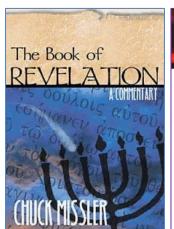


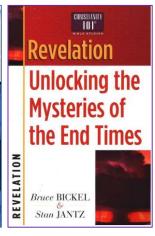


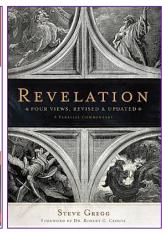


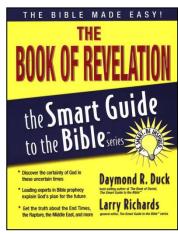
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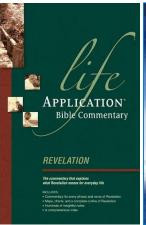


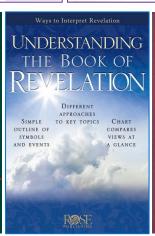


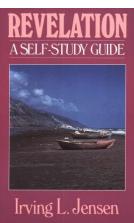








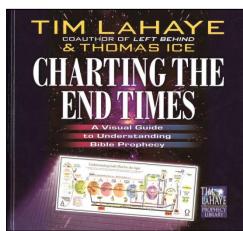


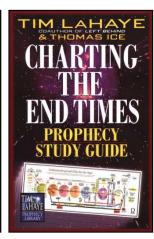


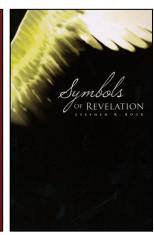


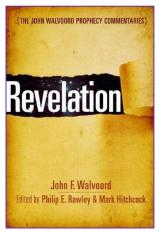
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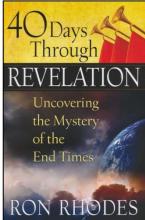


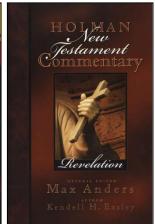


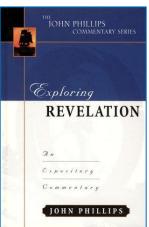




























Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [Revelation 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]

Course Outline - Lessons



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]





Lesson Outline

Lesson 03 - Outline



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening?

✓ STRUCTURE









What in the World is Happening?

Structure

Lesson 03 - Outline



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening?

✓ STRUCTURE



» Chapter Preview Introduction

» The Great Unveiling Revelation 1:1-3

» John the Revelator Revelation 1:4-6

» The King is Coming Revelation 1:7-8

» The Final Victory Revelation 1:9-20



Chapter Preview - Introduction

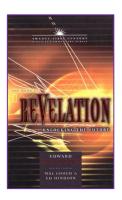


Preview

- The book of Revelation opens with a clear statement of purpose: to reveal the future.
- Then it moves immediately to John's vision of the risen Savior.
- The glorified Christ assures John that He has the future under control and the stage is set for the great "unveiling".

Chapter Observations

- John was exiled on Patmos.
- Christ appeared to him there.
- The Revelation was given to John.
- The Revelation was sent to the seven churches.



Lesson 03 - Outline



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening?

✓ STRUCTURE





» John the Revelator Revelation 1:4-6

» The King is Coming Revelation 1:7-8

» The Final Victory Revelation 1:9-20



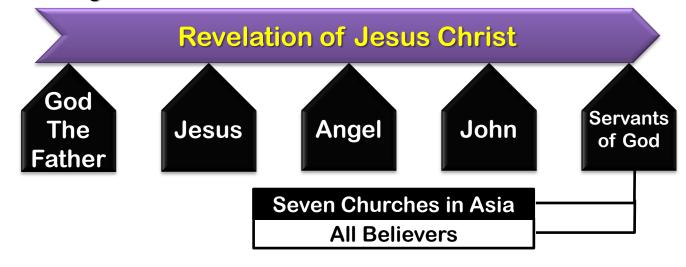
The Great Unveiling - Revelation 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS

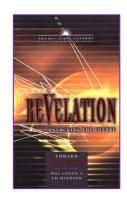


Title - The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- Some early Bible versions incorrectly title the book ... "The Revelation of St. John the Divine"
- The Revelation singular
 - It is not the Revelations of...
- Revelation = "Apocalypsis" = Unveiling
- Shortly = "en taxei" = rapidly in execution suddenly (tachometer)
- Revelation Transmission Sequence Sent & Signified

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

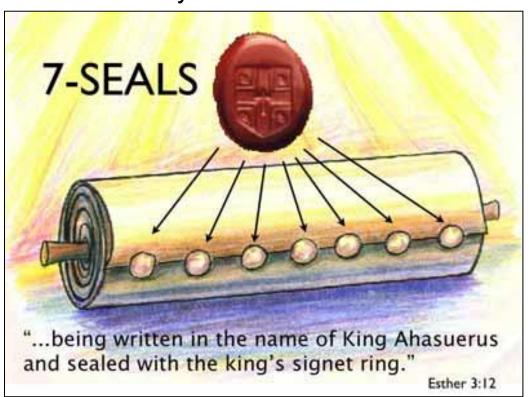




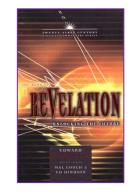
The Great Unveiling - Revelation 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS



- Title The Revelation of Jesus Christ
 - Signify in ancient times a ring or a pendant worn around the neck and was used to affix a signature - usually a king to provide proof of the authenticity of a document.



1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,



The Great Unveiling - Revelation 1:2 - OBSERVATIONS



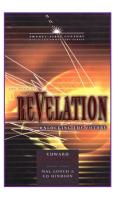
Testimony

- The first of many "triplets" which appear in the book
 - Typical of John's writing ... e.g., John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- The Witness Triplet ... Revelation 1:2
 - 1. Witness to the Word of God
 - 2. Witness to the Testimony of Jesus Christ
 - 3. Witness to all things that he (John) saw
- What is described here is an eyewitness account
 - This is not 2nd hand information or hearsay
 - John attests to the fact that he actually saw and experienced all these things he is about to write about.

² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.



The Great Unveiling - Revelation 1:3 - OBSERVATIONS

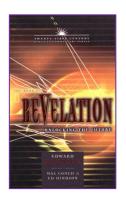


Terms

- John add another triplet the 1st of Seven Beatitudes ... "blessed is he ..."
 - Who reads
 - 2. Who hears the words of this prophecy
 - 3. Who keeps those things which are written in it
- Notice Revelation is self-described as "prophecy"
- The scope of this promised blessing extends to the entire book of Revelation.
- This threefold blessing reminds us that the purpose of reading or hearing God's Word is that we might obey it.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. --- James 1:22 ... NKJV

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



The Great Unveiling - Revelation 1:3 - OBSERVATIONS



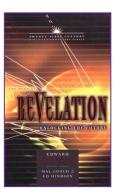
Time

- There are no dates set in the Revelation.
 - No matter what anyone tries to read into the text.

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. --- Matthew 24:36 ... NKJV [OLIVET DISCOURSE]

- There are no specific time indicators of when this prophecy will be fulfilled.
- The only indication of time is the phase "for the time is near"
 - Greek, kairos enus: This may be translated as "near" or "soon"
- Taken with the phrase "must shortly take place" in verse 1, we are left expecting the imminent return of Christ.

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



Lesson 03 - Outline



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening?

✓ STRUCTURE

- » Chapter Preview Introduction
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John the Revelator - Revelation 1:4 - OBSERVATIONS



FROM: John

• Following the pattern of triplets, John is identified three times ... 1:1; 1:4; 1:9.

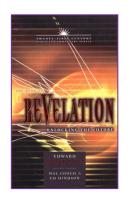
To: The Seven Churches in Asia (Minor)

- The entire book, not just the seven letters (chapters 2-3), were intended for all the churches to read.
- These seven churches are representative of the Church as a whole.

Grace and Peace

- John's greeting is Grace to you, and Peace ...
 - These words are always stated in this order.
- There can be no real peace apart from God's grace!

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,



John the Revelator - Revelation 1:5 - OBSERVATIONS



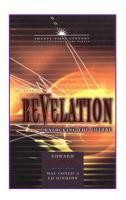
- Grace and Peace from...
 - God, the Trinity ... The ultimate triplet
 - From God the Father (v 4)
 - Him who was, who is, who is to come (Triplet Eternal nature)
 - From God the Holy Spirit (v 4)
 - The Seven Spirits who are before the throne
 - From God the Son (v 5)
 - Jesus Christ
 - The Faithful Witness ... FAITHFUL MARTYR
 - The Firstborn from the dead ... RISEN SAVIOR
 - The Ruler over the kings of the earth ... KING OF KINGS

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Triplet Giving
Jesus'
Credentials

BECAUSE OF JESUS' CREDENTIALS,

WE NEED NOT FEAR DEATH
HE HAS GONE BEFORE US AND HAS TRIUMPHED OVER IT



John the Revelator - Revelation 1:6 - OBSERVATIONS



What the Savior has done for us

- Starts in verse 5 and continues here in verse 6.
- Christ has ...
 - 1. Loved us (v 5)
 - 2. Washed us from our sins in His own blood (v 5)
 - 3. Made us kings and priests to His God and Father (v 6)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

--- 1 Peter 2:9 ... NKJV

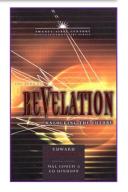
CALLED WITH A PURPOSE!!!
TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL!!!

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

THREE WHO ARE BOTH KING & PRIEST

CAN YOU NAME THEM?

- 1) MELCHIZEDEK
- 2) JESUS CHRIST
- 3) THE BELIEVER



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The King is Coming - Revelation 1:7 - OBSERVATIONS



Behold, He is coming with Clouds

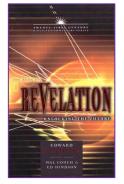
- John states the theme of the entire book of Revelation
 - The imminent return of Christ: "Behold, He is coming with clouds"
 - John uses another triplet to add some details.
 - 1. And every eye will see Him
 - 2. Even they who pierced Him
 - 3. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him
 - The promise is of a future triumph.
 - He will not return as a lowly servant, humble shepherd, or rejected prophet - This time He will return as King of kings.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

¹⁰ "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

--- Zechariah 12:10

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. --- Philippians 2:9-11 ... NKJV



The King is Coming - Revelation 1:8 - OBSERVATIONS



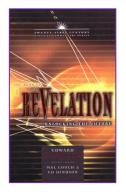
Jesus Speaks

- I am: Eternal nature of God
 - Seven great "I Am" statements in John
 - God to Moses ... "I am that I am" ... Exodus 3:14
 - Christ is the Beginning and the End None before -None after.
 - The Alpha and the Omega: 1st & Last letters of the Greek alphabet
 - The Beginning and the End: He sees the end from the beginning
- The Lord then describes Himself with a triplet
 - Who is Present
 - Who was Past
 - Who is to come ... Future

Jesus is the Eternal Almighty Son of God

BECAUSE OF THIS TRANSCENDENCE OF TIME JESUS CAN DISCLOSE THE FUTURE TO JOHN IN THE
VISIONS THAT FOLLOW.

8"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."



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The Final Victory - Revelation 1:9 - OBSERVATIONS



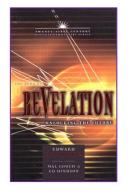
John on the Island of Patmos

- John explains he had been exiled to the island of Patmos
 - For the word of God
 - For the testimony of Jesus Christ
- Patmos was the Alcatraz of the ancient world.
 - Isolated place where there was no escape.
 - Here the aged Apostle met the risen Savior

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

When we are confronted with the Patmos' of our life Do we see these opportunities as being ...

FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND
FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST?
-ORDO WE SIMPLE COMPLAIN?



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:10 - OBSERVATIONS



In the Spirit on the Lord's Day

- In the Spirit: an out-of-body "trance" (Greek, ekstasis)
 - Acts 10:10 (Peter's Vision); Acts 11:5 (Peter defends God's Grace); Acts 22:17 (Paul's warning to leave Jerusalem)
 - John never slept during this experience.
 - It was a vision not a dream
- On the Lord's Day: There are three options
 - 1. On Sunday The first day of the week Resurrection Day
 - 2. On Saturday ... The Sabbath or 7th day of the week
 - On the Lord's Day of Judgment ... Period of the final days

I heard a Loud Voice

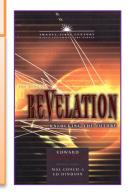
- John heard the Master's voice
- It was loud like the blasts of a trumpet

NOT THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF THE LORD

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

--- 1 Kings 19:11-12 ... NKJV --- [God's Revelation to Elijah]

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:11 - OBSERVATIONS



Commissioned

- John is commissioned by Jesus to
 - Write down what he sees
 - Send it to the seven churches in Asia (Minor)
 - Why these seven?
 - Why this order?

A S I A

Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Philadelphia

Ephesus
Athens
PATMOS

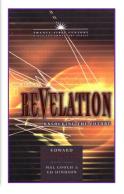
RHODES

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and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

ASIA AT THE TIME OF JOHN'S WRITING WAS A PROVINCE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

TODAY WE REFER TO THIS REGION AS ASIA MINOR - WESTERN TURKEY



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:12 - OBSERVATIONS



Seven Golden Lampstands

- John turns to see who is speaking
- He see seven golden lampstands probably a menorah
 - These represent the seven churches (v 20)
- These were lampstands not candlesticks
- Golden light-bearers
 - We are to be light-bearers for the King
 - He is the light of the world
 - He calls us to be salt and light "taste and see"
- Reminiscent of the Tabernacle
 - High priest had sole oversight of the menorah
 - He lighted the lamps, trimmed the wicks, poured the oil.
 - If one was unsatisfactory, he would snuff it out.
 - Jesus is the High Priest ... Hebrews 4:14-16

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,



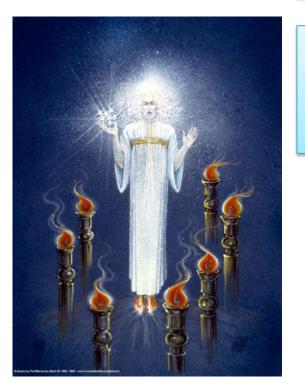
The Final Victory - Revelation 1:13 - OBSERVATIONS



In the midst of the seven lampstands

- Jesus is in the midst of the lampstands
 - The lampstands represent the churches (v 20)
 - Jesus is among us as we fellowship in the light
- Jesus is dressed in the garb of a High Priest
 - Exodus 39
 - Floor-length white robe
 - Golden sash

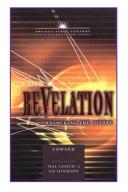




seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

--- Matthew 18:20 ... NKJV



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:14-16 - OBSERVATIONS



- John's Description of Jesus as High Priest
 - Description is symbolic of Christ's Shekinah glory and deity
 - Sevenfold pattern

1. Hair White like white wool

2. Eyes Flame of fire

3. Feet Fine brass

4. Voice Sound of many waters

5. Right hand Held seven stars

6. Mouth Sharp two-edged sword

7. Face Shining like the sun

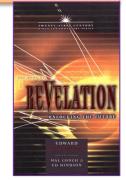
14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

What do you think this represents?

Hint: Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

--- Hebrews 4:12 ... NKJV



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:17 - OBSERVATIONS

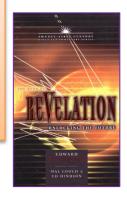


Do not be Afraid

- John lays prostrate on the ground before the King of kings, the great High Priest of Heaven.
- Jesus places His right hand on John
 - The nail-scarred right hand of Jesus touches John.
 - Right hand is the hand of power and authority.
- Jesus speaks and says "Do not be afraid"
 - These are the same words Jesus came walking on the water

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." --- Matthew 14:24-27 ... NKJV



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:18 - OBSERVATIONS



I am He who lives

Existence Triplet of Jesus the Great I am

1.	I am He who lives	Present
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- 2. I am He who was dead Past
- 3. I am He who is alive forevermore Future

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.

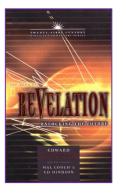
Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

I have the keys of Hades and of Death

- Jesus had already triumphed over the forces of Satan in His crucifixion and resurrection.
- · Jesus had already ...
 - · Descended into hell
 - Announced Satan's doom
 - "Stole the keys"
 - Risen victorious

Now!

Jesus has the keys of Hades and of Death



The Final Victory - Revelation 1:19-20 - OBSERVATIONS



- John Given Instructions ... (v 19)
 - John is instructed to Write (another triplet)

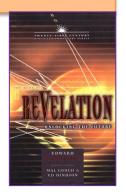
1.	The things which you have seen	Past
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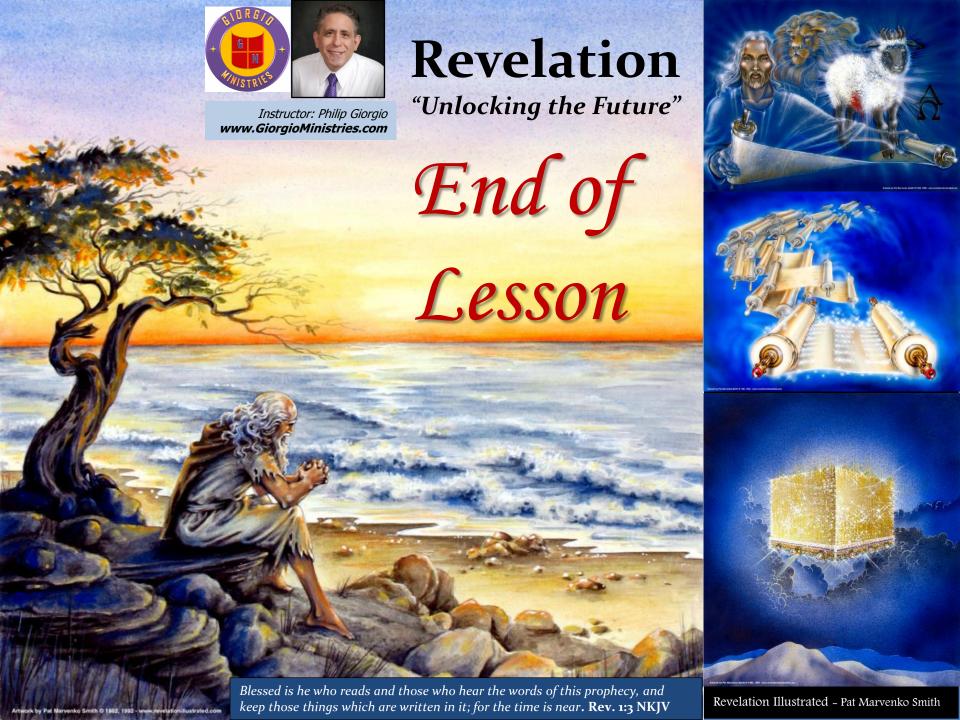
- 2. The things which arePresent
- 3. The things which will take place after thisFuture

Book Outline

- 1. Chapter 1 Past
- 2. Chapters 2-3 Present
- 3. Chapters 4-22 Future
- Symbols Explained ... (v 20)
 - Seven StarsAngels of the seven churches
 - Seven Golden Lampstands .. Seven churches

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.











Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson 04:

Judgment Begins at the House of God

[Revelation 2]

Next Week's Lesson

Next Week's Lesson



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [Revelation 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]

Next Week's Lesson



Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]

