

Name

What does the Apocalypse reveal about . . . ?

A Thematic Study of Revelation

Overview: the following study provides a look at 10 key themes in the book of Revelation. By choosing a thematic approach over a future fulfillment approach, the student will be able to see the depth of John's understanding of God, Jesus, and other significant theological truths within his own historical context. Then the student will be able to locate significant principles within the text and apply those directly to today without getting lost in "end of the world" rhetoric.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Study 1 | What is New Testament prophecy? Methods of Interpreting Revelation |
| Study 2 | What is New Testament Apocalyptic? Interpreting Symbolism |
| Study 3 | Who was John, and why did he write his vision down: Purpose |
| Study 4 | Images of GOD in the Apocalypse? |
| Study 5 | Images of JESUS in the Apocalypse? |
| Study 6 | Images of the CHURCH in the Apocalypse? |
| Study 7 | Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls: images of judgment |
| Study 8 | Images of GOD'S ENEMIES AND EVIL in the Apocalypse? |
| Study 9 | What does the Apocalypse reveal about MILLENNIUM AND FINAL JUDGMENT? |
| Study 10 | Images of HEAVEN in the Apocalypse |

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What is New Testament prophecy? Interpreting biblical prophecy

Feb. 5, 2014

Two Important questions:

- Did John _____ his vision when he received it, or was it a _____ to him?
- Do you think that Revelation meant anything to _____ in John's _____, or does it only have significance in _____ day?

Assumptions about Revelation:

- Authorship:
- Date:
- Purpose:
 - Rev 1:1
 - Rev. 1:19
- Recipients

What is Prophecy?

- Telling the _____.
- Speak to their _____.
- _____ everyday objects to bring message of God to people
 - Scripture
 - Events
 - Simple objects: pottery. Jeremiah 1 and 18
- Prophecy has _____ of fulfillment
 - _____ audience
 - _____ fulfillment
 - _____ fulfillment
 - _____ application or fulfillment
 - _____ fulfillment

Test Cases

Jeremiah 1:11-14

Jeremiah 7:10-17

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Isaiah 7:10-17

Isaiah 53

Genesis 3:14-19

Daniel 11

Ezekiel 28

Revelation 17:8-14; 18:2, 10, 16, 19, 21

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What is New Testament Apocalyptic? The clothing of John's prophecy
Feb 12

What is New Testament Prophecy?

- Content: Words of _____ in _____ in agreement with affirmed _____
- Function: Proclaim _____, call to _____, _____ present with past

1 Corinthians 14 and Prophecy

- E
- W
- C

Revelation as New Testament Prophecy

- Is Revelation like other New Testament prophecy? Match the following verses with info on Revelation's prophetic nature.
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Revelation 1:1-2 | a. Addresses past, present, and future |
| 2. Revelation 1:9-10 | b. From the Holy Spirit |
| 3. Revelation 1:19 | c. Words of Jesus |
| 4. Revelation 10:7 | d. Affirms past prophecy |
| 5. Revelation 22:6 | e. In Worship |

Revelation as Prophecy:

- Words of Jesus
- In Worship
- Connection with past, present and future
- Affirms full truth of God

Revelation as Apocalyptic

- What is Apocalyptic?
 - Characteristics of Apocalyptic
1. Narrative Form
 2. There is a transcendent journey by the prophet
 3. Visions

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4. Cosmic
5. Animal Symbolism
6. Colors
7. Natural Catastrophe
8. Number Symbolism

Why did John use an apocalyptic form for his prophecy?

- _____ language for author and reader
- _____ tradition of Daniel and Isaiah
- A philosophy for _____
- God hates injustice and the persecution of his people; he will _____ up for them
- Emphasizes the spiritual and _____ realities behind the forces in the world

4 Primary interpretive methods for Revelation

- Spiritual/Idealist
- Preterist
- Futurist/Dispensationalist
- Historical Critical Method

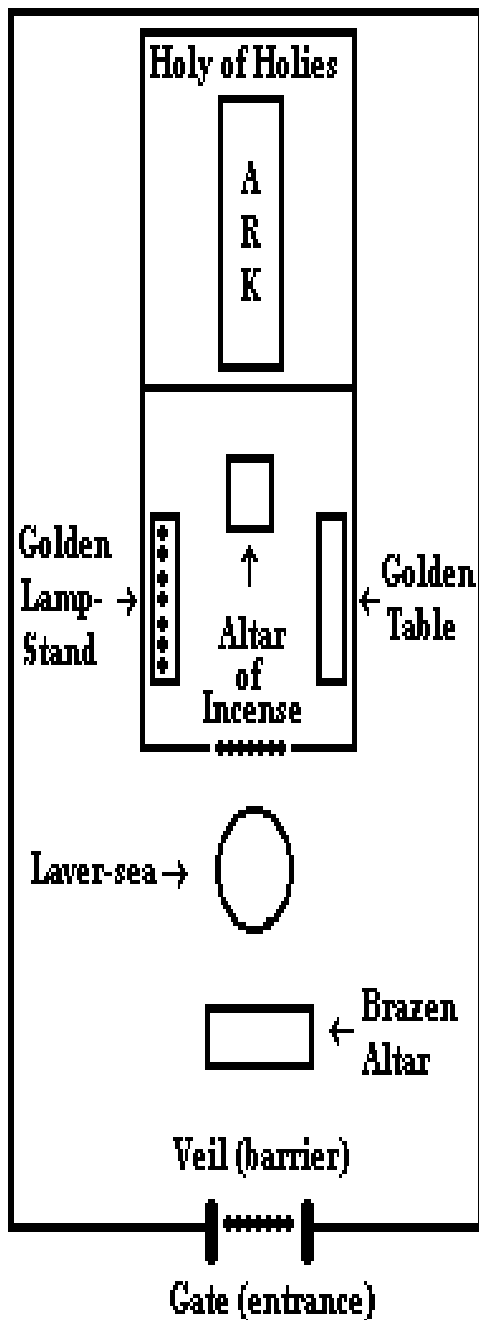
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What does the Apocalypse reveal about GOD?

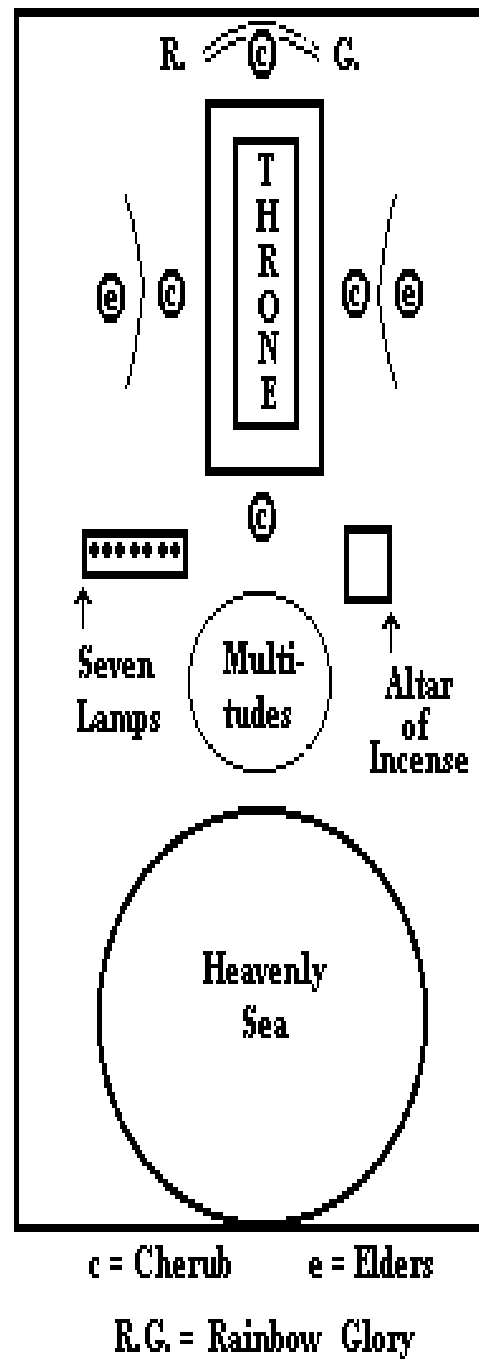
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1. God is the giver of Revelation and Truth
 - a. 1:2; 1:9; 6:9; 10:7
 - b. Through angel guides. 4:1; 17:1; 21:9
2. God's Throne Room
 - a. The pattern of the Tabernacle/Temple (15:5)
 - i. Exodus 25-26
 - ii. Hebrews 9:1-5
 - b. God on his Throne (Revelation 4)
 - i. The Throne
 - ii. The Angels
 - iii. The Colors
 - iv. The Sounds
 - v. The Worship
3. God's movement throughout Revelation. (Hint: He never leaves the throne)
 - a. Sending his Son (1:9)
 - b. Sending angels
 - c. Comforting the saints
 - i. Hearing Prayers (6:9-11)
 - ii. Healing (6:11)
 - iii. Comforting (7:14-17)
 - d. On the throne (4:1)
 - e. Door of Temple opened (11:7)
 - f. God roused to final judgment (15:8)
 - g. God pronounces Judgment (17-18)
 - h. God sends Jesus to battle (19:9)
 - i. God judges (20)
 - j. Re-Creation (21-22)
4. God as the Trinity (1:4-5)
 - a. God the Father 1:6
 - b. God the Son (2:18; 12:5)
 - c. God the Holy Spirit (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
5. The Immortal God (1:8; 21:6; 22:13)
6. God as Judge
 - a. All seeing (3:2; 8:2)
 - b. Command over angels (7:1)
 - c. Wrath (14:7; 10:19; 16:1)
7. Responses to God
 - a. Fear and Anger and rebellion
 - i. 1:7
 - ii. 6:15-17; 9:20-21; 11:10; 11:18; 16:10-11
 - b. True Worship
 - i. Rev 4; 7:11-15; 16-17; 19:5-8
8. What is your response to God as revealed in Revelation?

Name _____



Earthly Tabernacle (not to scale)



Heavenly Temple

<http://ichthys.com/Jewish-tabernacle.htm>

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What does the Apocalypse reveal about JESUS?

Feb 26

1. Jesus is the Giver of Revelation (1:1)
2. Jesus is the God-man (1:5)
 - a. God gives his word—Jesus is the perfect witness
 - b. God gives birth to all life—Jesus is the first to overcome death on his own
 - c. God is King and Ruler of all—Jesus is the Ruler of the kings of the earth
3. Jesus is the Divine Son of Man (Rev. 1:9-20)
 - a. Key OT passages: Daniel 7:9-14; 10:4-6; Eze. 1:24-28; Ps. 149:6-9
 - b. The 7-fold description (14-16)
 - i. White hair
 - ii. Eyes like fire
 - iii. Feet of bronze
 - iv. Voice like rushing waters
 - v. 7 stars in his right hand
 - vi. Double-edged sword out of his mouth
 - vii. His face shone like the sun
 - c. What was he wearing? Robe and sash (13)
 - d. Where was he standing? In the midst of the lampstands (13, 20)
 - e. What does this tell us about Jesus?
 - i. All wisdom
 - ii. Sees all things (judge)
 - iii. Cannot be moved (strong foundation)
 - iv. Commanding, overwhelming voice
 - v. Keeper and Protector
 - vi. Speaks the Word of God
 - vii. His contains the glory of God
 - f. HE IS PRIEST, PRESENT WITH US, AND DIVINE
4. Jesus is the Father's "Right Hand Man" (Rev. 5)
 - a. He is worthy (5)
 - b. He is King and Savior (5)
 - c. He is next to the Father (6)
 - d. He is praised (5:12)
 - e. He opens the seals (6:1)
5. He is our Shepherd and Guide (7:14-17)
6. He is Victor (19:11-16)
 - a. Names

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- i. Faithful and True
- ii. Unknown name
- iii. Word of God
- iv. Name on thigh: King of Kings and Lord of Lords

b. Judge and Eyes of Fire

c. Wages War as a King

- i. Many crowns and many armies
- ii. Robe dripped in blood
- iii. Sharp sword out of mouth

Name

What does the Apocalypse reveal about THE PEOPLE OF GOD?

Mar 5

Key Images

1. Revelation 1: 12, 20; 2:5. Lampstands
2. Revelation 2-3: 7 Churches
 - a. Real cities located in Asia Minor along a circular trade route
 - b. Symbolic meaning: all of God's people
3. Rev. 7:1-8: 144,000—set aside for final conflict
 - a. Number Symbolism
 - b. Revelation 7
 - i. The Census symbolized war
 - ii. Jews or Gentiles?
 - iii. Sealed from God's wrath on foreheads
 - c. Revelation 14
 - i. Set on Zion with Jesus. Heaven or earth?
 - ii. Sealed
 - iii. Singing a new song
 - iv. Pure, blameless
4. Rev. 7:9-17: Redeemed Conquering Saints—suffering martyrs
 - a. Before the altar
 - b. Given robes (see Rev. 6:9-11). Why?
 - c. Praising God
5. Revelation 19:6-9; 21:2, 9-10: The Bride of Christ
 - a. Rev. 19:6-9
 - i. White linen
 - ii. Pure, righteous
 - b. Rev. 21:2, 9-10
 - i. Clothed beautifully
 - ii. Radiant
 - iii. Like the city of Jerusalem
6. Revelation 11: 1-4. The City of Jerusalem
 - a. Measuring as an act of protection
 - b. Altar=144,000
 - c. Outer courts=multitudes persecuted
 - d. 2 Witnesses
7. Summary: The People of God in Revelation
 - a. Carry the Holy Spirit, light into the world

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- b. The church local and the church universal
- c. Protected by God from his wrath
- d. Subject to persecution from the enemies of God
 - i. Those that suffer are given
 - 1. A place before the throne
 - 2. A robe of righteousness to wear
 - 3. Praising God
 - 4. Awaiting God to avenge their persecution
- e. Warriors who conquer at the return of Christ
 - i. Either set aside in heaven or set aside on earth
 - ii. Walk with Jesus and pure from defilement of the enemy
- f. Describe as righteous, pure, holy, and blameless
- g. Worship Christ alone. Never waver from the truth

What does the Apocalypse Say about the Rapture

March 12

- Rapture means “taken up”
- The term is not found in the book of Revelation. It is taken from 1 Thessalonians 4:17
 - After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever
- In Scripture
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:1-11
 - 1 Corinthians 15:52
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
 - Matthew 24:22, 40-41 (see context, including Matt 25)
 - Daniel 12:1
 - When could a “rapture” possible happen?
 - Each passage mentions God’s people being drawn to Jesus. The term “rapture” is not mentioned, only this collecting of God’s people from different parts of the world
 - Each passage mentions this drawing of God’s people, but it happening at the same time as the coming of Jesus, judgment, and resurrection of the dead.
- What possibilities are there for a mention of the rapture in Revelation?
 - 3:10. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
 - 4:1. After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “**Come up here**, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”
 - 7:3-4. saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until **we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads**.” And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.
 - 11:1 Get up and **measure** the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it.
 - 11:11-12. But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “**Come up here**.” Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

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- 12:5. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her **child was caught up to God** and to His throne.
- 12:14. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she **could fly** into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.
- 14:1-5. Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on **Mount Zion**, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. . . . who **had been purchased** from the earth.
- 18:4. I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “**Come out of her, my people**, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;”

Why do we need a rapture?

Name _____

The Millennium and the Final Judgment

March 19

Revelation 20:1-6. The Millennium

- What is a millennium? _____ year reign of Christ after the judgment of God's enemies
 - Literal or symbolic? _____
- Key details
 - _____ is bound for 1,000 years
 - He is shut in
 - He will be released? (WHY?)
 - _____ for judgment
 - Souls of the _____ (4) reign as _____ (6)
 - Not a _____ resurrection. Rest of the dead wait until after the 1000 years
 -
 -
- Millennial Interpretations
 - Pre-millennial
 - Christ (Rapture) will come _____ the Millennium
 - Dispensational
 - It is a **literal** 1,000 years of peace
 - for God and his **people** (those still alive and those resurrected during the rapture) in physical Jerusalem.
 - Narrative
 - It is a **symbolic** 1,000 years of peace
 - for God and his **martyrs** in physical place on earth.
 - Post-millennial
 - Christ (Rapture) will come _____ the Millennium
 - The return of Christ happens after the Millennium. The events in Revelation 20 summarize other judgment sequences from earlier in the book.
 - The 1,000 years may not be literal, but simply a glorious age of Christian prosperity on earth.

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- The Gospel will be so effective that Satan's later rebellion will not amount to anything significant.
- Followed by a general resurrection and judgment at the coming of Christ.
- A-millennial
 - The Millennium is _____ and has no impact on any order of events
 - Christ's return is not influenced by a Millennium.
 - The binding of Satan occurred on the cross.
 - The 1,000 years is symbolic, representing a period of peace in present day circumstances.
 - Satan will be loosed in the present age and then Christ returns to subdue him.
 - A general resurrection and judgment occur, followed by a new heaven and earth.
- Millennial interpretations reflect the order in which
 - Jesus' returns
 - God's kingdom comes to earth in peace

Revelation 20:7-10. Satan Freed

- WHY?
- Deceive the nations
 - What nations?
 - Judgment in Revelation is limited, not universal
 - Enemies only, not nations
- Create War against God's city and people
- Devil and allies throne into Hell (eternal lake of fire)
- This sounds like a replay of Revelation 12-16

Revelation 20:11-15: Judgment

- White throne appears
- All the dead before throne
- Books were opened
 - Book of Life: for believers
 - Books of judgment: for works of non-believers
- Death and Hades (Rev. 6:7-8) were thrown into Hell
- Second Death is the lake of fire

Name

What does the Apocalypse reveal about HEAVEN?

Mar 26

Revelation 4-5: The Present Heaven

- OT Passages that provide imagery
 - Exodus 40:1-8
 - Daniel 7:9-20
 - Ezekiel 1:4-14; 2:9-3:3
 - Hebrews 9:11
- The Tabernacle presents a Jewish image of where God dwells today
- The Tabernacle in Revelation
 - 4:5 Seven lamps Holy Spirit
 - 4:6 Sea of glass bronze laver
 - 5:6 Throne Ark of the Covenant
 - 5:8 Incense Altar of incense
 - 5:11 4 Creatures angels on the Ark
 - 6:9 Souls before throne altar of incense
 - 8:3-5; 16:1 bowls altar of incense
 - Missing? The table and altar of sacrifice

Revelation 21-22 The New Heaven (and Earth)

- What was God's original plan for creation and humanity?
- New Heaven and Earth
- What was God's original plan for creation and humanity?
 - Genesis 2:4-17
 - Garden planted (8)
 - Tree of life (9)
 - River flows out of Eden (10)
 - Man cultivates the garden (15)
 - All fruit is available to Adam (16)
 - Isaiah 60
 - Sun will not set (20)
 - God will be the light (20)
 - New Heaven and Earth
- What does the OT say about the restoration of God's presence on earth?
 - Ezekiel 47:1-12
 - Water flowing from Temple (house) (1)

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- Trees growing by banks of river (12)
 - Fruit for healing (12)
- Zechariah 14:16-21
 - Nations come to Jerusalem
 - Nations will be blessed if they worship God
 - All of Jerusalem and Judah will be holy
- What does Revelation 21-22 say, specifically Revelation 21:1-4; 21:27; 22:1-5?
 - No sea (1)
 - Holy city coming out of heaven like a bride (2)
 - God among his people (3)
 - Death and pain are gone (4)
 - land is purified (27)
 - River from the throne (22:1)
 - Trees with fruit for healing (22:2)
 - No curse (22:3)
 - No sun for God is the light (22:5)
- Does the New Heaven restore or re-create?
- What will we be doing forever, based on the description of heaven that you see here?

Name

Appendix 1
The basic outline and order of events in Revelation

1. An Introduction to the Vision (1:1-8)
2. Who is giving the vision? An Introduction to the Glorified Jesus Christ (1:9-20)
3. An introduction to the Church (2-3)
4. A Vision of the Present Heavenly Throne Room (4-5)
 - a. The Throne Room Imagery
 - b. Jesus in Heaven as High Priest
 - c. The Scroll
5. Opening the Scroll: The Seal Judgments (6-7)
 - a. Turmoil on earth
 - b. A vision of God's people (144,000 and the Unnumbered multitudes)
6. Announcing God's judgment: The Seven Trumpet Judgments (8-11)
 - a. Increasing turmoil on earth
 - b. Siege and persecution of God's city/people
 - c. The Small Scroll: Preparing for the next vision
 - d. 2 Witnesses persecuted
7. The Content of the Small Scroll: Introducing the Enemies of God and Coming War (12-15)
 - a. The Dragon
 - b. The Beast of the Land
 - c. The Beast of the Sea
 - d. The 144,000
 - e. Threat of Ultimate Judgment
8. The Final Judgment of God's Enemies (16-19)
 - a. The Bowl Judgments
 - b. A Prophetic Funeral Song for God's Enemies
 - c. Jesus returns and Battle is won
9. Judgment Comes (20)
 - a. The Millennium
 - b. The Final Battle
 - c. The Final Judgment
10. New Heaven and Earth (20-21)