

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series

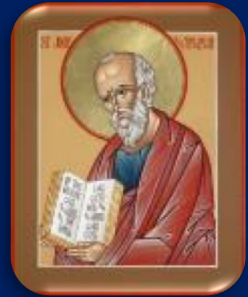


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Ten Questions



- 1) What is the title – **Revelation of Jesus Christ**
- 2) Who wrote it? – **John**
- 3) Where was it written from? – **Patmos**
- 4) To Whom was it written? – **The Seven Churches**
- 5) When was it written? – **A.D. 95**
- 6) How is it organized (outline)? – **3 part outline**
- 7) How was it delivered – **Seven steps**
- 8) Why was it written? – **Encouragement and holiness**
- 9) What is it about? – **Jesus' final victory**
- 10) What makes the book different? – **OT relationship**

Prologue (Rev. 1:1-8)

- I. Title (1a)
- II. Chain of Communication (1b-2)
- III. Blessing (3)
- IV. Author (4a)
- V. Audience (4b)
- VI. Greeting (4c)
- VII. Source (4d-5a)
- VIII. Subject (5b-8)



Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2–3

CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised I
Thyatira	2:18-29	Compromised II
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

Pattern of the Letters in Revelation 2–3

1. Destination
2. Description of Christ (Rev. 1)
3. Commendation
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation to change
6. Consequence
7. Exhortation to listen
8. Promise to overcomers (Rev. 21–22)



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Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

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2. Description of Christ (8b)
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Nov 2003

2. Description of Christ (Rev. 2:8b)

1. I am the first (*prōtos*) and the last (*eschatos*) (1:17)
2. I was dead and have come back to life (*zaō*) (1:18)



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Why God Became Man



- To restore God's original purpose for man (5-8)
- To taste death for every man (9)
- To bring many to glory (10-13)
- To break Satan's rule over humanity (14)
- To remove the fear of death (15)
- To become our merciful high priest (16-17a)
- To make a complete purification for sin (17b)
- To sympathize with those tested (18)

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Romans 8:38-39

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



Smyrna

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3. What Christ Commends in Smyrna (Rev. 2:9)

1. Tribulation (*thlipsis*) – 9a
2. Poverty (*ptōcheia*) – 9b
3. Persecution – 9c



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Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph. 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)



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Revelation 2:9

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”



Ephesians 1:3

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”



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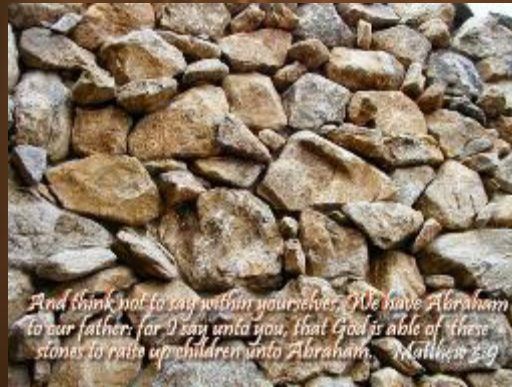
Descendants
of Israel

Israel of
God



Matthew 3:9

“and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”



Romans 2:28-29

“²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”



Romans 9:6

“But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel.”

Descendants
of Israel

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Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD,
“That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But
the third will be left in it.” ⁹“And I will bring the third
part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My
name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My
people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”



Smyrna

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4. So What? - Points of Application!

Rev 2:10

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”



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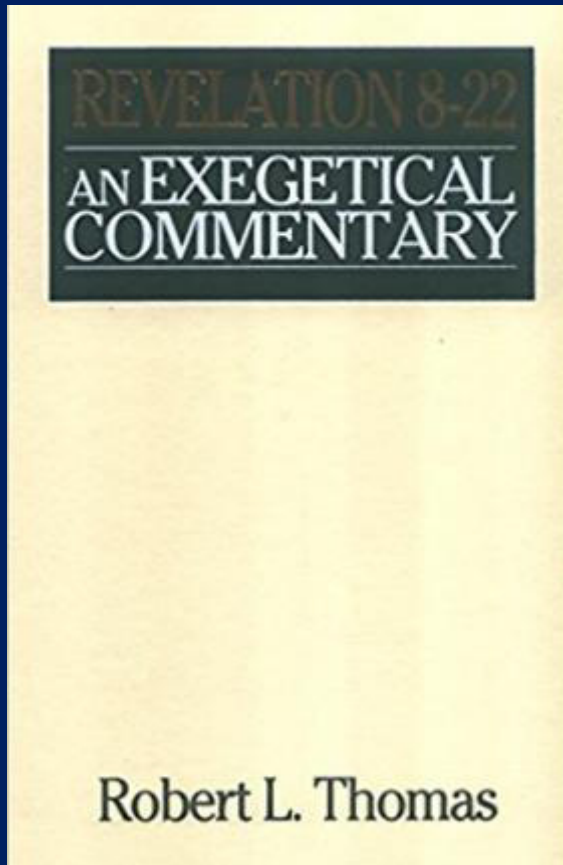
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Robert Thomas

Revelation 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.



Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number."



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5. Consequence

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“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”



John 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”





Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 7, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids,
MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

This vital newness of mind is a part of believing, after all, and therefore it may be and is used as a synonym for believing at times (cf. Acts 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance nevertheless cannot be added to believing as a condition of salvation, because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).

Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

Scripture	Crown	Purpose
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing



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Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!...⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”



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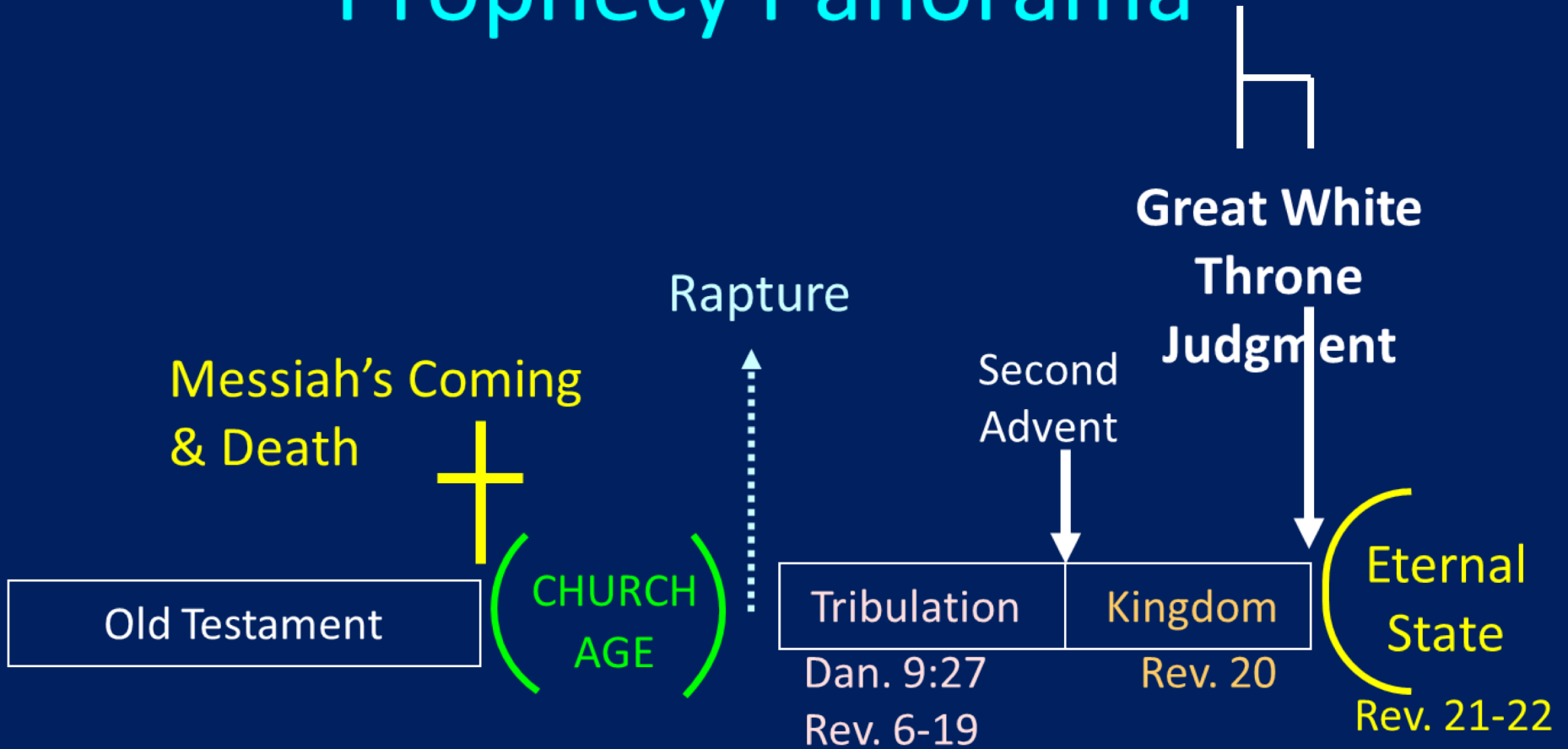


1 John 5:4-5

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”



Prophecy Panorama



Penalty of Sin

- Death – Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:14-15
- Death = separation
- Three types of death
 - ◆ Spiritual (Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1)
 - ◆ Physical (Gen. 3:19)
 - ◆ Eternal or Second (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8)

FOR THE
WAGES OF SIN
IS DEATH
Romans 6:23

Two Rules of Interpretation

- Search the immediate context

- ◆ Walvoord: 26X

- Search the remote context

- ◆ Old Testament

- ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses



Conclusion

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“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (NIV)