

A Study of John's Revelation Overview

Introduction

As we proceed with this overview, it is important to understand that references to the earth and the world in scripture are not always interchangeable. We know that all things are subject to the authority of God, but the world (or behavior of world systems, institutions, and laws) do not agree with the will of God. Therefore, the scripture says that Satan is the god of this world because the world rebels against God just as Satan and his angels did in the ancient past, and continues to do.

On the other hand, everything that exists is permitted to continue at the mercy of God; "the earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof."

Psa 24:1 The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psa 24:2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods (***And even though the world is not above the authority of God, just as Satan and his angels are not above the authority of God; they are all in rebellion/ disobedience to God***).

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world (***Satan***) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not (***and/ or rebel against God***), lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

We should also realize that idolatrous, false, and world oriented religious practices are revealed in the world's system of behavior (i.e. rebellion against God). Therefore, a reference to the world in this overview includes religious rebellions against God also. But the true Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is obedient to God, and is therefore set apart from the world.

Bible scholars seem to agree that John was speaking of the Roman Empire when he recorded this Book of Revelation; and I do not disagree with that. But the attributes John describes here are applicable to every other world power, and weak or small nation ruled by man because every other nation ruled by men does so according to the corruptions of the world, regardless of their good intentions. And since a ruling authority that is a world power has a greater reach than the smaller ruling authority or nation, the scope for transporting evil or good influence is greater on the part of the world power.

Thus, when the Great Babylon is spoken of the meaning is the world's system of governing which is the way the Roman Empire governed. So then the end time nation(s) that will be ruled by the man of sin will be according to the world's corruption.

Every government ruled by men without the God of creation eventually manifests the same kind of evils.

Notice that the Lord Jesus reveals no tribulations by the hand of God until Revelation Chapter 6. Then in Revelation 6:12, Jesus opens the sixth seal, and tribulations from God are initiated in the form of a great earth. This first series of tribulation at the hand of God continues through Revelation Chapter 11, which constitute “The Seven Trumpets Tribulation” or, “Judgments”.

Now, “The Seven Trumpets Judgments” having been completed, there is a time of inactivity with respect to tribulations from God being poured out; beginning at Revelation Chapter 12 through Chapter 15. But we can only imagine the devastating impact in earth, upon world economies and societies, as a result of these judgments. However, the inhabitants shall perceive this period as a time of calm.

The man of sin shall rise to his position of world power during this time, and take credit for the apparent calm and peace. The Scriptures say he will reign in this position for a period of 3 ½ years.

But then, we see in Revelation Chapter 16, “exceeding more intense” tribulations being poured out from God; “the seven last plagues”, and “the great winepress of the wrath of God”. During these last series of tribulations at the hand of God; beginning at Revelation Chapter 16 through Chapter 19, Jesus defends Judah of Israel at the Battle of Armageddon, and every other convert that is gained to the Gospel. For the world/ Babylon/ the great whore shall have discarded John 3:16, and sought to destroy the saints of God, instead.

A Study of John's Revelation Overview Outline

Part I

Revelation Chapter 1 – The Church is presented. Jesus is identified as head of the Church.

Part II

Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 – Jesus instructs the Church.

Part III

Revelation Chapters 4 and 5 – Revealing of the “True Eternal God”: “Jesus the Christ”, who was slain for redemption of the world, according to John 3:16.

Part IV

Revelation Chapters 6 Thru 11 – Overview; and preparation of events that are to come upon the earth. The Lamb of God reveals the wickedness of the world, when men accept and commit to the evils of Satan's mastership (commonly referred to as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse). The wrath of God is initiated whereby he will eliminate wickedness in the earth and the heavens. The earth and environment intensify in rebellion against man.

Part V

Revelation Chapters 12 Thru 16 – Detailed accounts of past events about heaven and earth.

Expanded description on events initiated in Chapters 6 through 11 (Part IV), detailing increasingly severe conditions to come in the earth (e.g. Satan is committed to the destruction of God's Messiah, God's people, and he (Satan) is dedicated to holding fast his mastership of the world).

Individual nation's sovereignty and personal freedoms are threatened and taken away. The Lamb of God reveals more in depth details of the wickedness of the world when men accept and commit to Satan's mastership (e.g. mark of the beast, and sin is compounded). Jesus, Messiah come to the aid of his people that remain in the earth, and the wrath of God intensifies even more, to bring wickedness to an end.

Part VI

Revelation Chapters 17 Thru 19:10 - The disintegration and failure of societies and institutions (i.e. dishonest financial systems, anti-righteous legal institutions, idolatrous/false religious institutions/ practices that were established new and over the centuries, weakens, and begin to loose influence over the nations, elements of “anti-God mind-set” rebels more and more, foundations of all Godly/ moral behavior is attacked more and more, commerce/ trade falls apart, The environment rebels more, against man, etc...)

The world, “Babylon the great whore” is judged. All the things the world used to draw attention to herself and corrupt the rulers and societies of men are taken away. Her (the world, Babylon the great whore) final state is the destruction of those systems and institutions that were built around and upon her, which includes (idolatry/ false religions, mistrust, hatred, deception, thievery, self pride, and murders). But many other evils can be added to this list.

Part VII

Revelation Chapters 19:11 Thru 22 – Jesus fight all remaining opposition(s) to His authority: conquers all ruling authorities (the world, Satan, sin, death, hell, and the grave) then set the ruler ship of God in place. He reigns a thousand years of peace, conducts the “Great White Throne Judgment” and regenerate the earth for the eternal rule of God. Amen, and again I say Amen!