

THE 'DIVINE OUTLINE' OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

Taken from Jon Courson's New Testament Commentary

Based on Revelation 1:9: "*Write the things which you have SEEN, and the things which ARE, and the things which WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.*"

"The Book of Revelation is very simple—particularly because it is the only Book of the Bible with it's own DIVINE OUTLINE, found in Chapter 1, Verse 19. There, Jesus tells John to "Write the things which you have SEEN, and the things which ARE, and the things which WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS." If we follow this divine outline, the Book unfolds very easily."

~ Jon Courson

I. THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN—CHAPTER 1

- **On the Island:** The reality of the resurrected Christ

II. THE THINGS WHICH ARE—CHAPTERS 2-3

- **The Church Age:** Seven messages to seven literal churches, but also comprising the chronological flow of *all* of church history, from the beginning of the early church to the present day

III. THE THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS

- **CHAPTERS 4-5:** A glimpse of the **Heavenly Throne Room**, where the church is 'caught-up' to meet the Lord and spend seven years in a "honeymoon period" with the Bridegroom, Jesus
- **CHAPTERS 6-19: The Great Tribulation** on earth, as God pours out judgement on a Christ-rejecting world (several key characters are introduced during this time, including: the Antichrist, The 144,000, the Two Witnesses, etc.)
- **CHAPTER 19: The Second Coming.** The Lord comes back to set up His Kingdom here on earth
- **CHAPTER 20: The Millennium & Great White Throne.** A thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, of peace and prosperity. At the end of this period, Satan is let loose for a short time. A final rebellion ensues before Satan is put away permanently.
- **CHAPTERS 21-22: A New Heaven and New Earth** are ushered-in.

The Book of Revelation:

Fitting the Pieces Together

Chapter 4 & 5: The Heavenly Throne Room
We see Parallels with the OT Tabernacle...
The 24 Elders...
The Four Living Creatures...

Chapter 5: concludes with the Lamb who us worthy taking the scroll (perhaps the 'title deed' to planet earth), and breaking open the first of "seven seals" on the scroll, beginning the Great Tribulation..

Chapter 4:1
John is caught up "in the Spirit" into heaven... (a picture of the rapture of the church BEFORE the Great Tribulation takes place... After Chapter 3, the 'church' is not seen again until Chapter 19, AFTER the Great Tribulation)

Chapter 12:7-11:
(the second HALF of the Prophetic Panorama)
War in heaven between Michael and his angels, Satan and his angels, resulting in Satan FINALLY being cast out of heaven

Chapter 19:1-10:
Heaven exults over Babylon's fall, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Chapter 7:9-17
The Great Multitude of those "coming out of" the Great Tribulation (vs. 14)

Chapter 6-19: "The Great Tribulation" (the 'Backdrop')

The 'Seal' Judgements... The 'Trumpet' Judgements...
The 'Bowl' Judgements... **ALL HAPPENING SIMULTANEOUSLY**... Like DIFFERENT CAMERA ANGLES of the SAME EVENTS... (Note similarities between 8:8 and 16:3... 8:10 and 16:4... 8:12 and 16:10... 9:13-21 and 16:12-16... and the accounts described in 6:12-17 (the Sixth Seal), 11: 15-19 (the Seventh Trumpet), and 16:17-21 (the Seventh Bowl))

Chapter 14:6-13:
The Proclamations of The Three Angels (no specific time assigned, but seems to correspond more with latter half of the Great Tribulation)

Chapter 12:6, & 13-17:
The Nation Israel persecuted by Satan during the Great Tribulation (1,260 days, or a "time, times, and half a time")...

Chapter 11:
The Ministry of the Two Witnesses

Chapter 13:
The Beast (Antichrist) and The False Prophet appearing (all happening DURING the Great Tribulation with seemingly no specific time as assigned)

Chapter 17 & 18:
The Destruction of "Religious Babylon (chp. 17)," and "Material Babylon (Chp. 18)" [also seen in 14:8, and 16:19] (Happening towards the END of the Great Tribulation)

Chapter 14:14-20 and Chapter 19:11-21:
"The Second Coming" of

CHRIST

The "reaping" of the earth's harvest.. The Battle of Armageddon ... The Beasts and False Prophet

Chapter 14:1-5:
The 144,000 on the Mount of Olives (with Jesus Christ) AFTER the Great Tribulation

Chapter 20:
The First Resurrection.
Satan Bound for the 1,000 years to lead one final rebellion...
Satan cast into the lake of fire..
The Great White Throne of Judgement (the second death)

Chapter 21 & 22:
The New Heaven and the New Earth
The New Jerusalem
Jesus testifies to churches
A Final Warning
ETERNITY!

Chapter 12:
A PAST Prophetic Panorama (Revealed in "signs") Verse 1: The Woman (the Nation Israel, alluding back to Genesis 37)... Verse 2 and 5 (a): The woman with Child, the nation Israel bringing forth Jesus Christ, the Messiah... Verse 3 & 4: Satan waiting to destroy the Messiah... Verse 5 (b): Jesus ascending to heaven...

Chapter 1:
An Introduction
The "things which [John] had seen" Revelation 1:19, while John is in exile on the island of Patmos

Chapters 2 & 3:
Jesus dictates to John SEVEN LITERAL LETTERS addressed to SEVEN ACTUAL CHURCHES in the region of Asia Minor . Also, when considered as a whole, a PROPHETIC PANORAMA, of ALL of church history, with each church representing a different 'age' in church history

Chapter 7:1-8
The 144,000 (BEFORE the Great Tribulation begins): 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, specially 'sealed' as servants to serve during, and survive, the Great Tribulation