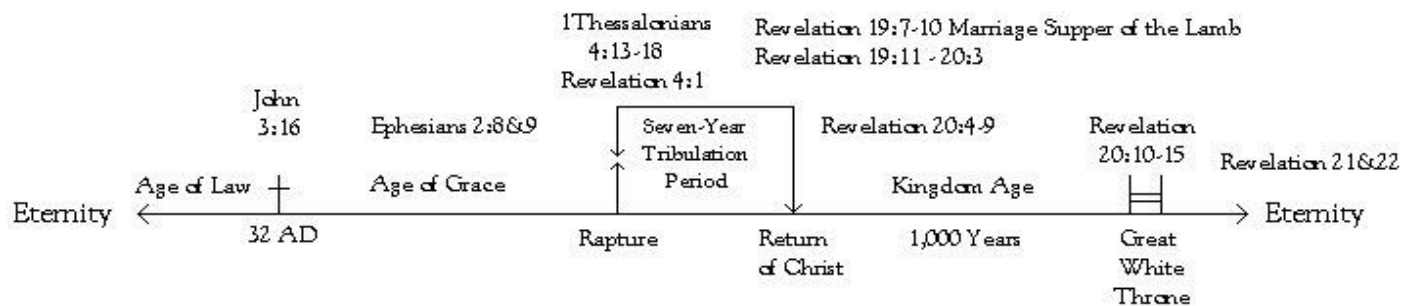


# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The book of Revelation is a book of prophecy and is tied to many other books of the Bible.

It is very difficult to grasp the depth of its truths when viewed by itself. The book of Revelation finds its roots in the Old Testament, and much of its truths are revealed in other books in the New Testament.

I have found that seeing its development in a time line is very helpful to understanding the flow of events that happen in the book.



[NOTE: Scriptures above may be found at the end of this Introduction]

The Bible is laid out in seven ages or dispensational periods. An age or a dispensation is a time period in which God deals with man in a particular way. In each age man is given a standard to live by. The age tests man in the area of sin and his responsibility to live up to God's standard. Man fails the test in each age and is judged, and God establishes a new age.

The seven ages/dispensations are: Innocence (Genesis 1:1-3:7), Conscience (Genesis 3:8-8:22), Human Government (Genesis 9:1-11:32), Promise (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 19:25), Law (Exodus 20:1-Acts 2:4), Grace (Acts 2:4-Revelation 20:3), and the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6). {see Note 1 }

Five of these ages have been fulfilled, and we are living in the sixth age, the Age of Grace or the Church Age. The age prior to the one we are living in now was the Age of the Law.

God set up a standard of living under the law and man failed miserably. After many warnings God closed the Age of the Law with the worldwide dispersion of His people, Israel, and after the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ on a cross at Calvary.

Jesus' sacrifice of Himself on the cross satisfied God the father as a full payment for the sin of all mankind. This opened a new age, the Age of Grace, or the Church Age. The requirement by God during this age for salvation is simply believing that Jesus' death on that cross is the full payment for our sin. The Lord said, through the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by Grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God, not of works."

Man is saved during the Age of Grace by simply putting his faith in Jesus Christ. It is believing that He died in your place, was buried, and rose again for your justification.

The Age of Grace closes with what is called the Rapture of the church. At the sound of a trumpet, all who have trusted in Christ during this Age will be caught (taken) up to heaven to spend eternity with the Lord. The dead in Christ will rise from their graves, and the living will be translated with them, to heaven.

God's wrath upon a world that rejected His son and His gracious offer of salvation is the judgment that closes the Age of Grace. That event is the seven-year Tribulation Period, which makes up the majority of the Book of Revelation.

At the end of the seven-year Tribulation Period, Christ returns to earth and sets up the final age of man: the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth. It is also called the Millennial Reign or the Kingdom Age. It ends with the Great White Throne Judgment, where all unbelievers are condemned to an eternity in the lake of fire.

The book ends with all believers of all ages in the realms of glory forever!

NOTE 1: For a quick and accurate description, see the following sites:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/dispensationalism.html>

<https://gotquestions.org/seven-dispensations.html>

## SCRIPTURES:

John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Revelation 4:1

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 19:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

<sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. <sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

### Revelation 19:11-20:3

<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

<sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; <sup>18</sup> That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. <sup>20</sup> And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

### Chapter 20

<sup>1</sup> And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

### Revelation 20:4-9

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but

they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.  
<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup>  
And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,  
Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the  
sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the  
camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of  
heaven, and devoured them.

#### Revelation 20:10-15

<sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone,  
where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for  
ever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth  
and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the  
dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another  
book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those  
things which were written in the books, according to their works. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave  
up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in  
them: and they were judged every man according to their works. <sup>14</sup> And death and  
hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was  
not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.