

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 34, August 25, 2020 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!"***

## **THE GRAND UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST to His SAINTS— Revelation 1-22! (Part 4) — Seeing and Savoring JESUS CHRIST!**

**[SAVOR: Definition:** delight in, enjoy]

Psalm 34:8— "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him." **Christians have a great need— to see and savor JESUS CHRIST as the Sovereign! Sufficient! Supreme! ETERNAL LAMB!**

**All over the world people are looking for a messiah, a deliverer!** More and more people in high places are uniting their voices, crying out that the world's problems are so big that the only solution is for there to be worldwide unity— Political, economic, and religious unity. The GLOBALIST MAY WELL SEEK TO BRING ABOUT THEIR VERSION OF THIS WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT FROM A 'NORMAL' WEAPON OF WAR! PEOPLE in high places fully intend to control the world!

**WISDOM IS NEEDED!**

*Growing trust in Jesus will be required! THANKFULLY, one of God's great provisions for His redeemed is The Revelation which UNVEILS Jesus!*

**HOWEVER, for many, The REVELATION is a CLOSED BOOK!**

## **IS THE REVELATION A CLOSED BOOK TO YOU?**

Over the last 50 years I have witnessed the following, time and again: **1)** *“I don’t understand the Revelation.” “I find it confusing.” “The Revelation is scary.”*

**2)** I have also witnessed that many preachers, Bible Schools, Bible Study Bible notes, and prophecy books approach the Revelation from a specific system of prophecy. In other words, they preach/teach/write from a particular ‘position’... and often find themselves seeking to ‘fit’ the Revelation to their position. **So for example,** you pick up commentaries on the Revelation... and one is from a Pretribulational-Premillennial position, (PreTribPremil); another is MidTribPremil; another is PostTribPremil; another is PreWrathPremil; another is called HistoricPremil; another is A-millennial, another is Post Millennial, etc. AND EACH commentary, website, etc... HAS a significant focus on proving their position; and dis-proving other positions.

**3)** IT IS NO WONDER MULTITUDES are confused. They may have a ‘favorite’ prophecy view of end time events, and favorite teachers; but The Revelation itself, is basically closed to them.

### **HERE IS GOOD NEWS:**

**1) The first recipients** read, (or had read to them), The REVELATION without any of the baggage of the above positions. (For those prophecy views and positions had not yet been invented!)

**2) The first recipients** were Christians, saints, followers of the Lamb... they were addressed with different titles; but they were all redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. The entire book is written to and specifically for those belonging to JESUS— who were then,

have since, continue now, and will face WHILE HERE ON EARTH, all manner of persecution and tribulation in this life. The Revelation never promised escape from such!

**3) MOREOVER, the first recipients were told that the PURPOSE of the entire book was (and is!) THE UNVEILING OF JESUS!** They and anyone who will simply accept the book as written will clearly see that the MASTER REVELATION of the entire book IS JESUS!

**4) M.A. Thomas from India was correct!** In response to some preachers telling him that NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND THE REVELATION... He laughed and joyfully cried out: *"MOST SIMPLIST BOOK! JUST LOOK FOR JESUS!"*

**What follows is an imperfect OUTLINE OF THE REVELATION** to aid in grasping the historical and prophetic flow of the book. Set aside some time to READ *the Revelation* straight through, just the Revelation!

ABOVE ALL ELSE— look for the UNVEILING of JESUS; and let us be ready to hear, to heed, and to obey (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 14). [AND to worship, for The Revelation is a grand book of worship!]

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**I. THE PRESENT SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAMB IN HEAVEN, (Chapters 1-5), JESUS is working through His blood-bought, redeemed on earth:** *(Here are brief points, as to each chapter!)*

**A. Christ**→ Risen, glorified, and in the midst of His churches; JESUS is giving revelation to HIS SERVANTS of the exalted nature of the RISEN, REIGNING CHRIST. Saints are/will be made Kings and Priests unto God, and they are all COMPANIONS IN TRIBULATION (Revelation, Chapter 1)

**B. Christ**→ Commanding, correcting, and instructing His church (Revelation, chapters 2-3)

**C. Christ**→ The Throne of Deity and the Occupation of Heaven – WORSHIP (Revelation, chapter 4) Saints can be at rest on earth; for there is no CRISIS or anxiety in heaven!

**D. Christ**→ In the Midst of the Throne is WORSHIPED and reigning (Revelation, chapter 5). **Three ways to view the worthiness of the JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD:** (1) The Conqueror of Satan! (2) The Redeemer of Men! (3) The Incarnation of God!

**II. THE PRESENT AND COMING SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAMB ON EARTH, Chapters 6-19.** In this section, all things are moving toward Christ's SECOND COMING and His enthronement on earth: (11:15; 19:6)

NOW and in the future— JESUS reigns (10:6); rules (19:15); restrains (20:1-3), He rewards; and those of the first resurrection reign with Him (20:4-6).

**A. Revelation 6 - Seals 1-6** (Unveiling present and future actions of ALMIGHTY GOD and the SOVEREIGN LAMB)

**1. Great Tribulation** - The restraints of God are released and God's wrath increasingly comes forth; and the wrath of Satan against God's elect, whom he can't deceive! (Seals 1-5) **[Note... Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 follow the same basic unfolding of the unfolding of the WRATH of the LAMB! (Rev. 6:16-17)]**

**Seal 1** - White Horse - Imitator (Revelation 6:2; Matthew 24:5)

**Seal 2** - Red Horse - War (Revelation 6:3-4; Matthew 24:6-7)

**Seal 3** - Black Horse - Famine (Revelation 6:5-6; Matthew 24:7)

**Seal 4** - Pale Horse - Pestilence (Revelation 6:7-8; Matthew 24:7)

**Seal 5** - Great Tribulation (Revelation 6:9-11; Matthew 24:9-28)

**THE CRITICAL POINT:** We are JUST LOOKING for the REVELATION of the various ACTIVITIES OF JESUS... in coming days. We are not trying to fit them into any man-made prophecy chart of events.

**MAIN REALITY:** The Sovereign LORD JESUS CHRIST rules! Every day He orchestrates events toward the day when His will be done on earth in the same manner as it already is done in heaven!

**2. Heavenly signs and wonders - God's first phase of direct intervention.**

**Seal 6** - Heavenly signs - (Revelation 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29)

**B. Revelation 7 - Preservation and Deliverance of the 144,000 of the twelve tribes of Israel; and of the numberless Multitude from all nations: REMEMBER:** God protected Israel from His wrath when He poured out the plagues of wrath on ancient Egypt. So He shall protect all His redeemed from wrath about to come on the present evil world.

HOWEVER, throughout history, today and during the day ahead, spoken of here— GOD does not necessarily protect His redeemed from satan's / Babylon's wrath. MANY ARE CALLED TO BE MARTYRS FOR CHRIST! Regardless of whatever else might be said of these two groups this much is sure— they are all saved, servants, and saints of God! (Revelation 7:3; 9-17)

**C. Revelation 8-19 - The Seventh Seal consists of Seven Trumpets and Seven Last Plagues.** The Great Day of the Lord includes all 7 trumpets. Six are prior to Christ's return.

**1. Revelation 8** → Trumpets 1-4

**2. Revelation 9** →

a. 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, or first woe (9:1-11)

**b.** 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet, or second woe (**9:12 - 11:13**)

**c.** Before third woe: Two Witnesses, last 3 ½ years, God's final warning before the last trumpet.

**3. Revelation 11: 15-18 → Seventh and last trumpet— the time of Christ's literal, bodily return to earth has come!**

(Also see— I Corinthians 15:52, I Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 24:31)

**NOTE:** The seventh trumpet also consummates the wrath of God against evil. *The seventh trumpet also includes the seven last plagues completing the wrath of God, described in Revelation 15-16.*

**4. Revelation 12 →** An inset chapter. The story thread is stopped and we go back prior to Christ's birth (12:4); through His resurrection and ascension (12:5); and on through the activity of Satan against God's redeemed people to the present and future days (12:12, 17).

Plus, there is wonderful ENCOURAGEMENT of the OVERCOMING POWER of the blood of the Lamb! (12:10-17... — the first century church and many saints in persecution and tribulation since then... would have... and still do FIND GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT from these verses!

**5. Revelation 13 →** An inset chapter about the activity of Satan and the anti-Christ in the last days and during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets. Those who SIDE WITH the world often look so smart; and the saints of God look so foolish! ... And the first Christians reading the Revelation would have KEENLY felt the impact of this chapter!

**6. Revelation 14 →** An inset chapter where three angel messengers speak of the fall of Babylon through the time of the

seven last plagues, plus a warning against taking the mark of the beast, (14:9-10); but also the BLESSEDNESS of those who DIE IN THE LORD, 14:12-13! // O WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT this was to the first readers; and to multitudes of Christians ever since... and will be so in the future!

**7. Revelation 15-16**→ Description of the seven last plagues (vials or bowls) which are part of the seventh trumpet, the third woe. These are God's judgments against God-hating men of the world's Babylon!

**8. Revelation 17-18**→ Inset chapters about the great governmental and economic and religious system of Babylon and God's judgments against them, including the last seven plagues.

**Note: Again, in all of these chapters, THE KEY REALITY and REVELATION is NOT the various events; but RATHER, the LORD JESUS CHRIST from heaven is ruling and overruling in the affairs of men on earth.**

*As He has always done, He puts up and takes down kings and kingdoms in accordance with His good and sovereign purposes; and in the midst of it all, He continues to work with His redeemed saints.*

AND ONCE AGAIN... if we would but sit where those first Christians were sitting... I SUSPECT THAT THEY... I am quite sure that we... would be WONDERING WHERE IS GOD?

How is it that the wicked seem to go unpunished? ***IN THE REVELATION, God opens the curtains for HIS CHURCH, HIS SAINTS to see— GOD WILL BE TRUE TO HIS WORD IN ROMANS 12:19-21!!***

**9. Revelation 19**→ The second coming of Jesus Christ to earth described further:

**a.** This happens at the seventh and last trumpet. (Revelation 11:15-18; 19:1-4)

**b. On that day** all God's people – the saved of all ages – meet Christ in the air and *come on with Him to Jerusalem. God's children, now in immortal spirit bodies are also now rewarded.* (See 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Revelation 11:18, 22:12)

**c. On that day**, also, God's wrath, (as pictured with the seven last plagues), begins to take place and is possibly administered in a 24-hour period. (Rev. 18:8; Zechariah 14:7; 14:1-9)

**d. On that day** (Revelation 11:15-18, 19:15-21, Zechariah 14:1-9), the evil nations (having probably spent months in previous preparation) will, under the anti-Christ's leadership (Revelation 16:13-15) gather at Armageddon to fight against Christ!

*The results – Revelation 19:14-21.*

### **III. THE ETERNAL ENTHRONEMENT OF THE LAMB ON THE "NEW EARTH", Chapters 20-22**

➔ *Jesus is Lord! Yet He remains the Lamb!*

*SPECIAL NOTE: EVEN IN ETERNITY, His Calvary love will never, never be forgotten!*

1. Revelation 20 ➔ *Satan bound, JESUS REIGNS; and judgment!*

2. Revelation 21-22 ➔ *New heaven and New Earth! The redeemed saints of all time—*

***SERVE HIM,***

***SEE HIM FACE TO FACE AND***

***REIGN WITH HIM FOR ETERNITY!***

**Grace to one and all! James Bell**  
[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: New Studies— *“SPECIAL, NEEDED WORDS FROM THE WORD OF GOD... FOR MEN!”***

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study— September 1, 11:00am: Women of the Bible! [DORCUS: Acts 9:32-42]**

**SUNDAY— August 30:**

**\*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

**\*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

**FIFTH Sunday Event: August 30, 6:00pm...**

**[A] Church-wide SINGING / PRAISE to the LORD / Scripture Reading!**

**[B] CHURCH-WIDE ‘FAMILY TALK’ — prayerfully considering: *HOW ARE WE TO GO FORWARD AS A BODY OF SAINTS IN THESE TROUBLING DAYS—***

1. *Worshipping God.*
2. *Building up the saints.*
3. *Evangelizing the lost! ???.... The church family needs to be present for and participate in this special time.*

**TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm—**

**\*\* Adult Prayer Service  
Service**

**\*\* Young FAMILIES Prayer**

**\*\*\* HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

**1. IF YOU ARE SICK... OR if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.... please stay home!]**

**2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such.**

**3. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.**

**4. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.**

**5. IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE— no unsupervised Children!**

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**6. THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for July 26 ... SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

[At the same location, you can access our YOUTUBE page... and view/listen to previous services; Men's and Ladies Bible Studies!]

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***7. LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:***

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) —  
MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594,  
Gallatin, TN 37066**

**OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @  
<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**