

September

Revelations

Sept. 1 – Rev. 1:1-8 – Greetings and Doxology – “revelation” / “apocalypse” means “unveiling” or “disclosure” – what is being disclosed? What is the double blessing that begins this book? Why 7 churches? What is the significance of “from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come”? (see also v.8, 4:8) What is “the 7 spirits” / “seven-fold Spirit”? (see Isaiah 11:2) How is Jesus described in these verses?

Sept. 2 – Rev. 1:9-20 – Jesus and 7 Churches – How did this vision come to John? What is the importance of “someone like a son of man”? What are the other significant things about this Person that John saw? Who was this Person? How do you know? What are the “seven stars” and the “seven lampstands”?

Sept. 3 – Rev. 2:1-7 – Ephesus – For what were they commended? For what were they reprimanded? What would it mean to have their “lampstand removed from its place”? What does it mean: “He who has an ear, let him hear”? What does it mean to “overcome”?

Sept. 4 – Rev. 2:8-11 – Smyrna – What was the warning to them? What was the promise? What is the “second death”? (see 20:14)

Sept. 5 – Rev. 2:12-17 – Pergamum – Why the “double-edged sword”? (1:16) In what city does Satan live? What is “hidden manna”? the “white stone with a new name written on it”?

Sept. 6 – Rev. 2:18-29 – Thyatira – Is it good news or bad news that God knows our deeds? What kinds of “Jezebel issues” do we in the church tolerate today? Does Satan have any “deep secrets”? How do we “hold on to what we have until Jesus comes”? Who is the “morning star”? (see 22:16)

Sept. 7 – Rev. 3:1-6 – Sardis – What reputation do we have? What needs to be “strengthened because it is about to die” today? What does it mean to “wake up”? How are we / can we be “dressed in white”?

Sept. 8 – Rev. 3:7-13 – Philadelphia – What is the “key of David”? How does this relate to “the office of the keys” in our Catechism? What is the “open door that no one can shut”? How might someone come and “take our crown”? (see again 2:10) What is your “new name”?

Sept. 9 – Rev. 3:14-22 – Laodicea – What’s wrong with being “luke-warm”? How can we “buy from Jesus gold refined in the fire... white clothes... salve for our eyes”? What is God’s purpose of discipline? How does Jesus “stand at the door and knock”?

Sept. 10 – Rev. 4 – Throne in heaven – Why 24 thrones and 24 elders? (compare v.6-8 with Ezekiel 1) Why did the elders cast their crowns before the throne? How do we do that today? Or do we? Note the theme of creation in the heavenly praise!

Sept. 11 – Rev. 5 – Scroll and Slain Lamb – Why “writing on both sides”? (Ex. 32:15) Why sealed with 7 seals? Why “the lion” / “the lamb”? Why 7 horns and 7 eyes? What made the lamb worthy to open the scroll? Did you notice the similarity to the liturgy: “This is the Feast of Victory”? What should this tell us about when we sing this too?

Sept. 12 – Rev. 6 – The Six Seals – See Zech. 1:8-17; 6:1-8 for the 4 horsemen / 4 seals. Why in the 5th seal were the souls of those who have been slain “under the altar”? Why were they given a white robe? What happens when the 6th seal is opened?

Sept. 13 – Rev. 7 – 144,000 and great multitude – Note the connection – the 6th seal is opened / the servants of God are “sealed”! Why 144,000? Only Jews (Israel)? See v.9 “white robes” again – what is the purpose John sees these? What wonderful promise is given?

Sept. 14 – Rev. 8 – 1-4 of 7 trumpets – Why the silence in heaven? (silence from what?) What does the incense represent? Why the 7 trumpets? How devastating were the first 4 trumpets?

- Sept. 15** – Rev. 9 – 5th & 6th trumpets – How were the locusts (5th trumpet) restricted in their destruction? What does this mean? Why so much destroying? (see v.20-21) How many of these sins continue today? What will God do with those who continue to practice these?
- Sept. 16** – Rev. 10 – The angel and the little scroll – How is this scroll different from the one in ch. 5? Why was John not to write what the 7 thunders had said? What was Joh to do win the little scroll? (see Ezek. 3:1-4) Why “sweet at honey in his mouth” but “turned his stomach sour”?
- Sept. 17** – Rev. 11 – Two Witnessed & 7 Trumpets – Why two witnesses? Two olive trees / lampstands? (allusions to Moses and Elijah in v.6?) What is “the great city” – v.8 (Sodom? Egypt! Where their Lord was crucified?) 3 ½ is half of 7 – When the 7th angel sounded the 7th trumpet what did the loud voices proclaim? (e.g. the Hallelujah chorus) Where is it an important part of this vision?
- Sept. 18** – Rev. 12 – The Woman and the dragon – Who / What is the woman? Who / What is the dragon? Note – the 7 crowns were not crowns of victory, but crowns worn by rulers and self-proclaimed deities. (Note: 42 months, see 11:2 = 1,260 days – what is the comforting message?) Why “woe to the earth and the sea” (see v.12 & 17)? Why do we forget this so often? (Again: “time, times and ½ a time = half of 7)
- Sept. 19** – Rev. 13:1-10 – The Sea Beast – (If not already familiar, read Daniel 7) What do we know about the beast? How can a “fatal wound” be healed? (Gen. 3:15) Why did “the whole world follow him” (v.3-4, 8)? Who gave the mouth and power to the beast? What special meaning is “He who has an ear, let him hear”? (See Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Rev. 2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9) Note how these verses (1-10) describe hostile civil government. What should we expect?
- Sept. 20** – Rev. 13:11-18 – The Earth Beast – Not how this is describing false religious power. Where does this beast receive its power? What is the purpose of this beast? How is this mark or seal (v.16) different from the seal of ch. 7 & 9? How does the Supreme Court decision on gay marriage give concrete examples of this being literally fulfilled? What is “wisdom”? What is the meaning of 666 – the number of the beast / man’s number?
- Sept. 21** – Rev. 14 – The Lamb and Day of Judgment – What a contrast! What do we know about the 144,000? (first mentioned in ch. 7) How does the message of the 3 angels compare to the warnings from 13:11-18? How is hell described? (Note again, “patient endurance” – 13:10; 6:10-11; 1:9) What is the 2nd beatitude in Revelation? (v.13, see also 1:3) With v.14, note this is a victory crown in contrast to 12:3. Note this is the judgment of the whole earth (in stark contrast to millennialists!) 1,600 = 4x4x10x10x10 – 4 the number for the earth, 10 x 10 total judgment!
- Sept. 22** – Rev. 15 – 7 angels / 7 plagues – (“another great and marvelous sign” – see 12:1, 3 – reminder: 12:1-15:8 is a unit – the 4th vision) Why are these the “last plagues”? Why were they singing “the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb”? Where did the 7 golden bowls of God’s wrath come from?
- Sept. 23** – Rev. 16 – 7 bowls of God’s wrath – (Note the parallels with the 7 trumpets – ch. 8-11) What is always the purpose / goal of God pouring out His wrath? (v.9, 11) What “deceptive frogs” and “propaganda” is going out in the world still today? Note the 3rd Beatitude (v.15) – see also Matt. 24:36-44. Note the description of the Day of Judgment in v.17-21.
- Sept. 24** – Rev. 17 – The Woman and the Beast – Review ch. 13, the beast out of the sea. How can you read this “with a mind of wisdom”? (v.9) Note the “summary” and reassurance of the final outcome from this woman and beast – v.14. How does this show God’s omnipotent power?
- Sept. 25** – Rev. 18 – The Fall of Babylon – (review 14:8) The “church” is “called out” from the world – see v.4. Why “pay her back double”? See Isaiah 40:2. Why do the “kings of the earth” and “merchants” mourn? Which people “rejoice”? (v.20) Why do they rejoice?
- Sept. 26** – Rev. 19 – King of Kings – What a contrast! From earth (all the “woes” of ch. 18) to heaven (“hallelujah’s” ch. 19)! Note the 4th Beatitude (v.9) Compare v.11f with Palm Sunday. What a contrast – “the great supper of God” (v.17) and the “feast of victory of our God”!
- Sept. 27** – Rev. 20:1-10 – 1,000 years – Note the many allusions to the book of Genesis and the entire Old Testament. Why is the dragon called “the ancient serpent”? What does it mean that he was “bound for 1000

years”? What is “the first resurrection”? Note another Beatitude! (v.6) What is “the second death”? (look ahead to v.14)

Sept. 28 – Rev. 20:11-15 – Great White Throne- What do we know about Judgment Day / “the great white throne”? What do we know about “the book of life”? How are the dead going to be judged? Is this comforting or frightening? How is a person’s name written in the “book of life”? (see Ps. 69:28; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 21:27)

Sept. 29 – Rev. 21 – New Jerusalem – (with this chapter read Ezekiel 43) What is “the first heaven and earth”? What does the “new Jerusalem” look like? Why is there no temple? Why no sun or moon? (How does this answer the question of “light” in Genesis 1 before the creation of sun, moon and stars?) Why no night?

Sept. 30 – Rev. 22 – Jesus is Coming! - (with this chapter read Genesis 3 and Ezekiel 47) What do you know about “the tree of life”? Note the 6th Beatitude (v.7); and the 7th Beatitude (v.14) With the prohibition of “do not seal up”, v.10 see Rev. 10:4. What special names of Jesus do we have in this chapter? What warning is given in v.18? How has and is this verse ignored / broken? How soon is “coming soon”? “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus”!