



“Grasping the Book of Revelation”

Recapitulation (from the previous teachings)

1. “The things you have seen” - Revelation 1

Key message: *Breaking the spirit of familiarity - (better formality)*

- a. Stop being formal in our prayer life
- b. Stop being formal in our relationships with God
- c. Stop being formal in God’s expectation
- d. Stop being formal in God’s word

2. “The things which are” - Revelation 2-3

Key message: *God’s expectation for His Church*

Each church has its own distinctive character.

- 1) **Ephesus**, the loveless church - *losing their first love*;
- 2) **Smyrna**, the persecuted church - *fear of suffering*;
- 3) **Pergamos**, the over-tolerant church - *doctrinal defection*
- 4) **Thyatira**, the compromising church - *moral departure*
- 5) **Sardis**, the sleeping church - *spiritual deadness*
- 6) **Philadelphia**, the church with opportunity - *not holding fast*
- 7) and **Laodicea**, the complacent (self- approving) church - *lukewarmness*

Recommendation: *“To him who overcomes”:*

3. “The things which shall be” - Revelation 4:1-22:21

Key message: *Living in obedience to Jesus Christ, the coming Conqueror and Judge.*

Revelation 4: 1 - Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.”

Observation:

Seeing a **“door standing open in heaven,”** John is told to “come up here” (cf. Eze 1:1). He receives a new view of God's majesty and power (throne) so that he can understand the events on earth that relate to the seven-seal vision.

1 Kings 22: 19 - Then Micaiah continued, "Listen to what the LORD says! I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the armies of heaven around him, on his right and on his left. And the LORD said, 'Who can entice Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed?'

The voice that invites John to heaven is the voice of Christ. The same voice John heard before spoke to him like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." - This event represents the time after the Churches or in other words after the Rapture.

First the throne of God comes into view (4:1-3). In other words, the Revelation becomes the "book of the throne. This is the great central tact which influences the book.

- **This throne speaks of judgment:** the throne of grace is no longer seen.
- **The scene is a courtroom.** And this brings fear to those who never knew Christ as Lord and saviour. Unless you plead guilty, there is nothing to be afraid of the judgement, especially for those who are rapped and covered in the blood of the lamb (Jesus Christ of Nazareth).
- The Judge of all the earth and is on the bench
- The twenty-four elders, representing the mixture of Prophets and Apostles are the jury (4:4).

Hebrews 3: 15 - Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled."

- The seven spirits of God are the prosecutor, and the four living creatures are court attendants, ready to carry out the will of the Judge.

Next in importance to the Lamb Himself is the sealed book (5:1). Who can possibly open the book? **None, save One.** Jesus Christ had prevailed to open the book.

1. Christ prevailed in the Wilderness after forty days (Matthew 4)
2. Christ prevailed in Gethsemane (Matthew 26: 36-56)
3. Christ prevailed on Calvary (John 19: 2830)— He prevailed when He dropped His divine head on His pulse less breast and said, "It is finished.
4. Christ prevailed on the third day: (1 Corinthians 15:4) - He arose from the dead and conquered **death, sin, hell, and Satan.**

The struggles of humankind can be simplified in 4 things:

1. The power of death: Christ conquered it and you can to
2. The power of Sin: Be overcomer through Christ - powerless in temptation
3. The power of Hell: Being not ignorance about hell

4. The powerless power of Satan: understanding of Satan's move in people's life
The twenty-four elders were people like you and I but stood and carried their faith until death came in their lives.

The recommendation of Jesus for the 7th church (Laodicea - self approving church - To him who overcomes): - "I [Jesus] will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (3:21).

Tribulation is one of "The things which shall be"

The day of tribulation begins with the opening of the seven seals by Christ (The Great Judge). Christ also referred to it as great tribulation since as has never happened upon the earth. **Matthew 24:21** - For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

- The earth will be filled with war, hunger, famine and pestilence
- Judgment must come on those who have rejected the Son of God
- **We as Christians can look for Christ not for calamity, because our Saviour is coming to receive us to Himself and free us from this day.**