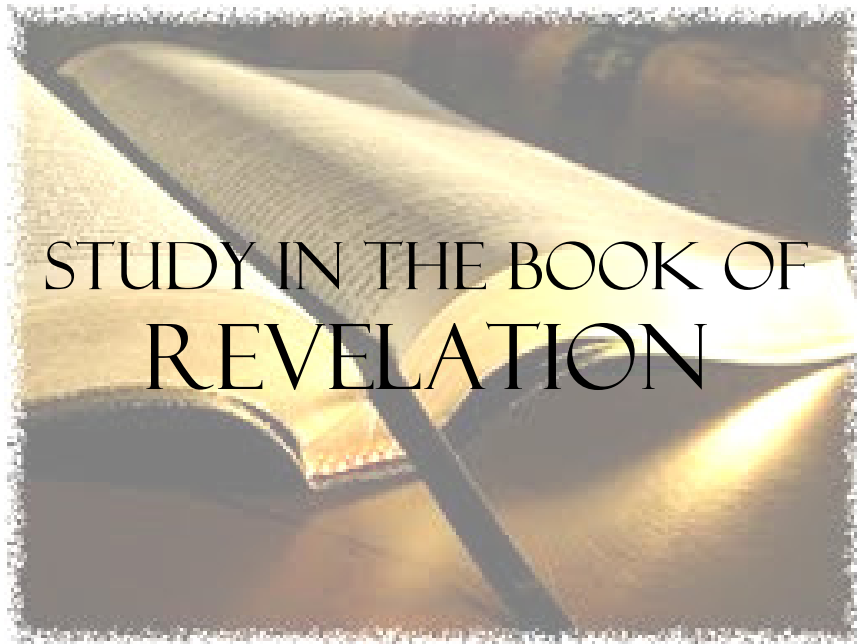


Footprints



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Footprints into Africa

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LECTURES BY: DR.RT. REV. WARWICK COLE-EDWARDES

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

OUTLINE

STUDY ONE: THE SON OF MAN (1:1-20)

Background

- a) purpose
- b) Author and date

Introduction

Title

- God
- Jesus Christ
- His Angel
- John
- Lector

Blessing

Summary

The greeting and adoration

- Greeting
- Adoration
- The Theme
- Christ's self-designation
- John's commission
- The vision of the son of man
- The effect of the vision on John

STUDY TWO: SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES (2:1-3:22)

Ephesus: The careless church

- Approval
- Accusation
- Admonition

Smyrna: the crowned church

- Approval
- Admonition

Pergamum: Compromising church

- Approval
- Accusation
- Admonition

Thyatira: The corrupted church

- Approval
- Accused
- Admonition

Sardis: The feeble church

- Accusation
- Admonition

Philadelphia: The faithful church

- Approval
- Admonition

Laodicea: The foolish church

- Christ's designation
- Accusation
- Closing words

STUDY THREE; A VISION OF HEAVEN (4:1-11)

On the throne

Around the throne

Around the throne with elders and creatures

Out of the throne

Before the throne

Worthy, Worthy is the Lord

STUDY FOUR : THE SEVEN SEALS (5:1-8:5)

Introduction

Six seals opened

A symbolic sealing of the saints

- The white horse
- The red horse
- The battles
- The pale horse
- The cry of the martyrs
- The sixth seal
- The seventh seal opened
- The seven seals

STUDY FIVE: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (8:6-11:19)

Six trumpets sound

- The first trumpet.
- The second trumpet
- The third trumpet
- The fourth trumpet
- The fifth trumpet
- The sixth trumpet

SUMMARY

Seven thunders and the two witnesses

- Take it
- Eat it
- Preach it

STUDY SIX: THE SEVEN SIGNS (12:1-14:20)

Dragon/Satan

The beast out of the sea

The beast out of the earth: the mind of Satan with his false teaching

Babylon: the world with its anti-Christian government

Those with the mark: followers of Satan

- The woman clothed with the sun
- Satan expelled
- War between Satan and Son
- The beast from the sea
- Vision of the lamb
- Vision of the harvest

STUDY SEVEN: THE SEVEN BOWLS (15:1-16:21)

Seven angels

Seven bowls and seven plagues

**STUDY EIGHT: REIGN AND RUIN OF THE ANTI-CHRIST
(17:1-20:15)**

The judgement of the whore

Babylon is fallen

- Voice of condemnation
- Voice of separation
- Voice of lament
- Voice of celebration

The marriage of the Lamb

Triumph of God

STUDY NINE: THE CITY OF GOD (21:22:5)

A proclamation about the city

The purity of the city

The perfection of the city

The water of life

STUDIES IN REVELATION

STUDY 1. THE SON OF MAN (1:1-20)

It is generally acknowledged that the last book of the Bible is the most difficult to understand and yet it is the climax of divine revealed truth. In form, symbolism, purpose and meaning the book of Revelation is beautiful beyond description. The picture of Jesus Christ going forth into victory, seated upon a white horse followed by all the armies of heaven is a wonderful picture.

1. BACKGROUND

- A. **PURPOSE:** The main purpose of this book is to comfort and encourage the church in its struggles against the forces of evil. It is full of help and comfort for suffering Christians. God sees our sins and He hears our prayers and assures us final victory.
- B. **AUTHOR AND DATE:** The author is the Apostle John, he wrote the Gospel of John as well as the Epistles of John. This book was written in 95 AD during Trajan's reign.

2. INTRODUCTION.

- A. **TITLE:** This is the revelation of Jesus Christ which came from:
 - i. **God:** God gave Jesus the plan of the world's history. This plan was of things still to happen and so most of John's writing refers to things that were to take place in his own time.
 - ii. **Jesus Christ:** Christ is the Mediator enthroned in heaven who will carry out the plan.
 - iii **His Angel:** Jesus in turn commissioned his angel to guide John
 - iv **John:** The message came to John on an island at Patmos
 - v. **Lector:** This book was then appointed to people to read
- B. **BLESSING:** "Blessed is the one who reads the words of the prophesy" Blessing comes to those who have read.

3. THE GREETING AND ADORATION

- A. **GREETING:** The greeting is addressed to the 7 churches near the province of Asia.
- B. **ADORATION:** Jesus is now called a faithful witness, the first born from the dead. So whenever a Christian is persecuted, remember who you are and that you share in the inheritance of Christ.

4. **THE THEME.**

The theme focuses on Jesus who is going to come again on the clouds, where every eye is going to see Him and where every knee will bow, even those who pierced Him, this is a prophecy of Zechariah.

5. **CHRIST'S SELF-DESIGNATION**

John now hears Jesus talking, **"I am the Alpha and Omega"** These are the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet. Jesus is describing Himself as the completely perfect revelation of God, the beginning and the end.

6. **JOHN'S COMMISSION.**

John again hears Jesus talking to him while he was in the spirit. He was told to write down what he saw and send the letters to churches in Asia.

7. **THE VISION OF THE SON OF MAN**

We will miss the purpose of this vision if we try to analyze each part. Rather the total impression given is of a magnificent Being who fills us with awe and wonder. Jesus is pictured with power and majesty and we bow before Him.

8. **THE EFFECT OF THE VISION ON JOHN**

John's response to this vision was to fall down at His feet, to which Jesus says, **"do not be afraid I am the first and the living One who holds the keys of death and Hades"**. There is nothing greater than this knowledge.

STUDY 2 SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES (2:1-3:22)

The book of Revelation is truly a work of art, as the author tries to put together the different strands. In this book you cannot understand chapters 2 and 3 until you have read chapter 1. Chapter 2 and 3 sets the scene for the later portions of the book. Here's a picture of the head of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ inspecting each church, knowing its true condition and giving His evaluation.

A. EPHESUS: THE CARELESS CHURCH.

- i. **Approval:-** There are 5 things that Jesus approved of with this church, and these are that they were a serving church, sacrificing, steadfast, separated and suffering. No matter how much one examines this church they would conclude that it was just about perfect.
- ii. **Accusation:-** But Ephesus had lost her first love. Despite their zeal for the truth, their devotion had suffered.
- iii. **Admonition:-** Now Jesus speaks to the church and says, remember the height from which you fell, He says they should repent and then repeat their first works.

B. SMYRNA: THE CROWNED CHURCH

- i. **Approval:-** The church was going through great persecution, there was suffering and poverty. Through this Jesus says, **“Yet you are rich”**. They had no money but lots of spiritual wealth.
- ii. **Admonition:-** Jesus comes to these suffering Christians and says **“don’t be afraid, be faithful, I will give you the crown of faith”**.

C. PERGAMUM: COMPROMISING CHURCH

- i. **Approval:-** Just like the brethren in Smyrna, they were suffering persecution, yet many remained true to the Lord and did not renounce their faith.
- ii. **Accusation:-** They however compromised by allowing the teaching of the Nicolaitans to come into the church (Num 22-25)
- iii. **Admonition:-** Jesus urges them to repent of their compromise.

D. THYATIRA: THE CORRUPTED CHURCH

- i. **Approval:-** They certainly were a very busy church. Jesus knows of their deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance.
- ii. **Accusation:-** No amount of loving sacrificial work can compensate for a tolerance of evil. The church permitted a false prophetess to influence the members and lead them to compromise.
- iii. **Admonition:-** **“Hold on to what you have until I come”**.

E. SARDIS: THE FEEBLE CHURCH

- i. **Accusation:-** Jesus says they have a reputation of being alive, but when in actual fact they are dead.
- ii. **Admonition:-** Jesus therefore speaks strongly to them and He says four things and these are that they must wake up they can no longer rely on their reputation. They were to strengthen the little that remained, they were to remember and they were to repent.

F. PHILADELPHIA: THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

- i. **Approval:-** Jesus approved of four things that they did and these were, their deeds, they kept His word, did not deny His name and they endured patiently. Therefore there was an open door for them which no man could shut.
- ii. **Admonition:-** Jesus gives them four wonderful promises, which are victory over accusers, kept in the hour of trial, made a pillar in God's temple and assurance.

G. LAODICEA: THE FOOLISH CHURCH

- i. **Christ's Designation:** Jesus is addressed as the Amen, faithful and true witness.
- ii. **Accusation:** To this church Jesus said four things were lost and these were: vigour - they became lukewarm, they lost their values, they lost their vision, they lost their vesture - they were naked.
- iii. **The closing words:-** Jesus closes this section with three statements.
 - Those whom I love I rebuke
 - Be earnest and repent
 - Invitation, He knows and sees.

This concludes the second major section of Revelations

STUDY 3. A VISION OF HEAVEN. (4:1-11)

Chapter 3 and 4 of Revelation show the very heart of this great book, and we are given here a picture not only of heaven but of Jesus on the throne. It is a reminder that Jesus rules His world. In these chapters people gather to worship Him. There is one main lesson being taught and unless we grasp it, we will never see the glorious unity of the book. The lesson is **“the Lord reigns”**. The purpose of the vision is to show us the beautiful symbolism that all things are governed by the Lord on the throne **“The key word in this chapter is “THRONE” which is used 14 times in the chapter and 46 times in the book (Warren Wiersbe)”**

1. ON THE THRONE

Seated on the throne in majesty is the picture of the Lord in majestic symbolism.

2. AROUND THE THRONE.

There is a rainbow, reminding God's people that the storm is over.

3. AROUND THE THRONE WITH ELDERS AND CREATURES

The 24 Elders represent the entire church of both the Old and New dispensation. The Elders were all wearing crowns of righteousness and robes of glory. There were the 4 creatures, the Cherubim who guarded the holy things of God.

4. OUT OF THE THRONE

Indications of a coming storm are mentioned, all to remind of God's power.

5 BEFORE THE THRONE

Here we see the 7 lamps, a number that speaks of completeness and signalling the presence of the Holy Spirit.

6 WORTHY, WORTHY IS THE LORD

John sees the four living creatures together with all those who are the called bowing down in worship.

STUDY 4. THE SEVEN SEALS (5:1-8:5)

A. INTRODUCTION: THE BOOK AND THE LION (5:1-14)

As John looks at the Lord's throne, he sees a scroll, written on both sides, which reminds us that we cannot add to it. It was sealed with 7 seals reminding us that God's plan had not been fully implemented. This scroll or book represents God's eternal plans and purpose. This symbolized God's purpose concerning all creatures of all ages and eternity. No one was capable of opening the book. John wept until Jesus came forth, who would carry out God's plan and purpose. Here He is called the lion of the tribe of Judah, from the root of David and the Lamb of God. As Jesus comes, the universe breaks forth into singing.

Conclusion

All the universe praises God and the Lamb because of creation (4) and because of redemption (5)

B. SIX SEALS OPENED. (6:1-17)

John now begins to show us how these 7 seals are opened one by one. So the breaking of the 7 seals would be the unfolding of the plan of God right up to the time of Jesus who will deliver the kingdom to the Father and have His enemies put under His feet.

C. SYMBOLIC SEALING OF THE SAINTS.

1. THE WHITE HORSE:

The picture is of Jesus riding from victory to victory with a bowl in His hand, riding as Conqueror. Victory is His work and He sends out the gospel. Even today Jesus is conquering.

2. THE RED HORSE:

This is a picture of the blood shed, telling us that there is coming a dreadful persecution.

3. THE BATTLES:

These refer to economic hardships. Oil and wine will be removed, the happiness of life will be no more.

4. THE PALE HORSE:

This speaks of diseases (death); this is brought in the 5th seal,

5. THE CRY OF THE MARTYRES:

John sees the believers who have offered their lives for the gospel.

6. THE SIXTH SEAL:

This ushers in the final day of judgement, reminding us how the entire godless world will be gripped with fear on the day of judgement.

D. THE SEVENTH SEAL OPENED:

The children of God have nothing to fear of the coming judgement. John sees an angel of judgement sealing God's people (this speaks of ownership and protection) The number of those sealed was 144 000. This of course is symbolic. It refers to the entire church from beginning to end "It is very clear therefore that the sealed multitude in Chapter 7 symbolizes the entire church, from militance of the Old and the New dispensations" They all stand before the throne, their work is described in v 10-15 and their bliss in v.16-17

1. THE SEVEN SEALS.:

There was silence in heaven; prayers were said for the persecuted Christians to rise up. This is a reminder for us that true prayer is not just an exercise of the holy, but also a very real power in the world.

STUDY 5. THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (8:6-11:19)

A. SIX TRUMPETS SOUND 8:6-9:21)

1. THE FIRST TRUMPET:

Here we see hail and fire mixed with blood which comes and destroys a third of the world. This is a reminder that between the first and the second coming of our Lord, God will afflict the persecutors of the church with various diseases on the land.

2. THE SECOND TRUMPET:

Here is a vision of a mountain which is ablaze and then thrown into the sea. This symbolizes the great trouble and commotion that there will be.

3. THE THIRD TRUMPET:

The Lord now uses rivers as instruments of His wrath against the wicked.

4. THE FOURTH TRUMPET:

This affects the sun, moon and stars. It reminds us that even these are used as a warning to those who do not serve Him and persecute His children.

5. THE FIFTH TRUMPET:

John sees a star falling from the sky to the earth, an amazing reminder how Satan has fallen from heaven to hell. Here in hell there is evil and wickedness. Then smoke appears and out comes the angel Apollyon. There is no more horrible and frightening a picture in the Bible than this, where Satan and his demons are robbing people of their righteousness, joy and wisdom.

6. THE SIXTH TRUMPET:

A vision of war, a reminder that even wars are included in God's decree.

SUMMARY

The general meaning is clear, and it is that between the first and second coming of Jesus, the Lord who rules everything in accordance with the scroll of God's decree will punish His enemies in various ways.

B. SEVEN THUNDERS AND THE TWO WITNESSES. (10:1-11:14)

Here is another wonderful picture of the majesty and glory of Jesus holding the scroll of God's Word in His hand, His posture showing His Sovereignty over the world. He tells John to do three things about His scroll.

- 1. Take it**
- 2. Eat it**
- 3. Preach it**

Having given John these instructions, we read of the two witnesses in **11:1-14**. They were to measure the sanctuary of God. This symbolizes the true church which is to be protected and this leads John to speak about the witnesses. They symbolize the church militant bearing the testimony of its ministers and missionaries. But as the missionaries thrust forth, the beast comes out of the Abyss to battle against the church to destroy it. This is the background to the battle of Armageddon. There is a time when the church seemed dead, but she

rises through the power of the gospel. So the church will be persecuted, but John says “be encouraged”.

STUDY 6: THE SEVEN SIGNS (12:1-14:20)

We now begin the second major division of the book, the main thrust is the opposition that comes to the church and it comes in five ways:

- i. Dragon/Satan
- ii. Beast out of the sea - Persecution
- iii. Beast out of the earth - mind of Satan with his false teaching
- iv. Babylon - world with its anti Christian governments
- v. Those with the mark - followers of Satan

1. THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN (12:1-6)

Here is the first symbolic picture. The woman is pregnant and about to give birth. The dragon arrives to try and kill the child. From our understanding of this book, the woman is the church, the child is Jesus, the beast is Satan. Satan’s one object is to kill Christ and destroy the church.

2. SATAN EXPELLED (12:7-12)

The second symbolic picture now shows us the effect of Christ’s birth, atonement and ascension to the throne in heaven. There was a battle in heaven. The dragon is thrown out and expelled, something that had major effects upon the church.

3. WAR BETWEEN SATAN AND THE SON (12:13-17)

Satan’s expulsion led to a war. In this third symbolic picture the dragon begins to persecute the woman (church) because she gave birth to the Child. In Genesis this was prophesied. In other words Satan failed against Christ and so he now attacks the church.

4. THE BEAST FROM THE SEA. (13:1-10)

In v.1-10 we are going to see the first ally that Satan used to fight the church. A beast of indescribable horror is given. This speaks of the great power of the beast.

5. THE BEAST FROM THE LAND (13:11-18)

This beast is harmless in appearance. The first beast describes Satan’s hand, the second his mind. The first speaks of the persecuting power of Satan, and the second speaks of false teaching and religious philosophies in the world. The interesting point is the 666 which portrays failure, after failure after failure.

6. THE VISION OF THE LAMB. (14:1-5)

In the midst of what has been described, John is given the picture of the Lamb our Lord Jesus Christ. He stands together with His redeemed. They are singing and glorifying in their position.

7. THE VISION OF THE HARVEST (14:6-20)

John moves from the vision of the Lamb and His followers. This is a reminder that there is to be a harvest, a winding up of the ages and the judgement of the wicked.

STUDY 7: THE SEVEN BOWLS (15:1-16:21)

This again describes the situation that has already been described in studies 4, 5, and 6. The bowls are poured out concurrently with the seals and the trumpets.

1. THE SEVEN ANGELS: (15:1-8)

These angels are spoken of and this leads to:-

2. SEVEN BOWLS AND SEVEN PLAGUES (16:1-21)

These plagues are used by God to describe the judgement on the wicked and will all climax in section 8 of the reign and ruin of the antichrist.

**STUDY 8. THE REIGN AND RUIN OF THE ANTICHRIST
(17:1-20-15)**

1. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE WHORE: (17:1-18)

John now sees Satan's third ally (world or Babylon). She symbolizes the world as a centre of Industry, Commerce, Art, and Culture by means of which she seeks to entice the believer away from Jesus. It is the world viewed as the embodiment of the lust of the flesh, eyes and pride of life; whatever it is that will turn away believers from Christ. Here it is a golden cup that she makes believers drink. In this cup there is pornographic literature, lust of money etc. But John goes on to see how the beast and the prostitute fall. Initially the prostitute was Assyria, Persia, Greece, Rome.

2. BABYLON IS FALLEN (18:1-19:5)

John now hears 4 voices concerning the fall of Babylon the Great:-

- The voice of condemnation. **v.1-3**
- The voice of separation **v.4-8**
- The voice of lament **v.9-19**
- The voice of celebration **v.20-24**

The main point to observe is that our pleasure, marred with arrogance in this world with all its pleasures, its Anti-Christian philosophy and culture is heading for destruction. But that destruction will not be complete until the day of the final judgement

3. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB: (19:6-10)

John not only sees the world and its punishment, but here we get a picture of Jesus in triumph. In (v.6-10) the marriage is announced God has judged the enemies (v.1-4) this is all the apostates and satanic political systems (v.5-6). Now Jesus reigns as the Messiah (v.7-10), the bride is ready and we wait for Christ to come.

4. THE TRIUMPH OF GOD (19:11-20:15)

This lovely section gives us a picture of Jesus 19:11-16. Then there is the picture of His wonderful conquests 19:17-21. Jesus has defeated the 2 beasts. In chapter 20 the children of God through Christ are reigning. John ends the section with a picture that will end all things, the great white throne. Here Jesus comes for His people and also judges the wicked. Heaven rejoices, Christ reigns and the final judgement is coming.

STUDY 9 THE CITY OF GOD 21:1-22:5

Scripture is described as a flower. The seed is in Genesis, the growing plant in the books that follow, and the beautiful flower is in Revelation, climaxed – Jesus.

Genesis	Revelation
Creation of Heaven & Earth (1:1)	New Heavens & Earth (21)
Creation of the sun (1:16)	No need for sun (21:23)
Night established	No night (22:5)

1. A PROCLAMATION ABOUT THE CITY (21:1-4)

We now find here in Revelation 21 the description of the Redeemed universe as foreshadowed by the redeemed church.

2. THE PURITY OF THE CITY. (21:5-8)

In these verses John depicts the bliss of the perfected community under the image of the city and the bride. Beautifully the marriage feast of the Lamb, with His blood, the church is now portrayed. The beast and his two allies are gone. No more death, no more tears.

3. THE PERFECTION OF THE CITY. (21:9-27)

We are invited here to see the wife of the Lamb, the church of Jesus 9:27. The new Jerusalem and purity are all beautifully portrayed by John and in contrast to the evil world and fiery lake, there are no mockers.

4. THE WATER OF LIFE (22:1-5)

The water of life spoken of here refers to our salvation, filled and free. Jesus gives us the fountain of the river of life freely.

SECTION 10: EPILOGUE (22:6-21)

This encouraging book closes with four challenges

- i. We must keep God's word (**6-11,18-19**)
- ii. We must serve the Lord Jesus (**12-15**)
- iii. We must keep our lives clean (**14.16**)
- iv. We must keep expecting Jesus' return (**17, 20-21**)

In an atmosphere of love, John closes this book and says:

“Amen. Come Lord Jesus.”