Introduction to Book of Revelation

6-6-2020

- Book of Relevation - Background
- Themes/ Megathemes
- Where to find “Sign of the Times” Bible Study text
- Completion Genesis and Revelation bookends

THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: WHEN WERE THEY WRITTEN?
Dates are approximate.

Galatians . . . . . A.D. 49	Philemon 60	Acts 6
James. 49	Philippians 61	2 Peter 6
1, 2 Thessalonians . . . 51/52	Matthew 61/64	2 Timothy 6
1, 2 Corinthians 55	Luke 61/64	Hebrews. 6
Romans 57	1 Timothy 64	John 8
Mark 58/60	Titus 64	1, 2, 3 John 8
Ephesians 60	1 Peter 64/65	Revelation . . . . .
Colossians 60	Jude 65	

THROUGH MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA

A riot in Ephesus sent Paul to Troas, then through Macedonia to the region of Achaia. In Achaia he went to Corinth to deal with problems there. Paul had planned to sail from Corinth straight to Antioch of Syria, but a plot against his life was discovered. So he retraced his steps through Macedonia.

Outline of Revelation

THE BLUEPRINT

A. LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES (1:1—3:22)

The vision John received opens with instructions for him to write to seven churches. He both commends them for their strengths and warns them about their flaws. Each letter was directed to a church then in existence but also speaks to conditions in the church throughout history. Both in the church and in our individual lives, we must constantly fight against the temptation to become loveless, immoral, lenient, compromising, lifeless, or casual about our faith. The letters make it clear how our Lord feels about these qualities.

B. MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCH (4:1—22:21)
1. Worshiping God in heaven
2. Opening the seven seals
3. Sounding the seven trumpets
4. Observing the great conflict
5. Pouring out the seven plagues
6. Seizing the final victory
7. Making all things new

This revelation is both a warning to Christians who have grown apathetic and an encouragement to those who are faithfully enduring the struggles in this world. It reassures us that good will triumph over evil, gives us hope as we face difficult times, and gives guidance when we are wavering in our faith. Christ's message to the church is a message of hope for all believers in every generation.

Megathemes of Book of Revelation

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
God's Sovereignty	God is sovereign. He is greater than any power in the universe. God is not to be compared with any leader, government, or religion. He controls history for the purpose of uniting true believers in loving fellowship with him.	Though Satan's power may temporarily increase, we are not to be led astray. God is all-powerful. He is in control. He will bring his true family safely into eternal life. Because he cares for us, we can trust him with our very life.
Christ's Return	Christ came to earth as a "Lamb," the symbol of his perfect sacrifice for our sin. He will return as the triumphant "Lion," the rightful ruler and conqueror. He will defeat Satan, settle accounts with all those who reject him, and bring his faithful people into eternity.	Assurance of Christ's return gives suffering Christians the strength to endure. We can look forward to his return as king and judge. Since no one knows the time when he will appear, we must be ready at all times by keeping our faith strong.
God's Faithful People	John wrote to encourage the church to resist the demands to worship the Roman emperor. He warns all God's faithful people to be devoted only to Christ. Revelation identifies who the faithful people are and what they should be doing until Christ returns.	You can take your place in the ranks of God's faithful people by believing in Christ. Victory is sure for those who resist temptation and make loyalty to Christ their top priority.
Judgment	One day God's anger toward sin will be fully and completely unleashed. Satan will be defeated with all of his agents. False religion will be destroyed. God will reward the faithful with eternal life, but all who refuse to believe in him will face eternal punishment.	Evil and injustice will not prevail forever. God's final judgment will put an end to these. We need to be certain of our commitment to Jesus if we want to escape this great final judgment. No one who rejects Christ will escape God's punishment.
Hope	One day God will create a new heaven and a new earth. All believers will live with him forever in perfect peace and security. Those who have already died will be raised to life. These promises for the future bring us hope.	Our great hope is that what Christ promises will come true. When we have confidence in our final destination, we can follow Christ with unwavering dedication no matter what we must face. We can be encouraged by hoping in Christ's return.

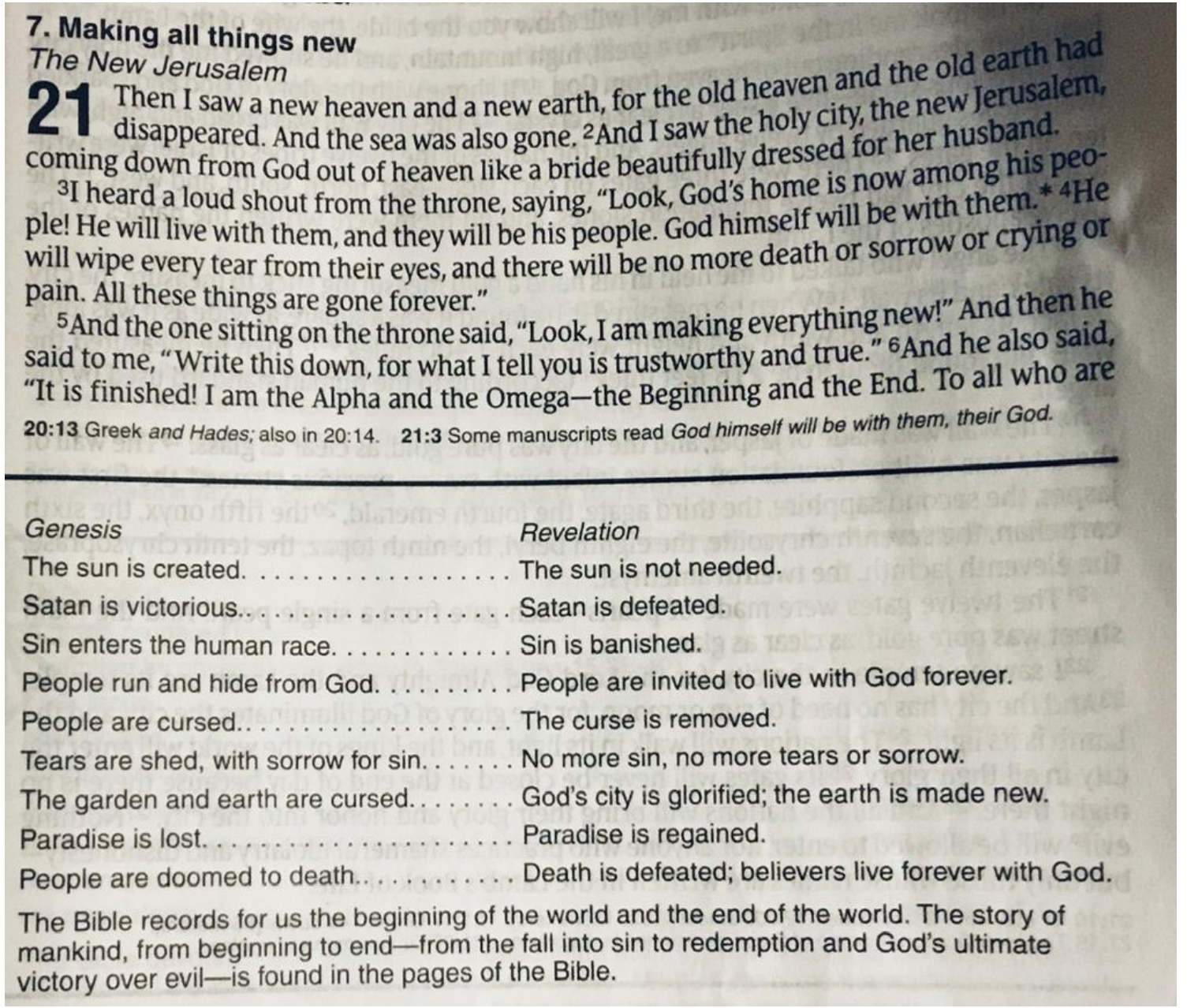
END TIME PROPHECY: "SIGNS OF THE TIMES"

(Guide from Wed. BCAMEC Bible Study)

- **CHURCH AGE – Present to Millennial Kingdom**
  - Pentecost until now – Acts 2
- • Pretribulation and Premillennial view - Christ calls the church (all believers) past and present to be caught-up to meet Him in the air to forever be with the Lord Jesus Christ
- **THE RAPTURE** – Christ returns for believers (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- May Happen at Any Time
- **THE GREAT TRIBULATION**
- • First Stage - The Breaking of the Seven Seals (Revelation 6 – 8)
- • Second Stage – The Blowing of the Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8 – 11)
- • Third Stage – The Emptying of the Seven Bowls (Revelation 16)
- **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS** - No One Knows Exact Timing
- • When All the Nations are gathered to make war on Jerusalem and other prophetic signs
- • The Marriage Feast of the Lamb – Wedding Feast in Heaven (Revelation 19:7-9)
- • Jesus will come back with His Bride
- • Jesus return with His Bride to defeat the Antichrist, the Beast and all his followers
- (Zechariah 14:3-4; Revelation 17:14; 19:11-16)

- **MILLENIAL KINGDOM** – Perfect Rule and Reign of Christ for 1,000 years
- • Begins with the defeat of Satan
- o Satan bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-33)
- o Saints reign with Christ 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6)
- o Satan's rebellion crushed (Revelation 20:7-10)
- o Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
- o Anyone not in the Book of Life is cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.
- This is the second death.
- o Satan cast into the Lake of Fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- **ETERNAL KINGDOM / NEW CREATION** – New Heaven and New Earth
- • All Things Made New (Revelation 21:1-8)
- • The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-21)
- • The Glory of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:22-27)
- • The River of Life (Revelation 22:1-5)
- • The Time is Near (Revelation 22:6-11)
- • Jesus Testifies to the Churches (Revelation 22:12-17)
- • World Without End (Revelation 22:18-21)
- o Eternity with God
- o Rule and Reign with Christ forever

The Beginning and The End



7. Making all things new

The New Jerusalem

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.* 4He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are

20:13 Greek *and Hades;* also in 20:14. **21:3** Some manuscripts read *God himself will be with them, their God.*

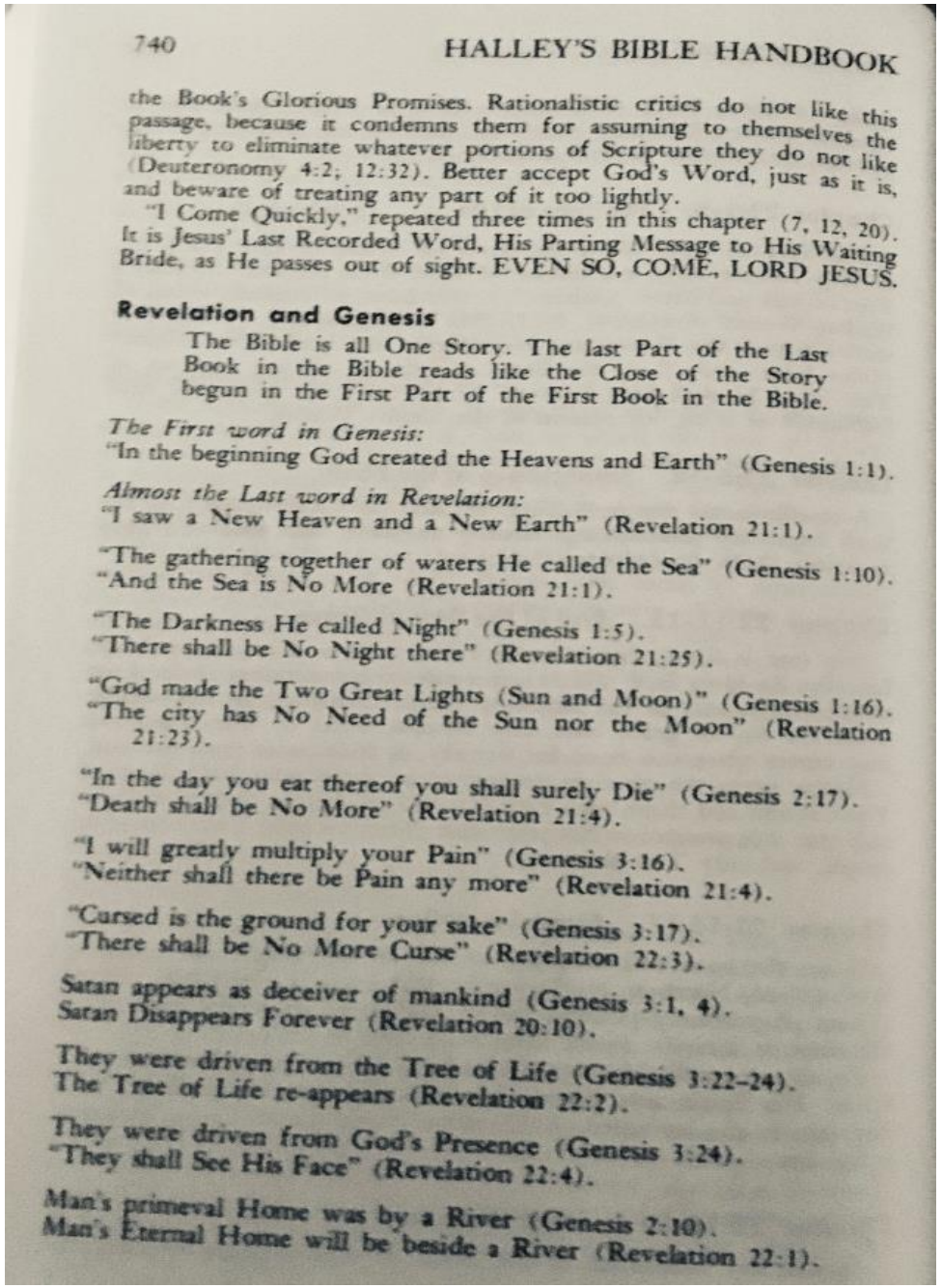
Genesis	*Revelation*
The sun is created.	The sun is not needed.
Satan is victorious.	Satan is defeated.
Sin enters the human race.	Sin is banished.
People run and hide from God.	People are invited to live with God forever.
People are cursed.	The curse is removed.
Tears are shed, with sorrow for sin.	No more sin, no more tears or sorrow.
The garden and earth are cursed.	God's city is glorified; the earth is made new.
Paradise is lost.	Paradise is regained.
People are doomed to death.	Death is defeated; believers live forever with God.

The Bible records for us the beginning of the world and the end of the world. The story of mankind, from beginning to end—from the fall into sin to redemption and God's ultimate victory over evil—is found in the pages of the Bible.

Beginning
Genesis

End
Book of Revelation

One complete story



the Book's Glorious Promises. Rationalistic critics do not like this passage, because it condemns them for assuming to themselves the liberty to eliminate whatever portions of Scripture they do not like (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32). Better accept God's Word, just as it is, and beware of treating any part of it too lightly.

"I Come Quickly," repeated three times in this chapter (7, 12, 20). It is Jesus' Last Recorded Word, His Parting Message to His Waiting Bride, as He passes out of sight. EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.

Revelation and Genesis

The Bible is all One Story. The last Part of the Last Book in the Bible reads like the Close of the Story begun in the First Part of the First Book in the Bible.

The First word in Genesis:
"In the beginning God created the Heavens and Earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Almost the Last word in Revelation:
"I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth" (Revelation 21:1).

"The gathering together of waters He called the Sea" (Genesis 1:10).
"And the Sea is No More (Revelation 21:1).

"The Darkness He called Night" (Genesis 1:5).
"There shall be No Night there" (Revelation 21:25).

"God made the Two Great Lights (Sun and Moon)" (Genesis 1:16).
"The city has No Need of the Sun nor the Moon" (Revelation 21:23).

"In the day you eat thereof you shall surely Die" (Genesis 2:17).
"Death shall be No More" (Revelation 21:4).

"I will greatly multiply your Pain" (Genesis 3:16).
"Neither shall there be Pain any more" (Revelation 21:4).

"Cursed is the ground for your sake" (Genesis 3:17).
"There shall be No More Curse" (Revelation 22:3).

Satan appears as deceiver of mankind (Genesis 3:1, 4).
Satan Disappears Forever (Revelation 20:10).

They were driven from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22-24).
The Tree of Life re-appears (Revelation 22:2).

They were driven from God's Presence (Genesis 3:24).
"They shall See His Face" (Revelation 22:4).

Man's primeval Home was by a River (Genesis 2:10).
Man's Eternal Home will be beside a River (Revelation 22:1).

Questions to Ponder?? 6/14/2020

- Why did John write this?
- What is major take away from Revelation?
- What is concern with reading Revelation?
- What is most astonishing to you so far in this last book of the Bible?

Questions to Ponder 6/20/2020

- What concerns do you have about Revelation?
- What is your take home from Revelation so far?
- What will the end be like for believers? What does it look like? Who is believer?
- What will the end be for non-believers? What does it look like? Who are the non-believers?
- Why does this matter to our lives today?
- What will you do differently after this Bible and Sabbath Study?