

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 5

"OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION"

(PART 1)



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In the first four sessions, we talked about the "why" and the "what" concerning the Book of Revelation. Today, we are going to give you an overview of this book. With a clear overview, it will be easy for us to know what the Book of Revelation is about.

The Book of Revelation has 22 chapters. It can be divided into **two halves**. The first half, chapters 1 to 5, is an **exhortation of Jesus to the Church**.

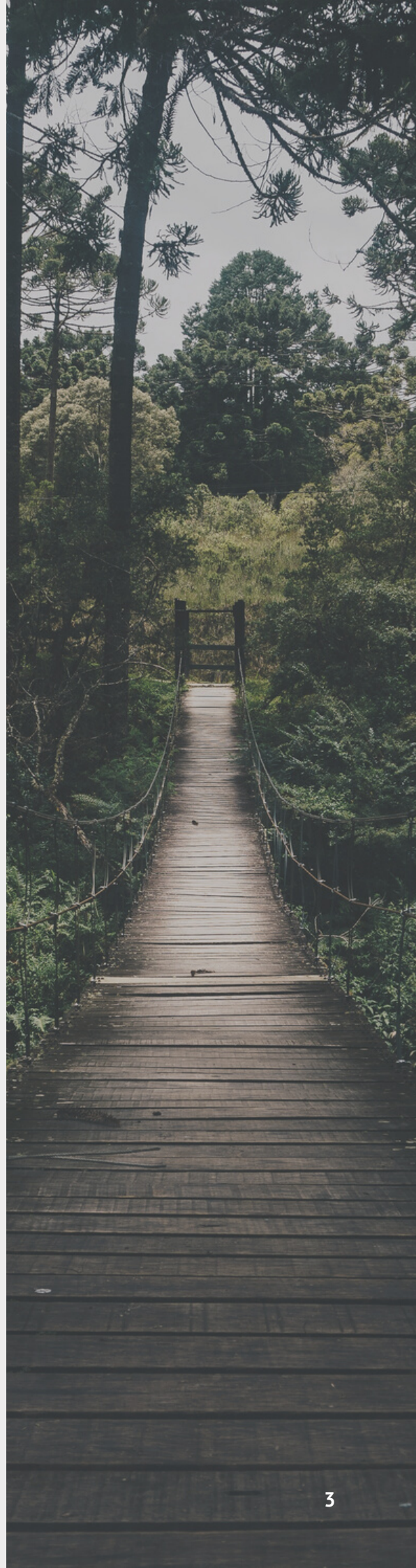
Before Jesus revealed what was going to happen in the End Times, He first came to **exhort the Church**. He came to reveal **who He is, why He needs to release judgments, and what kind of Church that He is looking for**. Jesus is preparing His Church so that she can partner with Him at the End of the Age.



The second half of the book, chapters 6 to 22, is an **unravelling of God's End-Time Storyline** – He is telling us what exactly is going to happen in the **final three and a half years of human history**. It can be divided into four main segments.

1. *The Judgment of God that is going to be released – consisting of the **seals**, the **trumpets**, and the **bowls**.*
2. *The **Second Coming of Jesus** and the **Rapture of the saints**, together with the **Armageddon Campaign** that happens around that period of time.*
3. *The **Millennium Kingdom** – which is a literal **1000-year reign of Jesus on the earth**.*
4. *The **New Heaven and the New Earth** – which is **Eternity**.*


The second half of the Book of Revelation is written in two structures – **Chronological and Parenthetical**. Confusion regarding the book arises primarily because of an **incorrect understanding of the structure of this book**. Many assume that the entire section from Chapter 6 to 22 is written in chronological order, which is not so.



WHAT DOES “CHRONOLOGICAL” AND “PARENTHETICAL” MEAN?

“Chronological” simply means **sequentially arranged according to the order of time**. “Parenthetical” comes from the word “Parenthesis” which means **something that is inserted as an explanation**. It could also mean an **interval or interlude**.

Each chronological section is immediately followed by a parenthetical section, because **God, out of His pastoral heart, is intentionally pausing the story to give His Church an explanation or an interpretative key** of what had just happened or is about to happen.



TWO REASONS WHY GOD INSERTS PARENTHESES:

1 TO HELP THE CHURCH **MAKE SENSE** **OF WHAT IS HAPPENING**

If we were to witness the release of the fourth seal resulting in the death of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world population, many of us would be utterly shocked and overwhelmed! That is why **God has to pause the story and come in to explain to us, in order to help us make sense of what is happening.** It's like God is saying, "Let Me tell you what is actually happening and why..."



2 TO ANSWER DEEP AND IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SEVERITY OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS

Two important questions the parentheses seek to answer:

- Why are the judgments so severe?
- With all these judgments and shakings, what will happen to the Church?

Having understood the reasons for the parenthetical sections, let us temporarily lay them aside, and focus on going through the sequence of the chronological sections in Revelation 6 – 22, in order to **see the flow of events clearly.**

Here are the **five chronological sections.**

1. *Revelation 6 – Release of the judgment of the six seals*

2. *Revelation 8 and 9 – Release of the judgment of the six trumpets.*

(Note that the trumpet judgments are initiated by the opening of the seventh seal at Rev. 8:1)

3. *Revelation 11:15-19 – the seventh trumpet – the Second Coming of Jesus and the Rapture of the saints*

At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (the last trumpet), Jesus will return. The saints who are alive will be raptured, whilst the saints who are dead will be resurrected (Matt. 24:30-31; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).

The **Second Coming of Jesus** is not an instantaneous event, but it is a **procession lasting for days.** There is a procession **in the sky** (Matt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7), a procession **on the land** (Isa. 63:1; Hab. 3:3-13) and a **procession into Jerusalem** (Ps. 24:7-10).

Jesus will release the seven bowls upon His enemies during His procession on the land (Isa. 63:2-6; Rev.15 – 16).

4. *Revelation 15 and 16 – Release of the seven-bowl judgments*

5. *Revelation 19:11–21:8 – The final chronological section includes:*

- The Second Coming of Jesus
- The Armageddon Campaign
- The Millennium Kingdom
- The Great White Throne Judgment
- The New Heaven and the New Earth (Eternity)

The **five parenthetical sections** in Revelation 6–22 are:

1. *Revelation 7*

2. *Revelation 10:1–11:14*

3. *Revelation 12–14*

4. *Revelation 17:1–19:10*

5. *Revelation 21:9–22:5*

Finally, **Revelation 22:6–21** is the **Final Exhortation of Jesus**, where He reminds the Church that He is coming back very soon!



In the next session, we will give you an overview of the Book of Revelation, chapter by chapter. Meanwhile, we want to leave you with this thought:

OUR GOD IS A "GOD OF PARENTHESIS."

He is a God who wants us to know and understand His heart, especially concerning His judgments, because we are His Bride.

He is a tender-hearted and relational God who cares deeply for us and He will come in at the necessary junctures to explain, assure, strengthen and encourage us.

The global lockdown secondary to the Covid-19 pandemic, happening around April 2020 (where half of the world's population was under some form of lockdown), is an example where God, in His mercy, was **divinely interrupting the Global Church, divinely pausing us with His parenthesis**, so that He can **divinely instruct us with His wisdom, counsel and understanding.**

The question is this: In times of God's Divine Parenthesis, where God divinely pauses things to share with us His heart,

**Are we, as a people of God,
also intentionally pausing
our activities/schedules/busyness
to wait at His feet, and to listen to Him?**

Because if we do not pause, we won't be able to hear Him, or see and understand what He is doing.



A close-up photograph of a hand knocking on a door handle. The hand is positioned on the left, with fingers spread, reaching towards the handle on the right. The door is dark and textured, with a visible handle and a small lock mechanism. The background is dark and out of focus.

WILL WE, AS A CHURCH, BE FOUND AT THE PLACE
OF DISTRACTION, DISCONNECTEDNESS, THE
PLACE OF BUSINESS-AS-USUAL, OR WILL WE BE
FOUND AT THE **TABLE OF COMMUNION**, AT THE
PLACE OF **DEEP HEART-CONNECTEDNESS WITH**
JESUS ESTABLISHED THROUGH **REGULAR**
INTIMATE CONVERSATION?

THE CHOICE IS OURS.
GOD IS KNOCKING ON THE
DOOR OF OUR HEARTS
NOW (REV. 3:20).
WILL WE OPEN THE DOOR AND
INVITE HIM TO COME IN?



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