

Overview of Revelation

by Edgar Reich

The Book of Revelation reveals the future events that will take place before the Second Coming of Christ, including the Rapture, the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and the Second Coming.

Duration: 39:00

Scripture: Revelation 6:12

Topics: "End Times", "Eternal Judgment"

Description

This sermon delves into the topic of the end times, exploring various prophecies and events leading up to the end of the world as described in the book of Revelation. It emphasizes the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as Savior to avoid the judgment and eternal damnation, as well as the urgency of sharing the Gospel with others. The speaker provides a detailed overview of the sequence of events including the Great Tribulation, the rise of the Antichrist, the Battle of Armageddon, the establishment of a thousand-year kingdom, and the final judgment.

Transcript

Amen. It's wonderful to be with you again this morning. It's an honor and a privilege always to give the Word of God.

And I'm so thankful for Joe's kind, kind introduction. All I am is a sinner saved by grace. And then after that I became obedient to the Word of God.

And that is why God has taken me on this journey. And I'm so thankful to know many of you personally. I went to Joe's group now a number of years ago, and God did some miracles.

We won't have time to share those this morning, but there is another miracle sitting right here. A brother whom God had sent into my life, Steve Lillis. And he and I prayed for about three or four years every week for several hours.

And we lifted each other up in the Lord. And he finally got mad at me, and he said, you got to do what the Lord has called you to do. And you have to do what God says to do.

And so I encourage you all to do that. This morning's question that I have for you is, when is the end of the world? And many of you have your own opinion. Some of you believe or wonder what is truth when you hear people like Harold Camping, who said that the end of the world was or would be on May 21st, 2011.

Then the date was changed to October 22nd, 2011. And he now has reset it for December 2011. Now scripture does tell us when you prophesy, and your prophecy does not come true, you are a false prophet.

That's the definition of scripture. I'm not saying that about him because I'm just a sinner myself. So I cannot put him down, you know.

But God makes that determination. Now we all wonder about the Mayan calendar and December 21st, 2012. Is that the end of the world? And then there are people like Mastodamus and Deineke who have given many predictions, some of which came true and some of which did not come true.

And so we wonder what is truth. And there is a famine of the word in the land, and the thought comes across our mind too, when is the end of the world? And so I have a slide here that Christ is our only hope. This is between disaster and heaven, and there is a cross that is the only way.

So we're going to take a look at a book that has never been proven false yet. It will tell us what is truth this morning. And this is the book right here, the very own Word of God.

He gave it to us that we might know what is truth. And I encourage you to also read the book of Revelation, and we will give you some keys this morning that will make it a little easier for you to understand the word. So I have a very dear friend, Dr. Jim Henry, who will read scriptures for us.

And we are going to go now into the book of Revelation. My dear brother Joe will pass out a three-page summary so that we understand better what this is all about. And as you look on the far left-hand side, I'd like to ask you to take a look on the far left-hand side.

You see people going up to meet Christ in the air. You have graves down below, and you have two people, one with the sign the dead in Christ will rise first. And then no one knows the day and the hour.

And you have the scripture there that no one knows the day nor the hour. Now the rapture, we call it the rapture in Christian terms. And I'm going to ask brother Jim to read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 13 please through to 18.

And that describes the rapture, and you have it as part of the picture on the right-hand side underneath three errors. Amen. And thank you so much for that scripture.

Please note that we will meet Christ in the air. Some people say that meeting him in the air and his second coming are the same event. I believe they are separate events.

However, I must tell very clearly here today that all of the events you see on the three pages are in scripture. All events are in scripture, and I have given you the scripture portions for the events. However, the sequence in which those events take place, I will not be dogmatic.

If you have a different opinion, the Lord bless you. But I will give you what I believe is the approximate sequence of the end time events until, in fact, the world comes to an end. And so here we then have the rapture.

You see three errors there, and there are three different thoughts by Christians where they believe that the rapture will take place either prior to a great period of great sorrow, great earthquakes, and all kinds of upheavals in the world, and that's called a pre-tribulation theory. And then some of us believe that the rapture will take place in the middle of the Great Tribulation, and then some believe that it will take place

just before Christ comes in the second coming. So I leave it up to you, dear brothers.

If you want to discuss it, I can prove all three theories to you from scripture. So be prepared, brothers, in case you do have to go through the Great Tribulation. You must be strong in the Lord.

Now what you see here in the center part is the Great Tribulation, and it covers 12 books in the book of Revelation. We won't have time, of course, to go through the books, so I will just highlight some events from the Great Tribulation so that we gain an understanding of what will be happening. One of the defining principles of the Great Tribulation is that God will permit an Antichrist to be raised up.

An Antichrist is a word for a coming world leader. We do not know if that's the first world leader, second world leader, third, fourth, or fifth. Scripture does not tell us that.

He will be in charge of the whole world. He will rise from ten kingdoms, where he will overthrow three kingdoms, and that then will propel him to the leadership of the world. He will initially come in peace, and then he will reveal his whole face.

He will be a brilliant man. He will be an economist. He will be brilliant in communications, and he will be endowed by the power of Satan.

Now you say, where do you get this stuff from? Would you please turn with me to Revelation chapter 13 verses 1 through to 3. Brother Jim, if you would read those verses for me, please. Revelation 13, 1 through 3, please. Thank you so much.

Now many of you say, well there's so many symbolisms and allegories in this part. I cannot understand it, so therefore I put it aside. But beloved, if you read the whole book and you keep notes, you will get to a point where you understand.

So for instance, now it says that I saw a beast rising out of the sea. Would you please read verse 18 of chapter 13, verse 18. So here it tells us that the beast is a man, for it is the number of a man.

Then it says in verse 1 of chapter 13, and I stood on the sand of the sea. Who is the sea, or what is the sea? So if you would take a look please at Revelation chapter 13, no I'm sorry, Revelation 17, 15 please. Revelation 17, 15.

So here we have multitudes, nations, peoples, and tongues. So here now we start to understand verse 1. The beast is a man. The sea are nations, peoples, various countries.

So he is rising from human beings. He is rising from nations, and he is a human being. And then he will have in verse 2, the power of the dragon.

And we wonder who is the dragon? Now would you please read Revelation chapter 20, verse 2 please. So here tells us that the dragon is who? Satan. So we know, and all of a sudden clarity comes to us even as we read scripture.

Now there are some animal descriptions. They likely refer to strength that he will have, but we are not absolutely certain on that. And then there are some other descriptions here which you will find answers to in the book of Daniel.

Time does not permit us to go into all of the scriptures at this point to share with you every detail about becoming Antichrist. But this will give you an idea. So he will be a world leader.

He will appear in later on in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. The temple has not been rebuilt at this point. The Jewish people have determined that the original site of the Temple of Solomon was not equal to the site of the Dome of the Rock.

It's right next to it. So there is a possibility for the temple to be rebuilt. They have a temple committee now and they have already prepared all of the instruments for temple worship like the golden stand and all of the instruments that are necessary for a rebuilt temple.

And so besides Antichrist appearing and the rebuilding of the temple, everything has been fulfilled in scripture for Revelation to come alive to us. And now there is another person in Revelation chapter 13. There is a second beast.

And I wonder if you would turn again to Revelation chapter 13 and brother Jim, if you would read verses 16 through to 18. Revelation 13, 16 through to 18. So you have here the number 666.

However, the original writings tell us it could be the sum of 666. So the interpretation is not quite clear. It could be any combination of 666.

It may not be 666 as a number that we ultimately are familiar with. So we have to be careful how we interpret that and look towards the original languages. However, the text we read describes still Antichrist.

But we wanted to get to the prophet and to the false prophet that will support Antichrist. And we find him in Revelation chapter 13 starting at verse 13 please, going through to 15. So here we have a second beast that is described in verse 11, but we'll stay at verse 13.

He is a coming world religious leader. He will combine Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and all other faiths that he can possibly combine under one religious world system. He will proclaim that he is a man of God, that he has the power of God, that he has the power of Elijah, and he will call fire down from heaven.

And beloved brethren, if you see that happening on television, you would believe it unless you are the elect. And that is what scripture tells us, that the deception will be so great that you will not be able to withstand that. And then it says in verse 14, and he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, meaning the Antichrist or the coming world leader, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast.

And so he causes a statue to be made of a coming world leader, and then that world leader was wounded by the sword. He had a deadly wound, but he came back to life, and he will imitate Christ in coming back to life. And then in verse 13, he was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast.

So what is happening here is that you will see a statue that has been built of Antichrist, and he will be given the power through Satan to give life to that image. And you will see on television a fixed statue that will come back to life, and everybody will say, this must be from God, this must be the Son of God, this must be a representative of God. No one would be able to do that.

So beloved, do not be deceived if you're here at this particular time point, and I hope you aren't, but I cannot tell you for sure. So we must follow the Word, we must believe the Word, and we must understand the Word to be able to have that blessing of the book of Revelation. Now during this period of time of the Antichrist and the coming world religious leader, we also have many judgments.

I have noted here 21 judgments that are described. However, there are more than 21 judgments, because there are also the judgments of the thunders, and the Apostle John was not permitted to write down what he saw in those thunders, but likely they are also judgments. And then we have the judgment of the great harlot, we have the judgment of some other things that have to do with world religious systems, but I'd like to put your attention to these 21 judgments.

And you see a seal here, you see a trumpet here, and you see vial. So there are seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, and seven vial judgments. And so let us go for an example of a seal judgment to Revelation chapter 6 please, verses 12 through to 17.

Revelation chapter 6, 12 through to 17. Thank you so much. Now we all believe that God is love, and that's wonderful, I agree with you, but God is also wrath, he's also judgment, and we must learn that and understand it to also fear God, because there will be times of such great great disasters that you will be the only hope to be able to explain to men who this God is, because you see God cannot accept sin ultimately into heaven.

He has a plan, he will eliminate sin, he will judge sin, and the Lord says, vengeance is mine, says the Lord. And then in John chapter 3, 36, it tells us that if you do not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the wrath of God will abide on you. Now what is wrath? Wrath is fear, fierce, fierce anger with the intent to do harm, and you must go to hell, you must go to the lake of fire.

There is no choice, because the only two choices we have is either to be with God in heaven through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ, or to go to this other place. And I don't even want to mention it to you, there's now a church with about 50,000 people, they say God is love and judgment will not last forever. That's a lie, it's a lie, it's a lie for 18 years.

We must understand who God is. God is a just God. God cannot sin, he cannot tolerate sin, and he will not tolerate sin in his presence.

He through his Son Christ, and he's one with Jesus as well, and I believe he felt part of that pain when his Son went on the cross to die for us, and to give his life for us that we might live, and we were covered by the blood of the Lamb when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what makes us righteous with him. So beloved, do not believe some of the false teachings that are going on.

Do not believe itching ears. Do not believe what you want to believe. Read the Word of God.

Don't believe me, read the Word of God, and read some of these passages, and understand what must happen. And then one trumpet judgment from Revelation chapter 9 verse 15, please. Revelation 9 verse 15.

So four angels are released here to kill a third of mankind. We talked about that a few weeks ago. One-third of mankind of 7 billion is 2.33 billion billion people.

And so we know that during the Second World War 70 million people were killed in one judgment alone through four angels. 2.33 billion people are killed, beloved. What does that say to you? We better get busy.

We better let the people know that you will either face judgment or be with Christ and God the Father. So we must get busy to tell the world, and we must understand that there is judgment that is coming. And now let us go to one example of a bold judgment, actually the final judgment, and we're going to go to Revelation chapter 16 verses 17 to 21, please.

It says here that no islands were found, and the mountains were not found anymore, beloved. Do you like the Caribbean? Do you like Hawaii? Do you like England? Do you like Salem? Those islands are no longer found. And then it says the mountains were not found.

Maybe you like the Rockies. Maybe you like the Alps. Maybe you like the Himalayans.

You see, the violence of the shaking on the earth will such that the mountains will break apart. There will be killer tsunamis all over the world, and they will cover those islands with water. See, you will not be able to see those islands anymore, beloved.

Those are judgments from God. They're not from Satan. These are judgments from God, our loving God.

And so I have to rush you a little bit because time is fleeting very quickly, but we now come to the Battle of Armageddon. The Battle of Armageddon is not the end of the world, and the Great Tribulation is not the end of the world. Christ said, except those days be shortened, no flesh should be saved, and he will interrupt it with a second coming in the clouds where every eye shall see him.

And then we have in Revelation chapter 19 verse 19, you read the word Armageddon. If you would read that for us, please, Brother Jim. 19 verse 19.

Does it say Armageddon there? Okay, let me just check. All right, Revelation 19. All right, maybe it's in another reference.

The word Armageddon is in the book of Revelation, so you can do a word search and you'll find it. It is in the book of Revelation. And now we have the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and here we are going to read from Revelation chapter 19 verse 11, please.

Okay, thank you so much. Now Christ is coming back in the clouds. Matthew 24 also tells us that every eye shall see him.

He will be coming in the clouds, so if you hear that Jesus came in Florida, it's a lie. If someone says Jesus came in England, it's a lie. If you hear that someone says Jesus came in the Far East, in the mountains of Tibet, it's a lie, because every eye shall see him, and we shall see him on the clouds.

Now the Battle of Armageddon will be a terrible war, and unless Christ comes, we would annihilate ourselves, and I do believe that it will include nuclear exchange, because we have many passages in the Old Prophets where the flesh will fall off the bones and the tongue will dry in the mouth. So we will now go on to after the Battle of Armageddon, and here now we have a passage that we need to look at in Matthew chapter 25 verses 32 and 46, and what is happening here is that Christ will now set up this 1,000 year kingdom. I believe that that is literally true.

There are too many passages to describe it. There are those that say no, it's an allegory, and they do not believe that, but I believe it, that Christ will come and set up a thousand year kingdom, and so if you would read those passages, Brother Jim. No, just verse 32 and 46 individually.

So what is happening here is that God will send out his angels to gather all the people that are left over from the Great Tribulation, and he will separate the sheep from the goats. The goats are judged. By the way, this is an unusual judgment because they already go into hell at that point.

They do not go on to the Great White Throne judgment. It tells us in verse 46, and then those that are alive and are Christians will go on to repopulate the earth under a thousand year kingdom of Christ. Now there are those who say, well we don't believe in a thousand year kingdom.

Would you please read Revelation chapter 20 verses 4 through to 6, please. Thank you so much. So here we have a description of this thousand year reign.

Up here we have a passage that indicates that the Jewish nation will be reunited with their Messiah. This is the raising of the tribulation. Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and you have the passages.

We have to wrap up, so we do not have time to look at the passages, but please look them up yourself. And then at the end of this period, Satan will be released for the great final war on this earth, which is described in Revelation chapter 20 verses 7 through to 9 and 10. And you can read about that.

And then after that great final war, we now come to the judgments of the angels on the far left hand side. You have Jude 6 that tells you about the judgment of the angels. You have Revelation 20 10 about the judgment of Satan.

And then we come to the great white throne judgment described in Revelation chapter 20 verses 11 through to 15. And here the graves are opened, and people go up to stand before God for that judgment. And then if your name is not found in the book of life, you must go to an eternal lake of fire.

You must go to hell. There is no choice, because God will make everything new without sin. He wants to reunite us with him in a personal relationship, so that we can live forever with him.

And it's such a beautiful picture. And then you read in 2 Peter 3 10 that the old earth is burned up. And then in Revelation 21 5, you have the new earth.

And it tells us there's no more sea. But you see, we will have water because we will drink the living water. There will be a river of living water on that new earth.

And I believe, again, it is a physical description or else God would have not told us there's no more sea. And then we have the new Jerusalem come out from heaven, which is this heavenly city in gold, in precious stones. And it is a very, very large city that comes out from heaven.

And God's light and the light of the Lamb will illuminate that new city. And there will be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more death, no more difficulties. Brethren, isn't that wonderful? Praise God.

Praise God. And then he will create a new heavens and a new earth, because that has been touched by sin as well, with angels, evil angels being in those areas. So God will create everything new.

And so he will have new people covered by the blood of the Lamb. Sin is taken away through the blood. And then we have a new incorruptible body.

We have bodies of angels. We will have a new heaven, a new earth, a new Jerusalem, a new relationship with God and new living conditions without sin. Praise God.

Beloved brothers, there are two thoughts I want to leave with you. Number one, if you're not saved, I beg you, I beg you, accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. There's no other hope.

There's no other future. You see, because you must end up in the fires of hell. You must end up in the fires of hell.

And you say, well, I don't like that and I have another choice. You won't have a choice. Your choices are taken away at that time point.

And then the second thing I want to leave with you, brethren, and just thinking about the two billion that are killed just in one judgment, would you tell someone about Jesus? Would you ask the Holy Spirit to help you that Christ might be uplifted and that those that we love and those that we don't love, that they have a chance for eternal life. Thank you and the Lord bless you. Let us close in a word of prayer, please.

Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for your holy and incredible word. We thank you for the knowledge that you have given us to tell us when this world will end, Father. But we are so reminded that you are a just God, a God of justice.

Yes, you are a God of love, but you also are a God of justice. Father, if there's any man here today who needs to accept Christ, Lord, I pray that he would have the courage to come to Brother Joe or Jim Henry or myself or Brother Steve and just say, what must I do to be saved? And then secondly, Lord, help us to be lights in a dark world, because how else shall the world know how to be saved, that we might put forth that Son of God, that they would find the way of life through him and through us being the witness for you. And I thank you, Father, that you will help us.

We give you all the praise and all the glory in Christ's holy name. Amen.

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