

## The Book of Sevens

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • June 14, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Revelation 1.1–3

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs of Victory or something similar

### Prelude:

#### I. We are more than conquerors:

**1 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD  
(Psalm 130.1)**

**1 I love the LORD, because He has heard  
My voice and my supplications.  
(Psalm 116.1)**

**5 Those who sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy.  
(Psalm 126.5)**

**17 There the wicked cease from troubling,  
And there the weary are at rest.  
(Job 3.17)**

**4 You are of God, little children,  
and have overcome them,  
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.  
(1 John 4.4)**

**4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.  
(1 John 5.4)**

**18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be  
compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8.18).**

**22 “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts  
14.22).**

#### II. As with all Bible Books, the last one

A. is as important as the preceding 65.

- B. The preceding 65, point to the last one.
1. What are the purposes and promises of God?
  2. They are fulfilled in the last Book of the Bible.
    - a) This truth is so much so that after this Book was written,
    - b) God had nothing more to say.
      - (1) He has not added another word to the Scriptures
      - (2) in just over 1900 years!

**“It is the finale of all the written revelation of God to man, the crowning book of the Bible, portraying Paradise lost in the morning of time and regained in the Saturday evening of time.”**

**– W. B. West, Jr.**

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. Do Not Fear the Book of Revelation**

**3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near (Rev 1.3, NKJV).**

- A. Why was it written?
1. Does God want to frighten the church?
  2. Does God like giving us things that we cannot figure out?
- B. Lockyer says rightly,

**“As it is the book recording the downfall and doom of the devil, we can understand why he strives to keep people from a study of it” (p. 289).**

#### **II. The Book of Sevens**

- A. The Book of Revelation could easily be called
1. the Book of Sevens, because
  2. the number seven,

- a) seven items,
  - b) seven events, and so on
- (1) occur throughout the Book.
- B. The Book of Revelation identifies:
1. Seven churches, the seven Spirits
  2. Seven golden lampstands
  3. Seven stars
  4. Seven angels
  5. Seven lamps of fire = the seven Spirits of God
  6. Seven seals on a scroll
  7. Seven horns on the Lamb
  8. Seven eyes on the Lamb
  9. Seven angels with seven trumpets
  10. Seven thunders
  11. Seven thousand people killed
  12. A great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and seven diadems
  13. A beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads
  14. Seven angels having the seven last plagues
  15. Seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God
  16. A scarlet beast with seven heads
  17. Seven mountains
  18. Seven kings
- C. This list does not include
1. the occurrences of other sevens that are not so named.
  2. For example, there are seven Beatitudes:

**Rev 1.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this**

**prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

**Rev 14.13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."**

**Rev 16.15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."**

**Rev 19.9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."**

**Rev 20.6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

**Rev 22.7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."**

**Rev 22.14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**

### **III. Even as Genesis opens the Bible, so, Revelation closes the Bible.**

A. Warren Wiersbe shows parallels between Genesis and Revelation.

| <u>Genesis</u>            | <u>Revelation</u>         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. First heaven and earth | New heaven and earth      |
| 2. Paradise lost          | Paradise rediscovered     |
| 3. Tree of life lost      | Tree of life rediscovered |
| 4. First marriage         | Last marriage             |
| 5. Satan appears          | Satan cast into hell      |
| 6. Death begins           | Death ends                |
| 7. Babylon built          | Babylon destroyed         |

9. Redeemer promised

Redeemer redeems

**IV. Revelation 1.19 provides a brief method of what John shall show us.**

**“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this” (Rev 1.19, NKJV).**

- A. The things which he had seen, that is,
  - 1. he was to begin writing immediately,
  - 2. including what he had already seen.
- B. The things which are, that is,
  - 1. John would see things
  - 2. as they existed at that time.
- C. The things which will take place after this, so that
  - 1. there is predictive prophecy
  - 2. in the Book of Revelation.

**V. A brief outline used by Lockyer is:**

- A. The Glory of Christ, chapter 1
- B. The Grace of Christ, chapters 2–3
- C. The Government of Christ, chapters 4–22.

**VI. Helps for Understanding Revelation**

- A. It is a Book of signs (1.1).
- B. It was written to comfort persecuted Christians (1.9).
- C. It is primarily an answer to prayer (6.9–11).
- D. It shows the fulfillment of Daniel 2.44 (11.15).
- E. It shows Daniel’s fourth beast, identifying it as Rome (17.9–10).
- F. It shows two competing banners (6.17 and 13.4).
- G. It shows seven parallel visions.

**VII. Understanding the arrangement of the New Testament helps you to appreciate the Book of Revelation**

- A. First four books show how Christ lived.
- B. Acts shows how to become a Christian.
- C. Romans–Jude show how to live as a Christian.
- D. Revelation shows how to die as a Christian.

**VIII. Why do we fear the Book of Revelation?**

- A. We dwell on small things;
  - 1. Revelation dwells on big things.
- B. We pray small;
  - 1. Revelation is large.
- C. We stick with the known;
  - 1. Revelation reveals the unknown.
- D. We refute little things;
  - 1. Revelation battles the world.
- E. We know the New Testament;
  - 1. Revelation is Old Testament imagery.

**Exhortation:**

**I. The Book of Revelation shows Jesus as the Victor.**

- A. Did He always have it easy?
- B. No, He was hated while on the earth.

**II. Will the church always have it easy?**

- A. No, we will be hated while on the earth.
- B. However, just like Jesus,
  - 1. both in heaven and on the earth,
  - 2. we will be the victors.

### III. Remember Revelation 17.14.

- A. The world fights the church, but
- B. they actually fight the Lamb.

- 1. However, know this that we are on the winning side:

**14 “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Rev 17.14).**

- 2. The world and its affairs
- 3. rest in the hands of God,
  - a) not the weather,
  - b) not the nations,
  - c) not the Democrats or Republicans,
  - d) not the terrorists.
- 4. The church is the center of attention.

### IV. Revelation 14.4 shows you how to get to heaven:

**4 “These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes” (Rev 14.4).**