



Preparation for the End Time Lesson 3 Q2 2018 Jesus and the Book of Revelation

presented by: Russell Atkins

SABBATH

“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Revelation 3:21.

- How many of you were raised as SDA??
- How many of you were raised in an atmosphere of fear regarding the “time of trouble”??
- How many of you went to “Revelation seminars” when you were young?? Did you leave with a clearer picture of Jesus??

How do we readily see “Jesus” in the book of Revelation and others completely miss Him?? Consider the following.

“Finally, let everyone think of it as his own spirit leads him. My spirit cannot accommodate itself to this book. For me this is reason enough not to think highly of it: **Christ is neither taught nor known in it.** But to teach Christ, this is the thing which an apostle is bound above all else to do; as Christ says in Acts 1[:8], “You shall be my witnesses.” Therefore I stick to the books which present Christ to me clearly and purely.” -- The 1522 “Preface to the Revelation of St. John” in Luther’s translation of the New Testament. Pages 398-399 in Luther’s Works Volume 35: Word and Sacrament I (ed. E. Theodore Bachmann; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1960).

From the lesson:

“A crucial aspect of those Old Testament references in Revelation is that, taken together with the rest of the book, they reveal Jesus. Revelation is all about Jesus, about who He is, about what He has done for His people, and about what He will do for us at the end of time. **Any focus on last-day events must keep Jesus front and center out of necessity**, which is exactly what the book of Revelation does. This week’s lesson looks at Jesus in the book of Revelation.” Emphasis mine.

Is it only the “last day events” that must keep Jesus “front and center”?

Why must any focus on “last-day events” keep Jesus “front and center”?



SUNDAY

The Structure of Revelation

From the Remedy Preface to Revelation:

“Some rules of interpretation used in the book of Revelation:

- a. If one part of a passage is symbolic or metaphor, then the rest is symbolic or metaphor unless clear reasons to be literal are expressed in the text.
- b. The Bible will be used to interpret itself (i.e. symbol interpretations will use Bible definitions before other definitions).
- c. The general theme is that of the conflict between Christ and Satan.
- d. God's character of love never changes, therefore interpretations will never result in God being represented in a character other than love.
- e. God's law of love never changes, therefore interpretations will always be in harmony with God's law of love.

What does the book of Revelation [in its entirety] tell us? In some versions of Scripture it's titled “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” What is he trying to tell us?

The lesson suggests that the first 10 chapters are historical and the remainder of chapters are “eschatological” or dealing with last day events, with chapter 12 a mixture of the two.

Can historical events and future events be separated without peril?
Can [should] we learn anything from our history? If so, what?

MONDAY

Images of Jesus

The lesson gives us several texts that name/describe Jesus

Rev. 1: 5 – Faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, ruler of the kings of the Earth.

Rev. 1: 8 – Alpha and the Omega. “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Rev. 5: 8 – “The Lamb.”

Rev. 19: 11-15 – Rider “Faithful and True”. “Word of God” [see sword coming out of His mouth v.15 and Heb. 4:12.]

Rev. 21:6 – Alpha and Omega [again], The Beginning and the End.



From the bottom section: *“How can we learn to make the life, death, resurrection, and the return of Jesus the central focus of our own existence and the foundation for the moral choices we make?”*

How indeed? Are only the “moral choices” to be considered?

By a functional understanding and application of His Law.

OK.

What does that mean?

1. Understanding that His Law does NOT function like earthly governmental laws. His Law is Design Law. Natural Law. NOT imperial law.
2. Application of His Law of Love and the many branches within the Law of Love to our lives results in transformation of character to that like Christ.

TUESDAY

The Sanctuary Motif in Revelation

Two quotes from the lesson:

“In the earthly sanctuary one begins in the courtyard, at the altar of burnt offering, where the animals were slain. After the death of the animal, symbolic of the Cross, the priest would enter into the first apartment of the sanctuary, which was a model of what Jesus did in the heavenly sanctuary after His ascension. This is represented by Jesus’ walking among the lampstands (Rev 1:13).”

Soon after His ascension, Christ was inaugurated in the Holy Place of the heavenly temple, through this first open door. When Christ first appears in the book of Revelation, He is standing before the lampstands of the first apartment in the heavenly sanctuary (see Rev. 1:10–18).

Is there a literal sanctuary building in Heaven or is the entire scene symbolic of a bigger reality?

The lesson asks “What is the significance of the fact that as the heavenly temple was opened, John could see the ark of His covenant, which sat in the second apartment of the earthly sanctuary?”

Good question. Any thoughts?



WEDNESDAY

Christ in Revelation: Part One.

“Everything in Revelation, from the structure to the content, has one purpose: to reveal Jesus Christ.”

AMEN – kind of. Does Revelation reveal someone else, as well? Whom?

Only one, someone else, or more?

From the lesson:

“In Revelation, Christ is introduced as “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5, NIV), and near the end of the book He is described as “King Of Kings” (Rev. 19:16). The great news here is that amid all the chaos and confusion on earth, we can have the assurance that our loving Lord and Savior has ultimate control.”

Control of what?

THURSDAY

Christ in Revelation: Part Two

What does Christ mean when he says, “... and I hold the keys of death and Hades.”?

Hades – The Greek god of the underworld.

Hades – The “underworld” itself [inhabited by departed souls], aka “hell”.

“hell” aka *Sheol* [Hebrew]

Sheol aka the grave.

When Jesus describes Himself as the “firstborn from the dead” [Rev.1:5] did He forget about Lazarus, Jarius’ daughter, or the widow of Nain’s son, or the widow of Zarephath’s son, or the Shunammite woman’s son, or unnamed man raised from the dead when he came in contact with Elisha’s bones [2Kings 13]?

What are we to understand from this?