

Handout 1: Revelation Lesson 1

THE COVENANT TREATY FORMAT IN REVELATION

COVENANT TREATY FORMAT	REVELATION'S DIVISIONS in the Covenant Lawsuit
PREAMBLE: Identifies the lordship of the Great King stressing his greatness, power & his nearness and presence	VISION OF THE SON OF MAN Chapter 1: History of the Covenant
	Four sets of seven judgments
HISTORICAL PROLOGUE: Surveying the king's previous relationship of the vassal, especially emphasizing the blessings bestowed	THE SEVEN LETTERS Chapters 2 and 3: Specific stipulations dealing with false prophets, persecution, lawlessness, love for God grown cold, duty of perseverance
ETHICAL STIPULATIONS: Expounding the vassal's obligations, his "guide to citizenship" in the covenant	THE SEVEN SEALS Chapters 4-7: Concerned with wars, famine, and earthquakes
SANCTIONS: Outlining the blessings for obedience and judgments for disobedience	THE SEVEN TRUMPETS Chapters 8-14: The Church's witness to the world, her flight into the wilderness, the great tribulation and the False Prophet
SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS: Dealing with the continuity of the covenant relationship over future generations	THE SEVEN CHALICES Chapters 15-22: The darkening of the Beast's kingdom, the destruction of the Harlot, the eagles/vultures over Jerusalem's corpse, and the gathering of the Church into the Kingdom
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(See the comparison with Matthew's Gospel in Introduction Part III, handout 1).

Jesus and His angel repeat statements of expectation concerning "what is now to take place very soon" three times in Chapter 1 in verses 1, 3, and 19. It will be repeated many times but significantly four more times in the conclusion of Revelation in 22:6, 7, 12, and 20. It is as though Jesus (though John) bracketed the entire book to avoid any confusion over the "soon" occurrences of His prophecies in John's lifetime:

1. *what is now to take place very soon* (Rev 1:1)
2. *the Time is near* (Rev 1:3)
3. *Now write down all that you see of present happenings and what is still to come* (Rev 1:19)
4. *The angel said to me, "All that you have written is sure and will come true: the Lord God who inspires the prophets has sent his angel to reveal to his servants what is soon to take place* (Rev 22:6).
5. *I am coming soon! Blessed are those who keep the prophetic message of this book* (Rev 22:7).
6. *I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay everyone as their deeds deserve* (Rev 22:12).
7. *The one who attests these things says: I am indeed coming soon* (Rev 22:20).

Revelation 1:3 contains the first of the seven blessings or beatitudes in Revelation

The Seven Beatitudes of the Revelation of Jesus Christ to His Servant John	
#1. Revelation 1:3	<i>Blessed is anyone who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed those who hear them, if they treasure the content, because the Time is near.</i>
#2. Revelation 14:13	<i>Blessed are those who die in the Lord! Blessed indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them. This is the doctrine of merit</i>
#3. Revelation 16:15	<i>Blessed is anyone who has kept watch, and has kept his clothes on, so that he does not go out naked and expose his shame.</i>
#4. Revelation 19:9	<i>Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.</i>
#5. Revelation 20:6	<i>Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection; the second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and reign with Him for a thousand years. The first death is one's physical death; the second death is the failure to enter into eternal life.</i>
#6. Revelation 22:7	<i>I am coming soon! Blessed are those who keep the prophetic message of this book.</i>
#7. Revelation 22:14	<i>Blessed are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city. The city is the new, heavenly Jerusalem of Rev 21:9.</i>
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Revelation 1:4-5 presents the mystery of the Trinity in liturgical order rather than theological order as in Matthew 28:19:

1. God the Father (*He who is and who was and who is to come*)
2. God the Holy Spirit (*from the seven spirits before His throne*)
3. God the Son (*Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the highest of earthly kings*)

The liturgical order of the Trinity (Father, Holy Spirit, and Son) reflected in our prayers to the Most Holy Trinity the sacrifice of the Mass:

1. We begin our worship by addressing our prayers to **God the Father** and continue with prayers to the Father until the Eucharistic prayer.
2. In the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest first calls upon **God the Holy Spirit** when he prays: *Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*
3. It isn't until the rite of the "Sign of Peace" that the priest first addresses a pray to **God the Son**: *Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you." Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever.* From the Sign of Peace onward, our prayers are continually directed to God the Son.

TIMELINE AD 30 – 70

YEAR AD	EVENT
30	-Jesus of Nazareth executed by the Romans; three days later (as the ancients count) He arose from the dead -Forty days later, Jesus ascended to God the Father -Ten days after the Ascension, on the Jewish Feast of Weeks (called Pentecost by Greek culture Jews), God the Holy Spirit descended upon and indwelt the disciples praying in the Upper Room; it was the Second Great Pentecost and the birth of the New Covenant Church
33?34	-Stephen martyred; Christian persecution by Jews intensified
35	-Peter is Bishop of Antioch for seven years
37	-Roman Emperor Tiberius smothered to hasten his death
41	-Emperor Caligula assassinated and succeeded by Claudius
42	-Peter in Rome to establish the headquarters of the Universal (Catholic) Church -James the Just became the first Christian bishop of Jerusalem
43	-Roman Emperor Claudius initiated conquest of Britain -Paul's conversion to Christianity on the road to Damascus
46 - 67	-Paul's missionary journeys
49/50	-Council of Jerusalem
54	-Emperor Claudius poisoned by his wife and succeeded by her son Nero
59	-Nero ordered the death of his mother
60	-Nero murdered his wife and married Poppaea -Queen Boudicca in Britain revolted against Roman oppression
62	-Parthians revolted against Rome -James, Bishop of Jerusalem, suffers martyrdom
64	-Great fire of Rome; Nero began the persecution of Christians.
65	-Nero murdered pregnant wife Poppaea
66	-Roman procurator of Judea, Gessius Florus; murdered 3,600 Jews (crucifying about 2,000) in May. May – Oct. Christians flee Judea -Jewish Revolt against Rome began with the massacre of the Roman Jerusalem garrison in October -Gentiles of Caesarea loyal to Rome kill 20,000 Jews -Jewish army defeated and massacred the Roman garrison at Masada -Gentiles of Damascus who are loyal to Rome massacre 10,000 Jews -Roman cities across Judea, Samaria, Egypt, Syria & Asia attack Jews -Roman General Cestius Gallus' army defeated in Nov. and driven out of Judah -Three different Jewish factions fight each other as each leader claims to be the messiah -Numerous earthquakes
67	-General Vespasian & son Titus cross the Euphrates River; arrived in Judea from Syria with four Roman legions to destroy the Jewish Revolt -Revolts against Rome in Gaul & Spain -Peter and Paul executed in Rome
68 - 69	-“The Year of Four Emperors”: Nero committed suicide in 68 and was in turn by succeeded by Galba, Ortho, Vitellius, and General Vespasian in 69
70	-General Titus began the siege of Jerusalem in March that lasted 3 ½ months -9 th of Ab, the Temple and Jerusalem destroyed by the Roman army - Jewish historian Josephus estimated the dead of Jerusalem at 1,197,000 - Jews who survive the revolt sold are into slavery
73	-End of the revolt with the suicide of the last of the Jewish rebels at Masada

The Names or Titles for Jesus in the Book of Revelation

1. Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1)
2. Faithful Witness (Revelation 1:5)
3. First Begotten of the Dead (Revelation 1:5)
4. Prince of the Kings of the Earth (Revelation 1:5)
5. Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8-13)
6. First and Last (Revelation 1:8, 11, 13)
7. Son of Man (Revelation 1:13)
8. He that lives and was dead (Revelation 1:13, 18)
9. He that holds the seven stars (Revelation 2:1)
10. He who walks amid the golden candlesticks (Revelation 2:1)
11. He who has the sharp double-edged sword (Revelation 2:12)
12. Son of God (Revelation 2:18)
13. He who tests minds and hearts (Revelation 2:23)
14. He who holds the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 3: 1)
15. He who has the seven stars (Revelation 3:1)
16. The holy and true One (Revelation 3:7)
17. He who has the key of David (Revelation 3:7)
18. He who opens what no man shutteth (Revelation 3:7)
19. He that shuts what no man opens (Revelation 3:7)
20. The Amen (Revelation 3:14)
21. The faithful and true witness (Revelation 3:14)
22. The beginning of the creation of God (Revelation 3:14)
23. Lord (Revelation 4:11)
24. Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5)
25. The root of David (Revelation 5:5)
26. The Standing Lamb (Revelation 5:6)
27. The Lamb (Revelation 5:7; 19:7, 9)
28. Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14)
29. King of Kings (Revelation 17:14)
30. Trustworthy and true (Revelation 19:11)
31. Rider of the white horse (Revelation 19:11)
32. The Word of God (Revelation 19:13-16)
33. Christ (Revelation 20:4)
34. The Lord God of the Holy Prophets (Revelation 22:6)
35. Beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13)
36. The sprig from the root of David (Revelation 22:16)
37. The bright morning star (Revelation 22:16)