

SUMMARY

REVELATION

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3BTH – 2011 – PTS

REVELATION 4:1-22:21	
Main Parts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 4:1-22:21 is the second chapter of Revelation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revelation 17:1-22:21 has its own character. It is about the fate and promise of the two cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revelation 17:1-21:8: the fate of Babylon ▪ Revelation 21:9-22:21: the promise of the New Jerusalem ◦ Both paragraphs are introduced by: “carried away in the Spirit” • The central part is formed by Revelation 4:1-16:22

REVELATION 4:1-16:22 (Central Part)	
Structure Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central part of Revelation 4:1-16:22 consists of three sections. These are marked by the following words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder (Revelation 4:5) ◦ there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake (Revelation 8:5) ◦ There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail (Revelation 11:19) ◦ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake - And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe (Revelation 16:18-21)
Old Testament Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus 19:16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled
Meaning of the structure markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning of these words: God is descending to earth, to judge the world according to his LAW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ He is approaching. He is near
Main Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 4:1-7:17 • Revelation 8:1-11:14 • Revelation 11:15-16:21

	REVELATION 4:1-16:22 (Central Part) – First Paragraph 4:1-7:17
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 4: God the Creator and His Glory • Revelation 5: Jesus Christ, our Saviour and His Glory to Judge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ These two chapters belong together • Revelation 6: The opening of the six seals (out of seven) • Revelation 7: The sealing of the 144.000 and the multitude nobody can count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ These two chapters belong together

	REVELATION 4-5
Revelation 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Throne and vision of God (Jewels) ◦ Rainbow – Covenant with Creation (Genesis 8:20-22) ◦ 24 Thrones with Elders – Jury for Judgement ◦ Seven Spirits of God – the Holy Spirit, present in front of the Throne (and also in the hearts of believers!) ◦ Sea of glass – the separation between heaven and earth (Exodus 24:9-11) ◦ The four living creatures – God is enthroned on the Creation, they represent Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The eyes – God
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ God is Creator of Heaven and Earth, He will receive honor and glory
Revelation 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The scroll with the seven seals. This scroll is probable the Book of Life, which contains the names of all who have been saved by Jesus Christ ◦ The LAMB – the crucified and resurrected Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is worthy to judge the living and the death according to their deeds and their faith
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jesus Christ is our Saviour. He saved and freed us from our sins, He will receive honor and glory

	REVELATION 6
Revelation 6:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four seals, four horses. These seals belong together and show the effects of war.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It might be a reference to the Roman-Jewish war, 66-73 AD. Many people were killed. Christians fled to Pella in modern day Jordan.
Revelation 6:9-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two seals, two groups of people. Both seals belong together. Both groups pose their question:

REVELATION 6	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revelation 6:9-10 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Q) Revelation 6:11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (A) ○ Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” (Q) ○ The answer to this question is given in Revelation 7
Extra information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne” = Christian martyrs (Antipas in Pergamum) • “the sun became black as sackcloth” = probable reference to a solar eclipse • “the full moon became like blood” = probable reference to a lunar eclipse • “the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale” = probable reference to a rain of meteorites • “the sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up” = probable reference to the northern light or aurora, which is very seldom seen in the Mediterranean, but it does occur sometimes

REVELATION 7	
Revelation 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This part of the Revelation is the answer to the question, posed by the non-believing world. Who can stand in front of the Lord. The answer is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 144.000 (Revelation 7:1-8) ○ a multitude (Revelation 7:9-17) • The first paragraph (7:1-8) goes back before the great persecution • The second paragraph (7:9-17) shows all the people who are saved and glorify Christ in the new heaven and new earth
Old Testament Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tribes of Israel = Numbers 1,2

	REVELATION 7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Christians soldiers proclaiming the Word of Christ, because the Word is the sword
Extra Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan and Ephraim are excluded in the list, probably because they introduced idol worship in Israel • Levi is included, probably because the whole people of God is a Kingdom of Priests (Exodus 19:5,6; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5-6) • The promises of the song (Revelation 7:15-17) become reality also in Revelation 20:1-5