

THE PERFECTED KINGDOM

REVELATION

INTRODUCTION: THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **Apocalyptic (pulling back the curtain)**
- **Written to encourage Christians who are waiting for the return of Christ (1v3, v7). Perseverance is the goal – see 2v7, v11, v17, v26, 3v5, v12, v21!**

The structure of Revelation

1v1-20	Introduction
2v1 – 3v20	Letters to the seven churches
4v1 – 5v14	A vision of heaven
6v1 – 8v5	The seven seals of destiny
8v6 – 11v19	The seven trumpets of warning
12v1 – 15v4	Conflict between the church and the powers of evil
15v5 – 16v21	The seven bowls of punishment
17v1 – 20v15	The triumph of God and the fall of Babylon
21v1 – 22v5	The New Creation
22v6-21	Epilogue

- **An encouragement that God is King over his kingdom now (4v1-2, 5v6). The right response to this is worship!**
- **A short note on interpretation and chronology**

THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF RIVAL KINGDOMS – REVELATION 17-20

- **All that is spoiled by evil must be destroyed (see also 2 Peter 3)**

- **All earthly kings and powers must be destroyed – the significance of Babylon**
It will be final (18v2, v21)
It will be comprehensive (18v10)

- **Evil itself, and Satan, the origin of evil will be destroyed**

20v10 - note: Satan will not 'rule' hell, he will be tormented day and night for ever

- **Those who refuse to acknowledge Christ's rule will be destroyed**

20v15, 21v8

Judgment is terrible, but it is also good news

GOD'S PEOPLE

- **Uncountable - 7v9 (see Genesis 15v1-5!)**

What about the 144,000?

- **From every tribe, tongue and nation - 7v9**

Gathered together, Babel reversed (Genesis 11)

- **He who overcomes - 21v7**

GOD'S PLACE

- **The New Creation**

21v1 – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...”

- **The New Jerusalem**

21v2 – “I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...”

- **The New Temple**

21v3

21v16

21v22

3. GOD'S RULE AND BLESSING

- **God is still on the throne** - 21v5, 22v1, 22v3

The throne is the centre of things (22v1)

We will serve him perfectly (21v3)

We will reign with him! (2v26, 3v21, 22v5)

RECOMMENDED READING / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- **Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture***
- **John Richardson, *Revelation Unwrapped***

The kingdom of God	<i>The pattern of the kingdom</i>	<i>The perished kingdom</i>	<i>The promised kingdom</i>	<i>The partial kingdom</i>	<i>The prophesied kingdom</i>	<i>The present kingdom</i>	<i>The proclaimed kingdom</i>	<i>The Perfected Kingdom</i>
<i>God's people</i>	Adam & Eve	No-one	Abraham's descendants	The Israelites	Remnant of Israel; inclusion of nations	Jesus Christ: new Adam, new Israel	The New Israel: Jew and Gentile believers in Christ	Multi-national family of God
<i>God's place</i>	The garden	Banished	Canaan, the promised land	Canaan (& Jerusalem & the temple)	New temple; new creation	Jesus Christ: true tabernacle and temple	The individual believer; the church	New Creation, new Jerusalem, new temple
<i>God's rule & blessing</i>	God's word; perfect relationships	Disobedience & curse	Blessing to Israel and the nations	The law & the king	New covenant; new king; great blessing	Jesus Christ: new covenant; rest	New Covenant; Holy Spirit	Throne of God and the Lamb; perfect blessing

Bible Study

Revelation 21v1-8; 21v22 – 22v5

21v1-8

What images are used to describe the perfected kingdom?

How do they build on previous passages in the Bible?

What are the features of life in the New Creation?

Who will enjoy its benefits?

*What does it mean to 'be thirsty'?

*What does it mean to 'overcome'?

21v22 – 22v5

How is the perfected kingdom described?

How does the description build on other passages of the Bible?

How does it reflect the garden of Eden?

Who will enjoy this New Creation?

What should be the implication of these truths about the future for our lives now?

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