

Summary of the Book of Revelation (Teaching by Malcolm Smith circa 1975)

[Summary by Ruth Smart 2020]

Tape 1.

Must take into account :

- Who was the book written to. It was written to 1st century Christians. There was no thought of “come to Jesus and obtain health, wealth and prosperity and go to heaven when you die” but instead persecution and probable death at the hands of the Romans. “Who bore witness to the testimony of Jesus” – the word ‘witness; means martyr. They needed a martyr mentality.
- All were to be blessed by reading it – this includes them and us
- The 1st century Christians needed encouragement – not a prophecy crusade for some time 2000 years down the track of time.
- What kind of literature is it. “Signified it” means “made it known by signs, symbols and tokens”. It is not a narrative
- The atmosphere of the book. What’s going on? It was like a cosmic opera. A series of visions in fast succession. Quick – write it down – scenes kept changing. You don’t want to go to the book with a magnifying glass – overall picture is what is important, not the minute details.
- What does the book state about itself? This book is the revelation (unveiling) of Jesus Christ to me. It has in view who he is, all he has done, all he has in store for the future. It’s all finished. Nothing more to be done.
- It must be simple enough for the 1st century Christians to understand, but not the pagan Romans. The Christians had the old testament teachings which had echoes and illustrations for them. The code was for the initiated.

What is it about? It consists of 7 visions. Seven times over God starts with Jesus, what he achieved on the cross, what is happening now and goes on to the grand finale.

Tape 2

Christ in the Churches

- *Revelation 1:10 (NIV) On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,*
- Lord’s Day originated in Ephesus. When there was a new Emperor in Rome, the day he became “God” was known as Emperor Day. The early Christians claimed the day Jesus ascended as their Lord’s Day (Emperor Day).
- “like a trumpet” symbolism. *Ex 19:16.* It was a call into the presence of God. Come and understand what your God has done for you.
- John is instructed to write to seven real churches on the mainland.
- He turned and saw 7 lampstands

Rev 1:12-18 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

- Jesus identifies himself and explains the symbolism of the lampstands. The picture of Jesus that John saw was majestic and terrifying at the same time. It was a picture of a Judge. White hair symbolising wisdom and maturity; robe and belt worn by ancient judges; eyes like blazing fire burning through all our masks; voice like many waters majestic, powerful like a waterfall; sword out of his mouth able to defeat the enemy, prune us, divide soul and spirit; feet as burnished brass – walks in judgement, enemies melt like wax before him; face shining like the sun – the face sums up the whole person

- 2 Corinthians 4:6

*For God, who said, "Let light shine out **of** darkness," made his light shine **in** our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

- The Book of Revelation is not dealing with the "Jesus of Nazareth" but him as the glorified Lord. John didn't put his head on his shoulder, but "fell at his feet as a dead man". He saw the fullness of deity expressed in the fullness of man.