

Revelation 6–14: The Chronology and the Vignettes

Revelation 6–14, surveyed; John 5:19–29 | Sunday, March 22 | Revelation Series

Hal Lindsey Media Ministries · hallindsey.com

OVERVIEW

Hal recaps chapters 4 and 5 — nothing happens on earth before it is decided in heaven, and heaven's court searching for one worthy to open the seals — and then gives the message over to structure. First he answers the higher critical school on why the Gospel of John reads differently from Matthew, Mark and Luke: John wrote his last, after Patmos, and what he had witnessed changed how he remembered what Jesus said. Then he walks through John 5, where Jesus says the Son can do nothing of himself, and where authority to execute judgment rests on his being the Son of Man. Then the map. Chapters 6 through 19 unfold chronologically, but John writes in what Hal calls a typical Hebrew style, interspersing vignettes that step out of the sequence to explain main characters, purposes and organizations. He labels them one at a time — the 144,000, the interlude of chapter 10, the temple and the two prophets, the mystery of anti-semitism, the prophetic biography of the coming leader and the false prophet.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 5:19–24 — The Son can do nothing of himself; he who hears my word has already passed out of death into life

John 5:27–29 — Authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man; the resurrection of life and of judgment

John 16 — The Holy Spirit will be sent, and will bring to remembrance all that Jesus said

Revelation 6 — The seal judgments — the first of the chapters that carry the chronology forward

Revelation 7 — God's grace in sealing 144,000 evangelists in the middle of the judgments

Revelation 10 — A gracious interlude between the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments

Revelation 11 — The rebuilt temple, the court of the Gentiles left out, and the two prophets

Revelation 12 — Israel, and what Hal labels the mystery of anti-semitism

Revelation 13 — A prophetic biography of the careers of the Roman Antichrist and the false prophet

KEY TERMS

Vignette — Hal's word for the chapters that step out of the chronology to explain main characters, main purposes and main organizations

Telescopic — how the judgments open one another — the seventh seal opens the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet opens the seven golden bowls

The higher critical school — the scholars Hal says try to tear the Bible apart — “not higher, but they're sure critical”

The synoptic gospels — Matthew, Mark and Luke, which the critics call more historic than the Gospel of John

Hebrew writing style — going through events chronologically, then coming back to take out and explain the parts God wants emphasized — arranged in order of importance rather than of time

The court of the Gentiles — the part of the temple left out in chapter 11, because it is given to the Gentiles

The two prophets — the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament, sent to warn the world and to preach for the first three and a half years

The mystery of anti-semitism — Hal's own label for chapter 12, and one of the major reasons he says God is judging the Christ-rejecting world

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What does Hal say chapters 4 and 5 established?

2. How do the three series of judgments relate to one another?

3. What do the higher critics say about the Gospel of John, and how does Hal answer them?

4. What did Jesus promise that made John's later understanding possible?

5. Why did Jesus say the Son can do nothing of himself?

6. What does Hal notice about the wording of "those who have done the good" and "those who have committed the evil"?

7. Why is the authority to execute judgment given to the Son of Man?

8. Which chapters does Hal name as carrying the chronology of the seven years forward?

9. What is a vignette, and why does John write that way?

10. What does chapter 7 explain, and why is it placed where it is?

11. What happens in chapter 11, and what does the removal of the two prophets mark?

12. What are the vignettes of chapters 12, 13 and 14 about?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says heaven had to establish an official legal justification before judgment could fall. What does that add to how you think about God's justice?

2. John understood years afterward what he had not understood at the time. Where has something you were told finally made sense long after you heard it?

3. Jesus lived without using his own divine power, depending on the Spirit instead. What would depending like that look like in one particular part of your week?

4. "He who hears my word has already passed out of death into life." Hal is emphatic that this is not decided later. What does "already" do to your assurance?

5. Chapter 7 drops grace into the middle of judgment — God will not have an earth without a witness. What does that say about how God treats people who have rejected him?

6. The world throws a party over two dead prophets. What does that reveal about what people actually want?

MEMORY VERSE

"He who hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life already, and does not come into judgment, but has already passed out of death into life."

— John 5:24, as Hal reads it in this message