**A Summary of Revelation**

1. **Prologue (1:1-8)**
   1. John is commissioned to write the vision that is given to him. (1:9-20)
      1. Similar to Ezekiel (chapter 2) and Isaiah (chapter 6), here John is commissioned as a prophet.
2. **Letters from Christ to the 7 churches (2-3)**
   1. The letters prepare us for the message of Revelation and for the suffering to come.
      1. For more information on the churches see hand-out .
3. **Inaugural vision of chapters 4 and 5**
   1. This is a two-part vision, where God is praised as creator (chapter 4) and Christ as powerful Redeemer (chapter 5).
4. **The prophecy**

(The prophecy is organized into three cycles of seven, with an interlude between the second and third cycle. This suggests that we should not interpret Revelation in a linear fashion, especially since the end of the world is described in chapters 6, 11, 14, 16, and 20. Revelation, instead, presents repeated overviews of the end times.)

* 1. Repeated cycles
     1. 7 Seals (6-8:5)
        1. Within those cycles we see how God protects His own.
           1. They are sealed on earth and belong to Christ.
           2. He preserves and takes them to heaven.
     2. 7 Trumpets (8:6-11:19)
        1. God’ people are in mission
           1. John is recommissioned
        2. The focus of this cycle (the interlude) is not upon the tribulations caused by sin and evil, but upon the mission of the Church in the latter days during the time of torment.
     3. 7 Bowls (16:1-21)
        1. This last cycle is filled with Exodus imagery. The final judgment is pictured as an exodus from slavery in a foreign land and a final homecoming to the eternal promised land.
  2. The 144,000 are found in chapters 7 and in chapter 14
     1. God’s believers: the church militant and church triumphant
        1. The langue of the 12 Tribes
           1. Names as a message?

Judah = praise/thanksgiving

Reuben = behold a son

Gad = soldier

Asher = blessed/happy

Naphtali = my struggle

Manasseh = forgetfulness/ he that is forgotten

Simeon = to hear, be heard

Levi = united/joined

Issachar = his reward will come.

Zebulun = exalted house

Joseph = He will add

Benjamin = son of the right hand

* 1. The Woman the child and the dragon (12-14)
     1. All the forces of the dragon are defeated.
        1. The beast is identified by what he says (13:11). He speaks like the dragon, who is himself the father of lies.
  2. The harlot is judged, Babylon is judged. (17-18:24)
  3. Satan is judged (20)
     1. Bound
        1. He is restricted in that period of time (millennium/thousand years) while the Gospel goes to the ends of the earth.
        2. When the Gospel has gone to the ends of the earth, when God’s gracious purposes are complete, Satan is released for one last battle.
           1. For the sake of the elect Christ cuts those days short (Matthew 24:22).
  4. New heaven and new earth (21-22)
     1. God is present, evil is absent!
     2. We have arrived at home.

1. **Final thoughts**
   1. Do not forget the overall message of this Book:
      1. First and foremost, this book is about Jesus Christ.
         1. It’s His revelation.
         2. His titles:
            1. Alpha and Omega (1:8)
            2. Son of Man (1:13)
            3. Son of God (2:18)
            4. Lion of the Tribe of Judah (5:5)
            5. Root of David (5:5)
            6. The Lamb who has been slain (5:6)
            7. Lord of Lords (17:14)
            8. King of Kings (17:14)
            9. The Word of God (19:13)
            10. The Bright and Morning Star (22:16)
      2. We are urged to keep our eyes on Christ.
         1. Be about the mission of the church.
            1. See the 7 churches in chapters 2 and 3.
         2. Christ is coming quickly, so be faithful even unto death.