

# sermon study summary

Revelation Part 15 – An Interlude

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Many Christians interpret Revelation chapters 6 through 19 differently. Because of limited time in a sermon, Pastor Henry has decided to present primarily the Futurist view, though from time to time he will mention how the Idealist interprets a passage or a symbol differently from the Futurist.

Both futurists and idealists agree on the following:

1. The Bible is the Word of God. Both interpret the Bible literally unless the context clearly indicates that figurative language is being used.
2. Christ is coming again.
3. Trials, persecution & tribulations are intensifying (like birth pangs) as we get closer to the return of Christ.
4. When Christ returns, there will be a reunion of all Christians living and departed.
5. The Great White Throne judgment will follow Christ's return.
6. A new heaven and a new earth follow the great white throne judgment.
7. Israel will not be replaced by the church in God's economy

Replacement theology teaches that because Israel was unfaithful, the Covenant God made with them is now null & void and that the true church of Jesus Christ has permanently replaced Israel. It also believes the promises made to Israel now pertain exclusively to the church. But Romans 11:25 clearly states that the replacement is temporary—"until **the full number of Gentiles has come in**" at which point there will be a revival among the Jewish people. Every believing Jew and every believing Gentile will together, equally inherit all the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No one is replaced. No one forfeits their inheritance.

8. Both Futurists and Idealists believe that salvation is NOT based on one's view of how and when the events in Revelation unfold, but is by faith alone, in what Christ accomplished on the cross & through His resurrection by His grace alone. We must always keep this uppermost in mind.

Concerning the rapture, both views believe in the rapture as it described in I Thess 4:16-18. When Christ returns and the trumpet sounds, the dead in Christ will rise first and then together with those who are still alive in Christ, their bodies will be transformed into new bodies made for eternity and they will meet the Lord in the air. Futurists believe this event is different than Christ's second coming and when we meet the Lord in the air, He will take us to heaven.

Idealists believe I Thess 4:16-18 describes the second coming of Jesus. The dead in Christ will rise first and then together with those who are still alive in Christ, their bodies will be transformed into new bodies and they will meet the Lord in the air. However, Christ will not take them to heaven, rather we Christians will descend with Him in His triumphant arrival on earth and we will reign with Him as He establishes His Kingdom.

Futurists believe the "church age" ends through the rapture and God rescues His true church from having to go through the great tribulation. Idealists believe Christians will face the great tribulation.

While futurists and idealists agree on the essentials of the Christian faith, after careful study of Scripture, they have come to different conclusions on how some events in Revelation will unfold. In Romans 14, Paul refers to these differences as disputable matters and he instructs us on how we are to treat one another, when we disagree with one another. First, he calls us to accept one another and be sensitive to one another. (v.1-13) We must not label, judge, demonize, cancel or question the faith of those we disagree with in disputable matters. Paul calls us not to destroy the work of God or break fellowship with one another over disputable matters. (v.17)

The mind-boggling irrationality of our society, the escalation of war in the middle east, the growing hatred toward Israel is evidence that things are intensifying and that people are being deceived by the demonic like never before and many don't even know it. We are closer to the time of Christ's return than ever before. However, we must not be preoccupied or fearful because God is in control and can be trusted. Instead we must focus on Jesus, humble ourselves and pray, and link arms in introducing people to Jesus who are not ready to meet Christ when He comes.

It will be worth it all because the LAMB that was slain is WORTHY, worthy of our obedience, and worthy of our total devotion and worship. **"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come"** (Matt 24:42).

# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. **What was something that you thought you were prepared for but when it happened you discovered you weren't? Explain.**
2. Take a moment to praise God by sharing something from God's Word you learned this week.

## UP – PURSUE GOD

Be gracious about each other's views.

3. **Read the sermon summary, Romans 14:1-13, Revelation 2:4-5 and 3:15-16, 19. What is your big takeaway?**
4. What does it mean when a Christian says, "In the essentials, we must have unity. In the non-essentials, we have liberty. In all things, we show charity"?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. **Share your experiences/interactions with others regarding different interpretations of the Bible. How can you practically work out Romans 14:19 (NLT) within the Body of Christ?**
6. Share a verse that changed your life.

### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

*Consider what you have done and are doing for the Lord. Do you feel it is worth it – the time, the sacrifice, the pain? Have you always thought that way as you go back in time? Journal your thoughts with the title "Was it worth it?" Spend time with the Lord no matter your answer.*

## THE WORD (NIV)

**Romans 14:1-13** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup> One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup> Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written:

**"As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."**

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

**Romans 14:19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

**Revelation 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

**Revelation 3:15-16, 19** <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

This week's writers:

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