**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Golden Key to the Book of Revelation |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 1:19 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2338 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. The book of the Revelation can be hard to understand.
	2. There is a key to help us unlock and understand this book.
		1. The book of the Revelation is a blessing book.
		2. God says that we will be blessed if we read and heed this book.
	3. The key is found in Revelation 1:19.
		1. “The things which thou hast seen.”
			1. John saw a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ.
				1. This shows that Jesus had come.
				2. He is the living, risen, resurrected Savior and King of kings.
			2. This section is past things.
			3. It covers only one chapter: the first chapter.
		2. “The things which are.”
			1. This is the church age.
			2. We are living in the church age.
			3. This section is present things.
				1. Jesus is here now.
				2. His is shown in these chapters in the midst of the churches.
				3. Jesus is alive and well in the church today.

Matthew 18:20

* + - 1. This section is found in chapters two and three.
		1. “The things which shall be hereafter.”
			1. This section is prophecy and spans the rest of the book.
			2. Prophetic things.
				1. Prophetic things.
	1. Only God knows the future.
		1. The devil does not know prophecy. He does not know the future.
		2. Isaiah 46:9-10
	2. One of the ways we know that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God is fulfilled prophecy.
	3. The message today will give an overview, a panorama of prophecy, found in the book of the Revelation.
1. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE SAINTS (Revelation 4:1)
	1. Revelation 4 begins the section on the “things which shall be hereafter.”
	2. We no longer find the word “church” beginning in Revelation 4:1.
		1. The church will be raptured out.
			1. The church will be in Heaven going through the judgment seat of Christ and the marriage of the Lamb.
			2. At the same time, the Earth will be going through the Great Tribulation.
		2. At the end of the church age, a voice like a trumpet will call all believers home.
			1. The dead in Christ will rise first.
				1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
	3. The rapture may take place at any moment.
		1. We’re not looking for a sign or a prophecy to be fulfilled before Jesus can come for His church.
		2. Matthew 24:44
			1. He is coming like a thief in the night.
2. THE RISE OF THE BEAST AND THE DECEPTIONS OF THE DEVIL (Revelation 13:1-3)
	1. The church is the salt of the Earth.
		1. Salt preserves, heals and restrains.
	2. Once the church is gone, corruption will set in.
		1. To lead that corruption will be a man called the Beast.
			1. He is also called the man of sin or the Antichrist.
	3. Revelation 13:1-3
		1. The Antichrist, the counterfeit-Christ, is coming into this world.
		2. He will turn the world into a vast concentration camp with all of the inmates numbered.
			1. No one will be able to buy or sell anything unless they have his mark, the mark of the Beast.
				1. The Beast will be an attractive and highly intellectual person and will appear as a savior to the world, but will be totally and thoroughly bad.
3. THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE DEVASTATION OF THE EARTH (Revelation 6:12-17)
	1. In the Great Tribulation, not only will the Antichrist be in power and deceive the nations, but God will also pour out His wrath upon the world.
		1. It will be such a terrible time that men will wish to die but will not be able to die.
		2. No other time will compare.
4. ARMAGEDDON AND THE DEFEAT OF THE BEAST AND HIS ARMIES (Revelation 16:13-16)
	1. The Great Tribulation period will last for seven years.
		1. The last three and one half years will be the most horrifying.
	2. The Great Tribulation will end with the battle of Armageddon.
		1. Here at this battle, the Beast and his armies will be defeated.
	3. Demon spirits will draw the world leaders to this place, in the shadow of Mount Megiddo, to come against Jerusalem.
	4. Revelation 19:11-16
		1. Jesus comes, not at the rapture, but at the revelation in power and great glory.
		2. The battle of Armageddon takes place when Jesus comes again.
		3. This time, Jesus comes not for His saints but with His saints.
	5. The Antichrist and his armies will be defeated, and the Great Tribulation will end.
	6. The Lord Jesus will fight the battle with only one weapon: the sword in His mouth, which is His word.
		1. In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see a picture of the Antichrist and the battle of Armageddon.
			1. Judas is a picture of the Antichrist.
				1. Judas was known as the son of perdition.
				2. The Antichrist is also known as the son of perdition.

“Anti” means “against” or “instead of.”

* + - * 1. The Bible says that Satan entered into Judas.

Nowhere else in the Bible does it say that Satan entered into a person.

* + - 1. The army of Roman soldiers and priests have their torches, spears and swords.
			2. Jesus speaks, “I AM,” and they all fell like dead men.
				1. Just the word out of His mouth, and they dropped.
				2. John 10:18
1. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF PEACE AND THE DOMINION OF JESUS (Revelation 20:1-6)
	1. Jesus Christ will reign on Earth for 1000 years.
	2. This will be a peaceful time, when the lamb and the lion will lie down together.
		1. There will be no war.
		2. There will be no disease.
	3. Habakkuk 2:14
	4. Isaiah 2:4
	5. There will only be ultimate peace in the Middle East when Jesus comes to rule and to reign.
2. THE FINAL JUDGMENT AND THE DOOM OF THE LOST (Revelation 20:11-15)
	1. The Millennium ends with the final judgment.
	2. There’s coming a time when every unsaved person will stand before the Great White Throne.
	3. Jesus Christ will be the judge.
		1. John 5:22
	4. Judgment comes at the last because the waves of sin have not yet hit the shores of eternity.
		1. The influence of sin continues on through this life; therefore, when God closes the final book of history, we then see the cumulative judgment.
	5. At the final judgment, the unsaved will be cast into the lake of fire.
3. THE FINAL STATE AND THE DESTINY OF MANKIND (Revelation 21:6-8)
	1. When God created us in His image, He created us a living soul.
		1. We cannot cease to exist.
	2. Your soul will be in existence somewhere, either in Heaven or in Hell.
	3. You have a life to live, a death to die, a judgment to face, and an eternity to endure.
	4. You must be born again in order to miss hell and reach Heaven.
	5. Revelation 22:17
		1. This is the last invitation in the Bible.
4. CONCLUSION
	1. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	2. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31