Futurist
The final view and the one to which we subscribe is the futurist view which sees chapters 4-22 as prophecy. Critics say this approach robs the book of meaning for the first century Christian. Actually it provides them with the same meaning that it does us. Despite what we are going through and what we see happening in the world, we have certainty that God is in control and that Christ has defeated Satan. Chapters 6-19 deals with the 7 year Tribulation which is the 70th week referred to in the book of Daniel. It is for that reason we will go to the book of Daniel and review selected passages after the completion of Revelation Chapter 5 as well as look at the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24. The futurist view allows a straight forward interpretation of the Scripture as is given. Futurists apply a literal approach to interpreting Revelation. Chapters 6-19 refer to a period known as the seven-year tribulation (Dan. 9:27). During this time, God’s judgments are actually poured out upon mankind as they are revealed in the seals, trumpets, and bowls. Chapter 13 describes a literal future world empire headed by a political and religious leader represented by the two beasts. Chapter 17 pictures a harlot who represents the church in apostasy. Chapter 19 refers to Christ’s second coming and the battle of Armageddon followed by a literal thousand-year rule of Christ upon the earth in chapter 20. Chapters 21-22 are events that follow the millennium: the creation of a new heaven and a new earth and the arrival of the heavenly city upon the earth.

Futurists contend that the literal interpretation of Revelation started with ancient church father. Elements of this teaching, such as a future millennial kingdom, are found in the writings of Clement of Rome (AD 96), Justin Martyr (AD 100-165), Irenaeus (AD 115-202), Tertullian (AD 150-225) and others. Futurists hold that the church fathers taught a literal interpretation of Revelation until Origin (AD 185-254) introduced allegorical interpretation. This then became the popular view when taught by Augustine (AD 354-430).

The futurist view is very popular among Christians today. This is especially prominent among dispensationalists as taught by Dallas Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. Charles Ryrie, John Walvoord and Tim LaHaye are noted scholars of this position.
The Millennium
It may be surprising to know that of all of the interpretive disputes in Revelation, one of the most disputed is the meaning of the millennial period in Revelation 20. Is this a literal thousand year period of the reign of Christ or is it symbolic? There are three Christian views premillennialism, postmillennialism and amillennialism.

Premillennialism aka chiliasm is the belief that the second coming of Christ to the earth will come before the thousand year reign of Christ. Most take a literal approach that it will be a period of one thousand years that Christ will reign on earth with His saints before establishing the new heaven and new earth. This will be a period of peace before Satan is loosed again for a final test of humanity before the judgment. Dispensationalists are considered premillennialists with the difference being their focus on Israel. We will use this view.

Postmillennialism teaches that Christ will return at the end of the millennial period. According to this group the church will be so successful in its evangelistic outreach that almost all people will become Christian. This will result in a long period of peace and then Christ will come. A current group called the Christian Reconstructionists holds this view. Most hold believe in postmillennialism also are preterist. That way they resolve the dramatic predictions in Revelation by saying they have already occurred.

Amillennialism sees the thousand year period as symbolic, not literal. Therefore the millennial period is an indefinite of time. They see the reign of the saints as happening now. Of course as we look at the world today, it is difficult to view it as a period of peace.

Parallelism
Another area that is important to consider in the study of Revelation is parallelism. The book is not totally in chronological order. There is not universal agreement on which passages are parallel (presenting the same events) but definitely, some are. There are other books which contains parallelism. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are examples. So are Daniel chapters 2 and 7. The placement of the millennial period, for example, has an impact on this. In chapter 17 Babylon is described as in her glory but in chapters 14 and 16, Babylon has already fallen. We will work through those issues as we go through the Book.
Outline of the Book

The Introduction
   A. The Prologue, 1:1-3
      - Communicated by His angel
      - Things which must soon take place
   B. The Salutation, 1:4-8
      - The seven spirits
      - Coming with the clouds
      - The Alpha and Omega

II. The Things Which You Have Seen
   A. Circumstances of the Vision, 1:9-11
   B. Commissioner of the Vision, 1:12-16
      - Hair white like wool, as white as snow
      - Eyes like a flame of fire
      - Out of the mouth came a sharp two-edged sword
      - Voice sound of many waters
   C. Consequences of the Vision, 1:17-18
      - The keys of death and Hades

III. The Things Which Are
   A. Message to the Church of Ephesus, 2:1-7
      - You have left your first love
      - Nicolaitans
      - To him who overcomes
      - The tree of life in the Paradise of God
   B. Message to the Church of Smyrna, 2:8-11
      - A synagogue of of Satan
      - The second death
   C. Message to the Church of Pergamum, 2:12-17
   D. Message to the Church of Thyatira, 2:18-29
      - Jezebel
      - The deep things of Satan
   E. Message to the Church of Sardis, 3:1-6
      - The book of life
   F. Message to the Church of Philadelphia, 3:7-13
      - The key of David
      - The New Jerusalem
   G. Message to Laodicea, 3:14-22

IV. The Things Which Shall Take Place After These Things
   A. Worship Before God's Heavenly Throne, 4:1-11
      - A sea of glass, 24 elders
- Four living creatures full of eyes

B. The Scroll, the Savior and the Song, 5:1-14
- The Lion of the tribe of Judah
- A Lamb standing as if slain
- Seven horns and seven eyes
- Song of praise

C. The Tribulation
1. The Seal Judgements, 6:1-17
   a. First Seal - Cold War, 6:1-2
      - A white horse with a rider with a bow
   b. Second Seal - Open War, 6:3-4 - Rider on red horse
   c. Third Seal - Famine, 6:5-6 - Rider on black horse
   d. Fourth Seal - Death, 6:7-8 - Rider on pale horse
   e. Fifth Seal - Martyrdom, 6:9-11
      - Underneath the altar the souls of the slain
   f. Sixth Seal - Natural Disasters, 6:12-17 - The Day of Wrath Begins

2. The Redeemed of the Tribulation (Interlude between 6th & 7th seals)
   a. The 144,000 Jews, 7:1-8
      - Sealed...on their foreheads
   b. The Multitude of Gentiles, 7:9-17
      - The great tribulation

3. The Seven Trumpet Judgements
   a. The Seventh Seal Open, 8:1-6
   b. First Trumpet - the Earth Smitten, 8:7
   c. Second Trumpet - Sea Smitten, 8:8-9
   d. Third Trumpet - Waters Smitten, 8:10-11
   e. Fourth Trumpet - Heavens Smitten, 8:12-13
   f. Fifth Trumpet - Men Smitten, 9:1-12
      - A star from heaven
      - The bottomless pit
   g. Sixth Trumpet - Angles loosed; men killed, 9:13-21
   h. The Interlude between 6th & 7th Trumpets, 10:1-11:14
      - Strong angel, 10:1-7
      - John eats little scroll
      - The Two Witnesses
      - Temple, 11:1-2
      - Time, 11:3
      - Traits, 11:4-6
      - Termination, 11:7-10
      - Translation, 11:11-14
   i. Seventh Trumpet, 11:15-19 End of Great Tribulation

4. War on Earth and in Heaven
   a. War on Earth Phase I, 12:1-6
      - The woman - Israel, 12:1
      - A great red dragon - Satan, 12:2-3
      - A son, a male child - Jesus Christ, 12:5-6
b. War in Heaven, 12:7-12  
c. War on Earth Phase II, 12:13-17  
5. The Beast and his Prophet  
a. The Beast out of the sea - political power, 13:1-10  
b. The Beast out of the earth - False Prophet, 13:11-18  
6. The Triumphant Saints, 14:1-5  
7. Angelic Announcements.  
a. Everlasting Gospel, 14:6-8  
b. Beast Worshipers, 14:9-13  
c. Harvesting of the Earth, 14:14-20  
8. The Temple of Doom, 15:1-8  
9. The Seven Bowl Judgements  
a. First Bowl - Grievous Sores, 16:1-2  
b. Second Bowl - Seas Smitten, 16:3  
c. Third Bowl - Rivers Smitten, 16:4-7  
d. Fourth Bowl - Scorching, 16:8-9  
e. Fifth Bowl - Darkness, 16:10-11  
f. Sixth Bowl - Euphrates Dried, 16:12-16  
g. Seventh Bowl - Widespread Destruction, 16:17-21  
a. Great harlot riding the wild beast, (17:1-7)  
b. Wild beast destroys the great harlot, (17:8-18)  
12. The Triumphant Return of Christ  
a. Announcement, 19:1-10  
- The marriage supper of the Lamb  
b. Advent of Christ, 19:11-16  
- Rider on a white horse  
- The winepress of God's wrath  
c. Armageddon & hell opened, 19:17-21  
D. The Millennium  
1. Satan Bound 1,000 years, 20:1-3  
2. Saints Resurrected, 20:4-6  
3. Sinners Rebelling, 20:7-9  
- Gog and Magog  
4. Satan cast into lake of fire, 20:10  
F. Epilogue, 22:6-21  
- The bright morning star  

Assignment - Read Chapter 1. Answer discussion questions 1 and 2.
THE BOOK

Revelation should provide comfort, confidence and assurance to every believer. It assures us of our eternal destination with Jesus Christ. As an apocalyptic book it contains many symbols and references. Of its 404 verses, 278 of them contain references to the Old Testament. The number 7 (the number of completion and/or perfection) is used 49 times. It is a book that reveals the kingship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. He is revealed as the Almighty God. The word throne is used 44 times and the words authority and power are used 40 times.

Revelation ends what begins in Genesis:
- In Genesis we see the creation of the heavens and the earth. In Revelation we see the creation of a new heaven and a new earth.
- In Genesis God creates the sun and moon. In Revelation there is no more sun and moon. Jesus and the glory of God will light up the city.
- In Genesis God makes the Garden of Eden for mankind. In Revelation He gives us the New Jerusalem.
- In Genesis Adam is given dominion over the earth. In Revelation Christ reigns forever.
- In Genesis Satan victimizes mankind and gets them kicked out of the garden. In Revelation Satan is defeated and thrown into the lake of fire.

I. The Prologue - Verses 1:1-3

Revelation (apokalupsis) - Unveiling
Source of the Revelation - God
Person of the Revelation - Jesus Christ
Content of the Revelation - Things which will soon (tachos -afterward) take place (prophecy)
Communicator of the Revelation - Angel
Writer of the Revelation - John
Recipient of the Revelation - Bond servants (doulois) of Jesus Christ

Blessings of the Revelation: to reader, hearer and heeder of the prophecy
Urgency of the Revelation: The time (not chronos but kairos) is near (close).

Salutation - Verses 1:4-8

To: Seven churches in Asia
From: 1. Him - who is, who was and who is to come. God.
2. Seven Spirits before His throne. Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus Christ - the faithful witness; the firstborn of the dead; ruler of kings of the earth.

Doxology: To Him - who loves us; who released us from our sins by His blood; made us a kingdom; made us priests to His God and Father. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Preview: Behold, He is coming. Every eye will see Him. He is Alpha and Omega. (Eternal). The Almighty (omnipotent).

II. The Things You Have Seen 1:9-20

Circumstances of the Vision: Place - Isle of Patmos because of preaching the gospel. In the Spirit on the Lord’s Day. Given instructions - write and send to 7 churches.

Commissioner of the Vision: Saw 7 golden lampstands. (7 churches per verse 20). Voice like the sound of a trumpet; Saw one like a son of man; long robe (high priest’s robe); golden sash; (See Exodus 28:4; Lev. 16:4; Hebrews 2:17-18, 3:1, 4:14 7:25); Head and hair white (leukos) like white wool, like snow (Dan. 7:9); eyes like flame of fire; feet like burnished bronze (See Dan. 10:5); voice like the sound of many waters; 7 stars (angels [angulas probably elders/pastors] per verse 20).in His right hand; two edged sword coming out of His mouth; face like the sun shining.

Consequences of Seeing Him: John fell at His feet like a dead man. Given comfort and reassurance. The I AM (ego emit), the first and the last, the living One. Was dead (Greek - became dead) and alive forevermore. Holds the keys (sign of authority) to death (the condition) and Hades/Sheol (the place).

Therefore write the things you have seen and the things which are (chapters 2 & 3) and the things which will take place after these things (chapters 4-22).