

Genesis and Revelation - Bookends of the Bible

The Bible is all a single, true Story from beginning to end. The last part of the last book in the Bible reads like the close of the Story begun in the first part of the first book in the Bible. That's no accident. In a sense, they're the "bookends" that frame the Bible. Like any other story, the Bible not only has characters and themes and chapters, but it has a plot. Genesis begins the great Story; and Revelation ends it, draws it to a conclusion, and ties up all the loose ends. Genesis and Revelation mesh together as perfectly as fingers in praying hands.

Here's a comparison --

| <i>Beginnings in Genesis:</i> | <i>The end in Revelation:</i> |
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| "In the beginning God created the Heavens and Earth" (Gen 1:1) | "I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth" (Rev 21:1) |
| Holy Spirit of God "broods" over creation (Gen 1:2) | Holy Spirit of God invites, "Come!" (Rev 22:17) |
| God created first heavens and first Earth (Gen 1:1-3) | God created the New Heaven and New Earth (Gen 21) |
| "The darkness He called night" (Gen 1:5) | "There shall be no night here" (Rev 21:25) |
| "God made the two great lights [Sun and Moon]" (Gen 1:16) | "The city has no need of the Sun nor the Moon" (Rev 21:23) |
| "The gathering together of waters He called the sea" (Gen 1:10) | "And the sea is no more" (Rev 21:1) |
| Man lived in a special garden (Eden) (Gen 2:8-9) | Believers live in a special new garden in the New Jerusalem (Rev 22:1-2) |
| Tree of life in the garden (Gen 2:9) | Tree(s?) of life in the New Jerusalem (Rev 22:2) |
| Man's primeval home was by a river, as seen in Genesis 2:10 | Man's eternal Home will be beside a river, as seen in Revelation 22:1 |
| "In the day you eat thereof you shall surely 'die'" (Gen 2:17) | "Death shall be no more" (Rev 21:4) |
| Bride formed for her husband (Gen 2:21-23) | Bride adorned for her husband (Rev 21:2); wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev 19.7-10) |

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| Satan appears as deceiver of mankind in Genesis 3:1, 4 | Satan disappears Forever in Revelation 20:10 |
| Shown a garden into which defilement entered (Gen 3:6-7) | Shown a city into which defilement will never enter (Rev 21:27) |
| Walk of God with man interrupted (Gen 3:8-10) | Walk of God with man resumed (Rev 21:3) |
| Initial triumph of the serpent / Satan (Gen 3:13) | Ultimate triumph of the Lamb (Rev 20:10; 22:3) |
| Redeemer promised (Gen 3:15) | Redemption accomplished (Rev 5:9-10) |
| Christ the seed of the woman (Gen 3:15) | Christ the root and descendant of David (Rev 22:16) |
| “I will greatly multiply your pain” (Gen 3:16) | “Neither shall there be pain any more” (Rev 21:4) |
| “I will greatly multiply your sorrow” (Gen 3:16) | “There shall be no more death or sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain (Rev 21:4) |
| “Cursed is the ground for your sake” (Gen 3:17) | “There shall be no more curse” (Rev 22:3) |
| Daily sorrow (Gen 3:17) | “There shall be no more sorrow” (Rev 22:3) |
| Man’s dominion broken in the fall of the first man Adam (Gen 3:19) | Man’s dominion restored in the rule of the new man, Jesus Christ (Rev 22:5) |
| Return to the dust (Gen 3:19) | No more death (Rev 21:4) |
| God made them clothing of skins (Gen 3:21) | God dressed believers in clean, white, fine linen (Rev 19:14) |
| They were driven from the Tree of Life in Genesis 3:22-24 | The Tree of Life re-appears and access to it restored in Revelation 22:2 |
| First paradise closed (Gen 3:23) | New paradise opened (Rev 21:25) |
| They were driven from God’s Presence in Genesis 3:24 | “They shall see His face” (Rev 22:4) |

I find it amazing, don’t you?

Suggested for further reading --

- Halley, Henry, 1965. *Halley's Bible Handbook: an Abbreviated Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Page 740.
- Wilkinson, Bruce and Boa, Kenneth, 2005. *Talk Thru the Bible*.. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. Page 515.
- Garland, Tony. “13.8 Genesis and Revelation as Bookmarks”, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/introduction/genesis-and-revelation-as-bookends.html>
- “Paradise Restored (NZSB)”, *The NIV Zondervan Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Kindle Edition eBook(Kindle Locations 296468-296482).