

*40-Day  
Devotional  
Study of  
The Book  
of Revelation*

**NKJV Edition**

Dr. Danny Campbell  
The Tabernacle of Danville, Virginia  
[www.thetabernaclefamily.org](http://www.thetabernaclefamily.org)



### **How to Use this Book:**

#### **God's Word is Awesome!**

The Lord promises that if we will diligently study the Bible He will use it to increase our faith. Romans 10:17 says: "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

The first thing you need to do to make this study be everything it can be for you is to **commit yourself to becoming a student of God's Word.**

You're going to need to find at least 30 minutes each day to study and to prayer! Don't cop out and say you can't do that! How much time do you spend on your smartphone each day? How much time watching TV? How much time on your computer? How much time gaming? You can find 30 minutes for God!

**Next you need to begin each session in prayer, asking God's Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth!**

Then read the passage for the day, preferably in the New King James Version of the Bible. The blanks you will be asked to fill in follow the New King James Version. After reading the passage from Revelation, then follow the study guide for that day, which will guide you through this devotional book.

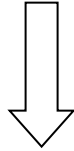
**Then end each time in prayer also,** using the things you've learned that day as a launching pad into praying for all the things going on in your life.

**God bless you as you study God's Word!!!**

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### **Seal Judgments Ch. 6**

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### **Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9**

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### **Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16**

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

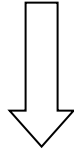
Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

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## Day 1-            Read Revelation 1:1-8

**Revelation begins in the original Greek language with the word we get “revelation” from. It is the Greek word apokalypsis. You can see our word “apocalypse” in there, can’t you?**

Unfortunately, the word has come to mean something like “scary end times events” for most people. But the word itself simply means “revealing, uncovering, disclosing.”

Many people quickly jump into The Book of Revelation to discover the end times events that it speaks of.

And it certainly does deliver in disclosing to us events: the current church age and what follows: the 7- year Tribulation after the Rapture of the Church, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ to earth, the 1,000 year Millennium, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the New Heavens and Earth.

**But as we begin this study, do not miss that this amazing book also reveals the FINAL PORTRAIT we have in the Bible of Jesus Christ Himself! If you study Revelation properly, you will never be able to pray again without seeing Jesus as He is presented in Revelation!**

We have locked into our minds the picture of the Babe born at a manger in Bethlehem. We have locked into our mind the picture of Jesus’ mangled 33 year-old body being crucified for sinners at Jerusalem, and the scarred body appearing three days later, risen from the dead – the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

But Revelation presents Him as He is in Heaven – the All Powerful, All Knowing, All Seeing God who created us, White-haired and Fiery-eyed Lion of the Tribe of Judah, ready to leave Heaven’s stables on a white horse and return to earth as Victorious Conqueror! Once you get Revelation’s image of Jesus in your mind, it changes what you picture when you are praying!

So here’s the challenge as we begin our study – even as you become more clear on the events of Revelation, be on a quest to learn more about the spiritual takeaways from this book!

Look up and write down I Peter 1:13 here, which includes a reference to Jesus “Revealing”

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Back in Revelation 1:1, we are told that Jesus is going to use this book to tell His servants things which must “shortly take place” (New King James Version). The word used there could be translated “rapidly.” You can count on it - once the Tribulation period described in chapter 6 begins on earth, the events described in chapters 6-19 will unfold rapidly!

Verse 2 indicates the human instrument God used to give us the Book of Revelation was the apostle John. John is the only human author in the Bible who wrote a gospel (John), a letter (3 actually – I, II, and III John), and a book of prophecy (The Revelation). When we add the number of chapters in each book up, we learn that John wrote 50 chapters of the Bible!

**In verse 3 we learn that we will be blessed if we do three things with this book.**

**Write then here:** \_\_\_\_\_

TO read this book will be to learn what it says (observation).

TO hear this book will be to meditate on what it means (interpretation).

TO keep this book will mean to apply it to our lives (application).

In verse 3 we read that Revelation is a prophecy, like great prophetic books in the Old Testament such as Daniel. Even though Revelation uses some dramatic language, like speaking of a Dragon in chapter 12, it usually gives us clues to help understand, as chapter 12 does when it makes clear the Dragon is a reference to Satan.

In verse 4 we learn that Revelation is also a letter to seven actual churches that were in 7 actual cities in Asia Minor. We will learn more about these cities in chapters 2-3. The Apostle John, who is now an old man when Revelation was written, had ministered among these churches and was anxious to give them the word that the Lord had for them. Whenever studying the Bible, it is important to try and understand the ‘first audience’ the message was given to. But this message is of course for all of us as well, as made clear by the last instruction to each church: “Hear what the Spirit says to the churches (plural).”

**In verses 4-5 we get a wonderful reference to the Trinity, that our God is a Triune being. Fill in the blanks below from these verses.**

God the Father is called “Him who \_\_\_\_\_ and who \_\_\_\_\_ and who is to \_\_\_\_\_.”

God the Holy Spirit is called “the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirits who are before His throne.

God the Son is called “Faithful \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead, and the \_\_\_\_\_ over the kings of the earth.”

Don’t get thrown off by that reference to the Holy Spirit as the “Seven” Spirits. This is an example of something we will see in the Book of Revelation – numbers given as symbols. In this case the number seven represents perfection, that God the Holy Spirit is perfectly present. If you look up Isaiah 11:1-2, you will read of seven traits of the Spirit that will characterize the Messiah – rest (presence), wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear.

I love the reference to Jesus as the Faithful witness – He is the perfect Prophet. He is also the first born from the dead – He is the perfect Priest. He is also the ruler of the kings of the earth – He is the perfect King! Jesus is our Prophet, Priest and King.

When Jesus conquered the grave at His resurrection, He became the “firstborn” of all who through faith in Him will also conquer the grave!

That is why verse 5 dedicates the book back to Jesus – To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His blood! Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? If you are, you too are one of His kings and priests representing God in this sinful world!

If you are not, turn to Jesus for salvation. Nothing in the Book of Revelation will help you if you don't turn to Jesus for salvation. You need to:

- A- Admit that you are a guilty sinner before a holy God, and that He is right to judge you
- B- Believe that Jesus died for your sins, taking the wrath due you on Himself
- C- Confess to Him that you are turning from self-reliance to Jesus as the Lord of your life.

Say it to God in words something like this – *Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and have rebelled against You. I deserve Hell as punishment for my sins. Thank you Jesus for your love making you willing to take the punishment my sins deserve on Yourself at the cross. Thank you for Your perfect life making You able to actually take my place of judgment. I believe in You and what You did for me. Please forgive me based on what You did for me on the cross, not on anything in me. I receive you as my Lord and Savior, and pledge to follow You the rest of my days. In Your name I pray Jesus, amen!*

Be sure and let me or a gospel preacher know that you have turned to Christ. We will help you with what should come next for you if you really desire to follow Jesus now!

**Verse 7 is the theme verse for The Book of Revelation. Write it here:**

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This verse alludes to two verses from the Old Testament books of Daniel and Zechariah. In Daniel 7:13-14 the prophet Daniel saw the Messiah, the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of Heaven to reign over all people on the earth! Jesus identified Himself as that Son of Man coming on the clouds in Matthew 26:64.

In Zechariah 12 the prophet Zechariah saw that one day Israel would look on the One who was pierced for them and mourn. Zechariah wrote hundreds of years before crucifixion became a form of execution. Jesus came the first time to be the sacrificial Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. When He returns, He will come as the Roaring Lion who will judge those who remain rebels against Him. Fortunately, the Book of Revelation joins the O.T. prophets in stating that in the time leading up to His return, Israel will finally recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

**That leads to the final point for Day 1 – The Book of Revelation is not only the final book of the New Testament; it is in a very real way the final book of the Old Testament as well! Revelation contains several hundred references from the Old Testament in its 22 chapters. Revelation wonderfully brings together the hopes of all Old and New Testament saints.**

That's why verse 8 triumphantly states that God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end! Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and the same God who walked with Adam and Eve on earth in Genesis 1-2, will once again walk with redeemed humans on a New Earth according to Revelation 21-22!

As you pray today, praise God for His wonderful plan for our lives!



## 7 Churches of Revelation



## **Day 2-            Read Revelation 1:9-20**

**According to verse 8, what island was John on when he received the Revelation?**

\_\_\_\_\_ This tells us a lot!

During Emperor Domitian's reign, Patmos was used as a prison colony for political prisoners. Patmos is in the Mediterranean Sea, but John wasn't there on a "Club Med" type holiday. No, John was probably there after being arrested for being a church leader and for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, just like many Christian leaders around the world today.

The Roman Empire had at least ten waves of persecution of Christians before that stopped in the 300's AD. One of the worst times of those persecutions was under Emperor Domitian. This also helps us date the Revelation to about 95 AD.

By this point all of the other Apostles like John's brother James, as well as his fishing buddies Peter and Andrew, as well as Paul, had all been killed for witnessing about Jesus. In fact, the Greek word for witness comes into English as the word martyr, and so MANY Christians were killed in the Roman Empire that the word became synonymous with dying for the faith.

This also means that John was an older man at this point. If he was in his twenties or thirties when he walked with Jesus, he is now in his eighties or nineties. Like the other prisoners at Patmos, he was probably doing grueling work breaking up rocks and shells so they could be used to cover Roman roads.

As John went through this persecution himself, even while missing martyred friends, he wrote to encourage his brothers and companions in the trouble (tribulation) they were also facing. In chapters 6-19, John will give the fullest description in the Bible of the End Times time we call the Tribulation period. But make no mistake about it, all Christians experience trouble in this world for witnessing about Jesus.

**Jesus had prepared John for that. Look up and write John 16:33 here:**

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Brothers and sisters, if you are experiencing trouble for being a Christian, you are experiencing the normal Christian life. The good news is that you don't need to live like a victim! John wrote as an overcomer TO overcomers of all ages!

**What is the Lord's Day that John refers to in verse 10? Circle the best answer:**

- A.     The first day of the Roman week, Sunday
- B.     The Day Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:1)
- C.     The day the first believers gathered for weekly worship (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
- D.     All of the Above

The best answer is D, all of the above.

Now, if you were a first century believer on Patmos Island on the Lord's Day, and the last living Apostle was there with you, who would you ask to preach to you on Sunday morning before they made you break up the rocks and shells?

Yeah, me too! John was probably getting ready to preach when he received the Revelation. I picture him getting up early, going up to one of the caves, and beginning to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to give him a message to give to God's people. And oh boy, did God answer!

**Based on the description John gives in verses 10-20, who did John see that morning?**

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He says He was like the Son of Man. Jesus often referred to Himself as the Son of Man (see Mark 10:45). In verse 18 He speaks of dying and living again! Clearly John saw Jesus!

Think about that!!! In John 21:20 John described himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was so enraptured by the love of Jesus that he wrote John 3:16. Now after 60 years He sees Jesus again.

Oh the emotions that must have been going through John's heart. Oh the thoughts that must have been going through John's mind! He may have thought to ask how his family members like James and friends like Peter were doing in Heaven.

But for John it was first and foremost about Jesus, and here he sees Jesus not as the 33-year old who he'd seen alive after His crucifixion. No, he sees Jesus more like the time he had seen Jesus at His transfiguration recorded in Luke 9:27-36. What else do we learn about Jesus here?

**Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (v. 11).**

What was said of God the Father in verse 8 is said of Jesus in verse 11. Jesus is fully God, the Creator of all (John 1:1-3)!

**Jesus is the Son of Man (v.13-16), with white hair, fiery eyes, strong legs, and commanding voice, with words like a two-edged sword, and countenance like the shining sun.**

This vision is very much like what Daniel saw in his vision of the Ancient of Days and Son of Man from Daniel 7:9-14. The White hair represents His perfect wisdom and omniscience (knowledge of all). His fiery eyes represent that He sees all, and will judge righteously. His strong legs show His omnipotence (that He is all powerful). His commanding voice shows that He is the King of Kings! His countenance shows that He is God.

**After referring to His death and Resurrection, Jesus proclaims that He has the keys of Hades and Death.**

That is a crucial concept for you and I to understand. You can't lead a jailbreak unless you can unlock the cell doors and let the inmates out. To do that, you have to have the keys!

When Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, He gained the keys to get sinners out of sin's jail and bring them to Heaven instead of Hell. When a sinner turns to Christ in faith, the doors of their jail cell swing open!

**This is a reference to the “key” concept of Jesus having authority over everything. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus begins His great commission by proclaiming that He has been given all authority in Heaven and earth. On the basis of that authority He then told us to go into all the world and make disciples.**

Jesus was delegating to us the “power of attorney” to represent Him and His gospel while He is gone. I was given the temporary legal power of attorney once to represent my grandmom's interests while she was in a nursing home and my dad was on a trip. I knew that when my dad returned, he would expect me to have acted as he would have while he was gone. And then he would resume being the power of attorney.

Jesus did that with us, but when end times events unfold, He will take His church to Heaven and resume His power of attorney over the earth. We will see this more clearly as we discuss the scroll in chapter 5 that no one but Jesus could open!

That leads us to the outline of The Book of Revelation. Many times when you read a book of the Bible closely, there is a verse or two that helps you outline the book. For instance, Acts 1:8 gives the outline for the book of Acts.

**Revelation 1:19 gives the outline for The Book of Revelation. John was told to write...**

**The things which you have seen (past tense) – The vision of Jesus in chapter 1.**

**The things which are (present tense) – The church age of chapters 2-3.**

**The things which will take place after (future tense) – end times events of chapters 4-22.**

Now according to verse 11, Jesus had some things for John to write to the seven churches.

**John saw Jesus standing in the midst of 7 golden lampstands. According to verse 20, what do the lampstands represent?** \_\_\_\_\_

There are times in this church age when churches and church members feel like they are alone. But in Matthew 28:18-20, when Jesus gave His great commission, He promised He would be with us always, even to the end of the (church) age! Jesus wanted us to know He is present among His true churches!

**John saw Jesus with 7 stars in His right hand. According to verse 20, what do the stars represent?** \_\_\_\_\_

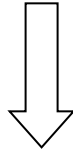
The word for angels could also be translated messengers. In this case, I think Jesus is speaking of the pastors of those churches. What a tremendous thing it is to think that Jesus walks among His churches and holds their pastors in His hand!

As you pray today, praise Jesus for who He is and what He has done. Give Him special thanks that He walks spiritually among His people and holds their pastors in His hand!

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### **Day 3-            Read Revelation 2:1-7**

As we come to what Jesus says to these 7 churches in chapters 2 and 3, let's begin with three comments:

\*These were 7 actual churches with differing situations that Jesus was well aware of and that He has a message for. We can't help but wonder what Jesus would commend and rebuke about our churches today!

\*Some scholars believe that starting in 95 AD, each of these churches represents an age of church history. I do not find that argument compelling at all!

\*What I do find compelling is that there are 7 churches spoken of, which means that many other first century churches were not included. Remember from day 1 that the Holy Spirit was spoken of as "7 Spirits," signifying the fullness or completeness of the Holy Spirit.

**I believe that 7 churches are named and spoken of to represent a complete picture of the kinds of things churches face during the church age, which started on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 and will conclude at the coming Rapture of the church.**

I really love what is said to each of these churches, and find them both convicting and inspiring!

**Each letter follows a pattern:**

**A word about Jesus Christ – helping fill out the Biblical portrait of Jesus**

**A word of commendation – something they were doing right**

**A word of rebuke – something they needed to change**

**A word of warning – what will happen if they don't change**

**A word of promise – what OVERCOMERS will receive after Jesus comes**

Who is an overcomer? All believers in Jesus Christ.

**Look up and write down what John says in I John 5:4-5:**

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Do you believe in Jesus Christ, resting all your hope for salvation in Him and His work on the cross? Then you, my brother or sister in Christ, ARE an overcomer according to God's Word!

**Of all the seven churches mentioned here, we know the most about Ephesus. Acts 18-19 tell us about Paul planting the church there. Aquila and his wife Priscilla were leaders there (Acts 18:18-21). They helped disciple the mighty speaker Apollos there (Acts 18:24-28). Paul later wrote the letter of Ephesians to the disciples there. Timothy also ministered there and received from Paul the letter we call First Timothy (I Tim. 1:1-3). And John had ministered there as well! What a heritage!**

If your church is in San Francisco, what issue might some of the converts in your church face?

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If your church is in Las Vegas, what issue might some of the converts in your church face?

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If your church is in Salt Lake City, what issue might some of the converts in your church face?

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It was the same for the churches of the first century. Depending on their city, some of the issues they faced were because of the places they ministered in.

**Here's what we know about the city of Ephesus:**

- It's name means "desired one," and it was home to 300,000 people
- The Temple of Diana was there, one of the 7 wonders of the world
- The Temple was bigger than a football field, 425 feet long, 220 feet wide
- The Temple had 126 pillars of marble 60 feet high, 36 overlaid with gold and jewels
- It was four times larger than the Parthenon in Athens!
- Thousands of priests and priestesses worked there, many as cult prostitutes
- The temple was easily visible from the west in the harbor as ships arrived
- A commercial center with warehouses lined the banks of the Caystar River
- Many people were employed making idols of Diana, also called Artemis
- Three great highways came in and out of Ephesus to the North, South, and East
- It was the capitol of the western part of Asia Minor
- It also had a stadium as big as two football fields that held 50,000 people
- The Pan-Ionian games were held there each May
- It regularly held fights, sometimes beasts against beasts, sometimes men against beasts
- But Ephesus primarily prided itself for being the "Guardian of Diana"
- So intertwined was the Temple of Diana with the economy that it housed the key Bank
- Merchants and political figures mixed business, religion, and pleasure there
- One commentator has aptly called Ephesus the "Vanity Fair of the Ancient World"

**What does verse 1 say about Jesus Christ?**

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At the end of chapter one we learned that the 7 lampstands are the churches, and the 7 stars are their pastors.

I love that Jesus describes Himself that way – with His people and their leaders as they try to live out their faith in a wicked place like Ephesus!

**What does Jesus commend the church of Ephesus for in verses 2-3 and 6?**

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It is clear that the church in Ephesus was faithful to good doctrinal beliefs and personal holiness, as Paul had hoped for when he wrote First Timothy.

The Nicolaitans probably taught that it was okay to come to church on Sunday and the Temple of Diana during the week, justifying sexual sin. The Ephesian church rejected false teaching when they heard it, recognizing it wasn't biblical. They were faithful and hard workers for Jesus!

I am glad that Jesus begins by commending what was commendable! Maybe that's how it will be for believers when Jesus gives out rewards at the Bema seat of Christ (See 2 Corinthians 5:10). Isn't it great to know that Jesus notices the good things we do for Him? That encourages me!

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**What does Jesus rebuke about the church of Ephesus in verse 4?**

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Ouch! Those words really convict me! This is one of the main ways conservative, Bible believing people get off track spiritually. We believe the right things and do much for Jesus, but we neglect to cultivate our relationship with Jesus!

The first command is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and then to love others in His name. When we mess up loving Him we usually mess up loving others also!

The church in Ephesus had lost the fact that to love the Lord their God was the heartbeat of their mission, the spring from which their service overflows! They needed to get back to their first love. That's true for many of us reading this as well!

**What word of warning does Jesus give in verse 5?**

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The Ephesians needed to remember, repent, and return to prioritizing their love of Jesus!

If they didn't return to their first love, their lampstand would be removed. That does not mean the individual Christians would lose their salvation, it meant their church would close if they didn't keep the main thing the main thing! God would raise up other churches to take their place.

**What promise does Jesus give to believers in verse 7?**

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What a promise!

Believers will live on a New Earth Paradise with Jesus, and get to eat from the tree of life! Access had been forbidden to that tree back in Genesis chapter 3 because to eat it in a sinful state would mean to live on in a hollow, sinful condition.

But having been saved by Jesus, believers will want to live on forever in a holy condition with Jesus. We will see the tree again in Revelation chapter 22!



#### Day 4-            Read Revelation 2:8-11

Just for a moment imagine this little 4 verse letter to Smyrna was addressed to you directly instead of the church at Smyrna. How would you react if your letter from Jesus said...

*“Danny, I know you have faced trouble and poverty most of your life because of your faith in Me. You are about to face even more suffering, imprisonment, and possible death because of your witness for Me. Be faithful even if it makes you a martyr, and on the Day of Rewards I will give you a special crown only faithful witnesses receive. Don’t forget that I love you – Jesus.”*

**Take a moment and write down at least 6 words that would describe your feelings:**

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For me I think of words like concerned, troubled, weary, encouraged, sobered, resolved

If you left Ephesus and travelled to Smyrna, you would travel 35 miles north from Ephesus and enter Smyrna through the Ephesian gate.

**Here’s what we know about the city of Smyrna:**

- It was another important seaport city on the trade route from India & Persia to Rome
- Archaeologists have found a large variety of coins there, confirming much foreign trade
- By all accounts it was a beautiful city, whose name means “Myrrrh,” like the perfume
- It was known for its trade in wines
- It’s still a thriving city today with 200,000 people - Izmir in Turkey
- It was a wealthy city known for learning, especially in the sciences and medicine
- In addition to having its own stadium, it had a wonderful library
- It had many beautiful paved streets, including “Golden Street,” lined with temples
- On one end if the street was a Temple to Zeus, and on the other a Temple to Cybele
- As you walked the street you would pass Temples to Apollo, Asclepius, and Aphrodite
- But the city was perhaps proudest of having become a center of emperor worship
- In AD 23, it won a bidding war with 11 cities to house the Temple for Emperor Tiberius
- Tiberius was the Emperor of Rome when Jesus was crucified
- Revelation was written around 95 AD when the Emperor was Domitian (81-96 AD)
- Under Domitian Emperor worship became compulsory on threat of death
- Once a year citizens had to burn incense and say, “Caesar is Lord!”
- When you did this, you were issued a certificate of compliance. One read...
- “We the representatives of the Emperor, Serevos and Hermas, have seen you sacrificing”
- As a center of emperor worship, Smyrna was a tough place to be a Christian
- Idol worshippers had no problem saying “Caesar is Lord” and still worshipping idols
- But Christians, who can only affirm that “Jesus is Lord,” refused to say “Caesar is Lord”
- They didn’t get the certificate, without which some business could not be done
- During times of persecution, it led to harassment, imprisonment, and even death

The Christians in Smyrna faced some sobering realities, didn't they? Here's another sobering fact – as bad as the situation was for Christians in the Roman Empire MORE Christians have been killed for the faith in the last 100 years than the first 19 centuries of Christianity combined.

You may want to stop at this point and go to the websites or download the App for Open Doors or Voice of the Martyrs. Both organizations give you ways to pray for and help persecuted Christians around the world!

**What does verse 8 say about Jesus Christ?**

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I love how often the Scriptures get us back to reinforcing that Jesus is the focal point of everything, and the reality of His death for sinners, and how He conquered the grave!

**What does Jesus commend the church of Smyrna for in verse 9?**

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The church in Smyrna was poor in material possessions, but rich in spiritual things. The people around them viewed them as poor losers, but Jesus viewed them as Heaven's winners! He knew the trouble they had been through for their faith – and He knows it for you as well! He saw what they had done for His glory, even when others had overlooked it – and the same is true for you!

**Who were the false Jews who were part of the synagogue of Satan referred to in verse 9?**

We are not sure!

Perhaps it was people like Saul of Tarsus had been before he was converted and went by the name Paul. In Galatians chapter 1 Paul speaks of how there had been a time when he thought he was doing God a favor by persecuting Christians. We read in Acts 17 of Jews coming from Thessalonica to stir up crowds against Paul in Berea, doing to him what he had done to others.

Perhaps it was people like the Judaizers, those from a Jewish background who insisted that to follow Jesus meant you had to also do all the things an ethnic Jew was required to do in Israel's civil law. They often created great trouble for the early Christians. Paul speaks of defending the true gospel against them in Galatians chapter 2. Acts 15 records their defeat at the first ever church council to address theological matters.

Perhaps it was some Roman cult that mixed the Jewish religion in with pagan ideas. Today there is a cult called the Hebrew Israelites that has absolutely nothing to do with Judaism or Christianity, but is often seen shouting at people of faith.

Whoever they were, Jesus commends the church in Smyrna for withstanding their attacks. And He is with you as you are attacked for the faith.

Now let me just say that we should reject any thought of using this passage to justify anti-Semitism toward Jewish people. The unfortunate reality is that Jews have often suffered because of Satan inspired verbal and physical attacks against them. Many of those attacks were from confessing Christians.

What a shame! As we read through Revelation, we will see that God is not done with the Jewish people yet. He will keep all the unconditional promises He made to Israel!

The apostle Paul devoted three chapters in Romans, chapters 9-11, to showing that even though in this church age Jews and Gentiles alike need to turn to Jesus for salvation, God will resume His plans for Israel in the end times (See also Acts 1:6-8). I like what he says to Christians about Jews in Romans 11:18, “You do not support the root, but the root supports you.”

**What does Jesus rebuke about the church of Smyrna?**

**NOTHING!**

Persecution is hard to go through, but often refines the faith of Christians and only a strong faith remains!

**What words of warning and challenge does Jesus give the church of Smyrna in verse 10?**

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**What do the ten days of tribulation refer to?**

We are not sure, but we will know in Heaven! Perhaps it refers to the ten main times of persecution the early church experienced during the Roman Empire. Perhaps it is symbolic of times of persecution faced throughout the church age.

Regardless, the challenge for all believers is the same as that given to the church in Smyrna – if you faithfully witness for Jesus, you will receive the crown of life! If I read that right, it is not actually dying for the faith as a martyr that gets you that crown, but continuing to witness even when harassment, persecution, and possible murder might be the response to your witness!

**What promise does Jesus give to believers in verse 11?**

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Those who persecute us can hurt our bodies but not our souls! In Revelation 20 we will see the second death is a reference to non-believers going to the Lake of Fire forever. That won't happen to you if you are a born-again believer, because you have been twice born, once physically, once spiritually! I was physically born on October 5, 1967. I was born-again through faith in Jesus on December 16, 1984. Because of that, the second death will not happen to me. I love this thought: *Those who are only born once will die twice; but those who are born twice will only die once.*

If you have not been born again, revisit the ABC's in Day 1 and pray to receive Jesus! If you are a Christian, give thanks to God for being with true believers no matter what we face!

## **Day 5-            Read Revelation 2:12-17**

If you left Smyrna driving north in a car, it would take about an hour to get to Pergamos.

### **Here's what we know about the city of Pergamos:**

- Like Ephesus and Smyrna, it was a capitol of one of the provinces of Asia Minor
- It was the Administrative center of Rome in Asia Minor
- As such, its governor could put people to death
- It had the only provincial temple to Augustus Caesar (who reigned when Jesus was born)
- The city boasted of being the official temple where Caesar was worshipped
- A university was there, and a library with 200,000 volumes (only Alexandria had more)
- Later those volumes were sent to Alexandria as a gift from Antony to Cleopatra
- Pergamos was the place where animal skins were first used to write on, called pergamena
- That meant that scrolls made of parchment could replace the more fragile papyrus
- If that had not happened, we would have a lot fewer copies of God's Word!
- Pergamos had the largest altar in the world, the Temple of Zeus
- It was one of the seven wonders of the world
- Set on a high hill, it towered 800 feet over the plain
- It also had the Temple to Aesculapius (the god of healing and medicine)
- We get the word "scalpel" from Aesculapius
- This supposed god of healing was worshipped under the form a snake
- That symbol is often seen on medical items today

### **What does verse 12 say about Jesus?**

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### **Look up and write down Hebrews 4:12-13 here:**

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You probably have noticed that Jesus is called the Word in John chapter 1. John 1:1-3 makes clear that Jesus is God, has always existed, and created all things. Back in Genesis 1 we read that God spoke and the various elements of creation came into existence. Jesus is God!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that all Scripture is God-breathed! God is all powerful (omnipotent), and when He speaks, anything He wants to happen HAPPENS! Here Jesus compares the word He speaks to one of the most effective swords, the two-edged sword!

We will see a powerful example of that when we get to Revelation chapter 19 and read of Jesus returning to earth! Merely speaking the Word will defeat the enemies of God. The same God who spoke the world into existence will speak His enemies into defeat.

### **What does Jesus commend the church of Pergamos for in verse 13?**

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We don't know exactly what Satan's throne refers to, but we can make educated guesses after what we learned about Pergamos above. Immorality abounded, Idols and Emperors were worshipped, and science and medicine were worshipped in the form of a snake! When I think of the snake, I think of Satan! Legitimate scientific discoveries are of great help to all people, but scientism as a religion leaves out the very God who gave the truths scientists discover! Mankind probably would have known the best science back in the days of Noah if we hadn't been so committed to the evil intents of our hearts (Genesis 6:5).

I love the two words, "HOLD FAST" in verse 13! Sometimes it seems like the world has gone mad, and all we can do is "Hold Fast" to what we know to be true from the Bible! Fortunately, John 10:28-29 teach that for true believers, God has us clutched in His hand! Just like when a child holds on to the parent carrying them, when our grip loosens a little, God's grip holds fast!

For the church in Pergamos, this holding fast led them to not deny their faith in the days of persecution that led to their brother Antipas being martyred. And the Scripture celebrates that brother in this passage! Would Jesus describe you as "holding fast" to His name?

### **What does Jesus rebuke about the church of Pergamos in verses 14-15?**

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In Numbers chapters 22-25, we read about Balaam, a prophet hired by the pagan King Balak to curse Israel. But every time he tried, God had words of blessing come out of Balaam's mouth instead of curses, even giving a prophecy about the coming Messiah!

To earn his money, Balaam suggested to King Balak that he send his women in to seduce a lot of the men of Israel to commit sexual sin (immorality) and spiritual sin (idolatry). It worked. Obviously it was working for many of the members of the church in Pergamos as well.

Sadly, it works a lot like that in our day as well. Many church members succumb to idolatry and immorality. For some, it shows they never really had been born again. For others, they experience the same kind of devastating consequences that King David experienced. Brothers and sisters, don't listen to the Balaams and the Nicolaitans that are like cancers in the church body. They will be judged by God for their false teaching. You will give an account for your sin.

### **What word of warning does Jesus give in verse 16?**

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I don't know about you, friend, but I sure don't want Jesus fighting against me! Repent of your idolatry and immorality, or you very well may have to go a few rounds with Jesus – and He will knock you out!

### **What promises does Jesus give to believers in verse 17?**

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Back in Exodus, we read of God preserving the people of Israel by giving them physical manna to eat each day. This reference to hidden manna is probably a reference to the guarantee of eternal life for believers. That would make it like the promise of access to the Tree of Life we spoke about on Day 3.

I get teary eyed when I think of this white stone Jesus will give to us. I heard someone suggest one time that when they would have a trial back then, the judges would slide forward a dark stone if a person was being declared guilty, and a white stone if the person was being declared innocent! When I read of the white stone, I think of Romans 8:1, which says, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!”

But there's more!

On that white stone each of us believers will receive from Jesus, there is the nickname written that Jesus has for each of us! That fires my imagination! I would rather have something like “faithful and fruitful” written on mine than “saved but not much to reward.”

As you pray today, thank God for saving your soul. Recommit to living your life in such a way that Jesus can reward much that you have done for Him!

## **Day 6-            Read Revelation 2:18-29**

Thyatira was 40 miles southeast of Pergamos.

### **Here's what we know about Thyatira:**

- It had been established by Alexander the Great 300 years before Christ
- In contrast to the first 3 cities, it was a smaller, more obscure city
- But God works in smaller cities in out of the way places, doesn't He?
- Thyatira WAS known for being a home to lots of industries
- It did commerce in wool, leather, linen, dyed stuff, pottery, bronze works
- Unfortunately, it also did a lot of commerce in slaves
- But it was famous for its purple dye
- The first convert in Philippi was Lydia, a purple cloth dealer from Thyatira (Acts 16)
- Perhaps it was Lydia and her family that brought the gospel back to Thyatira!
- Each of the industries had a trade guild or union that their workers had to belong to
- Each guild had associated itself with a particular god that was supposed to be worshipped
- Every so often these guilds would share a common meal or feast
- Members of the guild were supposed to bring their own sacrifices to these feasts
- You were to bring your sacrifice to the altar to be blessed and burnt by the god's priest
- The priest would keep a little bit there, and the rest was returned to you to be eaten
- There was a lot of drunkenness at these feasts, and often included sexual activity
- Prominent gods in Thyatira were Diana, and Apollo, the sun god
- Thyatira's name means "continual sacrifice"

### **What does verse 18 say about Jesus Christ?**

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This is the only verse in Revelation where Jesus is called the Son of God. Emperor worshippers had to declare that Caesar was the Son of God. But this verse reminds us that Jesus is the real Son of God, God the Son!

### **What does Jesus commend the church of Thyatira for in verse 19?**

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Even though Jesus has a stiff rebuke for them in the following verses, He does commend them for the fact that the amount of good works they were doing was actually increasing. They had worked hard in the factories, and now they were working hard for Jesus!

### **What does Jesus rebuke the church of Thyatira for in verses 20-22?**

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Apparently there was a lady false teacher in Thyatira who referred to herself as a prophetess.

She was using her influence to say it was okay to be BOTH a Christian and an Idolater. No doubt she was teaching it was okay to go to the union halls and participate in worshipping the guild's idol and participate in the drunken orgies. No doubt the weak Christians eager to keep their jobs gladly accepted this teaching of compromise with the world.

She is nicknamed Jezebel after the Old Testament Queen of Israel named Jezebel, who resisted the teaching of the prophet Elijah in favor of Baal worship that was all about idolatry and immorality. You can read about her in I and II Kings. 2 Kings 9:22 refers to her harlotries and practice of witchcraft.

Apparently true Christians like the Pastor and perhaps Lydia had tried to deal with the "Jezebel" in Thyatira, but she would not repent. That's how I take what Jesus said in verse 21, "I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent." Despite being under "church discipline," she was still seeking to corrupt the faith of many in the church of Thyatira.

### **What word of warning does Jesus give in verse 23?**

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Throughout the scriptures we see examples of God saying "enough is enough" with people who have some connection to Him but who continue in sin and refuse to repent. It happened to Jezebel and her false prophets in the books of the Kings. It happened when Korah and his would be false priests rebelled against Aaron and Moses in Numbers 16. It happened to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts chapter 5 as they lied to the Holy Spirit and their church leaders.

Far from being a fringe doctrine, I Corinthians 11:27-32 speaks of how taking the Lord's Supper with an unexamined, unrepentant heart had led to sickness and even death among Christians in Corinth. You and I are not the judges of God's activity, of course, but there have been times over years of ministry when it sure did look like God said "enough is enough" in the life of an unrepentant church-goer.

In the last passage, we saw Jesus warn that He Himself will fight against false teachers. Here He says He may very well kill those who are sexually immoral and won't repent. If that is you, friend, repent and beg God for mercy!

### **What promise does Jesus give to believers in verse 26?**

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This is probably a reference to the coming 1,000 year reign of Christ over all the earth spoken of in Revelation chapter 20.

**Look up Matthew 19:28-29 and fill in the missing blanks:**

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you that in the \_\_\_\_\_, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will ALSO sit on twelve thrones, \_\_\_\_\_ the twelve tribes of Israel. And \_\_\_\_\_ who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a \_\_\_\_\_, and inherit eternal life.”

For those who believe in Jesus, a day is coming when we will see the Apostles of Jesus on twelve thrones governing the nation of Israel. And somehow the rest of us who have served Jesus will have varying levels of responsibility during that “Millennial” rule. Maybe I will get to be the Under Secretary of Soccer in the Athletic Department. Maybe Mac Baldwin will be the Secretary of Agriculture, and JJ Vogltanz the Secretary of Commerce!

Imagine getting to live under King Jesus’ rule and get to do meaningful work without the problems caused by outward rebellion! I can hardly wait!

As you pray today, spend any time necessary to confess your sin to God and receive His forgiveness and cleansing. Claim the promise of I John 1:9 –

**“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”        -I John 1:9**

## **Day 7-            Read Revelation 3:1-6**

Sardis was 30 miles south of Thyatira.

### **Here's what we know about the city of Sardis:**

- At one time it had been the capitol of the Kingdom of Lydia and Croesus had been King
- It was a very wealthy city located on a trade route that ran east and west
- Much of its wealth had come through the textile, dye, and jewelry industries
- Most of the citizens worshipped idols and lived sinfully
- Luxurious living had led to moral decadence
- It had an Acropolis like the one in Athens, rising 800 feet above the city's north section
- It had a partly finished Temple of Diana equal to the size of the one in Ephesus
- It's location also made it an important military city
- It was built on a steep hill 1,500 feet above the valley floor, inaccessible on 3 sides
- The fourth side and entrance to the city was easily defendable
- In Croesus' time, the city was thought to be impregnable
- But in 549 BC, after Aesop's death, Cyrus King of the Persians found a way to capture it
- With Sardis watching it's one entrance, it was captured utilizing a secret path up a cliff
- In a similar way, the Persians later lost Sardis to Antiochus and Greece in 218 BC
- By the time this letter was written, most of Sardis' glory was behind it
- Smyrna had beaten it out in getting the Temple of Caesar

### **In verse 1 we read that Jesus has the Seven Spirits of God and the Seven Stars.**

In Day 1, what did we learn the 7 Spirits is a reference to? \_\_\_\_\_

In Day 2, what did we learn the 7 Stars is a reference to? \_\_\_\_\_

I love that Jesus connects the activity of God the Holy Spirit with the work of Pastors. God the Holy Spirit indwells believers and leads them from within, and Pastors lead believers as they live among them. These are two of the ways that Jesus is with us without being physically present.

**What does Jesus commend the church at Sardis for in verse 1?** \_\_\_\_\_

The answer is nothing. Ouch!

The church in Sardis thought it was alive, but it was dead to Jesus. I read once that for every 1 person in America who thinks they are going to Hell, 120 think they are going to Heaven. A lot of people will be as disappointed on judgment day as Sardis was when they heard from Jesus.

I believe there are many churches in our day who are churches in name only. Any true church believes the Bible is without error, that Jesus is the only way of salvation, and that all sexual sin must be repented of (which is any sexual expression outside of the marriage between a man and a woman). There are entire denominations that reject those things, and they are as dead as the church in Sardis.

### **Obviously Jesus rebuked the church of Sardis for thinking it was alive, but being dead.**

These verses make clear that a few among them were true believers, but the church itself was dying. From my words above you may be able to tell that I don't think a true believer should stay in a church that rejects the Bible's authority and teachings. Staying in a church that does believe the Bible, though, is another story.

Some churches simply need to revitalize around Biblical truth and Christ's Great Commission for His church. I believe that every 20 years or so a church needs to recommit itself to the main things the Bible calls a church to be about. If it does not, it becomes more of a cruise ship than an Aircraft Carrier. Churches should be more like aircraft carriers, with their people coming back and forth to refuel, and constantly going out on missions to advance Christ's cause.

Friend, God may use you to help a Pastor bring revitalization to a dying church. Even if your efforts fail to succeed, you will be part of reaching some for Christ. But it will be frustrating when so many entrenched members fight for the "cruise ship" mentality, insisting that their preferences be met.

In such situations, I would probably leave and join a Bible preaching church that is committed to the Great Commission. When I look for a church I keep it kind of simple. I ask, "If I lead somebody to Jesus this week, and bring them to church, will this church be able to help them grow in Christ and bear fruit for Him the rest of their life." If the answer is no, I would not join that church. But this must be a matter of prayer, because God may want you to stay and help this church in the midst of this spiritual warfare. You must get a sense of peace from God in prayer when leaving one church for another.

### **What word of warning does Jesus give to the church of Sardis in verses 2-3?**

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I think everything Jesus says there can be summed up with the words: Get back to what the Bible tells you to do!

### **What words of encouragement does Jesus give in verse 4 to the few faithful Christians in this sorry church?**

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Some of you are in a 'church of Sardis' - type church, and probably needed that word of encouragement from Jesus Himself! Let it settle over you and encourage your soul. My prayers are with you!

**What promises does Jesus give to believers in verse 5?**

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The white garments represent the perfect righteousness of Christ the believer possesses because of what Jesus did for them on the cross.

**Look up and write 2 Corinthians 5:21 here:**

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Back in Revelation 1:5 the book was dedicated to Jesus, who loves us and has washed us with His blood! When that happens, we are declared as righteous as Jesus by faith! WOW!

When that happens, our names get written in the Lamb's Book of Life. According to Revelation 20:15 that means we will not go to the Lake of Fire, where Satan and his demons and all unbelievers will be forever. The only reason you and I aren't going there is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross and us placing all our faith in Him and that work.

In ancient cities a citizen's name would be recorded in a register until their death. After their death, their name was blotted out of the book of the living. God is telling us that once we get added to Heaven's registry, it will never be blotted out.

If you are an unbeliever the good news is that if you will turn to Jesus in faith right now, and ask Him to save you, you will become as saved as anybody else who has ever become a believer. You say, "Pastor Danny, you don't know what I've done – God could never accept me." I answer, "I don't need to know what you have done, because I know what Jesus did for you, and that's the only ground of acceptance that matters before a holy God anyway!" Believe in Jesus friend, and you will gain eternal life. Receive Him, and you will become a child of God.

According to Revelation 3:5, Jesus will confess believers as His before God our Heavenly Father! As you pray today, give thanks that your name is written in the Lamb' Book of Life!

## **Day 8-            Read Revelation 3:7-13**

What an awesome letter!

A little over 25 miles southeast of Sardis we come to the city of Philadelphia.

### **Here's what we know about the city of Philadelphia?**

- It was considered the gateway to Upper Asia
- It was named after King Attalus III of Pergamos
- He was nick- named Philadelphor because he loved his brother
- They grew lots of grapes there, and they worshipped Dionysus, the god of wine
- Because it was liable to earthquakes, many of its citizens lived outside the city
- It had a BIG earthquake in AD 17, and had tremors continue for years
- Emperor Tiberius used Roman money to rebuild it
- In gratitude it was renamed Neocaesarea, which means "New Caesar"
- As the gateway to Upper Asia, the city was responsible for spreading Greek culture

### **What does verse 7 say about Jesus Christ?**

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The background to the Key of David reference is found in Isaiah 22:15-24.

The key to David's treasures was transferred from Shebna the bad steward to Eliakim the good one. The authority was now his to open and close with the key. Jesus is saying the same thing He said in Revelation 1:18 and His Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 – "All authority in Heaven and Earth is given to Me!"

The way Jesus currently uses those keys from Heaven is that when a sinner receives Christ, they are given the authority to become a child of God (See John 1:12).

In Revelation chapters 5-6, we will learn that Jesus will use those keys to start the Tribulation period, which will start the seven-year clock Daniel chapter 9 spoke of as the last 7 years before Christ comes to reign on earth.

Think of it like this – when Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the title deed to earth to Satan. A title deed indicates who is the rightful owner. When Jesus died for our sins, and victoriously rose from the dead, He declared "tetelestai", which means "it is finished." What was finished?

Vendors in the Roman world would write "tetelestai" on bills of sale to indicate that the debt was paid in full. What was finished? Satan's claim over those who turn to Jesus for salvation and over the earth as a whole.

Picture it this way – suppose you owned a house and had the title deed but squatters were living in it and trashing the place. At any moment you could present the title deed and begin to set the

squatter out. That's what will happen when the Tribulation begins in chapter 6. Jesus will have begun the process of reclaiming earth from Satan.

**What does Jesus commend the church of Philadelphia for in verse 8?**

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Apparently the church was courageously going through the open doors of opportunity that Jesus placed before them. I can imagine them faithfully witnessing to the lost, starting new ministries and churches in their area, and sending missionaries to far away places! I hope you and I are as faithful to respond to the open doors before us as the church in Philadelphia was!

I find verse 9 absolutely fascinating!

Jesus says there is a time coming in the future when non-Christians who were vocal opponents of the faith will fall at the feet of true believers and admit that they were the ones who were wrong. I can't help but wonder when that time will be! We don't know but here is my best guess – this will happen at the Great White Throne Judgment described in Revelation 20:11-15.

Don't take me wrong – I am not saying that believers will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment – they will not! But I do believe that believers will be present at the Great White Throne Judgment, in part so this moment can happen. After the Great White Throne Judgment, believers will live on the New Earth and unbelievers will forever be in the Lake of Fire.

Now set that to the side for a moment, because you can't miss what comes in verse 10!

**Write Revelation 3:10 here:**

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**I am positive that in the context here, the “hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world” has to be a reference to the seven years of Tribulation that begins in Chapter 6. Therefore, I believe this is an explicit promise that the Rapture of the church will happen before the Tribulation begins.**

The RAPTURE of the church is when all true believers meet the Lord in the air and He brings them back to Heaven with Him until the end of the Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will RETURN to earth with true believers to rule on earth. We will see that unfold in Revelation chapters 19 and 20. The best description of the Rapture is in I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

**Fill in the blanks for I Thessalonians 4:16-17 here:**

**For the Lord Himself will \_\_\_\_\_ from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be \_\_\_\_\_ together with them in the \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the Lord in the \_\_\_\_\_. And thus we will always be with the Lord.**

At the rapture, believers who have died and whose spirits are already with the Lord in a transitional body will receive their glorified body in the sky, and believers on earth will instantly get their glorified body and be caught up into the sky with the Lord. They will remain with the Lord in Heaven during the seven-year Tribulation period, probably putting the finishing touches on the New Jerusalem that Jesus has been working on for 2,000 years (see John 14:1-3).

Back on earth during the time of the Tribulation millions of “earth dwellers” will be faced with life on earth without the church’s influence. The word church does not occur at all after chapter 3 until the final closing words of Revelation 22. That includes all of the Tribulation chapters from Revelation 6-19. The word for “those who dwell on earth” will occur repeatedly, as well as references to what God is doing for Israel during that time to get them ready for His earthly rule.

You will run into people that say the word “rapture” is not in the Bible. They are wrong. The word for “caught up” in I Thessalonians 4:17 in the Greek language is *harpazo*, which comes into Latin as *rapturo* and into English as RAPTURE!

Back in Revelation 3:11, he urges them and us to think of Christ’s coming and hold fast to what we have as believers, that no one may take our crown. Here he is speaking of the reward promised to believers who anticipate the coming of Jesus.

**Look up and write 2 Timothy 4:8 here:**

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Revelation will end (in the next to last verse) calling for that same sense of expectancy in the life of the believer. That’s a crown I want to get because I longed for Jesus’ coming!

**What additional promises does Jesus give to believers in verse 12?**

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As people went into ancient cities, they would often see pillars draped with the exploits of great citizens! What a promise from Jesus! It may be that there will be a “Hall of Pillars” in the New Jerusalem. On each pillar will be your story of going through open doors of opportunity to advance Christ’s Great Commission.

Maybe it will be interactive, showing how your faithful giving and prayers were used of God as pastors and missionaries were at work. We don’t really have any idea right now how you doing your part on Sunday morning or during the week is used in the grand scheme of things by the Lord – But one day it will be the stuff of Pillars, all for the glory of the Lamb!

As you pray today, commit to God to keep holding your faith fast and walking through open doors!

## **Day 9-            Read Revelation 3:14-22**

Laodicea was 45 miles south of Philadelphia on the road to Colossae, subject of the letter to the Colossians. The cities were just ten miles apart and the churches were so close that Paul instructs the Colossian church in Colossians 4:16 to see that the letter to the Colossians was read at the Laodicean church and that his letter to the Laodicean church was read by the Colossians! Unfortunately, we don't have that letter.

### **Here's what we know about Laodicea:**

- Founded by Antiochus II in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to honor his wife Laodice
- It had grown into a highly successful commercial and financial banking center
- It also produced fine clothing and carpets made from the black wool of area sheep
- It boasted theaters, a huge stadium, lavish public baths, and fabulous shopping centers
- In the Temple of Asklepios in Laodicea there was a famous medical school
- It was known for producing a "Phrygian powder" famous for its cure of eye defects
- It was also hit hard by the earthquake of AD 17 that had ruined Philadelphia
- But unlike Philadelphia, Laodicea rebuilt with their own money and no empire help
- Hierapolis was 7 miles north, famous for its "hot springs"
- A six mile long aqueduct brought the water into Laodicea
- As the water made its way down to Laodicea, it became lukewarm
- Just ten miles away, Colossae was known for its "cold spring"

### **What does verse 14 say about Jesus Christ?**

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The word 'amen' is closely connected with the word "true." When you say 'amen,' you are saying "that's true!" I think of John 14:6, where Jesus says He IS the Truth – 'amen' to that!

Jesus is the Faithful and True Witness – I love that we can count on Jesus to tell us the truth. No one in the Bible says more about the reality of Hell that people face unless they turn to Jesus for salvation! He won't tell you that you are okay and I'm okay. He will tell us that apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Jesus is also the Beginning of the Creation of God. This simply backs up John 1:1-3, that says that Jesus is the God who always existed and created all things – He began what has been begun!

**There is no commendation for the Laodicean church. In fact, they are condemned for being 'lukewarm.'**



I love hot coffee and I can drink cold coffee, but lukewarm coffee makes me want to spew it out of my mouth.

As a Pastor I love being around hot-hearted Christians because they inspire me to keep growing in Christ and serving Him! That is even true when they are struggling with various things. Part of even the weak Christian's struggle is because they DO care so much about being right with God!

I also love talking to cold-hearted lost people who are at least honest enough to engage me in dialogue. Lost people act lost because they are lost, so I don't expect them to talk or behave as a Christian would. I hope something I say will make them think, and it often works out that way!

What I can't stand is talking to lukewarm people who claim to be Christians but it is evident that they don't really know Him. Many times and in many ways they show that they really could care less about having a vibrant walk with the Lord. They could care less about taking the gospel to "those people," whether its people of another race down the street or the other side of the world. There may be no one harder to reach for Christ than a smug church-goer who thinks of themselves as a good person instead of as a sinner totally dependent on Jesus for salvation.

**Jesus had a different assessment of the Laodiceans then they had of themselves. They thought of themselves as rich, wealthy, and needing nothing. But Jesus describes their true spiritual condition in verse 17.**

**Complete the words below that describes Jesus assessment of the Laodicean church:**

W \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

I love how poetic Jesus' counsel is to them in verse 18!

**Jesus counsels a people whose 'faith' was really in themselves instead of Jesus to realize the only way to deal with their true lost condition was to come to Him in repentance!**

They thought they could buy everything they needed. He told them that if they don't "buy" Him they will remain lost!

This does not go against the doctrine that you can't earn or buy salvation. In fact, it reinforces it! They had to stop relying on what they could do or buy and instead turn to the only place salvation can be found – in turning to Jesus!

The words are similar to what Jesus told the rich young ruler in Luke 18. Jesus essentially told that man that salvation was free but would cost him everything. He couldn't earn it or buy it, but true salvation would require total commitment to Jesus!

**Write Revelation 3:20 here:**

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I love that those words have a double application, one for individuals, and one for churches.

For individuals, it is the call to open the door of your heart and let Jesus come in and save you. You do this through a sinner's prayer. Prayer is the language of faith. Romans 10:13 says that "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." If you will provide the sinner, Jesus will provide the Savior! He will take your sins and place them on the cross, dealt with forever. He will take His righteousness and place it on you to be your righteous covering! Romans 10:10 says "with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." If you need to, ask Jesus to save you now. Do it now, out loud where you are!

For churches, the call of Revelation 3:20 is to let Jesus back into His church! A lot of churches go through the motions over and over again, and as they do they act as practical atheists. What Jesus thinks and wants has been lost to what they think and want. Church leader, church member, can you hear Jesus knocking at the door of your church, and saying, "Let me in and let's talk about what you have done to my Father's House!" If you don't repent and open that door, Jesus may very well remove your lampstand forever (Revelation 2:5).

**What does Jesus promise believers in verse 21?**

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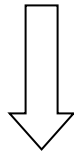
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What a picture! Jesus will have personal and close fellowship forever with His children! As you pray today, ask God to help you hear Jesus each and every day as He knocks on the door of your heart, requesting you spend time with Him. You wouldn't say no to the President! Don't say no to Jesus!

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<b>Rapture?</b>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

## **Day 10-        Read Revelation 4:1-11**

**Let me encourage you to circle or underline the first three words of chapter 4, the words “after these things.”**

This is the first time the word ‘after’ has occurred since Revelation 1:19, which I told you serves as an outline for The Book of Revelation.

**Fill in the blanks from Revelation 1:19 here:**

Write the things which you \_\_\_\_\_ seen (past tense – the vision of Jesus in chapter 1)

And the things which \_\_\_\_\_ (present tense – the church age of chapters 2-3)

And the things which will take place \_\_\_\_\_ this (future tense, after the church age, beginning in chapter 4)

In chapter 4 we begin speaking of the things that will happen AFTER the church age.

**If indeed Revelation 3:10 is a promise that the rapture of the church will be before the time of the 7-year tribulation, we may expect to find rapture type language as this section of Revelation begins – and we do!**

Do you remember from Day 8 that the word for rapture means “caught up?”

In verse 1 John the apostle beholds a door standing open in Heaven, and the first voice he had heard, the voice of Jesus, speaking like a trumpet saying, “come up here” and I will show you things which must take place AFTER this.

**All of a sudden John the apostle is transported up to Heaven in a vision, and getting not only a vision of what’s happening in Heaven, but in subsequent visions images of the end time events that lead to Jesus’ return to earth. These will include things happening on earth and in Heaven during the time of the Tribulation. Chapters 4-5, though, are about John’s time in Heaven!**

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 the Apostle Paul speaks of a time that he was transported in a vision to the “third heaven.” You may recall that Genesis 1:1 speaks of God’s creation of the “heavens.” The first heaven would be the sky we see inside earth’s atmosphere. The second heaven would be what we call outer space. The third Heaven is where the throne of God is. Interestingly, Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians show how he himself struggled to understand the experience he had.

I mention that because in Revelation chapter 4 and following John the apostle often uses the word “like” to try and convey what he had seen in the vision. John will use that word 46 times from here until the end of the book, 8 in this chapter alone!

**According to verse 2, who is the first and most important Person John sees in Heaven?**

John first sees the most important Person in Heaven – God Himself! If you or I were transported to Heaven right now, as wonderful as it will be to see people we’ve known and angels and all the beauty of the place, the most compelling thing about Heaven will be God Himself!

**Specifically, John saw God on His special throne. The word throne occurs 45 times in Revelation, after occurring only 15 other times in the New Testament!**

John could only compare how handsome God was on that throne to beautiful and valuable gems from earth – jasper and sardius stone. I hope when you and I think about God we think about how much worth He has, how WORTHY He is of our praise, and how beautiful He is as the source of all that is beautiful!

Around God’s throne was an emerald rainbow!

**When God gave the first rainbow back in Genesis 9, he promised that when He saw subsequent rainbows, He would remember the promise He made to the world not to send another global flood to judge it. It’s not that God would forget, though! It was really for us to understand that God will do what He promises to do! Maybe that’s what we should think of when we think of the emerald rainbow around God’s throne!**

In verse 4 we read of 24 thrones around God’s throne – 24 thrones for 24 elders.

Well, what kind of person sits on a throne? A ruler, right?! Shake your head YES!

God is the main Ruler, so He gets the BIG throne.

But somehow these 24 elders also have a role under the Ultimate Ruler. It is important to understand that the crowns they are wearing are not the crowns of a sovereign (a diadem) but are the crowns of those declared victors or overcomers (a stephanos). Who could these elders be?

What immediately comes to my mind is two groups of leaders, 12 leaders each, one in the Old Testament, and one in the New Testament.

The 12 Tribes of Israel in the Old Testament were named for the 12 sons of Jacob. There was always a leader named for each tribe, like the elders who were sent to the Promised Land to check it out.

**What were the twelve leaders of the early church called? \_\_\_\_\_**

Do you remember Jesus’ promise in Matthew 19:28? He promised that the 12 apostles would sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

**12 Old Testament tribal leaders plus 12 New Testament apostle leaders equals 24 elders.**

In Revelation 21 we will read of the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem bearing the names of the 12 tribes (Revelation 21:13), and the 12 foundations of the city bearing the names of the 12 apostles of Jesus (Revelation 21:14)

If John saw the actual sons of Jacob and the actual apostles, he may have actually seen the back of his own head sitting on one of those thrones!

**Speaking in a more representative way, these 24 elders represent all the people of God gathered before Him in worship! The sea of glass John saw in verse 6 could also describe an innumerable number of believers before the throne.**

But don't forget the angels John writes of in verses 6-8. They are in the midst of the throne and around the throne! What John describes corresponds with how Isaiah 6:1-7 and Ezekiel 1:1-10 describe Seraphim and Cherubim around God's throne.

Being in God's presence and singing God's praises sure must energize these angels, because we are told they DO NOT REST day or night, singing an endless Hallelujah to the Lord!

**According to verse 8, what do those angels constantly say/sing? Fill in the blanks here:**

H\_\_\_\_\_, H\_\_\_\_\_, H\_\_\_\_\_  
Lord God Almighty, Who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and is to \_\_\_\_\_!

According to God Himself in Job 38:4-7, the angels of God sang when God created the earth. The constant theme of their song is WHO God is in His very essence!

**In verses-9-10 we read that even as the angels praise God for who He is, the humans in Heaven join in and in response praise God for what He has done.**

**In chapter 5 we will see that God is constantly praised for His redemption.**

**But what do the elders praise God for in verse 11? \_\_\_\_\_.**

Now if we read in Revelation 4-5 that God is constantly praised in Heaven for His acts of creation and redemption, shouldn't we praise God now for creating us and redeeming us through the work of Jesus on our behalf? This would be a good time to shake your head 'YES' again!

I like how it says these elders cast their crowns before God's throne. They are recognizing that everything they attained in their life for God on earth was actually made possible by God Himself working through them!

Praise is not all we will do in Heaven, but it is something we will ALWAYS be doing in Heaven. There are five praise songs in chapters 4-5 alone, and nine more in the rest of the book. As you pray today, give God praise for who He is and what He has done in your life!

**"To Him the attending hosts of angels cease not to say, 'holy, holy, holy.' Therefore, we too – the future comrades of the angels, if we earn this reward- become familiar even while here on earth with that heavenly cry of praise to God and the duty of our future glory."**

**-Tertullian, around 200 AD**

## Day 11-        Read Revelation 5:1-14

We now read of a seven-sealed scroll in the hand of God on the throne. Why 7 seals?

In Roman days, official papers from Caesar had a series of seals on them. The most important papers had one seal for Caesar, a second seal for the Senate, a third seal for an important general, and a fourth seal for the governor of the province.

But this scroll had seven seals! The number of perfection – this must be the most important scroll ever! We don't need to guess what the scroll represents, because chapter 6 starts with the breaking of the first seal of the scroll and the Tribulation time beginning.

In Revelation 1:18 we read that Jesus had the Keys of Hades and Death. In Revelation 3:7 we read that Jesus had the Key of David, and His ability to open and shut. These are references to Jesus having authority over Heaven and Earth, as He stated in Matthew 12:18.

**Back on Day 8 we spoke of how Jesus' death and resurrection essentially won back the "title deed" of the earth from Satan. He now has the legal right to reclaim the earth from Satan. Think of the scroll mentioned in Revelation 5:1 as that title deed. When it's first seal is broken, the reclaiming of the earth from Satan will begin!**

In his vision John saw a strong angel shout, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" The dramatic answer is that John saw no person or angel in the universe that was able to open that seal. And so we read in verse 4 of John crying his eyes out!

Why was John so broken up?

I think John understood that if no one opened up that scroll, Satan would continue to wreak havoc on earth. John had seen many of the consequences of sin during his lifetime. He had ministered to so many broken people with Jesus, and so many broken people for Jesus. All of his fellow apostles had been killed for their faith. He was imprisoned on Patmos for his faith.

**Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, Jesus had told John and his fellow apostles that after the "church age" days of witnessing would come the time when Jesus would restore the Kingdom to Israel (See Acts 1:6-8). John probably also knew Daniel Chapter 9 well enough to know that 7 years of trouble for Israel and the world would proceed that restoration. John wants the scroll to be opened and the tribulation to begin, not because it will be an easy time, but for what lies on the other side of it – Jesus Christ reigning on earth.**

And so John wept! But he didn't have to weep long!

Write verse 5 here:

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The prophesy that the Jewish Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah goes all the way back to Genesis 49:8-12. David was of that tribe, and in 2 Samuel 7 God promised David that a future descendant of his would be the Messiah. That's why the Messiah is called the Son of David. But Jesus is not just the "fruit" of David, He is the Root of David! He was David's Lord long before He became David's "son." The Lion is the King of the jungle, and Jesus is the King of Heaven! He is able to open the scroll and begin the reclamation of the earth!

I love what comes next! John turns around and right in the midst of the throne he sees Jesus, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (see John 1:29). John then refers to 3 'sevens' in reference to Jesus. We have already learned that seven represents completeness.

**Draw a line from the "Seven" on the left to what it probably represents on the right:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| *Seven horns   | *God's perfect Holy Spirit, everywhere present (omnipresence) |
| *Seven eyes    | *God's perfect knowledge (omniscience)                        |
| *Seven Spirits | *God's perfect power (omnipotence)                            |

You already know that the seven Spirits is a reference to the Holy Spirit. Hopefully you figured out that horns represent power, so seven horns means complete power, and seven eyes means the ability to see and know everything.

In verse eight we read something cool – all 24 of the elders in Heaven can play a stringed instrument - maybe in Heaven I will finally learn to play the guitar!

The point is that the 24 elders are praising Jesus. But there are also prayers to Jesus!

The elders have golden bowls full of incense, representing the prayers of the saints. Did you catch that? When you take the time to pray, those prayers rise to Heaven the way incense rises! Picture that the next time you pray!

**Fill in the blanks from the new song that the elders sing in verse 9:**

You are \_\_\_\_\_ to take the scroll, and to \_\_\_\_\_ its seals;

For you were slain, and have \_\_\_\_\_ us to God by Your blood

Out of \_\_\_\_\_ tribe and tongue and people and nation,

And have made us kings and priests to our God, and we shall \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth

**Don't miss that after the church age, John sees people from EVERY people group on earth in Heaven!**

I believe every people group has people there for two reasons.

First, every people group is represented because of God welcoming into Heaven infants from every people group who died in the womb or in early childhood (see 2 Samuel 12:22-23).



Second, I believe during this church age the people of God will take the gospel to every people group, in response to Christ's Great Commission to take the gospel to all peoples (Matthew 28:18-20). There are already Christians in every nation, and outreach still continues to what we call unreached people groups. Sometimes when missionaries go to an unreached people group, they discover that someone else already reached some of them!

**I love how Revelation 5:9 can be taken as a promise that Jesus will save people from every people group!**

In the Parable of the Mustard Seed Jesus said the Kingdom would start small like a mustard seed but grow big enough to hold the birds of the air! The dozens of disciples who heard Jesus give the Great Commission has turned into over a billion disciples of Jesus around the world!

Of course another ramification of this is that if you have any lingering racial attitudes in your heart, you need to repent of them! You are going to be around all kinds of different people in Heaven, and I believe we will even learn to appreciate every language and good aspects of every culture! Why not begin now! Dios es Amor!

I love how you and I show up in verse 11!

John loses count of all the angels and creatures he sees worshipping Jesus! He says there were ten thousand times ten thousands, and still thousands and thousands more! And they are all proclaiming how worthy Jesus the Lamb is!

According to verse 13, the same thing is happening on earth, under the earth, and in the sea.

This could be as simple as meaning that all creation gives Him praise for bringing on the redemption of the earth, from the birds that fly in the air, to the animals that roam the earth, to the worms in the ground, to the fish in the sea. Look up and read Romans 8:18-23.

**Write Romans 8:21 here:**

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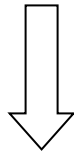
Alternatively, the reference to under the earth could be a reference to those who are currently in Hades and will one day be in the Lake of Fire. Philippians 2:9-11 indicates that all people will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, even those who rejected Jesus while alive. For them, it will be too late to be saved from wrath, but they will forever acknowledge who Jesus really is. That is heartbreaking, because it was so unnecessary – they could have had eternal life with Jesus.

As you pray today, join the saints and angels in Heaven praising God for being the Creator and Savior!

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

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Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

## **Day 12-        Read Revelation 6:1-8**

As we begin chapter 6, we begin looking into the future seven-year time we call the Tribulation, with the last 3 and a half years of this time called a time of Great Tribulation.

Interestingly, the apostle John did not include anything about this time in the gospel of John. Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21 all contain what has been called Jesus' Olivet Discourse, so named because He spoke those words from the Mount of Olives (Olive Mountain).

I wonder if John had been like a lot of preachers today who try to avoid teaching on the End Times because they can be difficult to understand. The problem with that for preachers is that so much of the Bible deals with prophecy that to intentionally not preach on prophecy is to only preach part of the counsel of God, rather than the "whole counsel" of God. The apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:27 that he had not "shunned" to declare to them the "whole counsel of God."

At one time I was among those who when asked about end times events I simply joked that I was "panmillennial – it will all pan out in the end." The reality was that I had not seriously studied the entire Bible related to end times events. When I was challenged on this, I embarked on a serious study of end times events. I read the entire Bible and interacted with every prophecy made in the Bible. See the Appendix at the back of this devotional for what I discovered: Ten Conclusions from studying every prophecy of the Bible."

**John the apostle didn't include much about the end times in his gospel, but God didn't let him off the hook! John wound up writing more about the Tribulation in Revelation chapters 6-19 than anybody else does in the Scriptures! That means that of the 50 chapters of the Bible that John wrote, 28% of them wound up being about the Tribulation!**

To my surprise as I studied, the main details we need to know about the end times were much easier to understand than I thought. I am not saying I fully understand details within the main things, and I doubt anyone does. There is room for humility as we study and teach!

**It's probably worth saying here what I told my congregation my three basic rules would be as I preached through The Book of Revelation:**

**Basic Explanation**

**Little Speculation**

**Lots of Application!**

<><

**Here are the Three Purposes of the Tribulation I have seen as I have studied it:**

- 1.        It's the beginning of the judgment of the Satanic world system**
- 2.        It will ready Jewish people for Jesus Christ's coming reign from Jerusalem**
- 3.        It will give the people of the world last opportunities to turn to Jesus Christ**

Now if I am wrong and the church does go through the time of the Tribulation, I am not afraid because God will be with us, and any who are killed for the faith are immediately with the Lord. But I do believe from Revelation 3:10 that the church will be raptured before the time of

Tribulation. Indeed I believe that part of what will help the one called the Antichrist exploit the godless world system will be that the church is not here any longer to be salt and light.



**Revelation 6:1 speaks of the opening of the first of the seals on the seven-sealed scroll, beginning the time of the Tribulation.**

**The First 4 Seals all refer to horses, sometimes called the “4 Horseman of the Apocalypse.”**

**Draw a line from the horse below on the left to the item it refers to below on the right –**

White horse	Peace removed, killing everywhere
Red horse	Death and Hades consume a fourth of the global population
Black horse	The Antichrist figure rises who will conquer the world
Pale horse	Scarcity of necessary food items

When we read in verse 2 of a rider on a white horse, we immediately think of how Revelation 19 describes Jesus Christ returning to earth on a white horse to conquer and reign. But that will happen at the END of the Tribulation. This, therefore, is a reference to Satan’s Antichrist figure that will rule the world DURING the tribulation. He is counterfeiting Jesus Christ.

Although the name Antichrist is not used in Revelation (that name comes from I John), we will learn a lot about him in chapters 6 to 19. Satan loves to counterfeit the things of God. The Triune God exists as Father, Christ, and Spirit. During the Tribulation Satan will counterfeit the Trinity. The Counterfeit trinity is Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet we will read about.

**Many of the things that Revelation says about the Antichrist are actually already said by the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles. Here are a few of them.**

**Look each reference up and fill in any blanks below:**

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be one who makes desolate; even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.  
-Daniel 9:27

This is where we get the name “Abomination of Desolation” for the Antichrist. The word for week is literally seven, and in the context of Daniel 9 is understood to refer to 7 years. The Antichrist will implement a covenant treaty that will help Israel, starting the 7-year tribulation period. Three and a half years in, at the midpoint of the 7 years, he will betray Israel and persecute Israel horribly. But this great text also says that his destruction is determined!

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall \_\_\_\_\_ the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and laws. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. -Daniel 7:25

Old Testament references to saints are references to Jews. The time, times, and half a time is a reference to the final 3.5 years of the Tribulation when the Antichrist will especially persecute Jews and anyone else who turns to Christ.

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...Then there will be \_\_\_\_\_ tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the \_\_\_\_\_'s sake those days will be shortened. -Matthew 24:15, 21-22

These are the word of Jesus, confirming the words of Daniel about the Antichrist and the Tribulation. Here the word elect is again a reference to Israel as God's elect nation.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. -2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Some see the words 'falling away' here as a reference to the Rapture, which would fit the data, although the word usually refers to apostasy, or falling away from the faith. The Day referred to is the Day of the Lord judgments, which in the end times teaching of the Old Testament referred to everything from the Tribulation time to the Great White Throne Judgment (see the Appendix). The world is not in the time of the tribulation until the Antichrist, here called the man of sin, is revealed. That squares with the first seal being the rise of the Antichrist.

**The Antichrist will come promising peace, and for a while it will look like he is succeeding. As we will see, He will use the apparatus of a renewed Roman empire to consolidate everything into a one world government. A key false religious leader will help him do this.**

It is possible to me that this first seal could take up nearly all of the first 3 and a half years of the Tribulation period. It is certain that he will betray the Jewish people at the midpoint of the Tribulation, ushering in 3 and a half years of Hell on earth.

**When the second seal is opened, and the red horse rides out, peace will be taken from the earth, and people will kill one another.**

At this point the peace promised by the Antichrist will crumble into anarchy around the world. More than likely the forces of the Antichrist will do what dictators usually do – crush any who rebel against him. The Antichrist's media will selectively cover everything, making it look like this world without God and the church is doing great.

**When the third seal opens the Black horse will ride out. By this time food and other necessities needed to live will become scarce.**

A denarius was a day's wages. A measure of wheat is approximately what a laboring man would eat in one meal. If he got the cheaper barley instead, he could eat three meals. Either way, no money would be left for other things. You need oil to make bread, wine for cooking, and purifying water – suddenly those things will be luxuries.

This will be a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities. Undoubtedly resources will be rationed first to those who vocally support the Antichrist, with little left for those who question any part of his leadership. Law enforcement and military will probably be used to make sure the Antichrist's wishes are fulfilled. Antichrist's media will help identify those to blame for all problems. All alternative media will be identified and crushed.

**When the fourth seal is opened, the Pale horse will ride out. A Fourth of the global population will die. Those who aren't killed by their fellow man will succumb to hunger or the attacks of hungry beasts. It will be a truly awful time to be on earth.**

**Let's take a moment to understand what will be happening from a theological perspective. Ever since the Garden of Eden people have been rebelling against God's authority.**

Consider what Psalm 2:1-3 says:

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces, and cast away Their cords from us." -Psalm 2:1-3

**For 6,000 years, people have been wanting to do life on earth without God. During the time of the Tribulation, God is going to LET them do life on earth without Him. But...**

During that time He will choose not to do what he has for 6,000 years. For all of earth history God has been protecting us from the FULL consequences of sin's impact on the creation. This includes protecting us from things like the sun burning too bright on us and meteors hitting us. That protection will be scaled back during the Tribulation.

God the Holy Spirit has also been restraining us from the FULL consequences of sin's impact on people. Through the natural law He has implanted in men's consciences, to the Ten Commands given to Israel, and through the salt and light that the church is, God has restrained sinners from doing all that comes into their evil mind. The Holy Spirit's restraint will be scaled back during the time of the Tribulation, Look at how the apostle Paul makes the contrast between now and the Tribulation time clear:

**For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who NOW restrains will do so UNTIL He is taken out of the way. And THEN the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.**  
**-2 Thessalonians 2:7-8**

During the Tribulation, God will let humans do life on earth without him for 7 years – and the impact will be disastrous. As you pray today, thank God for His current protection and Holy Spirit's influence on earth.

**Day 13-        Read Revelation 6:9-17**

**Yesterday we saw what will happen on earth as the Tribulation time begins and unfolds:**

Antichrist will rise up as the key one world leader.

Peace will be taken from the world and many will kill one another.

Scarcity and famine will become the norm.

One fourth of the world's population will die.

**As the fifth seal is opened, John's vision takes him back to Heaven and he sees what's going on in Heaven while all of these people are dying on earth.**

According to verse 9, John sees multitudes of people under God's throne who had been slain for courageously standing for their faith back on earth. John aptly uses the word testimony here, because the word martyr comes from the word testify, or witness.

**Here we learn that among the fourth of the world's population who will die during the time of the fourth seal, many had come to faith in God and were now in Heaven. Many died as they stood up for their newfound faith against the forces of the Antichrist.**

Many people wonder why God allows times of judgment on earth historically, and the coming time of Tribulation on earth. Why doesn't God just go ahead and wrap things up?

It is here where we have to do our thinking through God's desire to give people every chance to come to know Jesus Christ before it's too late. There is something worse than experiencing temporary judgment on earth – experiencing eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire.

**Look up and write down 2 Peter 3:9 here:**

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As awful as the time of Tribulation will be, it is wonderful to think that so many will turn to Christ and be saved during this time. Back in Revelation 3:10 we were promised that the church would not go through the time of testing coming over the whole earth. Those earth-dwellers who turn to Christ during the Tribulation will pass the TEST and be with God forever!

**Now there is a lot going on in verse 10! Read it closely and circle the best answer below:**

- A. Those who are in Heaven are awake, alert and inquisitive
- B. Those who are in Heaven are aware of even bad things happening on earth
- C. Those who are in Heaven actually intercede to God about earthly events
- D. All of the above

I think the best answer is D, all of the above. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 indicates that those who are absent from the body are present with the Lord. In His story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16, Jesus presented Lazarus as more alive than he had even been on earth!

Some people think people in Heaven will have their mind wiped and not be aware of bad things happening on earth. But Heaven is never presented as knowing less than we do now, but as having perfect perspective. I believe the Catholic church is wrong to suggest that saints below should pray to anybody but God Himself. But it looks like the saints above may be praying for us as we finish our own earthly 'race' (See Hebrews 12:1-2).

Hebrews 7:25 makes clear that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for saints on earth. Why wouldn't the saints in Heaven be joining Jesus in what He is doing, both praying and perhaps helping Him get the New Jerusalem ready (See John 14:1-3). The saints in Revelation 6 are certainly interceding about things going on back on earth. Luke 15:10 says that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Notice it did not say by the angels, but in the presence of the angels. God rejoices to be sure, but perhaps that also indicates that the saints of Heaven rejoice when someone they are praying for gets right with God!

**Here in Revelation 6:10 we see the saints in Heaven interceding for justice to come on earth – and it will when Christ returns to earth! But they are told to put on their white robe and rest a while longer, because God is going to save a few more people before He's done!**

I can't help but think about God's big heart to keep saving people right up until the very end! Praise Jesus!

**Regardless of how long it takes for these first five seals to play out, they have been characterized by God's wrath being expressed passively.**

In other words, mankind begins the Tribulation wanting to do earth life without God, and He lets them. Antichrist's godless leadership decisions will be disastrous for earth, and God will let those sinful choices have their full consequences. God's judgment often is like this at first.

In Romans chapter 1 we read that mankind is determined to sin against God. So how does He judge that determined defiance? Like a Gentleman. He steps back and lets people engage in the sin they are bound and determined to do. The sin they say they can't live without. Three different times in Romans chapter 1 it says that "God gave them over." It's saying He let them do the thing His Word calls sin.

How is that passive judgment? Each sin is really not doing things the way God designed them to be done. When we obey God, we experience the built in blessing of doing things the way God designed them to be done. When we sin, we will experience built in consequences for that sin.

You can hit a baseball with a badminton racket, breaking the racket in two. It's not the designer's fault you didn't use the racket correctly. Your broken racket is the built in consequence of misusing the racket's design.

God's judgment usually begins passively to encourage us to turn to Him.



**Fill in the blanks from Romans 2:4-5 here:**

Or do you despise the riches of His \_\_\_\_\_, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your \_\_\_\_\_ and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of God. -Romans 2:4-5

**When the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is opened, God's judgment begins to become more active judgment through the kinds of cosmic disturbances people associate with the word 'apocalypse.'**

There is a great earthquake.

The sun becomes darkened, and the moon blood red.

Objects from outer space begin crashing to earth.

The sky begins receding as a scroll like happens when a nuclear bomb goes off.

Mountains and islands are moved from their places.

When I think of those things it reminds me of a Janitor standing at the door and flicking the lights. He is getting everyone's attention and letting them know it is time to move out so he can start cleaning the place up!

**Look up and write down 2 Peter 3:10 here:**

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Back in Revelation 6:15 we read that on earth during this time kings and subjects, rich and poor, free men and slaves will all be hiding themselves from what they know is God's active wrath.

**My mind swims when I see that phrase in verse 16, "the wrath of the Lamb."**

**Up until this time, we have been taught to think of how the sacrificial death of Jesus the Lamb of God provides salvation to all who will let Jesus be their substitute. But for those who defiantly refuse to repent, the day will come when they will experience not the salvation of the Lamb but the wrath of the Lamb.**

As you pray today, if you know the Lord as Savior, thank God that for you Jesus is the precious Lamb of God who took away your sin. If you have refused to believe, won't you turn to Jesus now for salvation? Don't experience the wrath of the Lamb.

## Day 14- Read Revelation 7:1-8

Back in Revelation 5:1 we read that the “title deed” scroll had SEVEN seals. In chapter 6 we were told what will happen in the future when each of the first SIX seal judgments are opened.

What about the seventh seal judgment? It is not referred to in chapter 7, is it? Ah, there it is, referred to in chapter 8, verse 1. There it tells us of the opening of the seventh seal. So it appears that chapter 7 is an interlude before the seventh seal is opened. More on that in a moment.

But there is another thing we will see when we cover chapters 8 and 9 – the seventh seal seems to include ALL of what are referred to as the seven trumpet judgments. At the end of chapter 9, like the end of chapter 6, only 6 Trumpet judgments have been announced.

It appears that chapters 10-11 are also an interlude before the seventh trumpet judgment is announced in Revelation 11:15. But there is not another actual judgment until the seven bowl judgments of chapters 15-16. So it appears that you could also say that all seven of the bowl judgments are part of the seventh trumpet judgment. That would make chapters 12-14 interlude material as well.

Look at this hand-held telescope that you can extend out to three levels.



When you first hold it in your hand it is only a few inches long. When you extend it out to the second level, it grows longer. When you extend it out to the third level, it grows again. But all of the third level comes out of the end of the second level, which all comes out of the end of the first level.

**The comparison is this: I understand all of the 7 bowl judgments to be included in the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment, which means that all of the bowl and trumpet judgments are included in the seventh seal. This is all part of Revelation’s creative revealing of the Tribulational events. This telescopic view looks something like this.**

Seals: 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> (Trumpets: 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> (Bowls: 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>))

**This leads me to conclude that the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments unfold in chronological order, with one event coming after the other. Between the giving of the seals and trumpets and bowls interludes are given, filling in details happening during the time of the Tribulation, but not necessarily in chronological order.**

There are many times this happens in Scripture. For instance, Genesis 1 gives the order of the 6 days of creation. Genesis chapter 2 goes back and fills in more detail about the creation of people. In the book of Jeremiah the prophet’s messages to Judah are given, but not in chronological order.

As Revelation 7 begins we read of four angels standing at the four “corners” of the world. There are 67 occurrences of angels in Revelation, an average of 3 occurrences per chapter, one every six verses! The word for corners is the same word we get quarters from – think of the four quadrants, or points on the compass – North, South, East and West.

**Now let’s look at the first Tribulation-time interlude material we are given: the vision of the 144,000 Jews in chapter 7 that are sealed by an angel from the east.**

Unfortunately many cults like Jehovah Witnesses throughout the centuries have been fascinated with the 144,000 people referred to here and tried to make them out to represent those who held their fraudulent beliefs. They are completely wrong, of course, but their proclamations have added to confusion about The Book of Revelation.

Many Bible scholars simply spiritualize vast portions of the scripture rather than take them at their plain meaning. For them these 144,000 are simply a poetic way of referring to Christians. This usually goes along with “replacement theology” which teaches that when Israel rejected Christ, the Church replaced Israel forevermore.

**I believe that passages like Romans chapters 9-11 and Acts 1:6-8 obliterates replacement theology.**

In Acts 1:6 the disciples ask Jesus right before He ascends to Heaven, “Lord, will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel.” If Israel had no future hope, and the church replaces Israel forever, this would have been the perfect time for Jesus to endorse replacement theology. He could have said, “Fellows, you have it all wrong; I’m glad we got this straight before I leave; Fellows, Israel is no more now, it’s just the church from here on in.”

But that’s exactly what Jesus does not do. He says, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In other words, Jesus lets them know that the time of Israel’s restoration is coming, but during the church age they are to preach the gospel to all nations. Paul’s teaching in Romans chapters 9-11 complement that beautifully. So does Revelation 7!

**Revelation 7 must be understood as the raising up of 144,000 Jewish young men who turn to Christ during the Tribulation and witness for their new faith around the world!**

According to verse 4, God puts a protective seal on them that gives them heavenly help as they witness. We will learn more about their success in witnessing tomorrow, and how special they are to God when we get into chapter 14.

As we connect the dots from these interlude passages, I think we can also ascertain that these 144,000 Jewish witnesses will be inspired by the two great witnesses we will read about in chapter 11, who perhaps are actually Elijah and Moses. Who better to inspire young Jewish men to come to know Jesus as Messiah than two of the greatest Jewish men ever!

**God has not forgotten His people Israel! During the Tribulation, God will act to bring many Jews to Himself who will help Israel get ready for Messiah's coming described in Old Testament passages like Zechariah chapters 12-14.**

**Let's take a closer look at these 144,000 men by their tribal origins. On the left side below is the name and order of the Jewish tribe listed in Revelation 7. Turn to Genesis chapter 49, and write the names of the tribes given there on the right side.**

**Revelation 7:**

**Genesis 49:**

Judah	R_____ (Gen. 49:3)
Reuben	S_____ (Gen. 49:5)
Gad	L_____ (Gen. 49:5)
Asher	J_____ (Gen. 49:8)
Naphtali	Z_____ (Gen. 49:13)
Manasseh	I_____ (Gen. 49:14)
Simeon	D_____ (Gen. 49:16)
Levi	G_____ (Gen. 49:19)
Issachar	A_____ (Gen. 49:20)
Zebulon	N_____ (Gen. 49:21)
Joseph (Ephraim)	J_____ (Gen. 49:22)
Benjamin	B_____ (Gen. 49:27)

**During the Tribulation, God will raise up and seal 12,000 young men from each of these tribes to know Him and make Him known. There will be many other Jewish men and women turning to Jesus also, but these 144,000 have a special role!**

It's neat to see that the royal tribe that Jesus comes from, the Tribe of Judah, leads the way! You may remember that Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and they are both listed on the left (Ephraim under Joseph). That's part of the double blessing Joseph received back in Genesis.

**But there is a tribe missing on the left that was present on the right. Write the name of the tribe here when you figure it out: \_\_\_\_\_**

That particular tribe was notorious for its practice of idolatry, and misses the blessing of being included among God's special team of Tribulation "Jews for Jesus." As you pray today, pray that you won't miss out on any special assignments God wants to give you! Rejoice that God will keep all the PROMISES He has made throughout the Scriptures. Knowing He will keep His unconditional promises made 4,000 plus years ago to Abraham gives Christians confidence that He will keep His unconditional promises to us!

**Day 15-        Read Revelation 7:9-17**

**Back on Day 12 I told you the 3 Purposes of the Tribulation I have seen as I have studied it:**

**1.        It's the beginning of the judgment of the Satanic world system**

We certainly saw that in Revelation chapter 6.

**2.        It will ready Jewish people for Jesus Christ's coming reign from Jerusalem**

That's exactly what we see in the first part of chapter 7!

**3.        It will give the people of the world last opportunities to turn to Jesus Christ**

That's exactly what we see in today's passage!

When we see the wonderful news of verse 9, immediately following the raising up of the 144,000 Jewish young men in the first 8 verses, we can only conclude that God has used the 144,000 to spread the gospel to all these people groups!

This is worth celebrating!

**John sees a number of people that could not be counted in Heaven praising God!**

**Fill in who these people include according to verse 9:**

ALL N\_\_\_\_\_ ALL T\_\_\_\_\_ ALL P\_\_\_\_\_ ALL T\_\_\_\_\_

One thing that is cool is that we don't have to guess WHEN these people came to know God's salvation – we are told in verse 14.

**Fill in the blank from verse 14 here:**

**These are the ones who came out of the great \_\_\_\_\_, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Now let's think about this for a moment!

Back in Revelation 5:9-10 we read of people in Heaven from every people group on earth BEFORE the Tribulation began! They are there because of the churches witness during the present church age.

But God so wants people to be saved that the gospel will again reach every people DURING the Tribulation, and God's chosen people the Jews will get in on it big time!

That is so awesome! Take a moment to thank God for the unprecedented soul harvest that will take place during the Tribulation.

**When we looked at the seal judgments of chapter 6, we saw from the fourth seal that up to that point in the seven-year tribulation, one-fourth of the world will die. Let's just speculate that the world will have 8 billion people in it as the Tribulation begins. That would be 2 Billion dying by the time of the fourth seal.**

**From the fifth seal it looked like a good number of those people will be killed for the faith. No wonder John sees an innumerable number of saved tribulation saints in Heaven! This very well could be the most saved in a short time ever, and that happening during earth's darkest days.**

On earth these folks had to face such difficult things. Many people throughout history have also seen lots of awful things. This sin-stained world is often very hard. It may be very hard for you right now, and you are not even living in the Tribulation.

Fortunately, this world is not all there is for those who believe!

**Look up and write down Romans 8:18 here:**

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We don't know all that Heaven will be about for the believer, but we learn some great things here in verses 15-17.

**Fill in the blanks from verses 15-17 that show what these saints in Heaven are experiencing:**

They are \_\_\_\_\_ the throne of God (verse 15)

They \_\_\_\_\_ Him day and night in His Temple (verse 15)

He who sits on the throne will \_\_\_\_\_ among them (verse 15)

They shall neither \_\_\_\_\_ anymore nor thirst anymore (verse 16)

The sun shall not strike them, nor the heat (verse 16)

The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall \_\_\_\_\_ them and lead them to living fountains of water (verse 17)

And God will wipe away every \_\_\_\_\_ from their eyes (verse 17)

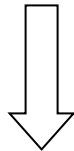
On earth these saints (and many of us) experienced things like loneliness, pain, hunger, heat, anxiety and sorrow. But once they died their souls were transported to Heaven (Luke 16:22) and everything changed, forever! It will for you and I as well!

As you pray today, thank God for His heart for everyone to experience Heaven instead of Hell. Pray for someone you know to repent and turn to Jesus, or back to Jesus. Give Jesus thanks that "salvation belongs to Him" and that Heaven awaits you after these days of "momentary affliction."

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



<b>Seal Judgments Ch. 6</b>	<b>Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9</b>	<b>Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16</b>
144,000 Ch. 7	Mighty Angel Ch. 10	Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17
Multitude Ch. 7	Two Witnesses Ch. 11	Fall of Babylon Ch. 18
	Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12	Marriage Supper Ch. 19
	Two Beasts Ch. 13	
	Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14	
	Angels Proclaim Ch. 14	





We want the whole world to experience that love, so we do what Jesus told us to do in Matthew 5:44 – love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute us.

**But here’s what we may have missed – we can pray for God to save someone and pray for God to stop them from hurting others at the same time.**

David loved King Saul even when King Saul mistreated him, but also cried out to God for justice, writing in Psalm 34...

“The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off remembrance of them from the Lord.” -Psalm 34:16

David knew his God keeps track of everything in Heaven, and wrote...

“You number my wanderings; You put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not written in Your book?” -Psalm 56:8

Many times God’s people have cried out to God and said “How long? – How long until you make what is wrong right, and shut wicked mouths, and bring righteousness to earth.”

One of Israel’s great singers, Asaph, did that in Psalm 74...

“O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?” -Psalm 74:10

**The innumerable prayers offered up by beleaguered saints over thousands of years were never forgotten – they have been stored up in Heaven, ready to be acted upon. In Revelation 6 under the 5<sup>th</sup> seal we saw more of the same kind of prayers offered by those in Heaven – and now the time has come to act on those prayers.**

Now do not forget that God can do more than one thing at the same time – He can be judging the Satanic world system AND be giving sinners their last chances to turn to Him.

There is mercy in all of these judgments. God could just end it all without any advance warning. The fact that He gives advance warning shows His heart for sinners to turn to Him before it really is too late!

**According to Revelation 8:7, what will be the result of the first trumpet judgment?**

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**According to verse 9, what will be the result of the second trumpet judgment?**

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**According to verse 11, what will be the result of the third trumpet judgment?**

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In verse 11 we are told that the name of the star that will fall is Wormwood. We aren't sure if that has any extra meaning, but it's easy to connect it with our word for 'bitter,' because the resulting environmental damage will make some drinking water bitter and kill those who drink it.

**According to verse 12, what will be the result of the fourth trumpet judgment?**

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**Do you see what's happening in these first 4 trumpet judgments?**

**God is continuing to take away the things the sinful world system has relied on, gifts from Him they have taken for granted.**

They said they wanted to have life on earth without God. "Fine," God says, "But you will have to do it without me keeping the universe fine-tuned for you like I have always done."

Some people on earth in the Tribulation will probably blame these things on global warming – the reality will be that God will not be preserving the worldwide balance that keeps fires from growing uncontrollably, the oceans livable for sea creatures, heavenly objects from colliding with earth, the fresh water drinkable, and the world's axis balance that gives us enough daylight. Just a little touch from the finger of God, and all of those things will get out of balance.

Verses 1-12 are hard to read, but verse 13 is absolutely startling to think about. God will send a flying eagle type angel around the world in the sky basically saying, "You ain't seen nothing yet – Woe to earth for what's still to come."

As you pray today, thank God that He will eventually answer all the "how long" prayers that His people have ever prayed, including yours!

**Day 17-        Read Revelation 9:1-12**

The star that fell from heaven in the third trumpet is an “it” according to verse 10, but the star that fell from heaven in this fifth trumpet is a “he.” It looked like the star in verse 10 was something like a shooting star or a meteorite, some kind of heavenly object fallen to earth.

But the star that we read of here seems to be a reference to a fallen angel, what we would call a demon. According to verse 11, it may be a reference to Satan himself. In verse 11 we read that he is the King over the demonic locusts found in the bottomless pit. The word Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek means “Destroyer,” and that is certainly what Satan wants to do. In John 10:10, Jesus said that “the thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy.” Sounds like Satan to me!

You may remember that we have already referred to Job 38:7, where God refers to the angels who sang at creation as “the morning stars.”

**Look up and read Isaiah 14:12-15. Now write Isaiah 14:12 here:**

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Lucifer actually means ‘bearer of light’ or could even be rendered ‘morning star.’ It refers to his original angelic beauty. In pride Lucifer wanted to rise up and be the King of heaven. Instead, he is the king of the bottomless pit. That’s what delusion will get you – Hell instead of Heaven!

When the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet blows, for 5 months time during the seven year Tribulation, Satan will be allowed by God to open the bottomless pit and let the demons there out to torment those who dwell on earth. It will be part of what God is doing to bring people to Himself before it’s too late.

**Look up and write down 2 Peter 2:4 here:**

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As we read the Bible it seems clear that Satan does work on the earth through many angels that fell with him (demons). We need only think of the many examples in the gospels of Jesus casting demons out of people.

But according to 2 Peter 2 and the one chapter book of Jude, some demons have already been made to go to the bottomless pit. Both books mention the wicked days when Noah lived and the days of Sodom and Gomorrah’s sins. Maybe the demons influencing those places are among those already in this bottomless pit. Obviously it won’t be a picnic when they come out of the pit.

**John REALLY struggles to relay what he saw in this chapter. In fact, chapter 9 has more occurrences of the words ‘like’ and ‘as’ than any in the ENTIRE Bible!**

No wonder there are so many different views of what John is referring to in chapter 9!

**I will leave it to others to speculate about the specifics, but let's stick with what is CLEAR in these verses.**

I think it is clear from what we have already seen that these 'locusts' are demons.

Think of what locusts do – they 'swarm' in and ravage everything in their path.

These demons will 'swarm' in and ravage many people during these 5 months.

**Write something that is clear from Revelation 9:4?**

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These demons will only be able to harm people, but not those who have God's seal on their foreheads. Do you remember who had God's seal on their foreheads? Look back to Revelation 7:3-4 if you have forgotten!

**Write something that is clear from Revelation 9:5-6?**

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Now this is absolutely compelling to me. These demons can inflict pain on those who dwell on earth, but cannot kill anyone. The stings will be so bad that many people will want to die during that time but will be unable to die. It will be Hell on earth for those 5 months.

Now you may be wondering – what is the point of all this? Why would God allow people to experience this Hell on earth for 5 months but not let them die?

**Believe it or not, I see God's mercy on full display here!**

**Why?**

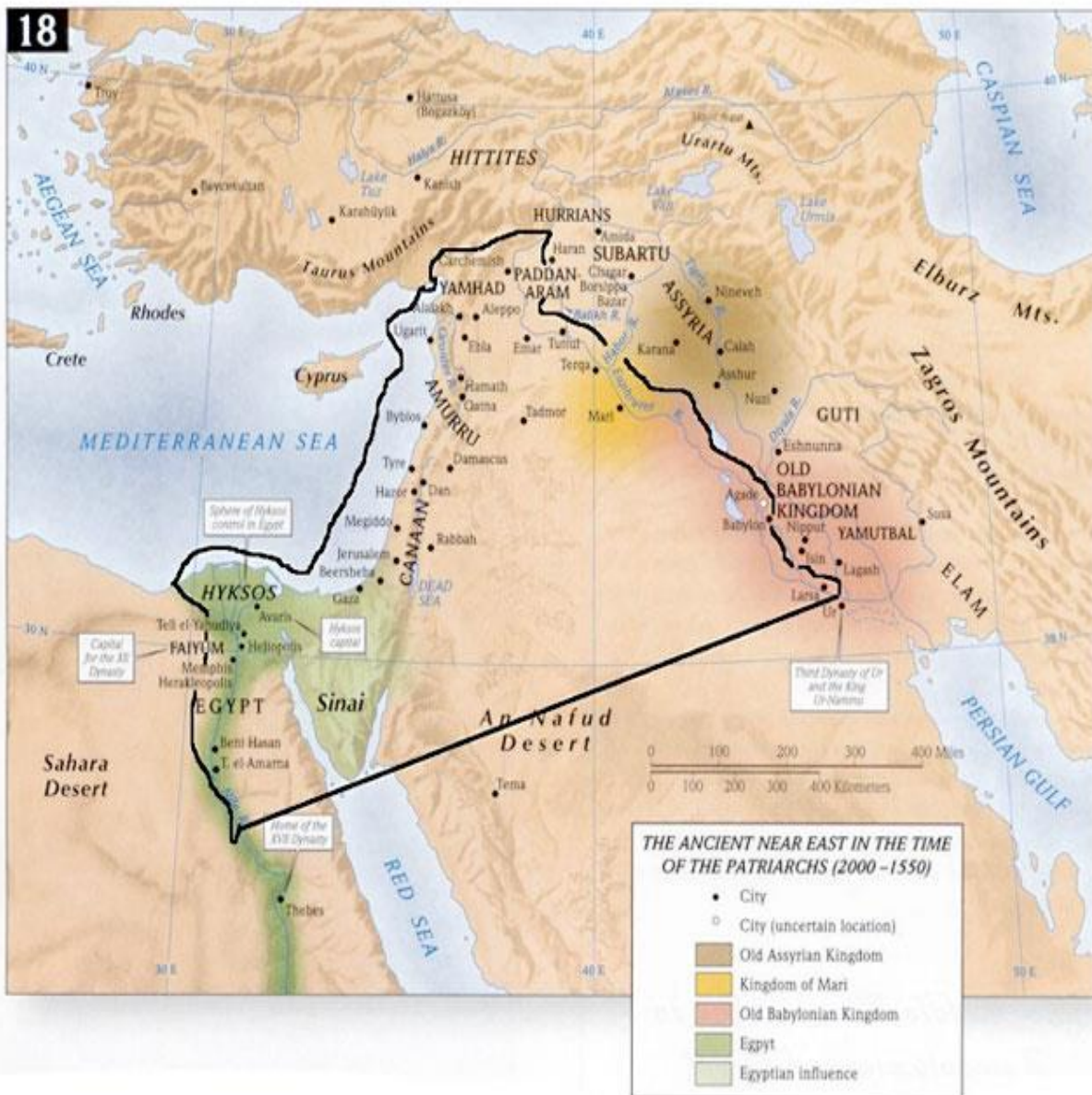
**Because there is something worse than 5 months of Hell on earth – and that's eternal Hell that will feature a torment that never ends for those who don't repent and turn to Christ.**

Maybe, just maybe, a few more hardened sinners will turn to Christ during this awful time.

Before this 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet was sounded, the flying angel said, "Woe, woe, woe" to those who dwell on earth because of what comes next. After the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, in verse 12 we read that one 'woe' is past, but there are still two more to come. WHOA!

As you pray today, ask God to allow you to help someone who doesn't know Christ come to know Jesus before they die and spend eternity separated from Jesus Christ in a place of torment.

## THE BIBLICAL LAND PROMISED TO ISRAEL:



## **Day 18-        Read Revelation 9:13-21**

We now come to the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment that will happen during the future seven-year tribulation period.

Since we are still in Revelation chapter 9, let me remind you that as John struggled to describe what he saw happening in these 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgments, chapter 9 has more occurrences of the words ‘as’ and ‘like’ than any other chapter in the Bible.

**If it was obvious that the ‘army’ from the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment was made up of demons from the bottomless pit, it seems obvious that the army of 200 million described in this 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment is made up of actual people, coming toward Israel from the North where the Euphrates River is.**

I think we need to be very careful here in our speculation about how this army relates to present countries. I was teaching Pastors in Africa one time to help them get ready to preach through The Book of Revelation. When we got to this passage, I told them that many Biblical scholars think the army from the north comes from either China or Russia. With over a billion people, China could easily have an army of 200 million.

I asked them what they thought. There was a long pause and I asked why they were so quiet, which was unusual for the very interactive time we had been having. Finally one brother said, “Here in Africa many of us believe that the army will be from the United States of America.”

As a Christian from the United States of America, I was kind of taken back by that! But I guess when they look around at the world their thoughts immediately turned to the main superpower right now, and the mighty USA army came to their mind.

**As I have reflected further on this, two lessons came to my mind.**

**First, we need to be careful with how much of our own background we bring to a biblical text.**

This often happens in America. Many false teachers preaching “restoration” theology twist biblical passages that were clearly given to Israel only as God’s covenant people and try to make America God’s covenant people. One famous Christian “Rabbi” did this after 9-11-2001. He ripped verses out of context from Isaiah and other passages and proclaimed to understand the hidden message of these passages that others had missed related to America. His sermons and books often promise to reveal the “secrets” and “mysteries” other preachers have missed. I believe the Bible teaches that such preachers of “CON” theology should be avoided. Unfortunately, the man’s books are best sellers, read enthusiastically rather than shunned.

**Second, when the Bible speaks of geographical details, we always need to read those texts with ISRAEL in the center of our thoughts.**

**The nations of the world are presented in the Bible as they RELATE to God’s elect nation of Israel and God’s past, present, and future work there.**

**So when we read of an army gathered at the Euphrates River during the time of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment, we surmise they are travelling from countries north of Israel southward into Israel. Genesis 15:18 describes the Euphrates as the Northeastern border of Israel.**

The Euphrates River is where Iraq now is, the home of ancient Babylon. Perhaps this army will include a mixture of the historic and modern enemies of Israel. It isn't hard to imagine a Muslim based army funded and helped by one or more of the larger countries.

The description of the way these armies kill a third of mankind in verses 16-18 sure does look like the 'horses' John saw included the kinds of modern tanks and weapons we now know about.

**Verses 14-15 let us know that when this 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment begins, four angels who have been bound at the great River Euphrates will be released to kill a third of mankind.**

**What kind of angels need to be bound? Circle the best answer from these two options:**

DEMONIC fallen angels

OR

Good angels

◇<

**Did you catch that twice in these verses it says that one-third of mankind will die during this 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment, once speaking of the four demonic angels as the cause and once of the army of 200 million as the cause?**

**Do you think this is speaking of two separate times of killing, or indicating that the four demons will be working through the army of 200 million? Write your answer here, as well as any other thoughts you have:**

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I believe this is just speaking of one incident, with the demons working through the army.

When we read about the 4<sup>th</sup> seal judgment in chapter 6, we learned that a fourth of the world would die at that time.

To get our heads around that, I asked us to consider that if there were 8 Billion people alive on earth at that time. That would mean 2 Billion dying then, leaving 6 Billion.

If another third die here, that would be another 2 Billion, leaving 4 Billion. That would mean that half of the world's population will die up to that time in the Tribulation. That is very sobering to think about indeed.

**Now a sobering reality that I have faced as a Pastor is that the more people hear the gospel of Jesus Christ without turning to Him the harder their hearts get. I have been blessed several times to see people turn to Jesus on their deathbed. But I have seen many others just get harder and harder hearts and die still rejecting Jesus.**

**That's what makes seeing verses 20-21 so sobering. Fill in the missing blanks here:**

But the \_\_\_\_\_ of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues,  
did not \_\_\_\_\_ of the works of their hands. -Revelation 9:20

They did not repent of their demon worship.

They did not repent of worshipping idols.

They did not repent of their murders.

They did not repent of their sorceries or witchcraft.

They did not repent of their thieving ways.

They did not repent of their sexual sin.

**BUT WHAT IF THEY HAD REPENTED, EVEN THIS LATE IN THE TRIBULATION?**

They would have been forgiven by God and welcomed into God's family.

The same way YOU WILL BE if you repent and turn to Jesus now for salvation.

If you don't, and the rapture of the church happened today, you will have to face these awful things we read about happening during the time of the Tribulation, and after that, the Lake of Fire. Jesus died for your sins so you wouldn't have to face any of it – won't you receive Him?

As you pray today, thank God for the many opportunities God gives people to meet Him in salvation so they won't have to meet Him in judgment. If you are saved, thank God now for that salvation and the personal relationship you have with Jesus!



**Day 19-        Read Revelation 10:1-11**

**We come now to the second interlude section that occurs in chapters 6-19. The first was in chapter 7, happening between the seal judgments and the trumpet judgments. This interlude will be longer, covering chapters 10-14. The bowl judgments follow.**

I have already told you my view that the seals, trumpets, and bowls follow each other in chronological order. I believe the interlude material fits sometime within the seven years of Tribulation, but is not necessarily in chronological order.

**I love the description of the Mighty Angel in Revelation 10:1-2.**

The Mighty Angel is seen coming down from Heaven, clothed with a cloud.

Who did we read about in Revelation 1:7 that is coming with clouds?

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The Mighty Angel is seen with a rainbow on his head.

Who did we read about in Revelation 4:3 that had a rainbow around him?

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The Mighty Angel's face was like the sun.

Who did we read about in Revelation 1:16 whose countenance was like the sun?

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The Mighty Angel's feet were like pillars of fire.

Who did we read about in Revelation 1:15 whose feet were like fine brass refined in a fire?

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This Mighty Angel could be an angel like Michael or Gabriel, but I think this is a reference to Jesus. God was sometimes known as the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament (Gen. 16:7-11).

**In his vision John sees this Mighty Angel come down from Heaven with a little book in His hand and firmly plant His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land, and cry out as dominantly as a lion roars!**

I love thinking about this!

If you or I tried to firmly plant a foot on water, we would sink!

But standing on water is no problem for He who walked on water, the One Revelation 5:5 called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah!

**I think the symbolism of this vision is clear – After reading of the intense events that will characterize the trumpet judgments, John receives a vision of who is in total control – the Lord Jesus.**

**Having His foot firmly planted on the sea probably represents Jesus' claim on all Gentile nations (See Psalm 72:8; Isaiah 57:20, Isaiah 60:5). Having His foot firmly planted on the land probably represents Jesus' claim on Israel and the Promised LAND.**

As for the little book, verses 8-11 make clear that we should connect that with these unfolding prophecies that John is being given. The contents are sweet to the mouth because they will culminate in Jesus' return to rule, but bitter in the stomach because of what Israel and the world has to go through before Revelation 20 comes.

Let's look at two Old Testament passages that state how hard the Tribulation will be for Israel and the world.

**Look up and write Jeremiah 30:7 here:**

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In the book of Genesis, Jacob was the son of Isaac, the grandson of Abraham. Together the three are referred to as the Patriarchs, or 'fathers' of Israel. In Genesis 32 God changed Jacob's name to Israel. For Israel, the Tribulation will be the time of Jacob's trouble (it is called this in Jeremiah 30:7), leading to the time of Jacob's salvation. How much trouble? According to Zechariah 13:8, two-thirds of Jews will be killed during the Tribulation. That's the same percentage of European Jews who died in the Holocaust. Selah.

**Look up and fill in the missing blanks from Romans 11:25-29 now.**

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be \_\_\_\_\_ of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gentiles has come in. And so \_\_\_\_\_ Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from \_\_\_\_\_; For this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins." Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake,\* but concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ they are BELOVED for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_. For the gifts and calling of God are \_\_\_\_\_. -Romans 11:25-29

\*This refers to the kind of first century hostility Jews like Saul himself first had to the gospel before he was saved and went by the name Paul. Paul didn't view Jews as enemies at all, seen in his willingness in Romans 9:1-3 to take on himself the punishment due unbelieving Jews.

Revelation 10 reminds us that Jesus' foot is firmly planted on the Promised Land, and His plan to save Israel will be unfolding during the time of the Tribulation. As for the Gentile Nations...

**Look up and write down Obadiah 1:15 here:**

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**Look up and write down Ezekiel 30:3 here:**

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**Revelation 10 reminds us that despite the upheaval that will characterize the Tribulation period, Jesus' foot will be firmly planted on the "sea" of Gentile nations, and His plan to judge the Satanic world system, restore Israel, and give sinners their last chances to repent will be right on track!**

Before we finish for today, we need to note one other thing. Look at Revelation 10:4...

When the Lion roars, there were seven "thunders!"

John saw what they were, but was forbidden to write about it!

That means that between the trumpet and bowl judgments there are somehow thunder judgments. That ought to keep us very humble and keep us from thinking we can have a full grasp of all that will happen during the time of the tribulation!

As you pray today, thank God for the clear picture from Revelation 10 that Jesus is in control of our destiny! Tell Him that you trust Him no matter how your life unfolds.

## **Day 20-        Read Revelation 11:1-14**

**To get the most out of chapter 11, we need to start by taking a closer look at the prophecy that was given to Daniel in Daniel 9:24-27. Allow me to walk you through the passage. My notes are in italics after the actual text of Daniel.**

Seventy weeks (*Literally, 70 'sevens'*) are determined for your people (*Jews*) and your city (*Jerusalem*), to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity (*Christ's atoning death for sinners as Isaiah 53 describes*), to bring in everlasting righteousness (*Christ's coming reign from Jerusalem as Zechariah 14 describes*), to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy (*glory of the Lord back in the Temple as Ezekiel 44 describes*).

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem (*Artaxerxes, 445 BC*), until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks (*literally 7 sevens, 49 years*), and sixty-two weeks (*literally 62 sevens, 434 years*);

The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times (*the book of Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of Jerusalem amidst opposition within those first 7 sevens of 49 years*).

And after the sixty-two weeks (*which is after the seven "weeks" so  $7 + 62 = 69$  "weeks." 69 sevens of years is 483 years. So 483 LUNAR years after the decree of 445 BC*) Messiah will be cut off, but not for Himself (*Jesus' death was in 30 AD, 483 LUNAR years after Artaxerxes decree. The rejection of the Messiah by Israel caused God's 'stopwatch' to stop after the 483 years, before the last 7 years begin, creating a parenthesis in time we call the church age*).

And the people (*Roman Empire*) of the prince who is to come (*the End Times Antichrist*) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined (*In AD 70 the city and Temple were destroyed by the Romans, which Jesus predicts in Luke 21:20-24*).

Then he (*the End Times Antichrist*) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (*referred to by scholars as the 70<sup>th</sup> "week" of Daniel, the coming 7-year tribulation period described in Revelation 6-19. The implementation of this peace deal will re-start God's prophetic stopwatch*).

But in the middle of the week (*3.5 years into the Tribulation*), he (*the End Times Antichrist*) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate (*Jesus calls this the Abomination of Desolation*).

Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate (*The coming of Jesus as the Son of Man and His defeat of Antichrist, described in Daniel 7, Zechariah 14, Jesus' Olivet Discourse, and Revelation 19*).

**I hope I haven't lost you!**

**Hopefully that helped you see how important Daniel 9 is for Bible interpretation.**

**The key for us as it relates to the time of the tribulation is Daniel 9:27.**

**From Daniel 9:27 we see these key points:**

- The Tribulation starts when the Antichrist confirms a covenant with Israel and others
- The Tribulation will last 7 years
- The Tribulation can be divided into two 3 ½ year periods
- At the midpoint the Antichrist will betray Israel and stop Temple worship of God
- The Antichrist will continue to desolate Israel until Christ's return (consummation)

As I write this in April of 2020, there is no Temple in Jerusalem. When Jerusalem was overrun by the Romans in 70 AD, the Temple was destroyed. It has never been rebuilt.

But it is the heart cry of the Jewish people and Christians who love Israel for that Temple to be rebuilt. Many plans are underway in Israel for Temple worship when it is rebuilt. Jews often pray two prayers at the western wall (what remains of the Temple complex) – for the Temple to be rebuilt, and for the Messiah to come. Around the world Jews say this when they celebrate Passover: “Next year in Jerusalem.”

In Revelation 11:1-2, an angel tells John to measure the temple. In the context he seems clearly to be talking about the actual Temple in Jerusalem. At the end of the chapter we will read of God's Temple in Heaven, but this one is back on earth.

It is obvious that sometime between now and then Israel's Temple will be rebuilt. Perhaps the covenant that Antichrist makes with Israel and other nations will pave the way for the Temple to be quickly rebuilt!

**What do you think the point is of the angel telling John to measure the Temple in verse 1?**

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In commenting on this passage, Warren Wiersbe mentions the time he sold his house. Before the Wiersbe's moved out the new owners came in and made some measurements for reservations. The Wiersbe's never would have let someone come in off the street and do that, but had no problem with the new owners doing it. After all, they were about to move in.

**Something like that is happening here. God is encouraging His people by letting them know that He owns the Temple and His plans for it and its people will be fulfilled!**

That probably also explains the snub in verse 2 to the unrighteous Gentiles who have tread the holy city underfoot and ruled in Jerusalem from the days of Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. God is clearly saying their time ruling over Jerusalem is coming to an end.

**Look up and write down Luke 21:24 here:**

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At the end of verse 2 we read that Gentile domination over Jerusalem is now down to 42 months. That squares perfectly with Daniel 9:27 speaking of the same thing happening over the last 3 ½ years before Messiah's return (consummation). It's all coming together.

**Now it gets really interesting in verse 3.**

**The angel lets John know that there will be power given to Two Witnesses who will preach (prophecy) for 1,260 days. 1,260 days also comes to 3 ½ years, doesn't it?!**

**I believe these 2 witnesses will actually be preaching during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, not the last 3 ½ years. Here's two reasons it makes sense.**

First, Antichrist will be working hard to have a one world government that completely leaves God out. But here are two guys who say things he can't control! He will hate them, and anytime anything goes wrong on earth, he will blame them. The lost world will join him in that hate.

Second, in chapter 7 we read of 144,000 Jewish witnesses who come to Christ and witness for Him. I believe it will be these two witnesses who will inspire the 144,000.

**There has been much speculation about the identity of these two witnesses.**

**Usually Elijah is included for two reasons. First, God worked miracles through him, including a drought like the one described here. Second, the great Malachi 4:5 prophecy. Look up and write Malachi 4:5 here:**

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Some think the other witness is Enoch who appears in Genesis 5:23-24. Both he and Elijah (2 Kings 2) were caught up to Heaven rather than die. Since these prophets are killed in Revelation 11:7, this would mean they finally tasted death, like everyone except the rapture generation.

Some think the other witness is John the Baptist because of the important role he had in being a "type of Elijah" at Christ's first coming. One problem with that is that John 10:41 makes clear that John didn't perform any miracles.

**I think the second witness will be Moses. God used Moses to strike Egypt with plagues, and no one person besides Jesus, King David, or Father Abraham would command as much respect from Jews. It is also noteworthy that it was Moses and Elijah that were seen with Jesus at His transfiguration (Matthew 17).**

Regardless of who these two are, God will use them greatly to preach truth during the Tribulation. Verse 4 calls them two olive trees and two lampstands. In Zechariah 4 we read of flowing olive oil being a reference to the Holy Spirit. We know that Lampstands give light. These two men will be filled with the Spirit and shine light on the world's need of Jesus – and the world will hate them. The world thought they were done with 'Bible thumpers' at the Rapture!

**I love how verse 7 says that they won't be harmed until they finish their testimony!**

**That's just another reference to God being in control during the Tribulation.**

We will read more about the beast that kills them in chapter 13. But nothing can happen to these two witnesses until God allows it to for His own purposes. The same thing is true for us. Lottie Moon once proclaimed when she was being persecuted, "I am immortal until God says it's my time!" She was not worried about what man could do to her!

**Look up and write down Matthew 10:28 here:**

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Oh for more believers now who fear God instead of men! A person who fears God cares more what He thinks than what people think – And God uses them greatly!

After their testimony is finished, the two witnesses are killed and their bodies left to rot in the street of Jerusalem. How sad it is to see Jerusalem figuratively called Sodom and Egypt because of the idolatry and immorality that many will be practicing there in those days.

There was a time when interpreters could not understand how the whole world could know these guys were dead so quickly, but we in the "selfie" generation know! Their death will be the number one trending topic on social media! Everyone who hates God at that time will be glad not to be tormented by the preaching and the miracles of the two witnesses!

**There are some past Bible events I would love to have been around to see, and here is one future one – after 3 ½ days the breath of God enters the two witnesses, they stand on their feet, and people look on open-mouthed as they are 'raptured' to Heaven!**

But there won't be much time for gawking, because a great earthquake happens at that same time and a tenth of the buildings in Jerusalem fall, and 7,000 are killed. The rest of the people could only attribute these doings to God and gave God glory. Perhaps a good number will finally make their peace with God in that moment, as part of what God is doing in Israel and the world. John tells us that at this point the second woe will be past, with one to go.

As you pray today, thank God that He always has a witness (or two) getting His message out to the world!

**Day 21-        Read Revelation 11:15-19**

**The Return of Jesus Christ to earth that will happen at the end of the seven-year tribulation period is among the most anticipated events in the entire Bible. God's enemies will be dealt with decisively and Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem.**

It is not surprising that several times in The Book of Revelation the action stops and we again see celebration that the Return of Jesus Christ is close to being realized. Today's passage is another of those celebrations!

In verse 15 we read that the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and LOUD voices in Heaven exclaimed, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever."

This of course goes right along with the concept of Jesus having the keys that represent authority in both Heaven and earth. Jesus is the King of Kings, and that of course makes him the rightful King of their kingdoms. I love this quote:

**"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'"**  
**-Abraham Kuyper**

Psalm two helps us so much here. In Psalm 2:2 we read that the kings of the earth align themselves against the LORD and against His Messiah (Anointed One), desiring to be free of Heaven's restraints upon them.

**Look up and write what the LORD says to His Son, the Messiah, in Psalm 2:8...**

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The Son of God spoken of here is Jesus the Messiah (Christ). Even before He came to earth the first time, the plan to redeem the earth was being set in motion. That plan would involve redemption for those who turn to Him for salvation, but judgment for those who reject Him.

In Psalm 2:10 the kings of the earth are instructed to be wise in what they do with the Son.

**Fill in the missing blanks for Psalm 2:11-12 here:**

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. \_\_\_\_\_ the Son,  
lest He be angry, and you perish in the way. When His \_\_\_\_\_ is kindled  
but a little. Blessed are \_\_\_\_\_ those who put their trust in Him.

-Psalm 2:11-12

In Revelation 11:17-18 the 24 elders anticipate that the moment of reckoning is close at hand.



You may want to underline the first part of verse 18 in your Bible, the part that says, “the nations were angry, and Your wrath has come.” Circle the word wrath. For all who are unrepentant, the return of Christ is a time of wrath.

You may also want to underline the phrase in verse 18 that says, “And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, small and great.” Circle the word reward. For all the redeemed, there is a coming time of reward!

**Many Bible scholars weigh in on WHEN this time of reward will happen. I am just excited THAT it will come!**

**The scriptures teach that when a person believes in Jesus, they will not experience future punishment for their sins. Jesus was punished in the believer’s place, and all believers will be rewarded by getting to go to Heaven!**

**That would be wonderful enough, but believers receive the additional promise that they will be rewarded one day for what they do for Jesus after becoming a believer!**

**Look up and fill in the blanks from I Corinthians 3:11-15 here:**

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone \_\_\_\_\_ on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the \_\_\_\_\_ will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will \_\_\_\_\_ each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a \_\_\_\_\_. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be \_\_\_\_\_, yet so as through fire. -I Corinthians 3:11-15

The fire spoken of here is not Hell fire, but refining fire. When gold is put through refining fire, the dross is consumed and the gold is seen more clearly. When straw is put through fire, it burns up.

Imagine for a moment everything you think, say and do turned into either gold or straw, and accumulated into a big pile that was next to you when you stand before this “Reward” Judgment of Jesus Christ (see 2 Cor. 5:10). Then imagine the Lord putting the torch to the pile, and it beginning to burn. All that would be left is what was thought, spoken, and done for Jesus Christ. What was left after the refiner’s fire would be your rewards.

**What a wonderful motivation the doctrine of rewards gives to believers! To think that Jesus Himself will reward our prayers, praises, giving, helping, and witnessing done in His name! No wonder the apostle John wrote in 2 John 8, “Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”**

Or as the great missionary C.T. Studd said, “Only one life ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

**Some biblical scholars think this time of reward will happen for the church right after the rapture, others think it will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb described in Revelation**

**19, immediately before Christ's return to earth. I don't know, but as I said earlier, I am just glad it WILL happen! What a generous God we serve!**

The end of verse 18 is so sobering – God will “destroy those who destroy the earth.” Make sure you will get in on the rewarding rather than the reckoning!

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**Now according to verse 19, what exists in Heaven, and what is there within it?**

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This is amazing news! There is actually a Heavenly Temple that has the ark of the Covenant!

We read in Exodus of the earthly portable Tabernacle and in Second Chronicles about the first earthly Temple that Solomon had built. God promised to meet with His people Israel at both those places. At the consecration of both of those structures God's glory filled those places.

Nebuchadnezzar's troops destroyed Solomon's Temple in 586 BC, and the ark of the covenant has not been seen since. Several years before Solomon's Temple was destroyed, Ezekiel the Prophet reported that he saw God's glory leave the Temple due to the people's sins (Ezekiel chapters 9-11). When Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple in 516 BC, it did not include the missing ark of the covenant and there is no description of God's glory settling on it.

Interestingly, Ezekiel also was given prophecies in chapters 40-48 about the earthly Temple that will exist in the end times golden age of Israel that we call the Millennium. We will read more about that time in Revelation chapter 20. And what did Ezekiel see return to that earthly 'Millennium' Temple in Ezekiel chapters 43-44? The glory of God!

**When John saw that Heavenly Temple and the ark in Revelation 11:19, perhaps he remembered what Ezekiel had written and was given even more confidence that God is the God of glory, that He is in control, and His will must be done on earth as it is in Heaven.**

As you pray today, thank God that He is the ultimate Promise Keeper. You can trust the One who holds the past, present, and future in His hands!

**Day 22-        Read Revelation 12:1-18**

**If I had to pick a favorite chapter in The Book of Revelation, it would be this chapter.**

Although it speaks of a time during the coming Tribulation, I love how it basically summarizes the entire Bible. Verses 11-12 have given me as much encouragement as a believer as any verses in the Bible.

**In verse 1 the word “sign” appears. This is the first of seven times the word sign is used from here until the end of Revelation.**

A sign is a symbol. So the woman spoken of in verse 1 is not a literal woman, but a symbol of something. She reminds us of Eve, the world’s first mother who was given the great prophecy of Genesis 3:15 that her “Seed” would crush Satan. And because verse 5 references her giving birth to Jesus, she reminds us of Mary.

But in the context the woman clearly represents the nation of Israel. The description of the woman in verse 1 immediately makes us think of the dream that Jacob and Rachel’s son Joseph had back in Genesis 37:9-10, referring to Israel and its 12 tribes.

In verse 6 we’re told that she will flee into the wilderness for 1,260 days, or 3 ½ years. That corresponds to numerous prophecies about the time of Israel’s Great Tribulation. It won’t be Eve or Mary experiencing those 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation, it will be Israel.

This is not the only passage that reminds us that Jesus Christ came from within Israel.

**Look up and fill in the missing blanks from Romans 9:4-5 –**

Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the \_\_\_\_\_, the glory, the \_\_\_\_\_, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, \_\_\_\_\_ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.    -Romans 9:4-5

Jesus of course is the Child. Genesis 3:15 said that the child of the woman would crush Satan’s head. Isaiah 7:14 said He would be born of a virgin. Micah 5:2 said He would be born in Bethlehem, although He had always existed! Isaiah 9:6-7 said the Child would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and would rule the nations from David’s throne. Isaiah 53 indicated that He would die in the sinner’s place of judgment, but prolong His days and see the results of His work. His glorious return has been the theme of The Book of Revelation. Verse 5 tells us what happened after His first coming – He was “caught up” to God! Jesus is the Child!

**Verses 3-4 tell us about another sign. According to this chapter, who is the Dragon, and what other names is he called in this chapter?**

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Now it's very important that you understand that a sign is a symbol. When you think of Satan, don't think of an actual dragon or a man in a red suit with a pitchfork in his hand. The symbol is there to help us form a picture of the reality. In this case, of how awful Satan is.

Verse 3 lets us know that he has "seven heads and ten horns." We will actually see this explained in Revelation chapter 17. Satan works through human instruments, and heads and horns represent rulers and kingdoms. Check out this quote from long ago...

The "seven heads" are the seven Roman kings from whom the Antichrist comes. The "ten horns" are the ten kings of the end of time. -Victorinus of Petovium, who died in 304 AD

**Verse 4 gives us some priceless information about Satan and his demons.**

We have already read about the angel Satan's own fall described in Isaiah 14. We have read that other angels are also fallen and are called demons. Here we learn that one-third of the angels (stars) fell when Satan fell. You don't have to a math major to answer the next question...

**According to the information given in verse 4, what fraction of angels are good angels?**

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In this great chapter we learn many things, including that one-third of angels are now demons, and that means that two-thirds of angels remained good angels.

**Now in verses 7-9 we really get down to business! We read of a war in Heaven between Michael and good angels versus Satan and bad angels, and Satan was cast out of Heaven along with his angels.**

Now think about how deceived Satan is. He thinks he is on a par with God Himself, but he can't even whip his fellow angel Michael! Isn't that awesome? Don't ever think of Satan as being on par with God – he is not!

**Now chapter 12 obviously has implications for the entire history of the universe as well as the coming Tribulation time.**

**What we just read could be something that happened in Heaven (the third Heaven, where God's throne is) before Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that still has ramifications today.**

**It could also refer to an actual battle that will happen in what we would call the first heaven (sky) or second heaven (space) during the seven-year tribulation.**

Maybe it has a double fulfilment, using the first casting out of Satan to speak of a casting out to come in the time of the tribulation. I am not sure.

**What I am sure of is that Satan's history seems to be one of increasingly being limited in what he can do by God.**

Think about it: as Lucifer he lost his status and privileges in the Highest Heaven.

Ephesians 2:2 calls him the Prince of the power of the air, and I Peter 5:8 says that he roams the earth like a roaring lion. But Revelation 12 makes clear that that the “air” part will come to an end. All that will be left is roaming the earth.

In Revelation 20:1-3 we will read that Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit during Christ’s 1,000 year reign on earth.

Finally, in Revelation 20:10 we read that the old Devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever, along with all his demons.

Unfortunately for the nation of Israel, the end of Revelation 12 makes clear that for the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Satan will direct the hatred he has for God at Israel and others who turn to Christ. It is gratifying to read in verse 16 that God will help Israel as she hides out during that awful time, even having the earth “swallow up” a flood Satan directs toward her. We will read more about that protection in the chapters to come.

**Let’s zero in on the beautiful words of verses 10-11. Fill in the missing blanks:**

Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven, “Now \_\_\_\_\_, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they \_\_\_\_\_ him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their \_\_\_\_\_, and they did not love their lives to the death.” -Revelation 12:10-11

These verses always give me goosebumps.

Satan loved to remind God that we are sinners who don’t deserve to go to Heaven. And Satan was right in that assessment of us – we are sinners who DO deserve to go to Hell as punishment for our sins. What Satan wasn’t figuring in was God taking care of our problem Himself by sacrificing His own Son to deal with our sins. What Jesus did for sinners on the cross shuts Satan’s accusing mouth!

You probably know your theology well enough to know that what overcame Satan was the blood of the Lamb, PERIOD!

Our testimony doesn’t add one thing to what Jesus did on the cross for us. So what does it mean when it says they overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb AND the word of their testimony?

Our testimony is us pointing to what Jesus did for us on the cross and letting the world know that we are staking all of our hope for eternal life on our faith in what Jesus did FOR us! In other words, those who have that faith in Jesus will be saved and overcome Satan. Those who reject Jesus will not be saved and be forever in the lake of Fire with Satan.

As you pray today, tell Jesus that you understand that the only reason you will have eternal life with Him is because of what He did for you on the cross!

**Day 23-        Read Revelation 13:1-10**

**Revelation chapter 13 gives us much more information about Satan's unholy trinity that will rule earth during the Tribulation. In today's passage we will learn more about the Antichrist who will rule politically. Tomorrow we will learn more about his False Prophet.**

**What does John call the Antichrist in verse 1? Fill in the missing blank:**

I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ rising up out of the sea.

I like John's description of the Antichrist as a BEAST! Beasts tear things up, and this Beast will tear the world up during the Tribulation. A man or woman of God loves people and uses things, The Antichrist will use people and love things, particularly his power over the world.

Now we saw earlier that the sea can be a description of Gentile nations. I believe here John has a specific sea in mind that relates to Israel. It may help you to turn to the maps in the back of your Bible to answer the next question.

**What major Sea is on Israel's western border (the left side of a map of Israel):**

- A. The Mediterranean Sea
- B. The Sea of Galilee
- C. The Jordan River
- D. The Dead Sea

On the east side of Israel, the Jordan River flows between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea (they are really more like lakes). The massive Mediterranean Sea forms Israel's western border, so the correct answer is A.

**In John's day, what massive empire wrapped around the Mediterranean Sea? Here's a hint: It rhymes with "Yeoman" –**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Empire

John is using cool language to tell us that the Beast will somehow rise up from the remnants of the Roman Empire. This is exactly what Daniel the prophet explained to Babylonian kings in both Daniel chapter 2 and Daniel chapter 7.

In Daniel chapter 2 there is described a huge image with a head of fine gold, a chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet with ten toes that were partly iron and partly clay.

**Turn to Daniel 2 and fill in the missing blanks from the end of verse 38 through verse 44.**

Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar was told...

YOU are this head of gold. But after you shall arise \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom (Persia), inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze (Greece), which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron (Rome), inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and \_\_\_\_\_ all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of

potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be \_\_\_\_\_; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile (a future 'Roman' empire). As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings (the future ten toes on the feet of the image) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be \_\_\_\_\_. -Daniel 2:38-44

In Daniel chapter 7 the same future kingdoms are spoken of again, but this time using the imagery of beasts coming out of the Great Sea (a reference to the Mediterranean Sea).

This time the Roman Empire is presented as a dreadful beast with iron teeth, and having ten horns (Daniel 7:7). Remember that horns represent power. Daniel sees a future little horn (a reference to the future Antichrist) rise up among the ten horns (Daniel 7:8). Daniel says this "beast" who speaks pompous words against God will be destroyed when the Son of Man comes (Daniel 7:11-14). Revelation 19:20 says the same thing! Now we really don't need to guess about a lot of this. Look at what Daniel 7 explicitly says –

**The fourth beast shall be a kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them...He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time (1), and times (2), and half a time (1/2). -Daniel 7:23-25**

Note that a time (1) plus times (2) plus half a time (1/2) equals 3 1/2 years, the same time spoken of in Revelation 13! Daniel seven goes on to say that after those 3 1/2 years the Most High will bring in His Kingdom. Revelation will say the same thing!

**Now here's something very interesting: when the Roman Empire broke up, it turned into the nations of Europe. In more recent years, those nations have tried to unite but have really struggled because of their different languages and cultures and human pride. That sounds like Daniel chapter two, doesn't it? The "toes" of the beast will be partly iron and partly clay, struggling to stick together! Somehow Antichrist will bring them together for Satan's one-world purposes during the Tribulation.**

Now here's something else that's very interesting. Close to ten of those European nations were colonizing nations, extending their "empires" all over the world. We think of all the nations that were for a time under English, Spanish, and other European colonizing countries. To this day, almost every country on earth has an anthem that sounds like a European anthem. The world is greatly influenced by European nations that were greatly influenced by the Roman Empire, that was influenced by the preceding Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires.

Babylon itself goes back to the spirit of Antichrist expressed at the Tower of Babel. The Antichrist will bring it all together in one-world government during the Tribulation. Many in the world already long for such a leader...

**“We do not need another committee. We have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man and be he god or devil, we will recognize him.” -Paul-Henri Spaak, first President of the United Nations General Assembly**

We will discover more about the 7 “heads” of this beast when we get to chapter 17.

**According to Revelation 13:2, who gives the Beast his power, throne, and authority, and who is that a reference to (see chapter 12 if you need to)?**

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Verse 3 indicates that the Beast will survive some kind of wound that should have taken his life. That will add to the belief of many in the world that he is invincible, like a god-man. People on earth will praise him and Satan and say, “Who is like the Beast? Who can defeat him?” And during that time they will be deceived enough into thinking that the answer is “nobody.”

Just like Daniel the prophet said repeatedly, this Antichrist will blaspheme God, the things of God, and the people of God.

**Daniel 9:27 tells us that the Antichrist will betray Israel at the midpoint of the seven-year tribulation and that those last 3 ½ years will include abominations against Israel.**

**Revelation 13:5 gives us the same time period – 42 months.**

By now we have seen the last half of the seven-year tribulation referred to in several equal ways:

3 ½ years       =       1,260 days       =       42 months       =       time, times, ½ a time

Anyway you count those days, they will be days of ‘Great’ Tribulation for Israel and the world. But at the end of that awful time, Jesus Christ will return and Israel and the world will experience its best days ever!

Those who dwell on the earth will worship the Beast for a short time, but according to Revelation 13:10, the one who has led others into captivity to Satan will himself go into captivity. He who killed others bodies but couldn’t kill their souls will himself be killed.

In Revelation 19:20 we will see this Beast and his False Prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire, perhaps as the very first humans there. Revelation 20:10 says the Devil will be confined with them there forever and ever. After the coming Great White Throne Judgment Revelation 20:14 says that all other humans who aren’t written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will join them there.

But NOBODY needs to join them there! Everyone on earth can meet Jesus as the Lamb of God who took away their sin rather than the Lion who will judge the rebellious world...

**If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. -Romans 10:9-10**

As you pray today, confess out loud your belief in your heart of what Jesus has done for you. Say, “Jesus, you died for me, I will live for you!”



## **Day 24-        Read Revelation 13:11-18**

We now turn our thoughts to another Beast that John saw that will be in cahoots with the Antichrist during the coming Tribulation. The Antichrist was referred to as the beast rising out of the sea, whereas this “False Prophet” is referred to as the beast coming up out of the earth.

The last thing we saw coming out of the earth was the demonic locust hordes coming from the bottomless pit at the sounding of the fifth trumpet in Revelation chapter 9. Perhaps this refers to the demonic origin of this False Prophet’s religious teaching!

In verse 11 John says that this beast had two horns like a lamb but spoke like a dragon. My thoughts immediately turn to one of America’s most popular preachers at the moment, a Texas pastor who looks and speaks meekly like a lamb, but when he opens his mouth the doctrine of demons comes out. He always emphasizes what people can do if they put their mind to it, and often includes a verse or two out of context that reduces God to being a heavenly cheerleader for us as we try to achieve OUR goals! People around the world lap up his man-centered approach.

**According to Revelation 13:12, who will this False Prophet cause the earth to worship?**

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How will this religious leader convince the world not to worship God but to worship this human leader? Verse 13 gives us an important clue.

**According to Revelation 13:13, what will this False Prophet be able to do?**

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These words should be very sobering to professing Christians right now. There are many churchgoers who don’t get excited about their faith unless something “wows” them. They are always looking for the next “experience” they feel they need to sustain their faith.

I am not simply referring to some of our Pentecostal Christian friends that do not feel like they have really worshipped unless they have seen a miraculous display of healing or speaking in tongues or a supposed ‘word of knowledge’ spoken over someone. I think we are all aware of examples of false teaching Charlatans that have manipulated some of those true brothers and sisters. I AM concerned for those fellow Christians whose worship is more “experience” based than “Word of God” based, but NOT ONLY for them.

My concern ALSO includes many from Evangelical Bible believing backgrounds that also have to be “wowed” by exciting music or ‘vibrant, relevant preaching’ presented with all the bells and whistles modern technology can bring us. Many collect these experiences of going to this or that concert, or this or that celebrity teacher conference event with the same zeal that I collected rock concert stubs before I was a believer. I lived from experience to experience, having to be wowed in ever increasing ways, and bored out of my mind until the next big experience.

**In many ways what we are told to do as Christians when we gather together is simple stuff, and was meant by God to be the basis of a life lived consistently for His glory. Jesus is to be the celebrity in our worship, no singer or preacher.**

When the Bible is opened and preached, those who have walked with Christ a while should be able to see coming from the text the main points the preacher goes on to make. And then when we leave each other's presence we are to apply all week long the Truth we are certain of!

Now do not get me wrong, I love and appreciate much of the wonderful Bible based music and preaching that is so accessible to us now! But weigh in your heart if Jesus is really enough for you, and whether His plan to put you in a simple and somewhat predictable Bible preaching church is enough for you! If you have to be "wowed" to worship, Jesus Himself may not be as central to your worship as He is supposed to be.

**During the time of the Tribulation, the False Prophet will be empowered by Satan to make the most of the human tendency to be impressed with miracles. The False Prophet will be clear that he is working these miracles on behalf of the Antichrist.**

**According to Revelation 13:14, what will he tell people to make?**

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Worshipping God only and not making idols are the first two commandments God gave to Israel in Exodus chapter 20. As people scorn the God of the Bible and are "wowed" by the False Prophet's miraculous signs, they will join him in worshipping the Antichrist.

Verse 15 was non-sensible for much of the world's history. Now with smartphones in our hands and smartwatches on our wrists and smartglasses on our faces, it is easier to imagine how the Beast could speak to everyone on earth at once. Perhaps there will be several texts or tweets or posts a day from the Beast telling everyone what will be expected of them.

As for the second part of verse 15, that says those who don't worship the Beast may be killed, that's not so hard to imagine either. We know that there are already drones that can strike people from above. That gives new meaning to verse 13 saying that the False Prophet can bring fire down from the sky (first heaven).

During the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, some authorities used overhead drones to speak down to people about complying with government decrees. It's not a stretch to think of those same drones firing on those who don't do what the "Dear Leader" says to do.

It gets even scarier when you add in verses 16-17!

**Verse 16 says that sometime during the coming Tribulation, it will become compulsory for EVERY human being to receive a mark on either their right hand or their forehead.**

**According to verse 17, what will you be unable to do if you do not have that mark?**

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Now try to imagine for a moment how your life would be affected if you could not buy anything. Some of you who are used to living off of the land would do better than others, but it would still be hard. I would starve to death!

Once again we read something that would have been hard to understand in previous centuries. But now we know that many chips have already been implanted in animals and humans. They have proven helpful for finding lost pets and people with Alzheimer's who wander off.

But we can also imagine those chips used for nefarious purposes. During the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 billionaire Bill Gates actually suggested that all people be implanted with chips NOW to monitor them and make sure they are both where they should be, and where they shouldn't be. It is not hard at all to see how centralized government can use technology AGAINST people.

**And that's precisely what the Antichrist and False Prophet will do. Whether the mark is a chip or not, verse 17 makes clear that the chip is intimately connected with submission to and worship of the Antichrist. If you turn to Jesus for salvation in those days, you will avoid receiving this mark. You won't be able to do anything that requires the mark for admission. And something like drones will be in the air, identifying and attacking those who obviously don't have the official mark.**

As we saw in the letters to the seven churches, some Christians in the Roman Empire were already dealing with things like this in their cities. Their failure to burn incense and say "Caesar is Lord" meant they did not receive a certificate of compliance necessary to conduct normal business.

During the last 2,000 years, other Christians have lived under similarly oppressive governments and endured similarly hostile conditions. They could all more readily understand the suppression of their religious liberty and personal livelihood, even though they could not understand how future technology would help achieve the spirit of Antichrist's goals.

**In verse 18 John makes a cryptic comment about the number of the Beast, which he defines as the number of a man. What is the number John gives?**

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This is one of the most fascinating and discussed topics in The Book of Revelation. Let me urge you not to go too far down the rabbit-hole of trying to figure out it's exact meaning!

**Some scholars say that the Romans had a way of adding up people's names numerically, and that the Roman Emperor's number added up to, you guessed it, 666.**

If that's true, it wouldn't mean that John was referring ONLY to the current emperor. The book of Daniel refers to two little 'a' antichrists that already appeared in history as well as the end times big 'A' Antichrist. John may be doing the same thing here! Since 7 is the number of perfection, a "triple 6" person may be symbolic language reminding John's readers that all little 'a' antichrists as well as the end times Big 'A' Antichrist are all still just men. Even though they want to be treated as God, the REAL God will deal with them in due time! As you pray today, thank the Lord that all EVIL empires WILL come to and END.

**Day 25-        Read Revelation 14:1-5**

**I love how every time The Book of Revelation gets a little “heavy” to handle for a chapter or two, we are brought back to a very encouraging passage to “lighten” our load.**

That is certainly the case as chapter 14 begins!

Revelation chapter 13 discussed the heavy topic of the persecution of Israel and others who turn to Jesus Christ during the time of the Tribulation. Revelation 13:7 said the Antichrist will make war with the saints, and this war will lead to the death of many who do not worship him.

That’s why it is so cool that Revelation chapter 14 takes us to Heaven and gives us a triumphant look into the time right before Jesus Christ returns to earth.

And what do we see?

**In Revelation 14:1 we behold the Lamb, Jesus Himself, standing on Mount Zion, and with Him are the 144,000 Jewish witnesses we first read about in chapter 7.**

**If chapter 7 shows them being raised up, sealed, and beginning a worldwide witness, chapter 14 sees them as celebrities in Heaven at the end of the Tribulation!**

This is just one of the many times in Revelation we see that heaven thinks about things differently than Satan’s godless world system does. The sooner we as Christians adopt Heaven’s way of thinking about things the better off we will be! And there are several wonderful things we learn about the faith and character of these 144,000 guys in chapter 14. Let’s go through them...

**According to verse 3 what special privilege will these guys have in Heaven?**

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I grew up watching professional wrestling with my dad, and I still enjoy it. Don’t judge me too hard for that! One thing I love about pro wrestling is that each star comes out to their own theme music. I have often thought about what I would like to have as my theme music as I entered an arena of cheering people.

These 144,000 are going to have their own special string-based song in Heaven! It will be sung to these 144,000 witnesses, and then learned by them as their own special song.

Undoubtedly it will reflect BOTH their love for Jesus, and their love for the gospel.

Maybe it will be something like, “Shine Jesus Shine” by Graham Kendrick...

Verse 1

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

### Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

### Verse 2

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance  
By the blood, I may enter Your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

**What three things does Revelation 14:4 tell us about these 144,000 guys?**

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God has a purpose for everything that He has designed. That includes human sexuality. Going all the way back to Genesis 1-2, we learn that God invented two kinds of humans: male and female. Some of those males will marry some of those females. Human sexuality has two purposes according to the Bible – BONDING and PROCREATION.

Bonding involves the emotional, physical, and spiritual oneness that only these two are to share to draw them closer together as one. As the married couple thus bonds, many of them will be able to procreate and bring other baby humans into the world. God's Word makes clear that all sexual fulfillment is meant by God to come within this marriage bond.

Any sexual expression outside of the marriage of a husband and wife is thus sin, and defiles those who participate in the sin. God forgives those who repent, but many who have been involved in sexual sin will readily testify that they faced lasting consequences.

Sexual purity is incredibly important to God, and virginity should be celebrated by Christians. It is a wonderful thing when people are virgins until they marry and stay virgins if they never marry. These 144,000 were virgins when they were saved, and did not defile themselves. That and the fact they followed Jesus wherever He goes is worth a heavenly song, isn't it?!

**What fact does Revelation 14:5 add about these 144,000 guys?**

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These 144,000 witnesses will tell people the truth about Jesus!

All around them during the Tribulation will be examples of the Beast's lies. But these 144,000 guys will be like their heroes, the Two Prophets! People from every people group on earth will hear them telling the truth about the REAL Christ and turn to Jesus because of them (Remember that we learned about that when we looked at Revelation chapter 7).

As you pray today ask yourself some basic questions –

Am I committed to following Jesus wherever He would take me?

Am I committed to 100% sexual purity in my life?

Am I committed to telling the truth in a world saturated with Satan's lies?

If the answer to any of these questions is currently “no,” ask for God's forgiveness and for His Spirit's assistance in turning your “no's” into “yeses!”

**Day 26-        Read Revelation 14:6-13**

As we continue on in Revelation chapter 14, we see more of what will happen just before Christ's return to earth.

**Today's passage shows us that 3 flying angels will circle the globe with a message from God before Jesus Christ returns to earth.**

I get goosebumps every time I think of what the first angel says.

**Fill in the missing blanks from verses 6-7...**

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to \_\_\_\_\_ nation, tribe, tongue and people – saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and \_\_\_\_\_ Him who made Heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Do you see what's happening here?

God is giving the sinful world one last chance to turn to Him before it's too late! That is love! That is amazing grace!

Think about how awesome God's heart for sinners is according to The Book of Revelation.

From Revelation 5:9-10 we surmised that because of the power of God's love the church will reach people from every people group on earth before the Rapture of the church.

From Revelation 7:9-13 we surmised that because of the power of God's love the 144,000 Jewish witnesses will reach people from every people group on earth during the Tribulation.

And here in Revelation 14:6-7, we can only surmise the reason God sends this flying angel to one more time urge sinners to turn to God is because of God's love!

These verses never get old for me!

And then the second angel circles the world after the first.

**What is the second flying angels message according to Revelation 14:8?**

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When we think of Babylon, I think we need to think of both an actual place and a representative place. Babylon was an actual city that was the capitol of a nation that was an enemy of God and His people. It had roots going back to the Tower of Babel, which remains one of the most poignant pictures in the Bible of the pride of mankind setting itself against the glory of God.

Ancient Babylon would be within the modern country of Iraq. Its ruins lie about an hour south of Baghdad. When Saddam Hussein was Iraq's dictator, he had grand plans to restore Babylon to its former opulence and then some. Perhaps Babylon as a city will be rebuilt and the Antichrist will use it during the Tribulation as a tribute to the "spirit of Babel, the desire of mankind to "make a name for ourselves" apart from God.

Numerous prophecies in the Old Testament refer to God's eventual judgment of not only the Babylon that took Israel captive, but also of an end times Babylon that has defied God. Historic Babylon has indeed been destroyed, but it remains representative of the anti-God mindset.

**I do believe that when Revelation 14:8 speaks of the fall of Babylon, in its full significance it is talking about the entire global anti-god mindset that God is bringing to an end. We will see even more about this in chapter 18.**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, some godless rulers around the world deemed some things as "essential" and other things as "non-essential." Their decisions in many cases were arbitrary, and reflected their hostility toward Biblical faith. Harmful things like abortion and alcohol were deemed "essential," while church services were deemed "non-essential."

Christians wanted to do their part to honor the need for "social distancing" during that time, and did. Some churches found ways to gather that would ensure everyone stayed safe, like "Drive-in" church services. But in many cases, godless leaders villainized and obstructed those gatherings, and harassed and fined those who attended. Their hostility toward people of faith was clearly on display.

**When the second angel circles the globe before Christ returns, the message will be clear – Babylon is going down and will never hurt God's people again! Hallelujah!**

And that leads us to the third angel.

**The message of the third angel in verses 9-11 will hopefully be read by those going through the Tribulation who want to turn to Jesus but are afraid of what not having the mark of the Beast will cost them. The angel makes clear that the choice before them is this:**

3 ½ years of temporary trouble and then get to be with Jesus forever

OR

3 ½ years of Antichrist's favor and then go to the Lake of Fire forever

That really puts the choice in perspective, doesn't it?

But they aren't the only ones that face this kind of choice, are they?

You and I face choices every day whether or not to walk in faith or compromise our faith. How often have we lost an eternal reward because we didn't want a temporary inconvenience? The time we didn't share the gospel because we were worried what somebody may think of us. The time we participated in something sinful because we didn't want to lose a relationship. The time we didn't answer a prompting to give because we wouldn't be able to make a pleasure purchase.



**The choice for those living in the Tribulation will have eternal consequences. Some of our choices do as well. Thankfully, a believer can't lose their salvation. But we can lose rewards we would have gotten!**

I think that's why after John had the vision of the 3 angels he stopped and gave a word of exhortation and encouragement. What John says in verses 12-13 are really applicable for all the saints of all time – you will be rewarded if you do what Jesus says!

**Fill in the blanks from the blessing John heard from Heaven in verse 13...**

“Blessed are the dead who die in the \_\_\_\_\_ from now on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may \_\_\_\_\_ from their labors, and their works \_\_\_\_\_ them.”

Brothers and sisters, you may face temporary hostility and hardship as you follow Christ. But when you are in Heaven, and Jesus is personally rewarding you for what you did for Him, anything it cost you in the short term will be more than worth it then!

As you pray today, ask God to help you consistently choose the eternal way of looking at things when you are faced with your daily choices.

**Day 27-        Read Revelation 14:14-20**

**The Return of Jesus Christ to earth is the great theme of The Book of Revelation, bringing to fruition all the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah vanquishing the enemies of God and setting up His Kingdom on earth.**

Our passage for today again celebrates that coming event, although we will have to get to Revelation chapter 19 to see the Messiah ride in from Heaven on the white horse.

Noe let's not forget that Revelation chapters 10-14 are interlude material between the trumpet and bowl judgments, just as chapter 7 was an interlude chapter between the seal and trumpet judgments. The seal, trumpet and bowl judgments seem to unfold in chronological order once the seven-year tribulation begins, with each following the one that went before. The interlude material all fits somewhere during the time of the seven-year Tribulation, but not necessarily in chronological order.

**All the way back in Matthew 13 Jesus gave His parables of the Kingdom, with the most famous being the Parable of the Sower that describes different responses to the word of the kingdom. But Jesus also told the Parable of the wheat and tares, and then explained it.**

**Fill in the missing blanks from Matthew 13:37-43...**

“He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the Devil, the \_\_\_\_\_ is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the \_\_\_\_\_ of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will \_\_\_\_\_ them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will \_\_\_\_\_ forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who ears to hear, let him hear!

**I love that we can count on Jesus to tell us the truth because He is the Truth! Jesus spoke more about Hell than anyone else in the Bible.**

**These things are clear when you read Jesus' words in the gospels:**

1. Hell is a real place that unrepentant sinners will go to because of their sin against God
2. Hell will involve eternal torment for those who are judged there
3. Jesus doesn't want anyone to go to Hell, so He came from Heaven to save
4. Jesus did what it takes so that nobody has to go to Hell, bearing the believer's judgment
5. Those who refuse to turn to Jesus are refusing the only way not to go to Hell
6. A soul once created will live forever, so rejecting Jesus means the only option left is Hell

**That last point is so important. There are some who falsely hope that God will simply choose to annihilate people who refuse to turn to Jesus. But a soul once created will live forever. It has to go on somewhere after this life, to one of two places, Heaven or Hell.**

After Satan and his demons rebelled, God created Hell to be Satan's final reality.

**In Matthew 25:41 Jesus explicitly calls Hell "the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels."**

After Adam and Eve's sin brought sin into the world, all humans since have been born with a sin nature that leads to sin choices. In that sinful state no human's soul could be brought to Heaven. That meant there was only one place that could be their reality unless God intervened – the everlasting fire God had created for the Devil and his demons.

That's why we celebrate Jesus – because He came to earth and personally took the judgment our sins deserve on Himself at the cross! If he had just been a man, His sacrifice would only count for one person. But because He was the God-man, His sacrifice counts for anybody He chooses to apply it to. It doesn't make sense for Him to apply it to those who still shake their fists at Heaven, and He does not. But for those who do receive Him as their Savior, and all who believed in God's promises in Old Testament days, Heaven will be their home!

**Look up and write down John 3:36 here –**

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For those who believe, Heaven will be their home, and later the New Earth we are going to read about. But that only leaves the Lake of Fire as the final place for unrepentant sinners. Those there will have one thing in common – their sin is the reason they are there, period.

**Back in Revelation 14:14, what did John see in the Son of Man's hand?**

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Here is the definition of a sickle from dictionary.com –

*An implement for cutting grain, grass, etc., consisting of a curved, hook-like blade mounted in a short handle.*

We know that Jesus is the Son of Man, and here an angel using a loud voice encourages Jesus to thrust the sickle in, for the time for the harvest of the world has now come. Revelation is building up our anticipation of that coming moment as it moves toward chapter 19.

Then in Revelation 14:17 another angel comes out of the Temple John had seen in Heaven, and this angel also has a sharp sickle in his hand. This squares with what Jesus had said in His parable of the wheat and tares when He said that the angels would be involved in the end times harvest.

**Revelation 14:18 then speaks of yet another judgment angel, and now the analogy switches from wheat to grapes, probably because when grapes are crushed it looks like blood is flowing. This is where the title of the book “The grapes of wrath” comes from.**

When the judgment being spoken of begins, when the grapes are put in the winepress, verse 20 says that blood will flow up to the height of a horse’s bridle for 1,600 furlongs.

**How long is 1,600 furlongs? Circle the correct answer.**

- A. 2 miles**
- B. 20 miles**
- C. 200 miles**
- D. 2000 miles**

1 furlong equals 220 yards or 660 feet. 1600 furlongs equals 352,000 yards or 1,056,000 feet. That is about 200 miles, so the correct answer is “C.”

What coming event would cause blood to flow for 200 miles?

The Battle of Armageddon we are going to read about in Revelation 19:17-21. At the end of the seven-year Tribulation, the Beast and his False Prophet and the kings of the earth are going to bring their armies and try to defeat Jesus Christ as He returns to earth.

It will not go well for them.

And it won’t go well on judgment day for all of those who have refused to meet Jesus as the Lamb of God who took away their sin. Instead, they will meet Him as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the God they have defiantly rejected.

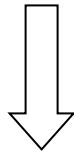
As you pray today, pray for someone you know that is not ready to meet their God. If that’s you, use I John 1:9 to get your heart right –

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -I John 1:9**

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

## Day 28- Read Revelation 15:1-8

**Because he received The Book of Revelation, John the Apostle has also been called John the Revelator. I really like that – John the Revelator received the Revelation!**

I wonder what thoughts were going through John's mind as he was given all of these visions of Jesus and the future!

What I specifically wonder is if John was able to appreciate the incredible sense of the drama building that we do as we get to this point in the book.

It reminds me of what happens when you put water in a pot to boil. The beginning of the Tribulation is like when you turn the stove on. As you look on, you hear a little rush of water moving. Then you see a bubble form, and a second, and then a third. And then the entire surface of the water erupts with movement and whooshing.

In chapter 15 John looks on as Heaven reacts to the impending moment of boiling when the bowl judgments are poured out.

**The seal judgments will be the beginning of God's wrath poured out on the Satanic world system that has messed up earth. The Trumpet judgments will see God's wrath intensify. The bowl judgments will complete the wrath God pours out before Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.**

As chapter 14 began John the Revelator saw the 144,000 Jewish witnesses standing with Jesus on Mount Zion. The main purpose of that vision was to make clear that the mission of the 144,000 had been successful, all the way up to Christ's impending return.

In Revelation 14, it wasn't really clear whether the "Mount Zion" referred to there was the Jerusalem on Earth that Christ will return to OR the New Jerusalem Jesus is building in Heaven that will later come down to the New Earth.

That shouldn't really surprise us!

This deep in Revelation we read of angels and demons coming and going, and we are being transported back and forth between earth and Heaven.

The “veil” between here and there is getting thinner and thinner as the world comes closer to the time when God will dwell with man on the New Earth. But let’s take a few minutes and look at the “Two” Zions.

**Look up and fill in the missing blanks from Zechariah 8:3 –**

Thus says the LORD – I will \_\_\_\_\_ to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord of hosts,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountain. -Zechariah 8:3

That Mount Zion is clearly a reference to the Jerusalem below, the eternal capital of Israel. The reference is to when the Messiah will live there and rule the world from there.

**Now look up and fill in the missing blanks from Hebrews 12:22-24 –**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the  
firstborn who are \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and  
to the blood that speaks better things than that of Abel. -Hebrews 12:22-24

That Mount Zion is clearly the Heavenly Jerusalem. I equate the Heavenly Jerusalem with the promise of Jesus in John 14:1-3 that He was going to prepare a place for believers. That place is probably the New Jerusalem that will later come from Heaven to the New Earth. I think when believers die and go to Heaven now they get to work on that city with Jesus!

So was the vision of the 144,000 with Jesus a foretaste of them with Him on the earthly Jerusalem just after He returns in Revelation 19? Or was it a picture of them with Jesus in the Heavenly Jerusalem just before His return in Revelation 19? I'm not sure!

**But clearly chapter 15 begins with a look into Heaven before the bowl judgments begin.**

**What does John see there? He sees a tremendous number of saints standing on something like a sea of glass singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.**

This could be a reference to all the Jewish and Christian saints of all time, but the reference to them having victory over the Beast of the end times Tribulation seems to make this group of saints be the people that came to faith in Christ during the Tribulation and were then killed for the faith.

If the group here in chapter 15 is primarily the Tribulation saints, we can connect this passage back to chapter 7. There we saw how the 144,000 Jewish witnesses will be called out and sealed, and then we read of people from every people group coming to Christ and being killed for their faith during the Tribulation.

Now here's where it gets GOOD!

**In Chapter 14 we saw that the 144,000, whatever Mount Zion they were on, were singing a special song! Here in Chapter 15, we see the ones they led to Jesus also singing in Heaven! I think somehow the two groups are able to see each other as they all praise God!**

Can you picture it? Picture the Tribulation saints singing from the sea of glass praises to God while looking into the eyes of the 144,000 who led them to Christ, and the 144,000 singing their song while looking into the eyes of those they have led to Christ! That's a powerful image!

And what a song is being sung in Heaven!

**Who is Jesus called the King of in verse 3?**

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I love that – the King of Kings is the King of the saints! Oh how I want to be in that number, when the SAINTS go marching in!

In verse 4 we read that “All nations will come and worship before You.”

We will see more about that wonderful truth in Revelation 21:24-27.

Apparently there won’t be just a New Jerusalem on the New Earth, but a New America and even a New Danville!



**After the celebration of verses 1-4, John’s thoughts are again turned to the impending bowl judgments.**

John saw the Heavenly Temple opened, and seven angels coming out of it with seven plagues. The four living creatures gave them seven bowls filled with the wrath of God. Chapter 16 will show what happens as those bowls of judgment are poured out on earth.

As you pray today, picture the people who had the most to do with you coming to Christ. Imagine the coming day when as you sing praises to God in Heaven your eyes will meet, and gratitude to God working in your midst fills both of your minds and hearts. If any of those people are still alive and you can contact them, let them know how thankful you are that they helped you come to know Jesus and grow in Him!



## **Day 29-        Read Revelation 16:1-11**

We come now in chapter 16 to the description of each of the seven bowls of God's wrath being poured out on the earth before Christ's return. Today we will look at the first 5 bowl judgments. Tomorrow we will look at bowls 6 and 7.

I believe that this will happen very LATE in the seven-year tribulation period. I believe it may only take a matter of days or weeks, or perhaps only a few months, but not much longer than that. I hasten to add that no one is sure about that, but that's how it looks to me!

**According to Revelation 16:2, what is the result of the first bowl judgment?**

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This first bowl judgment is very much like the 6<sup>th</sup> plague that the LORD sent on Egypt because Pharaoh would not repent and let God's people go. That event is recorded as one of the ten plagues in Exodus 9:8-12. Moses scattered handfuls of ashes from a furnace into the air, and a fine dust settled on all the Egyptians, causing boils that broke out into painful sores. Maybe this bowl judgment was something like that – boils that became painful sores.

**What other similarity with Egypt's 6<sup>th</sup> plague can we gather from this first bowl judgment?**  
**HINT – think of who was affected, and who was NOT affected!**

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When the plagues hit Egypt, the people of Israel were supernaturally protected from being hurt by the plagues that fell as judgment on the Egyptians. Revelation 16:2 explicitly states that the first bowl judgment affected those who had taken the mark and worshipped Antichrist. From that we can surmise that anyone still living at that time who had turned to God and not taken the mark were spared this judgment!

**According to Revelation 16:3, what is the result of the second bowl judgment?**

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This second bowl judgment is very much like the 1<sup>st</sup> plague that the LORD sent on Egypt because Pharaoh would not repent and let God's people go. The first plague is recorded in Exodus 7:14-25. There wound up being ten plagues before Pharaoh did let God's people go, even though he never did fully repent and perished in the Red Sea.

The reality is that there did not need to be even one plague. Had Pharaoh simply obeyed God and released Israel from Egyptian slavery, Egypt would have avoided these plagues. But Pharaoh did not obey, and even though God is a patient Judge GOD WILL NOT BE DEFIED FOREVER.

God gave Pharaoh many chances to repent, but with Pharaoh's continued sin came increasingly difficult plagues to deal with. The same thing will be true as God sends the bowl judgments in Revelation chapter 16. Jesus' return is so close at this point, and hopefully a few more people will repent and turn to God before it's too late. Obviously something bad enough to cause every living creature in the saltwater seas to die will cause insurmountable environmental damage without God's help.

**According to Revelation 16:4, what is the result of the third bowl judgment?**

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If I was still a non-believer reading this and I still refused to turn to Christ NOW I think I would stock up on bottled water. If the Bible is speaking truth about these things, AND IT IS, when the third bowl judgment hits, the world's fresh drinking water will be devastated at this point. No one wants to drink water from the "Blood Springs" Bottling Company. Obviously these bowls have to unfold quickly, because the world as it has been simply can't sustain this kind of damage without God's intervention.

**Now you may want to shout, "This is not fair!" You may be saying, "My positive thinking preacher insists that God is love and would never use physical phenomena to judge earth." Friend, if that's what your preacher says they are either lying to you or ignorant of the Bible's consistent teaching from cover to cover.**

From the global flood in Genesis to the global bowl judgments of Revelation, God has used and will use physical phenomena on earth to judge sin and get a sinner's attention before it's too late.

Now hear me very clearly here –

**The Bible makes five things clear related to God's use of physical phenomena.**

1. We just saw the first – God has and will use physical phenomena to judge sin and get a sinner's attention – many times in the Bible we are explicitly told this!
2. Physical phenomena have also been greatly affected by the fall of man bringing sin into God's originally perfect world – many of the problems the world faces are the indirect result of original sin, not the direct result of current sin (Romans 8:18-22)
3. We are told not to be too quick to link physical phenomena with God's judgment, because God "sends rain on the just and unjust" (Matthew 5:45)
4. When Jesus was told of a disaster in Luke 13:1-4, He specifically told His disciples not to think about whether those who suffered were worse sinners than anyone else, but focused them on the shortness and uncertainty of life and to make sure they were ready for their own day of death through repentance and faith
5. Believers are always to look for opportunities to help when disaster strikes, just as members of early churches sent famine relief to Jews in Jerusalem (I Cor. 16:1-3).

On earth we don't always know when God is using physical phenomena to judge sin – but according to Revelation 16:5-6, Heaven certainly does...

**According to the “angel of the waters” in Revelation 16:5-6, why is it appropriate that God make those in league with the Antichrist drink BLOODY water?**

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**Look up and write down Galatians 6:7 here –**

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Heaven does not lack the moral clarity so often missing on earth, even among professing believers. Those in league with the Antichrist shed the blood of the saints, and now they are given “bloody” water to drink. When the angel of the waters makes his declaration, another angel answers in verse 7, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, TRUE and RIGHTEOUS are Your judgments.”

**According to Revelation 16:8-9, what is the result of the fourth bowl judgment?**

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Some of my most painful moments have been when I was dealing with a sun-burn. Those who have not repented by this point will be scorched by the sun as this judgment unfolds. Think of them there with their sores, thirst, and painful sun-burn, shaking their fists at Heaven, blaspheming God with their dry throats. It is entirely possible that from this moment until Christ's return, no one does repent and turns to God, although I believe that if anyone does, God would still receive them, as He did the thief that hung on the cross next to Him.

**According to Revelation 16:10, what is the result of the fifth bowl judgment?**

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In the fourth bowl judgment, people received too much sun – now they won't receive any. Darkness falls over the Antichrist's kingdom. Back in Exodus 10:21-29 the 9<sup>th</sup> plague was darkness for three days over the land of Egypt. We are not told how long the darkness will be during the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment, but how long can men live without light? This time people will gnaw their tongues because of the pain, but will continue to blaspheme God and not repent. The Tribulation judgments will be very near completion. As you pray today, consider this...

**Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

**-2 Peter 3:12-13**

### **Day 30-        Read Revelation 16:12-21**

Today we look at the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgments that will unfold just before the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

**According to Revelation 16:12, what happens at the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment, and why?**

What happens? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does it happen? \_\_\_\_\_

At this 6<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment, the Euphrates River will be dried up, so three kings of the east will be able to march over the dry river bed toward Israel. We have already spoken of what a key river the Euphrates is in the Bible. Genesis 15:18 states that it is the Northeastern boundary of the Promised Land. Babylon was (and will be?) on the other side of it.

At Christmas-time we sing “We three kings of Orient are.” We sing that song to celebrate the wise men who travelled from the east to worship Jesus, the King of the Jews. That’s not why the three kings spoken of in Revelation 16:12 will travel toward Israel. Back in Revelation 12:13-17 we read of Israel hiding in the wilderness from Satan’s fury during the last half of the Tribulation. Unable to cope with the bowl judgments being poured out, the Antichrist will gather the forces of the world to lash out at God’s people one more time.

Verse 13 is a terrifying mental picture.

We have been speaking of Satan’s false trinity – himself, the Antichrist Beast, and the False Prophet Beast. We know that evil works have demonic influence animating them. Here we read of demons (unclean spirits) coming out of each member of this unholy trinity.

These demons come hopping out of the unholy trinity’s mouths like the second plague on Egypt described in Exodus 8:1-15. There we read that those frogs covered the land of Egypt. The nasty demons released from the unholy trinity’s mouths will cover the entire world.

**According to Revelation 16:14, what will the purpose of the frog-like demons be?**

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These nasty demons will go into the entire world, deceiving kings and their nations with miracles, all to gather a massive God-hating army to take on Jesus Christ when He returns.

**According to Revelation 16:16, where will this battle take place?**

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Back in Revelation 14:20, an angel anticipated a coming event when blood would flow for 200 miles. I believe this 6<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment is anticipating that same event, what we call the Battle of Armageddon. Zechariah the prophet spoke of this coming battle in Zechariah chapters 12 and 14. We will read of this coming event in Revelation 19:11-21.

Armageddon comes from two Hebrew words, *har Megiddo*, meaning the Hill of Megiddo. The word “Megiddo” fittingly means “place of troops” or “place of slaughter.” It is also called the Valley of Jezreel in the Bible. It is 20 miles long and 14 miles wide. Napoleon once called it “the most natural battlefield on earth.” This battle will heavily feature Megiddo, but will probably involve Jerusalem and all of Israel.

The vision must have been most unsettling to John, because Jesus Himself interrupts the vision in Revelation 16:15 to encourage all who hear these words to receive the blessing of the watchful. Jesus wants us all to believe these words and cling to our faith in Him, beautifully spoken of here as “keeping one’s garments!” That is a reference back to Revelation 3:5 which stated that the one who overcomes by faith will have white garments. But all who never repent and believe will be found naked and have to go through the awful time of Tribulation.

**According to Revelation 16:17, what 3 words does the angel say at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment?**

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When I hear those words, I can’t help but think of what Jesus said on the cross as He died for the sins of the world.

**Look up and write down the 3 words Jesus spoke from the cross in John 19:30 –**

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What was finished in John 19:30?

All it would take for a sinner to go to Heaven instead of Hell. For all who will ever believe, Jesus had taken the judgment due us on Himself. The Greek word for “it is finished” is *tetelestai*. When a debt was paid off back then, vendors would write *tetelestai* on the bill, indicating the debt had been “paid in full.”

So what does “it is done” mean in the context of the seventh bowl being poured out at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period? It means the judgment due the Satanic world system, the judgment that has been poured out in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, is completed with the return of Jesus Christ.

**What city named in Revelation 16:19 is a synonym for the Satanic world system?**

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The final fall of the Satanic world system will be more fully discussed in chapters 17-19 under the description of the name Babylon.

Revelation 16:18-19 makes clear that when Babylon tastes God’s wrath, there will be a great earthquake, and all the cities of the nations will fall, with the world map being changed in a

moment. Antichrist's people will keep blaspheming God even as 100 pound hailstones rain down on them, destroying beer joints and brothels and casinos and much more.

**The description of the earthquake dividing the great city into 3 parts is probably a reference to Jerusalem.**

Why do I say that?

**Look up and fill in the missing blanks from Zechariah 14:1-5...**

Behold the day of the LORD is \_\_\_\_\_, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all nations to \_\_\_\_\_ against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD shall go forth and \_\_\_\_\_ against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will \_\_\_\_\_ on the Mount of Olives, , which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in two, from east to west, making a large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north, and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah King of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will \_\_\_\_\_, and all the \_\_\_\_\_ with You.

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There are parts of Revelation that are hard to understand, but it is impossible to miss the main points that God wants us to get –

That God is glorious and perfectly praised in Heaven

That behind what we see angels and demons are engaged in a tremendous spiritual battle

That God answers prayer

That a Holy God will judge sin

That God will forgive repentant sinners based on the work of Christ on the cross

That God will reward what believers do for Him

That God will bring an end to the Satanic world system

That God will keep the promises He made to Israel and rule the world from Jerusalem

That nothing Satan or evil people will do can change the fact that God wins in the end!

That vast multitudes of believers will be with God in Heaven and later on a New Earth

That vast multitudes will be with Satan in the Lake of Fire because they failed to repent.

As you pray today, ask God to keep the things we can understand from Revelation foremost in your mind as you seek the blessing that comes from hearing, understanding, and applying it.

**Day 31-        Read Revelation 17:1-6**

**I love the fact that when you read Scripture carefully, you often can glean a clear reason that passage is given. Such is the case with our passage for today!**

**According to verse 1, what is John shown in this next vision?**

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Verse one makes clear that this passage is about the coming judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters. So we know from verse 1 that whoever the great harlot represents, “her” judgment is coming. But we still need to find out who “she” represents, and what is the meaning of the “great waters” that she sits upon.

**That leads to another fact I love about reading Scripture carefully, something we call the law of context. Many times the answer we seek related to a passage we are studying is found in the passage that came before, the passage that comes after, or somewhere else in the book or section of the Scripture we are in.**

Some practical Bible scholars teach the “20-20” rule when analyzing a passage. Make sure you understand the 20 verses that came before your focus passage, and the 20 verses that come after your passage. In this case, both questions unanswered in verse 1 are answered within 20 verses!

**According to Revelation 17:15, what are the waters that the harlot sits on?**

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Now identifying the harlot is a little more difficult than identifying the waters, but the answers can be found by looking closely at the text of this chapter and remembering what else is in The Book of Revelation.

At this point let me pause and recommend a practice to you for future Bible study. When possible try to read the ENTIRE book you are studying in one sitting before you enter into the study of what’s in the individual passages. That will make it easier for you to relate the parts you are studying to the whole book, and figure out how the big point (s) of each individual passage relates to the major point (s) of the book.

**Let’s walk through our passage together as we figure out who this harlot is.**

**Summarize Revelation 17:2 in your own words –**

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Here's how I would summarize it – The harlot seduced the leaders of the nations of the world to immorality. This probably is a reference to leading them into idolatry, often spiritually referred to as immorality.

**Do you remember when we already read about a person like that back in Revelation 13?**

**Fill in the missing blanks from Revelation 13:11-12...**

Then I saw \_\_\_\_\_ beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the \_\_\_\_\_ and those who dwell in it to \_\_\_\_\_ the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

The first beast in Revelation 13 was the Antichrist.

**Do you remember what this second beast is called? Write it here –**

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Hint: He is named the name we are looking for at his own judgment in Revelation 19:20.

I think we now know the identity of the harlot back in Revelation 17:1. It is none other than the False Prophet who in the name of religion gets people to worship not Jesus but the Antichrist.

Check out this quote by the great Baptist preacher Adrian Rogers –

“Women in Bible prophecy are always considered a symbol of religion, whether good or bad.”  
-Adrian Rogers

So the church is called the Bride of Christ, a reference to something very good. Israel was referred to as a “woman clothed with the sun,” another reference to something very good. This false church led by the False prophet is the great harlot, a reference to something very bad.

**Revelation 17:3 gives us even more confidence that this is the judgment of the false prophet. There she is seen sitting on a scarlet beast, who has seven heads and 10 horns.**

**According to Revelation 13:1-2, who is that very same beast, and what are we calling him?**

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The Beast rising up out of the sea	=	the scarlet beast	=	the Antichrist
The Beast coming up from the earth	=	the great harlot	=	the False Prophet

<>

Let's spend the rest of today thinking about this False Prophet.



**The second part of Revelation 17:6 says that John marveled in amazement when he saw the harlot. I believe that is because on the outside the woman looked religious, but actually worked against the true faith believers have in Jesus Christ.**

Think of John's own context – all His fellow apostles had been killed for the true faith in Jesus. He and his fellow pastors were imprisoned on Patmos for true faith in Jesus. He must have been wondering...

“Why would anyone pretend to be religious without truly knowing Jesus?”

“Why would anyone compromise their faith and align the church under any king but Jesus?”

“Why would any pastor forfeit their eternal soul for temporary gain, and for temporary approval from the Satanic world system that hates God?”

**True believers have been wondering the same thing as John for centuries now!**

Some of the greatest persecutions against Christians and Jews have happened at the hands of churches in countries that had no separation of church and ‘state’ (country). In such cases the church almost always is used by the ‘state’ to advance antichrist agendas.

And then there is the Roman Catholic Church that officially views itself AS a state, has unbelievable wealth and has often been headed by Popes that were clearly not born-again Christians. The Roman Catholic Church is not alone in persecuting Christians and Jews (other Protestant and Orthodox ‘state’ churches did as well), but it certainly led the way.

Over the centuries many Bible scholars HAVE concluded that the description of the great harlot in verse 4 is the Roman Catholic Church. Her wardrobe in verse 4 is a wardrobe illustrating the kind of ridiculous wealth that the Roman Catholic Church has. Verse 9 says she sits on “seven mountains,” which according to verse 18 is a reference to Rome, the capital not only of the Roman Empire but home of the Vatican. The argument is compelling, but I don't know that we can be sure. I do know many Roman Catholics who are born-again and Biblically-based, but the official doctrine of their church is cluttered with extra-biblical thinking that obscures the gospel.

**Verse 5 DOES make clear what spirit will be behind this false religion that is being judged. The Harlot has written on her forehead, “Mystery Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the earth.”**

**ALL false religion really goes back to the kind of antichrist, man-centered, Satan-energized activity that was seen at the Tower of Babel. Satan doesn't mind any religious expression now that keeps people from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Undoubtedly the religious leaders of the world will coalesce after the Rapture of the true church. Perhaps the sitting Pope will bring together the world's religious leaders from Islam, Eastern Religions, and Apostate churches to serve the Antichrist's New World Order. But as we will see tomorrow, the day will come when the Antichrist will have used up the harlot's influence and turn on her.**

As you pray today, ask God to deliver you from false religion in your life, any way that you are religious on the outside but not living by true faith in Jesus on the inside.

## Day 32- Read Revelation 17:7-18

Yesterday we saw that the false religion that promotes the worship of the Antichrist during the end times Tribulation will be ROOTED in the false religion that has promoted the antichrist spirit going all the way back to the Tower of Babel. Let me start today by giving a little more detail on Mystery Babylon and its false worship.

**The Bible is a very real sense a “Tale of Two Cities.” Jerusalem represents the desired home of all who worship God and live by His authority, whereas Babylon represents the desired home of all who worship in the antichrist spirit and defy God’s authority. At Jerusalem they say, “The Lord is God!” At Babylon they say, “we will be gods!”**

Genesis chapters 10-11 tell us that Nimrod was the founder of Babel. In Genesis 11 it’s recorded that men rebelled against God and attempted to build a tower that would reach the sky. The tower was a monument to human pride and an act of rebellion against God. In judging this act God confounded the language of the people and named the city Babel, which means confusion.

Biblical scholar John Walvoord discovered many things from his study of ancient documents:

*Nimrod’s wife was named Semiramis, and she became the high priestess of the so called Babylon mysteries which had secret rites and which were part of the worship of idols in Babylon. The claim was that she gave birth to a son that was conceived miraculously. His name was Tammuz, and he was considered a savior of his people and was, in effect, a false messiah, purported to be the fulfilment of the promise given to Eve in Genesis 3:15. That’s what Satan does, he counterfeits the truth, and then adds in elements of so-called worship that appeals to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.*

*The legend of the mother and child was incorporated into the religious rites and is repeated in various pagan religions. Idols picturing the mother as the Queen of Heaven with the babes in arms are found throughout the ancient world. The acts of worship featured a priestly order that practiced the sprinkling of holy water and there was an order of people set aside for sex acts as worship. Tammuz was said to have been killed by a wild beast and afterwards brought back to life, another Satanic counterfeit of the real deal. Israel got caught up in these pagan acts. Jeremiah mentions the heathen practices of making cakes and burning incense for the Queen of Heaven. The worship of Baal was another form of the same thing.*

After Jesus came the first time and died for our sins and rose again, the early church marvelously spread the gospel for the next 300 years. But then Emperor Constantine was converted, and the church and state entered into an unholy union. One by one the Roman Catholic Church allowed Babylonian practices to mix with what the Bible calls for. Mary increasingly was lifted up and considered the Queen of Heaven.

Several official Mary doctrines are very troubling. The Immaculate Conception teaches that SHE was born without sin. The Assumption of Mary, codified in 1950, says that she was specially brought to Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. A Pope in my lifetime wore a sash that said, “Totally devoted to you, Mary!” Nothing in the Bible justifies doing this. As a matter of fact, Jesus strongly discouraged Mary veneration in Luke 11:27-28.

**The Great Harlot religion that John sees in Revelation 17 will be built on all these false religion ideas that have gone before and then some. Animated by the antichrist spirit that has always been in the world, the False Prophet will get people to worship the Antichrist.**



**Now let's learn more about the Antichrist Beast that the False Prophet serves.**

**According to Revelation 17:8, where did the Antichrist come from and where is he going?**

He came from \_\_\_\_\_

He is going to \_\_\_\_\_

I think that first part means that the human we call the Antichrist will have so opened himself up to evil that he will be demon-possessed. The second part is saying he will wind up in the Lake of Fire, as is clearly stated in Revelation 19:20.

Here is the definition of perdition from dictionary.com –

*A state of final spiritual ruin; loss of the soul; damnation; the future state of the wicked; Hell.*

**According to Revelation 9, the seven heads refer to two things.**

**First, the 7 heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. Along with verse 19 this is probably a reference to Rome. Why? Rome was known as the “city of seven hills.”**

As someone being persecuted by the decree of a Roman Emperor who lived in Rome, John may have been killed on the spot if he had been more explicit than this in connecting the final evil empire with Rome! That's probably why verse 9 cryptically says, “Here is the mind of wisdom.” It's as if he is saying, “It won't take much for you to figure this out if you think about it!”

**Second, the 7 heads also are seven kings.**

This is fun to try and figure out!

FIVE of the kings have fallen.

ONE is.

The OTHER has not yet come. When he comes, he must continue a short time.

The Beast that was, and is not, is himself ALSO the EIGHTH, and is of the Seven, and is going to perdition.

As you can imagine, all of that has led to a LOT of speculation.

**What we know for sure is that John's vision brings the End Times Antichrist (The Beast) in as coming from the Kings (or Kingdoms) that have come before, and being of the seventh. All of this squares nicely with prophecies in the Book of Daniel.**

Here is the most intriguing suggestion I have heard –

**Remember to think like the Bible does, relating Kingdoms to their interaction with ISRAEL. There were 2 major kingdoms that had messed with Israel before Babylon did – Egypt and Assyria. So check out how well this fits –**

**Five Kings have fallen:**

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece

**One is:**

Rome (the world ruler when John received the vision)

**The Other has not yet come:**

The End Times Renewed Roman Empire, which has “ten toes” and will be led by the Antichrist

I think we may be on to something there!

**According to Revelation 17:12, who are the ten horns?**

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All of this fits nicely with Daniel’s prophecies and what we have read so far in Revelation. Many do posit that something like the European Union will be the apparatus for this. I believe the E.U. flag originally had 10 stars on it! That caused some Bible scholars to sit up and take notice!

Verse 13 says that these leaders of the future will be of “one mind,” which hardly characterizes the European Union right now! Perhaps a crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic will bring them together under the authority of the Antichrist. It could also be a war that brings them together.

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 are thought by many Bible scholars to describe a battle that will take place before the Tribulation begins. It get confusing, because the words Gog and Magog are used there, but also used In Revelation 20 to describe the last battle on earth before the Great White Throne Judgment. But it looks like in the earlier battle some country like Russia will join with Islamic states and attack Israel.

Currently Israel is working on plans for a pipeline under the Mediterranean Sea that would supply natural gas directly to Rome and western Europe. Russia is not happy about it because currently they supply western Europe with natural gas through Ukraine. Wars have been fought over less! Something like this could hasten the conditions that lead to Antichrist’s rise to power.

**There is one more thing we are certain of from Revelation 17:16-17. The time will come when the ten leaders will act as one in hatred and destroy the outer forms of the false religion. Although this false religion will have totally compromised and capitulated to the Antichrist and the Satanic world system, NO FORM of religion will be acceptable. Not too long ago the world watched in sadness as Notre Dame burned. During this point late in the Tribulation, the world will rejoice as any and all vestiges of religion are burned down.**

As you pray today, thank God for the churches and preachers that you know that have not compromised Biblical truth to be accepted by the world.

### **Day 33-        Read Revelation 18:1-20**

**Today and tomorrow we consider the same event from two different perspectives. The event is the Fall of “Babylon” at the end of the seven-year Tribulation. Today we will look at it from the perspective of the godless people serving Antichrist on earth. Tomorrow we will look at it from the perspective of those in Heaven.**

This is the day that justice demanded. This is the day that the Psalmists longed for. This is the day that the martyrs in Heaven have been praying for. Let’s lock that into our minds.

#### **Look up and fill in the missing blanks from Psalm 137 –**

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and \_\_\_\_\_ when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away \_\_\_\_\_ asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, “Sing us one of those \_\_\_\_\_ of Zion!” How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land? If I forget you, \_\_\_\_\_, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth – If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. \_\_\_\_\_, O Lord, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, ‘Raze it, raze it, to its very foundation!’ O daughter of Babylon, who are to be \_\_\_\_\_, Happy is the one who repays you as you have served us! Happy the one who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock!

That last part is intense, isn’t it?

Psalm 137 is one of the imprecatory psalms, where the Psalmist expresses his raw emotions in prayer to the Lord. Note that instead of taking matters into his own hands, he is praying for the Lord to bring justice to those who have acted against Israel. He had seen Babylonian invaders rape women after grabbing babies out of their hands and dashing them to death against rocks.

In his raw emotion the Psalmist prays that God will deal with Babylon as such sins deserve, and deal with Israel’s neighbor Edom for rejoicing over the Fall of Jerusalem the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. None of these prayers were ever merely blown off in Heaven. They have been stored up in Heaven, because God always settles His accounts.

#### **Look up and write down Revelation 6:10 here –**

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In Revelation 6 the martyrs in Heaven are shown looking down on what the Antichrist and “Babylon” are doing to God’s people and cry out in prayer to God, “How long?” When you think about all the mocking, harassment, persecution and death God’s people have seen over 6,000 years of earth history, surely the prayer “How long?” has been prayed BILLIONS of times.

But don't forget others who have been exploited by the Satanic world system over 6,000 years. Many never met the Lord, but were used and exploited by "Babylon." They were trafficked into sex slavery or child labor, abused and mistreated and forced to have abortions by those filled with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Others lived hard and bitter lives because they didn't receive fair wages or good medical care or reliable work hours as their bosses trimmed bottom lines in the name of profitability. Hundreds of millions lived in slums, the cumulative product of the inequalities produced by the Satanic world system. Many of those slums the "have nots" lived in were within walking distance of the "Have lots" of Babylon.

And don't forget Babylon's impact on the animal world as well. We have already seen that Romans 8 says that the rest of creation "groans" for the coming redemption Christ will bring. There is a very telling passage at the end of Jonah chapter 4, where God indicates that if the godless Assyrians of Nineveh experienced salvation, they would even treat their animals better.

**Look up and write down Jonah 4:11 –**

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Did you catch that? The Lord was not only concerned for the souls of the people of Nineveh, but their children and their animals. If the people of Nineveh turned to God, they would treat their children and animals better.

**In Revelation 18 the day to judge "Babylon" for her sins against people and all of creation has come.**

In verse 4, we see an angel implore God's people to "come out of Babylon" before she is judged. That reminds me of when the angels pulled Lot and his family out of Sodom and Gomorrah before they were destroyed. And God is calling you out of whatever sinful Babylonian ways you are living in. Come out now before it's too late!

**According to verse 5, what has happened in Heaven?**

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I love the language here, especially that God has not forgotten what needs to be dealt with – He never does! All sin will be dealt with by God – thank God for believers our sin is dealt with back on the cross Jesus Christ died on! That's GRACE – God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

**According to verses 6-7, how will judgment be measured out to "Babylon?"**

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There is an absolute fairness to God's judgment – those who never repent will get exactly what their sins deserve. God gave them plenty of time to repent, but they did not. Now their beloved "Babylon" will be destroyed in a day. The old earth Satan has wrecked is going to get an "Extreme Home Makeover" so it will be fit for God's people to live on.

**It is telling in verse 7 that "Babylon" thought, "I sit as a queen, and will not see sorrow." "Babylon" was filled with pride, just as in the days of Babel when the godless world said, "We will make a name for ourselves." It also makes us think of Satan, who was thrown out of Heaven for saying, "I will be like God." It will always be true: Pride goes before the fall! In the last chapter we saw the day will come when political Babylon, led by the Antichrist of Rome, will burn down all remaining vestiges of religion. Here in verse 8 we see that Babylon itself will burn down, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.**

Verses 9-19 are so descriptive of how the godless VIP's (Very Important Persons) of the world will react when Babylon falls. They will weep and mourn over her. The Party will be over. Verse 19 ends by saying that in "One hour she is made desolate." It is telling that verse 13 includes that one of the things that will have ended is trafficking in the bodies and souls of people. No one will ever again have to go to bed praying "how long!"

The godless people who belonged to the Antichrist will be weeping on earth when "Babylon" falls, but that's not what will be happening in Heaven!

**Write down Revelation 18:20 –**

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It looks clear to me from that verse that God is basically saying to the saints, "I have now answered all the prayers for justice you have prayed, and now the earth's restoration is about to begin." As you pray today, be sure that your prayer life is balanced enough to both pray for lost people to be saved but also to pray for justice to come on earth as it is in Heaven. In many ways that prayer for justice is also a cry for Christ to return to earth and make this world right!

**Day 34-        Read Revelation 18:21-19:10**

**Yesterday we saw the coming fall of “Babylon” from the perspective of the godless worshippers of the Antichrist. “Babylon” may very well include the famous city rebuilt, but also certainly is a reference to the entire Satanic world system.**

Especially grieved at the Fall of Babylon will be the greedy and lust-filled rulers and merchants who had most benefitted from the exploitation of the world’s peoples and resources.

**Today’s passage looks at the Fall of Babylon primarily from Heaven’s perspective, and is the last passage before Heaven’s stables open and Jesus Christ comes riding out on the white horse! Understandably, Heaven is in a rejoicing mood in this passage.**

You have probably seen the iconic images of the dancing and kissing in the streets when World War II officially ended. The terrible enemy had been defeated and the world had been freed. It was time for a party! That is just a small insight into how great the celebration in Heaven will be!

**The party starts by a mighty angel throwing a stone like a great millstone into the sea!**

I can’t help but think about the passage we looked at yesterday, Psalm 137. There we saw the Psalmist lament that the godless Babylonian soldiers of his day had smashed the innocent against rocks. No wonder the angel throws the great millstone into the sea and proclaims that Babylon will be thrown down with the kind of violence that she had thrown down Israel with.

Just like we saw yesterday, verses 23-24 link the judgment with Babylon’s deceptive exploitation of the world in general and killing of God’s people in particular. But that is not going to happen anymore, and the angel rejoices! But he is not alone - a great multitude in Heaven rejoices with the angel!

**What word occurs FOUR times in the first six verses?**

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The word Alleluia is another way of saying Hallelujah. It means “Praise the Lord!” Hallel means praise and Yah is short for the big name for the LORD in the Old Testament – Yahweh. So Hallelujah means Praise Yah, or Praise the LORD!

**Write down at least 6 of the 8 things the Lord is being praised for in verses 1-2...**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In Revelation chapters 4-5 we saw that God is forever praised in Heaven for Creation and Salvation. Here He is again praised for His great Salvation and for His perfect Judgment of the Satanic world system.



I really love verse 5!

On earth the great people used the little people. But in Heaven small and great alike are loved by the Lord and VIP's there! I love how Jesus spoke of such things in the Beatitudes.

**Turn to Matthew 5:3-12 and answer the following questions.**

**According to Matthew 5:3, how will the poor in spirit be blessed?**

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**According to Matthew 5:4, how will those who mourn be blessed?**

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**According to Matthew 5:5, how will the meek be (humble) blessed?**

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**According to Matthew 5:10, how will those persecuted for righteousness' sake be blessed?**

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**According to Matthew 5:11-12, how will those who are reviled and persecuted be blessed?**

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Make no mistake about it, reader. The day of the GREAT REVERSAL is coming. Those who lived by antichrist's values will be shocked to see it all dissolve away. Those who lived by Heaven's values will flourish on the world Jesus Christ is going to rule over!

The reality is that this world with all of its problems is the closest thing to Heaven non-believers will ever know, but after this life they will experience eternal Hell. For believers, this world when it is bad for them will be the only "Hell" they ever know, because after this world the best is yet to come, eternal life with Jesus!

**All Heaven has been waiting for the decree made in Revelation 19:7. Write it here –**

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The gospels describe Christ as the Bridegroom and His disciples in the church as the Bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5 Paul says that just as a husband is the head of his wife, Christ is the head of the church.

Marriages are happy, happy, happy times of celebrating a couple's loving commitment to be together from this time forward. The marriage Supper of the Lamb will celebrate the people of God spending forever with God!

**This coming marriage supper of the lamb may be the time that Jesus leads ALL His disciples in the Lord's Supper, as He promised in Matthew 26:26-29.**

**Look up and write down Matthew 26:29 –**

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Every time I lead the church I pastor in taking the Lord's Supper together, I think of the time coming when Jesus Himself will lead His church in taking the Lord's Supper. I get tears in my eyes almost every time I think about it. It is the Great Shepherd Jesus who gets all the glory from any of the ministries of we the under-shepherds. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, all eyes will be on the Bridegroom who alone deserves glory!

**According to Revelation 19:8, what does the fine linen the bride will wear represent?**

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Back in Revelation 15:18 we read of the coming reward of the saints. 2 Corinthians 5:10 refers to this as the Judgment (Beat) Seat of Christ. It is not the same as the Great White Throne Judgment of the godless coming up in Revelation 20. The Bema seat was the raised platform that Judges sat on and gave out rewards from after athletic contests.

**Perhaps Revelation 19:8 is indicating this time of reward will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The world loves to have awards ceremonies to celebrate human achievements. It is kind of neat to think that Heaven will have the ultimate reward ceremony, when Christ celebrates and rewards what was done for Him by the saints. This is presented throughout the New Testament as a big motivator for Christians, although not as big as love for Christ itself. After all, the only reason we can do anything for Him is because of what He first did for us on the cross!**

The voice that said these things to John then told John to write, "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" If you have received Christ as your Lord and Savior, you will be there!

John was so overcome by all of this that he fell down to worship the voice, but whoever it was quickly rebuked John and pointed John back to Jesus. That's a good word for us today – don't make too much of Christian celebrities – Worship God!

**According to Revelation 19:10, what is the spirit of prophecy really all about?**

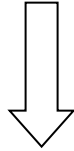
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What a great word for us as we reach the end of the Tribulation events! After 14 chapters of Tribulation details, you may have gotten off track and have your eyes too much on events. Here John is reminded that any study of prophecy that doesn't bring you closer to Jesus missed the point of prophecy! As you pray today, worship the Lamb of God who took away your sins!

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

**Day 35-        Read Revelation 19:11-21**

**We come to the moment the entire book of Revelation has been building to – the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to defeat His enemies and set up His thousand-year reign on earth!**

**What blessed words in verse 11!**

**Every single phrase dripping with meaning...**

Now I saw Heaven opened...

*The day Creation has longed for has come!*

And behold, a white horse!

*Heaven has horses – how cool is that!*

And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True!

*It's Jesus time!*

And in righteousness He judges and makes war!

*Now you bullies are gonna get it!*

**Then in verse 11 we see similar descriptions of Jesus that we saw in earlier chapters.**

His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns.

The King is coming to reclaim what is rightfully His – the earth! And nothing is going to stand in His way!

Here's something intriguing – He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

**Just for fun, write down a name or two for Jesus you would emphasize –**

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He has already been called Faithful and True. I would probably emphasize that He is Loving and Just! Or perhaps that He is Good and the Source of all that is Beautiful!

**In verse 13 we are told that His name is also the Word of God. That definitely confirms that this is Jesus! John had already given the most wonderful description of Jesus as the Word of God in John 1:1-18!**

Fill in the missing blanks from John 1:1-3 here...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was \_\_\_\_\_.  
He was in the beginning with God. All things were \_\_\_\_\_ through Him, and without Him \_\_\_\_\_ was made that was made.                      -John 1:1-3

Revelation 19:13 says that Jesus was wearing a robe dipped in blood.

## **Whose blood do you think the robe was dipped in?**

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Amazingly, the great prophecy in Genesis 49:8-12 had said that The Messiah would be from the Tribe of Judah and one day have bloody clothes after riding on a donkey! Jesus shed His blood on the cross for our sins, and identifying with that death through faith washes our sins clean in His blood. We throw away bloody clothes, not wanting to remember the event that bloodied them. Not Jesus – His bloody robe is another reminder of His great sacrifice for sinners.

I love the fact that at His first coming, Jesus rode in on a donkey, but in this second coming He is on a white horse! Donkeys are beasts of burden, and Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on a Donkey on Palm Sunday reminds us of the work He did on the cross for us.

Conquering Kings in ancient days often rode back into their capitols on white horses to demonstrate their victories over the enemy. Often then would have trailing them on foot those they had conquered and made servants! No wonder verse 16 tells us Jesus also has King of Kings and Lord of Lords written on His robe and thigh.

### **Here's where it gets really good!**

**You and I will be riding behind Jesus on white horses also, along with the saints of Heaven! We are not just His servants, we are also Overcomers through faith in Him! We are called the armies of Heaven, but only General Jesus will be doing any fighting. We will probably be holding our smartphones so we can post it to the 'cloud' afterwards!**

You say, "Danny, don't you think that is all just symbolic language?" Nope, I think its really going to happen like it reads! But if it doesn't, don't you understand that if it is a symbol, it is a symbol of something even awesomer? Any way you look at it, Jesus wins and those who had faith in Him win with Him. His victory is our victory! When David defeated Goliath, all Israel won that day because their Champion had won. Friend. I am with THE Champ, Jesus Christ! Hopefully you are as well!

**The rest of this passage makes clear how comprehensive Jesus' victory will be.**

**According to verse 19, who will gather to fight the Lord Jesus and armies of Heaven?**

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These foes of Jesus will bring all the greatest weapons mankind has ever devised to this fight.

Their hatred for God and Israel and anyone who turns to Jesus will make them highly motivated to do whatever it takes to not only try and defeat Jesus, but destroy Jesus. If it takes setting off atomic bombs and nuclear warheads and destroying themselves and the world 100 times over to get Jesus, they will be prepared to do it.

**According to verse 15, what will Jesus bring to the fight?**

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Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword!

We already saw from John 1:1-3 that Jesus is called the Word of God, and that our God Jesus created all things.

Back in Genesis 1 when our God Jesus created all things, it says many times something like this, “God said ‘Let there be light...and there WAS light.’

The Hebrew words for ‘God said’ are *Elohim Bara*. Our God Jesus merely spoke, and it happened!

Do you get the point?

**In Genesis chapter 1 Jesus spoke the world into existence with a few words. In Revelation 19, He will defeat His enemies with just a few more words!**

Maybe He will look into the Antichrist’s eyes and say like Clint Eastwood, “Go ahead, make my day!” More likely, Jesus will just look at those around the Antichrist and False Prophet and say, “Drop dead!” And they will. Because when God speaks, what He wants to happen HAPPENS!

**According to verse 20, what will happen to the Antichrist Beast and the False Prophet?**

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**According to verse 21, what will the birds do at the end of this battle of Armageddon?**

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All those who fought with the Antichrist in this battle will be killed. Their souls will still have to face God at the Great White Throne Judgment we will read about in chapter 20. So will every person who has ever lived and failed to repent of their sin and turn to God for salvation.

Meanwhile, all those who remain at the end of the Tribulation, including the nation of Israel and Gentiles who turned to Jesus, will live on as Jesus sets up His thousand-year reign from Jerusalem.

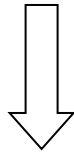
**Chapter 19 is a tale of two suppers. The first is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. If you turn to Jesus now in faith before the Rapture of the Church, you will certainly be at that supper. But if you reject Jesus, miss the Rapture of the church, and never turn to Jesus during the seven-year tribulation, your flesh will become the supper of birds.**

As you pray today, praise Jesus for wearing the robe dipped in blood! If He is not ashamed to wear it back to earth, don’t be afraid to be known before men on earth as one who ‘cherishes the Old Rugged Cross.’ Be like Paul, who said he would not boast about himself but would only boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14).

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
The One who was, is, and will be!	The Church Age	Look into Heaven!	The Tribulation	The Second Coming of Christ	The Millennium	The Great White Throne Judgment	New Earth OR Lake of Fire
<i>Eternal Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Church</i>	<i>Lord of Heaven</i>	<i>Lord of Israel Again</i>	<i>Returning Lord</i>	<i>Lord of the Nations</i>	<i>Lord of Judgment</i>	<i>Eternal Lord</i>



### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

## **Day 36-        Read Revelation 20:1-6**

**We come now to what Biblical scholars call The Millennium. It is called that because the word Millennium means 1,000 years, and that's how long Revelation chapter 20 tells us this coming 'Age of Peace' will last.**

The seven-year tribulation will end when Jesus Christ returns to earth and defeats His foes at the Battle of Armageddon. Then this Millennium will begin and Jesus Christ will reign over the entire world from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, and the Great White Throne Judgment will happen. After that comes the rest of eternity, when God and man will dwell together on the New Earth.

**There are three main approaches Bible scholars have taken to the Millennium.**

Amillennialists do not think there will be a literal 1,000 years at all. The 'A' on the front puts the word 'No' in front of what it speaks of. An Atheist does not believe in God. An Amillennialist does not believe there will actually be a 1,000 year reign. They would take all this language as symbolic of eternal life with God.

Postmillennialists also deny that there is a literal 1,000 year period to come. Historically they have taught that the millennium is symbolic language for how the church is making the world a better place right now, the kind of place that Jesus Christ will want to return to. 'Post' means after, and they believe that after this church age, this 'millennium,' Jesus will judge the world and bring in the eternal state.

Premillennialists alone take the Scriptures literally, both in what the Scriptures state and the way they state it. The word 'pre' means before, and Revelation has clearly laid out for us that the church age will be BEFORE the Tribulation that that will be BEFORE Christ's Second Coming that will be BEFORE His 1,000 year rule that happens BEFORE the Great White Throne Judgment that happens BEFORE the New Earth.

Now to help you determine which one of these you are, let's first answer a question.

**How many times does Revelation 20:1-7 refer to a coming 1,000 year time period?**

HINT: You may want to underline each occurrence and then go back and count them up!

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Now let me walk you through an exercise that will help you determine which millennial view you held.

Suppose I wrote you a seven-line letter and told you that I was going to come and spend 30 days with you. Suppose I told you 6 times in those 7 lines that I was staying for 30 days.

Which of these would be your response to that letter –

Would you refuse to believe the 30 days were actual days, but instead that I was trying to communicate to you that I was going to move in with you indefinitely?



If your answer is yes, you may be an Amillennialist. If your answer is no, proceed to the next question.

Would you refuse to believe that I was actually going to spend 30 days with you, but instead believe that I was referring to you spending “30 days” getting ready for me to move in with you?

If your answer is yes, you may be a Postmillennialist. If your answer is no, proceed to the next question.

Would you take me at my word that when I get to your house I am going to spend 30 actual days with you?

If your answer is yes, like me you are a Premillennialist!

**Now let’s get into what our passage for today says about this 1,000-year Millennium.**

**According to verses 1-2, where will Satan be for these 1,000 years?**

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That is such wonderful news!

For 6,000 years Satan has been messing the earth up. He tempted and deceived Adam and Eve until they committed the original sin all the way back in Genesis chapter 3. And he has been deceiving people ever since. In John’s gospel we are told Satan is the father of lies and that he seeks to kill steal, and destroy.

**Look up and write down how Peter described him in I Peter 5:8...**

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**Hallelujah! Revelation 20:1-3 tells us that for a 1,000 years Satan will be chained up and unable to deceive anybody! That itself will make the Millennium a wonderful time!**

We will deal with Satan’s brief release at the end of the Millennium tomorrow.

**But before we go on let’s think about something. After God created the earth in 6 literal days, we are told that He rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and set it apart as a day of rest and worship. He intended that men also should work for 6 days and rest and worship on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.**

**Isn’t it neat to think that after 6,000 years or so of toilsome earth history, there will be a 1,000 year golden age on earth without Satan’s influence? That makes me so happy to think about!**

**Since we are told in Revelation 21-22 of the New Earth to come, I am grateful that Revelation 20 speaks of the last 1,000 years of “Old Earth” history being more like earth should have been all along!**

**In Revelation 20:4-6 we read of the people who will be on earth with Jesus during the 1,000 years, and the people who will not be on earth.**

**Let's first think about the people who will be on earth during that time:**

All the Old and New Testament Saints who returned to earth with Jesus (Rev. 19:11-14).

That includes those who had been saved and killed during the Tribulation (Revelation 20:4).

The Apostles of Jesus will be on earth and have a special leadership role (Matthew 19:23-29).

All Jews living at the end of the seven-year tribulation (Romans 11:26/ Zechariah 12:8-10).

All Gentiles who didn't worship the Beast & survived the Tribulation (Revelation 19:20).

**It's pretty cool to think about this coming Millennium! The Old Testament prophets described it as a time that is not quite the New Earth yet, but definitely the Old Earth's best days since the Garden of Eden!**

Isaiah chapter 11 has some wonderful statements about it...

With righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked (verse 4); righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist (verse 5); The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb (verse 6); The nursing child will play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den (verse 8); They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (verse 9). The Root of Jesse will stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles will seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious (verse 10); He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth (verse 12).

Isaiah 65:20 indicates there will be no infant mortality and those who live to one hundred will still be thought of as in their childhood years! Perhaps someone will break Methuselah's record of living 969 years before dying (Genesis 5:27).

This brings up the mind-blowing concept that those who entered the Millennium who had not died yet probably WILL experience death during the 1,000 years, as well as some of their children and grandchildren. Those who came from Heaven to earth won't die at all. Perhaps those who die will come back to life quickly with the kind of perfect body those who came from Heaven already had!

From Ezekiel 40-48 we also discern that Jerusalem will have the grandest Temple in the Millennium that it will have had in all of "old earth" history. It even seems to indicate that animal sacrifices may again be made there. They won't be necessary for salvation of course, because Jesus' once for all sacrifice took care of that. But the Priests and those who bring the sacrifices will still need to eat, and so maybe the rituals will be performed with the dual purpose of illustrating Israel's history and being dinner! During those 1,000 years, people will come from around the world for the ultimate "Holy Land Experience."

**This leads us to a key point: We need a lot of humility as we think and speak about the Millennium! It seems to me that for every question we answer from the Bible about this time, several more questions come into our mind!**

I hear many teachers boldly declare things about this time that I know from my own reading are pure guesses! I believe it is certain that there will be a 1,000 rule of Christ that is not quite the New Earth yet. I am a lot less certain about the details!

**All I really need to know is what Revelation 20 emphasizes – Jesus will be My King, and Satan will be locked up! We will get to go to Jerusalem a lot and perhaps meet Peter and John and Paul, maybe Abraham, Moses and David. Maybe even our own guardian angels! We will have some type of responsibilities and urge those who are born to love Jesus like we do! Sounds like a pretty awesome time to me!**

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But we also need to think about who won't be on the earth at that time.

**According to Revelation 20:5, what people WON'T be on earth during the Millennium?**

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The rest of the dead includes all of those who died not knowing Jesus. Their names are not written in the Book of Life. At death their souls were confined to the place known in Old Testament Hebrew as Sheol, and New Testament Greek as Hades.

As we will see when we look at Revelation 20:11-15, at the end of the 1,000 years the rest of the dead will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment, and then go to the Lake of Fire forever. That is what the Bible calls "the second death" that believers will never experience.

As you pray today, thank God that the future is in the hands of Jesus. Thank Him that He gives every opportunity for sinners to repent and turn to Him. Pray again for someone that you know who needs Jesus.

## **Day 37-        Read Revelation 20:7-10**

Yesterday we saw the reality that there will be a 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth after the seven-year tribulation but before the Great White Throne Judgment. Scholars call this coming time the Millennium. The more we think about the Millennium, the more questions we have!

That there will be a 1,000-year reign of Christ is clear to those of us who read the Bible literally. Unfortunately, there is comparatively little material that tells us what it will be like! That's especially frustrating when we think of how the seven-year tribulation received fourteen chapters in Revelation, whereas the 1,000-year Millennium receives only one chapter!

Of course, there are other times the Bible does the same thing! Genesis 1-11 takes 11 chapters to cover about 2,000 years of earth history, while Genesis 12-50 takes 39 chapters to cover four generations in just one family! 25% of the gospels cover just one week!

**We face something similar in today's reading. What's described in Revelation 20:7-10 is clear enough, but we would love to have a lot more details. Not having them has led to a lot of conjecture from Bible students and scholars alike!**

**What will clearly happen at the end of the 1,000 years according to Revelation 20:7-9?**

**Fill in the answers:**

Satan will be \_\_\_\_\_ from his prison

Satan will go out to \_\_\_\_\_ the nations

Satan will gather them together to \_\_\_\_\_

They surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved \_\_\_\_\_

For came down from God out of Heaven and \_\_\_\_\_ them

Like other parts of The Book of Revelation, the main points are clear, but the details are fuzzy!

**Write down key questions you have from Revelation 20:7-9...**

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The biggest question people ask from this passage is probably about the identity of those who join Satan in this final battle of the Bible.

The second biggest question would be the identity of Gog and Magog.

Another question may be how this battle relates to the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19 and the Battle described in Ezekiel 38-39.

Some may wonder what the beloved city is, although that is probably a reference to Jerusalem.

### **Let's start with the identity of Satan's 'army.'**

I would like to think about this as an army of demons, but the text doesn't lead us that way. Verse 7 tells us these are nations from the four compass points that Satan deceives. Nations are made up of people. Verse 8 tells us that their number is like the sand of the sea, and Satan will first gather them, then according to verse 9 they will march on Jerusalem and surround it.

Their nefarious purpose has to be an attempt to destroy Jesus and the saints of God at Jerusalem. Since yesterday's passage described Jesus as ruling the world perfectly from Jerusalem during the Millennium, we immediately ask how there would be this many evil people in the world who would join Satan in one more attack on the city of God. From here we can only speculate.

The Bible makes clear that during the Millennium there will be outward obedience to the teachings of Christ. When any problem starts to emerge, passages like Isaiah 2 seem to indicate that Jesus will settle them quickly. For the entire 1,000 years, no outward displays of sin will be tolerated.

Remember that there will be those alive during the Millennium who make it through the Great Tribulation without worshipping the Beast. Presumably they will have children who will have children who have children. I calculate that a 1,000 years is enough time for more than 40 generations to be born, with perhaps billions of people on the planet.

Apparently there will be many people born during the Millennium that obey Christ outwardly because they have to but never receive Him on the inside as their Savior through the new birth. Think of that. They will have access to Jesus, Old and New Testament Saints, and maybe even Angels but never turn to Jesus. Satan won't be around to deceive them during the millennium, but they still will develop a hardened heart.

Is there any practical application to us now?

Absolutely!

**Every sinner has only themselves to blame for their inward rejection of Jesus Christ. The Devil can tempt us to sin, but he is not responsible for our sin – we are!**

Adam and Eve were in a perfect environment in the Garden of Eden, but that didn't keep them from sinning when Satan tempted them to. But during the Millennium there will be people living in a perfect environment WITHOUT Satan there to tempt them, but who still inwardly rebel against Jesus and join Satan's army when given the opportunity to. As parents we can create a near perfect environment for our children, but if they don't have an inward turn of heart to Jesus, it will be their own fault before God, not their parents or Satan.

### **How about the reference to Gog and Magog?**

I believe this is a cryptic reference to Gog and Magog. Back in Ezekiel 38-39 Gog and Magog referred to a battle that takes place during the end times. But a close look at that context indicates that battle will probably happen sometime before the Tribulation begins. If that's the case, Gog and Magog HERE would be like referring to Napoleon's Waterloo or Custard's Little Big Horn.

In other words, their efforts are doomed to fail big time!

And that's exactly what happens in verse 9! These poor fools who have joined themselves to Satan's army will have fire come down from Heaven and consume them. After Jesus' Second Coming He will never allow harm to come to Jerusalem again!

**According to Revelation 20:10, what will then happen to Satan the Devil?**

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This is one of the most awesome verses in the Bible!

The Devil who has messed up the world going all the way back to Genesis 3 will never ever mess with the world again!

The Devil will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, his final resting place, except there will be no rest there for him or anyone else who winds up there – only torment forever.

Interestingly, back in Revelation 9:11 we were told that Satan is the king of the bottomless pit. But that is the temporary home for the wicked angels. The Lake of Fire is the permanent home.

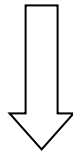
**We are not told that Satan will be the King of the Lake of Fire, only that he is one of the ones who will be tormented there. Satan's fall will be complete – he who desired to be on equal par with God will be no more than another being suffering in the Lake of Fire.**

As you pray today, thank God that the day is coming when Satan will be confined to the Lake of Fire forever!

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

Ch. 1	Ch. 2-3	Ch. 4-5	Ch. 6-19	Ch. 19	Ch. 20	Ch. 20	Ch. 21-22
<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
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### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

144,000 Ch. 7

Multitude Ch. 7

### Trumpet Judgments Ch. 8-9

Mighty Angel Ch. 10

Two Witnesses Ch. 11

Woman, Child, Dragon Ch. 12

Two Beasts Ch. 13

Lamb + 144,000 Ch. 14

Angels Proclaim Ch. 14

### Bowl Judgments Ch. 15-16

Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

**Day 38-        Read Revelation 20:11-15**

**We come now to THE FINAL TIME OF JUDGMENT that the Bible speaks of. Back in Exodus 32:34 the LORD Himself called this Great White Throne Judgment the Day when I visit for punishment.**

I like the rendering in another translation – The Day that I Settle Accounts. Everything that needs to get dealt with will be dealt with here before eternity begins.

**Look up and fill in the missing blanks from what Jesus said in John 5:24-27...**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believe in Him who sent Me has \_\_\_\_\_ life and shall NOT come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, the hour is \_\_\_\_\_, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear Him will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has \_\_\_\_\_ the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him \_\_\_\_\_ to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

**“The hour of judgment is coming,” Jesus said. The Day the LORD spoke of in Exodus; The Hour Jesus spoke of in John; that Day and Hour arrives in Revelation 20:11-15.**

You may wonder why Jesus also had said in John 5, “the Hour now is.” What Jesus is referring to is that He Himself becomes the difference in how people will experience judgment.

Before Jesus’ First Coming, EVERY person was faced with eventually appearing before Him at the Great White Throne Judgment and giving an account of their every sin. That changed when Jesus died and rose. Jesus died on the cross for sinners in the NOW of His first coming. Those who identify with Jesus in faith become believers and the punishment due their sin is TRANSFERRED forever to what Jesus did on that cross. They may be present at the Great White Throne Judgment, but will not be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment.

For those who refuse to believe in Jesus and turn to Him for salvation, their unbelief will mean they have to face the Great White Throne Judgment. The implication of this is that since Jesus came, unbelief is the biggest sin, because only belief in Jesus will change someone’s destination from the Lake of Fire to the New Earth. Old Testament saints looked forward in belief to what their Messiah would do for them, and New Testament saints look back on the finished work of Jesus on the believer’s behalf.

Let’s Picture it two ways.

Picture two men drowning in the ocean. Both are going to drown. Then from out of nowhere comes a rescue ship, and a life preserver connected to a rope is thrown down from above. One man grabs hold of it and is saved from drowning, but the other man refuses to grab hold of it and drowns. He has no one but himself to blame for what comes next.

Now picture a line of guilty defendants standing before a judge. Each person there is guilty, but some have done worse deeds than others based on the Law of the Judge. There are spectators in the courtroom who were also guilty but made a plea deal with the Judge that led to their



punishment being taken care of by another person. Each of those who will stand before the Judge had the opportunity to receive the same plea deal, but refused it. Now each will one by one appear before the Judge, and receive punishment that corresponds to their criminal deeds.

With that background, let's look at The Great White Throne Judgment.

**According to Revelation 20:11-15, what happens to the Old earth and heavens (sky and space) when the Great White Throne appears with God on it?**

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Back in 2 Peter 3:10 we read of a coming day when the old earth will burn up, and the heavens will pass away, and the elements will melt with fervent heat. I believe what John the Revelator saw was the same thing that Peter spoke of. I believe Jesus had taught the disciples about such things in the days between His resurrection from the dead and His ascension to Heaven.

**Now that makes us ask a question – where will the saints who lived on the earth during the millennium be during this time if there is no old earth to be standing on? What do you think?**

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They could be above the razed old earth in the New Jerusalem. Some scholars think the New Jerusalem will hover above the earth during the Millennium. If so, maybe angels and all those who had already died and experienced Heaven are able to go back and forth between Old Earth Jerusalem and New Jerusalem during the Millennium. Maybe the saints are there during the Great White Throne Judgment.

The other option is that all the saints of all time will also be at the Great White Throne Judgment. Let me be clear: No saint will be there to receive punishment, because Jesus took their punishment on Himself at the cross. But I think there are good reasons to think saints will be there, and I will share those below.

**Verses 12-13 make clear that all the unsaved of all time will be there to be judged.**

Back in Revelation 20:5 we were told that the rest of the dead would not live again until the 1,000 years were finished. Revelation 20:12 says now that time has come, and all the dead, small and great, are standing before God. Verse 13 explicitly says this includes all those in Hades.

You may remember our teaching that before Jesus Christ's first coming, all the dead of all time went to Sheol/Hades. After Jesus purchased salvation for believers on the cross, the part of Sheol/ Hades that held believers was emptied and those saints have been "with the Lord" ever since. All believers who have died ever since have gone to be "with the Lord." But all unbelievers still went to Hades/Sheol, awaiting this Final Judgment we call the Great White Throne Judgment.

**According to Revelation 20:12, what will be the basis of the judgment of the unsaved?**

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It says that each unsaved person will be judged according to their works. Verse 15 makes clear that these unsaved people do not have their names written in the Book of Life. Because they did not trust in Christ's work for them, they will be held accountable for every sinful work they have ever done. It will be too late at this point to turn to Christ for forgiveness.

Every sin gets dealt with one of two places: on the cross of Jesus for those who believe, or at the Great White Throne Judgment and Lake of Fire for those who refuse to believe.

**One conclusion we draw from this is that there will be degrees of punishment in Hell, with the extent of each person's sins forging how terrible the Lake of Fire will be for them for all eternity. Make no mistake about it, though, it will be terrible for everyone there.**

You say, "Danny, is there any other place the Bible seems to indicate the Lake of Fire will be worse based on how sinful the unrepentant sinner was?" I'm glad you asked!

**Look up and write down Luke 10:14 here after reading Luke 10:13...**

---

In Luke 10:14 and other passages Jesus indicates there will be degrees of punishment for those who reject Him, with even greater judgment coming to those who rejected Him despite having more clear knowledge about Him. Don't go to Hell friend – turn to Jesus for salvation.

Now let me state one other thing here that I think will happen at the Great White Throne Judgment. After this time, the unsaved dead will spend forever in the Lake of Fire, and all redeemed saints will spend forever with God on the New Earth. But I believe this will be the time when every single thing that wasn't dealt with on earth will be sorted out.

What are you getting at, Danny? Do you remember Revelation 3:9? There we read of a coming time when those from the "Synagogue of Satan" will acknowledge their sin against the church of Philadelphia. I believe that time will be The Great White Throne Judgment.

**This is pure conjecture, but I believe everything not dealt with between people will be dealt with then. I think it is entirely possible this time will include words spoken by non-believers to believers, non-believers to other non-believers, believers to other believers, and EVEN believers to non-believers.**

Adolph Hitler will have to acknowledge how evil what he did at the holocaust was. Dictators and their regimes will have to confess how they had oppressed their people. Abortionists and abusers and racists will have to acknowledge the ways they dismissed the value of other human beings. Those who used the power of the state to deny religious liberty to others will own up to what they did. Church members will have to acknowledge the pain their actions brought other

church members and their leaders. Family members will do the same. Perhaps Christians will acknowledge to non-Christians they failed to witness to them like they should. And even great Christian leaders of the Reformation will have to acknowledge their anti-Semitic comments.

You say, “Danny, if anything about that is true that is really sobering.” It is, isn’t it? That’s why from cover to cover the Bible speaks of the absolute necessity of having the FEAR of God. If what I just wrote is even close to true, let me encourage you to deal with what you can NOW in your life with others and put it under the blood of Christ.

**If I am correct, what will this mean as all people go from the Great White Throne Judgment into their eternal home?**

It will mean that all those who go to the Lake of Fire will go there having no question about the fairness of God’s judgment. Everything will have been dealt with, with no “hanging chads.” If you don’t understand that reference, ask someone who was alive during the Presidential election of the year 2000!

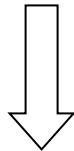
It will also mean that all those who go to the New Earth will understand that the ONLY reason they are going there is the grace of God poured out to them because of Christ’s work on the cross. That grace was received through faith, not a shred of inherent goodness in them.

As you pray today, ask God to help you apply Romans 12:18 in your life – “As much as possible, as much as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men.” Commit to being a person who gives and receives the forgiveness you have been given by Jesus Christ!

# CHART FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Ages!*

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<b>Ages Past</b>	<b>Age of Grace</b>	<i>Rapture?</i>	<b>Age of Wrath</b>		<b>Age of Peace</b>		<b>Eternity Future</b>
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### Seal Judgments Ch. 6

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Woman/ Scarlet Beast Ch. 17

Fall of Babylon Ch. 18

Marriage Supper Ch. 19

**Day 39-        Read Revelation 21:1-22:5**

**We come now to the description of where all the saints of God will spend eternity. Our minds are filled with awe at we read about the place and what will be there. Our hearts are filled with gladness as we read what will not be there!**

**However else you picture life with God on the New Earth think of it this way – think of the best things about the old earth WITHOUT sin of any kind.**

**From the first five verses, complete the blanks of the NEW things John the Revelator saw:**

A NEW h\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 1)

A NEW e\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 1)

A NEW J\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 2)

God says, “Behold, I make a\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ NEW” (verse 5)

You and I as believers are included in the all things that are made new!

I will be a NEW Danny in a NEW body living in a NEW Jerusalem on a NEW earth in a NEW universe!

We left chapter 20 with all people being at The Great White Throne Judgment. The last verse told us that those who were not in the Book of Life were cast into the Lake of Fire with Satan.

The Old earth and Old heaven (sky and space) had been dissolved as The Great White Throne appeared. Think of that old television show “Extreme Home Makeover.” They would pay for the family to take a vacation. Then they would bulldoze the existing house, and put a much bigger and better home on the property. The family then returns and moves in to their ‘new and improved’ home. I believe something like that is shown happening in Revelation chapters 21-22.

You and I were not present at Creation back in Genesis chapter one, but we read that in only six days God created the old heavens (sky and space) and the old earth. One by one He spoke everything into creation, and the earth came to life, including the Garden of Eden.

God said His creation was good, and walked with Adam and Eve daily in the Garden until they sinned. In Job 38:4-7 we read that the Angels sang and shouted as creation happened. Maybe we will get to sing and shout as this NEW creation happens and a perfect world emerges that will never have sin on it!

John reports in Revelation 21:1 that this New Earth did not have sea, or saltwater oceans. But in Revelation 22:1 we learn there will be a pure river running right through the middle of the New Jerusalem!

In verse two John sees the New Jerusalem, the place Jesus had been preparing for centuries, coming down to be forever on this New Earth. We will look at it more in a moment.

But what makes the New Earth so exciting is the return to the ‘Garden of Eden’ - like reality of being able to walk with God!

**Write down what Revelation 21:3 says about us and God –**

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God is spiritually present with us now! On the New Earth, He will be physically present with us on a perfect world! I can only imagine!

**Write down what Revelation 21:4 and 22:3 say will NOT be on the New Earth –**

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Take a moment and think about what that means. I especially love 22:3 saying there will be no more of the effects of sin’s CURSE. On the New Earth there will never be a need for hospitals, assisted living facilities, funeral homes or graveyards. There will be no abortion clinics, brothels, casinos, or anything else financed by sin.

**What there will be on the new earth is the best things about the old earth with an infinite capacity to enjoy them the way God intended them to be enjoyed! That undoubtedly includes reading, art, music, hiking, biking, and sports and the like!**

It also squares with the expectations of Old Testament saints that their final reality would not be living above the clouds, but living on a perfect earth. Check out Psalm 37:9 –

**For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth! -Psalm 37:9**

When the New Jerusalem comes down on the New Earth, the ‘waiting on the LORD’ will be over forever! All God’s people WILL inherit the earth! Evildoers who never repent will be not be there, ‘cut off’ from experiencing the wonders of the New Earth.

**Let’s take a few moments to appreciate this New Jerusalem!**

**According to verse 16, it is a 12,000 furlong cube. That means it is over 1,500 miles long, wide, and high. That would be from the east coast of the United States to the Mississippi River! That’s the biggest city EVER!**

Many country living people don’t like living in cities, but they have been awed in visits to cities with all the great things that are there. Many city people don’t want to leave all that the city has to offer, but have been refreshed and renewed with trips to the country. The New Jerusalem will have it all, and all of it will honor God!

Think of the best parks, libraries, museums, technological exhibits, skyscrapers with tremendous views, stadiums, zoos, and the like. Think of the best gardens, hikes, horseback riding, car drives, plane flights, mountaintop views, waterfalls, water skiing and snow skiing. Think of minds being freed from sin's influence and creatively serving God! The new books that will be written, the new songs that will be sung, the new paintings that will be painted!

No wonder First Corinthians 2:9 says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

No wonder the Psalmist exclaimed in Psalm 16:11, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore!"

Whatever you and I with our feeble minds worry about not being able to do on the New Earth will be forgotten because of all that we can do on the New Earth!

**According to Revelation 20:11 the glory of God will light things up like light! Verse 23 says that radiance will make sunlight and moonlight unnecessary! Revelation 22:5 says that the Lord God will give the city and the saints all the light needed!**

Verse 12 tells us that there will be 12 great gates to the city, with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel written on the gates. But because all sin and unrepentant sinners have been dealt with, verse 25 tells us the gates will always be open.

It appears that just as there is a New Jerusalem in a New Israel, there may also be places like New Africa, New Americas, New Asia, New Australia, and New Europe! Verses 24-26 indicate people from the nations will come in and out of the New Jerusalem, and the best of their historic cultures will be celebrated! What a wonderful experience it will all be!

Verse 13 tells us the great wall of the city will be over 200 feet high and have 12 foundations named for each of the twelve apostles. Each foundation will be adorned with priceless gems! Verse 21 tells us the pavement of the city will be pure gold!

**According to Revelation 21:22, what won't be in the New Jerusalem?**

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The Old Earth needed a Temple because sinful man needed a way to have their sins forgiven and cleansed to meet with a Holy God. The closest thing they could get to His presence was their High Priest going in once a year to the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant within the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Jesus' first coming made God's presence a spiritual reality for believers. When the New Jerusalem comes, God's people will have 24/7 access to Jesus Christ! Revelation 22:3-5 sum it up so well – we will see God's face and worship and serve Him forever!

**Revelation 22:1-2 tells us that on the New Earth people will again have access to the Tree of Life. Access had been cut off back in Genesis 3, lest people in their sinful condition would partake of it and live forever with the effects of sin's curse. Now that sin's curse has been dealt with, access to the Tree of Life will keep us all at full strength in our glorified bodies! As you pray today, give God thanks for all that awaits us on His coming New Earth!**

**Day 40-        Read Revelation 22:6-21**

We made it!

And so did John the Revelator!

Having received the Revelation of Jesus Christ and coming events, John is brought back to the present to receive the last chapter of the New Testament and the entire Bible.

And what does Jesus want John and us to know?

**Write Revelation 22:7 here –**

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The entire Revelation gives us confidence that Jesus will return to earth and do all that the Bible promises that He will do!

So we are called to pray like Jesus will do what He has said.

We are called to act like Jesus will do what He has said.

We are called to witness like Jesus will do what He has said.

Once again we read in verse 8 that John was so overwhelmed at all of this that he fell at the angel's feet to worship the angel.

And once again the angel didn't allow it for a second!

**What does the angel call himself in verse 9 in relation to John and the prophets?**

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If only Satan had acted like the angel here before he fell, the world may have had a lot less trouble!

In verse 10 the angel tells John not to seal the words of this prophecy. John probably went right out of the cave or place he was in on Patmos and delivered the entire book of Revelation to his fellow saints! Talk about a long Sunday sermon!

That is intriguing to me for two very different reasons.

The first is words that were spoken to the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle Paul before.

All the way back in Daniel 12 Daniel wanted to know how it would all turn out and was told in Daniel 12:3, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."



And in 2 Corinthians 12 Paul was caught up into the Third Heaven, into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

**What Daniel and Paul would have liked to know more about and share was not allowed to be shared by anyone until the very last Book of the Bible! Now that the rest of the Bible was written, God wanted the message of Revelation to get out to everyone!**

That's the second reason the angels words to John to not seal up the Revelation are so intriguing to me. Many preachers are so afraid to get Revelation wrong that they avoid preaching and speaking on it. But its contents are both a wonderful encouragement to believers to keep on believing and for unbelievers to get saved before its too late! Don't seal it up, brothers! Preach the whole counsel of God, including The Book of Revelation!

But there is also a dire warning before this chapter ends to those who would rip Revelation verses out of context and make it say things it doesn't say. In verse 18 we are told if anyone misuses Revelation and adds false teaching to it, all the plagues that are spoken of in the book will be added to them. Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses and other cults come to mind. Verse 19 is also serious – if anyone denies the words written in Revelation as being God's Word, God will deny such people entry into the holy city to come.

In contrast, we are reminded in verse 14 what we were told in Revelation 1:3. There we were told that those who read, understand, and apply the Revelation will be blessed of God. Revelation 22:14 says such WILL enter the holy city and eat of the tree of life!

Now don't forget that Revelation first rounds out our biblical portrait of Jesus! Don't forget that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10).

**Write down the names Jesus calls Himself in Revelation 22:13 & 16 –**

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All of these names indicate that Jesus is the One who started it all, and will finish it all!

Hebrews 12:2 calls Jesus "the Author and Finisher of our faith!"

Colossians 1:17 says that Jesus is "before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

Philippians 1:6 says that "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it."

It's all about Jesus!

**Three times in this chapter Jesus says "I am coming quickly." As we said when we looked at chapter 1, the Return of Jesus Christ hangs over the world like an impending court date!**

**The Final appeal to non-believers to turn to Jesus before its too late is found in verse 17.**

**Write Revelation 22:17 here...**

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**Unbelieving friend, this is my last opportunity in this writing to encourage you to turn to Jesus. If you finally hear His call to salvation, answer it now.**

Say it to God in words something like this –

*Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and have rebelled against You. I deserve Hell as punishment for my sins. Thank you Jesus for your love making you willing to take the punishment my sins deserve on Yourself at the cross. Thank you for Your perfect life making You able to actually take my place of judgment. I believe in You and what You did for me. Please forgive me based on what You did for me on the cross, not on anything in me. I receive you as my Lord and Savior, and pledge to follow You the rest of my days. In Your name I pray Jesus, amen!*

Be sure and let me or a gospel preacher know that you have turned to Christ. They will help you with what should come next for you if you really desire to follow Jesus now!

**The Final encouragement to believers is to live in expectancy of Christ's return.**

**Write Revelation 22:20-21 here...**

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**For 2,000 years believers have been living in a spirit of expectancy of Christ's return. They have been saying "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" Even with all that it will mean for those who are and aren't ready, even so, come, Lord Jesus! Sometimes believers just say it with the Aramaic word "Maranatha," which means "Our Lord, Come!"**

*Now when Jesus had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* -Acts 1:9-11

AS you pray today say...

**MARANATHA**

## **Appendix - Ten Conclusions from Studying Every Prophecy of the Bible**

**First, God made an unconditional promise to Abraham that he and his descendants would be a blessed people, a great nation, that all nations would be blessed through his seed, and that the Promised Land would be theirs. This is often referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant.**

Genesis 12:3; Genesis 13:14-15; Genesis 15:18-19; Genesis 17:1-21; Exodus 23:31; Leviticus 26:44-45; Deuteronomy 4:25-31; Deuteronomy 30:3-5; Psalm 89:30-34; Luke 1:67-75; Romans 11:25-26; Galatians 3:17-18

**Second, God made a conditional promise to Israel as it received what has been called the Mosaic Law/ Covenant. Israel would experience blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience. The law revealed the character of God, God's expectations, provision for forgiveness, and the need of a Savior.**

Deuteronomy 28-38; Matthew 5:17-18; Galatians 3:15-25

**Third, God made an unconditional promise of a throne within the Promised Land to David's descendants. This is often referred to as the Davidic covenant.**

2 Samuel 7:11-16; 2 Samuel 23:5; 1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Kings 9:4-9; 1 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 132:11-18; Jeremiah 36:30; Luke 1:26-33; Luke 1:67-75

**Fourth, Israel's Messiah would die as an atoning sacrifice for sinners yet rise from the dead (what we now refer to as the First Coming of Jesus Christ). The following predictive prophecies related to Christ's first coming were made hundreds and some even thousands of years before Jesus came. The prophets began to speak of a coming New Covenant this Messiah would bring, replacing the conditional Mosaic covenant, completing the others.**

Genesis 3:15; Genesis 49:9-12; Numbers 24:17; Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Deuteronomy 21:22-23; I Samuel 2:35; Psalm 22; Psalm 110; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:1-2; Isaiah 11:1,10; Isaiah 11:2; Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:8; Isaiah 53; Isaiah 61:1-4; Jeremiah 16:19-21, 31:8; Daniel 9:24-27; Micah 5:2-4; Zechariah 9:9-10; Zechariah 13:7-9; Malachi 3:1

**Fifth, the phrase 'Day of the Lord' in the Old Testament, when applied to the End Times, seems to encompass what we call the Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, the Battle of Armageddon, and what we call the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium.**

### **Tribulation passages:**

Daniel 9:24-27; Isaiah 10:20-21; Isaiah 11:10,12; Isaiah 13:1,6,9; Daniel 2 and 7; Daniel 8 and 11; Daniel 12:4-12; Joel 2:30-32; Amos 5:18; Amos 7:7-9; Amos 9:8-10; Zephaniah 1:2-3; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Matthew 24; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; Revelation 6-19

### **Second Coming/ Battle of Armageddon passages:**

Psalm 2; Psalm 110:5-6; Isaiah 11:4; Isaiah 34:1-3; Isaiah 64:1-2; Jeremiah 25:30-38; Jeremiah 50-51; Joel 3; Zephaniah 3:8-13; Zechariah 12:8-14; Zechariah 14:1-21; Malachi 4:1-6; Matthew 24:29-31; 2 Thess. 1:3-10; 2 Timothy 4:1; Jude 14-15; Revelation 19.

### **Millennium/ Day of Judgment passages:**

Isaiah 24:21-23; Exodus 32:32-34; Psalm 1:5; Psalm 37:12-13; Psalm 96:13; Psalm 98:8-9; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Isaiah 34:4; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Peter 3:1-7; Revelation 20

**Sixth, Israel's Messiah will reign on the throne promised to David in the land promised to Abraham. The most likely time these prophecies could be fulfilled is the millennial reign of Jesus Christ described in Revelation chapter 20.**

Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-8; Acts 1:6-8; Revelation 20; Jeremiah 30:1-9; Ezekiel 34:23-24; Ezekiel 37:24; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11-15; Psalms 10:16; Psalms 37:9; Isaiah 2:1-11; Isaiah 11:1-12:6; Isaiah 56:6-8; Isaiah 62:1-4. 12; Jeremiah 3:11-18; Jeremiah 16:14-15; Jeremiah 29:10-14; Jeremiah 30:1-11; Jeremiah 31:31-40; Jeremiah 33:14-18; Ezekiel 36:22-37; Hosea 1:8-2:1; Hosea 3:1-5; Hosea 14:1-7; Joel 2:25-27; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 2:12-13; Haggai 2:1-9; Haggai 2:20-23; Zechariah 14:1-21; Matthew 19:27-29; I Corinthians 6:1-3

**Seventh, the apostles explain to us the mystery of the church and the rapture of the church between the time Christ fulfilled the prophecies of the Suffering Servant (First Coming) and the time He will come as the Conquering King (Second Coming). This fits with the concept of an interval of time before the final seven years mentioned in Daniel chapter 9:24-27.**

Daniel 9:24-27, Joel 2:28-32; Acts 1:6-8; Romans chapters 9-11; Matthew 13:10-15; Matthew 13:31-32; Ephesians 1:9-10; Ephesians 2:6-7; Revelation chapters 2-3

**Eighth, the apostles, in anticipation of an imminent Rapture of believers, introduce a sense of giddy anticipation that is very different in tone than the 'Day of the Lord' verses in the Old Testament. Characteristic of this is their use of the phrase found in the apostles, "the Day of Christ."**

Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 2 Corinthians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:10; Philippians 3:10-14; Philippians 3:18-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Titus 2:11-15; Hebrews 9:27-28; Hebrews 10:25-29; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 John 2:28; 1 John 3:2-3

**Ninth, the apostles seem to promise that believers will be raptured before, and not experience, the Tribulation, the day of God's wrath.**

I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10

**Tenth, the final expectation of the redeemed is dwelling with God forever on the New Earth in new bodies. The final woe of the lost is presented as eternity in the Lake of Fire. In 2 Peter the apostle Peter seems to refer to this time as "the Day of God" coming after "the Day of the Lord" (2 Peter 3:10-13). It is also recognized here that there are many verses that refer to "rewards" for believers and "degrees of punishment" for unbelievers.**

Job 19:25-27; Psalm 23:6; Isaiah 60:18-22; Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 66:22-24; Matthew 11:20-24; Matthew 13:36-43; Romans 2:5-8; Romans 2:14-16; Romans 8:18-25; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Hebrews 4:13; Hebrews 12:22-29; James 1:12; 2 Peter 3:8-13; Revelation 21-22.

**Dr. Danny Campbell, Senior Pastor, The Tabernacle, Danville, Virginia**