

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 1 – The Book of Revelation – Overview of the events revealed in Revelation.

Text: Revelation 1:1-20

Key Verse for this Lesson: Revelation 1:19 *“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”*

The very first phrase of the book of revelation reads, **“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”** The word “revelation” means unveiling. The entire book is an unveiling of Jesus Christ.

This is the **only book in the Bible that has a blessing at the beginning and the end** for keeping the sayings of this book (Rev. 1:3, 22:7).

The book is **prophetical in that it reveals future events** that will involve Jesus Christ and every believer and unbeliever.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION REVEALED

Chapter one is an overview and introduction to the entire book. The Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos *“for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ”* v. 9. While on this island, God told him to *“write in a book and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia.”* v. 11 What he wrote has been preserved for us in the book of Revelation.

- A. People to whom it was written: 1:1 - *“his servants”*
- B. Person it was given to or by: 1:1-2 - *“his servant John”*
- C. Promise it gives: 1:3 - *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:”*
- D. Prince it was from: 1:5 *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.”*
- E. Place it was written: 1:9 - *“the isle that is called Patmos”*
- F. Presence of God: 1:17-18 - *“Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen”*
- G. Prophetical view given to the church: 1:19 - *“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”*

THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNDERSTOOD

There is much to learn from the book of Revelation. The following is an overview of the entire book. The lessons will cover each chapter in more detail. **Jesus is preeminent throughout the entire book** and his presence can be seen. Jesus said to John, *“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, what thou seest, write in a book...”* (Rev. 1:11).

The things that were written were spoken BY JESUS and ABOUT JESUS, that we might LEARN of JESUS!

- A. Chapter 1 Introduction to the Book
- B. Chapters 2-3 The Seven Churches of Asia Minor
- C. Chapter 4 The Rapture of the Church
- D. Chapter 5 The Lamb takes the Sealed Book

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E. Chapter 6	The Sealed Judgements
F. Chapter 7	Sealing of the 144,000 and Saving of the Uncounted Multitude
G. Chapters 8-9	The Trumpet Judgements
H. Chapter 10	The Mighty Angel and the Little Book
I. Chapter 11	The Two Witnesses
J. Chapter 12	The Seven Personages (A great wonder in Heaven)
K. Chapter 13	The Antichrist and the False Prophet
L. Chapter 14	Key Events of the Tribulation Period
M. Chapter 15, 16	The Seven Vial Judgements
N. Chapter 17	Religious Babylon
O. Chapter 18	Commercial Babylon
P. Chapter 19	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the Earth
Q. Chapter 20	The Judgement of Satan and the Wicked Dead
R. Chapter 21	The Seven New Things
S. Chapter 22	Behold, I come Quickly

THE BOOK OF REVELATION APPLIED

What we learn from the book of Revelations **should be applied in our lives**. The book itself tells us what to do with the words that are written. It's the only book in the Bible that has a blessing for those who **READ, HEAR, and KEEP** it. (Rev. 1:3)

Even if we don't understand every detail in the book of Revelation, **we are guaranteed that we'll be blessed by It!**

- A. We should **READ** the book of Revelation – 1:3
- B. We should **HEAR** the book of Revelation – 1:3
- C. We should **KEEP** the book of Revelation – 1:3, 22:7
- D. We should **NOT ADD OR TAKE AWAY FROM** the book of Revelation – 22:18-19

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Lesson 2 – The Book of Revelation – The Life of John.

Text: Revelation 1:1-10

Key Verse for this Lesson: **Revelation 1:2** “Who bare record of the word of **God**, and of the testimony of **Jesus Christ**, and of all things that he saw.”

The book of Revelation was inspired by God (1:1), (2 Tim 3:16) and written by the Apostle John (Rev. 1:1-2).

John was also the writer of the Gospel of John, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. 5 of the 27 books of NT

John was persecuted “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (1:9).

He was **chosen by God** to pen the unveiling of Christ along with the future events relating to the churches and to the entirety of the creation.

THE LIFE OF JOHN REVEALED

John was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus and part of Jesus’ inner circle. James was his brother, and he was the son of Zebedee. Peter, James and John were able to be with Jesus on several occasions and see some miracles the other disciples didn’t. John was a fisherman by trade. He is known as the beloved disciple because he is referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” (John 21:7, 20)

- A. John was a **servant** of God – Rev 1:1.
- B. John wrote the book of Revelation to **seven literal churches** – Rev. 1:4 (which are)
- C. John was **our brother and companion** in tribulation – Rev. 1:9
- D. John was **exiled** to the island of “Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” – Rev. 1:9
- E. John **spoke to and saw** Jesus Christ – Rev 1:17-20 (In life, resurrection and in heaven)
- F. John is **mentioned five times** in Revelation – 1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8.

THE LIFE OF JOHN UNDERSTOOD

Much of John’s life isn’t given to us. There’s no mention of his childhood. We have just a few glimpses of him during the earthly ministry of Jesus and again when writing Revelation. John’s personality must have been somewhat “lively” as Jesus called him and his brother James, “the sons of thunder” (Mark 3:17).

The stories of John in the gospels tell us a little about him.

- A. He worked as a fisherman – Matt. 4:21
- B. Jesus called him to follow Him – Mark 1:19-20
- C. John was on the inner circle of disciples along with peter and James.
 - He was with Jesus when he was transfigured – Matt 17:1-9
 - He was with Jesus when He healed Jarius’ daughter – Mark 5:37-43
 - He was with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane – Mark 14:33-34
- D. John asked Jesus about the last days – Mark 13:3-4
- E. John is one who forbade others who weren’t with them from doing miracles – Mark 9:38
- F. John asked to sit next to Jesus in Glory – Mark 10:35-37
- G. John asked Jesus to be able to call down fire on those who wouldn’t lodge them – Luke 9:51-56
- H. John was sent with Peter to prepare the Passover with Jesus – Luke 22:8-9

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- I. John was with the 120 in prayer after Christ's resurrection – Acts 1:13-15
- J. John was with Peter when the lame man was healed – Acts 3:3-11
- K. John was acknowledged to have been with Jesus by the rulers, elders and scribes – Acts 4:13
- L. John was sent by the apostles to the new believers in Samaria – Acts 8:14
- M. John's brother James was killed for being a follower of Christ – Acts 12:2

THE LIFE OF JOHN APPLIED

John the Apostle of Jesus Christ was a unique man. He was part of the inner circle that was closest to Jesus. He was chosen to write 5 books of the New Testament. He wrote the Book of Revelation that unveils Jesus Christ.

So, what can we learn and apply to our lives from the life of John?

- A. **John Served.** Rev. 1:1 – How are you?
- B. **John Followed.** Matt 4:21-22 – He left all and followed immediately. How are you following?
- C. **John Loved.** John 21:20 – If ye love me keep my commandments
- D. **John Endured.** Rev 1:9 – Suffered tribulation and persecution still followed

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Lesson 3 – The Book of Revelation – Jesus Christ Unveiled

Text: Revelation 1:4-20

Key Verse for this Lesson: **Revelation 1:18** *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

The word revelation means to unveil. The entire book is the unveiling or revealing of Jesus Christ as is mentioned in the First verse, **“The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST”**.

The Apostle John, who wrote the book, is exiled to the island of Patmos “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ”.

While on the island John sees, speaks to, and hears from Jesus himself. John heard Jesus say, *“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*

JESUS CHRIST REVEALED

First, we see Jesus the way that John knew him. Before John turns and sees Jesus, he describes Him, to those who he is writing to. In the opening salutation, he first tells who is writing the letter, which is himself, and then he tells to who he is sending the letter.

The book of Revelation was from **God the Father** (“From him which is, and which was, and which is to come...), from **God the Holy Spirit** (and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne) and from **God the Son** (“and from Jesus Christ”) Rev. 1:4-5

John continues to describe Jesus to the churches with the following statements.

- A. Jesus Who is the faithful witness – 1:5
- B. Jesus Who is the first begotten from the dead – 1:5
- C. Jesus Who is the prince of the kings of the earth – 1:5
- D. Jesus Who loved us – 1:5
- E. Jesus Who washed us from our sins with his own blood – 1:5
- F. Jesus Who made us kings and priests unto God and His Father – 1:6
- G. Jesus Who cometh in the clouds and every eye shall see Him – 1:7

JESUS CHRIST UNDERSTOOD

We next see Jesus how He saw Himself.

John stood with Jesus at the cross (John 19:26-27), and now he stands with Christ on the island of Patmos (1:9).

When John turned to see the voice which spoke to him, the focus was not the candlesticks (the churches), but Jesus Christ himself.

John said, *“when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying...”*

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What Jesus said to John was the unveiling (revealing or revelation) of Himself in His own words.

- A. "I am the First and the Last" – 1:17 Jesus has always been and always will be.
- B. "I am he that liveth, and was dead" – 1:18 Jesus is alive, yet he died on the cross and rose again from the dead three days later.
- C. "I am alive forevermore, Amen – 1:18 Jesus is eternal and will live forever and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- D. He "has the keys of hell and death – 1:18 Jesus has the authority and power over death and hell.

JESUS CHRIST APPLIED

We see Jesus as John saw Him! John heard Jesus speak to him from behind him. When he turned to see the voice that spoke to him, he saw Jesus, and he described what he saw.

John saw the seven golden candlesticks that represented the seven churches of Asia Minor. In the midst of the seven golden candlesticks John saw "one like the Son of man" (v. 13) he then revealed to us what he saw. What he saw, not only described his appearance, but also described the characteristics of Christ Himself. (vss. 13-16)

- A. He was "clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about the paps with a golden girdle." Jesus' clothing from head to foot represents His **PURITY**.
 - B. "His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow" Jesus' hair like snow represents His **KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM**.
 - C. "his eyes *were* as a flame of fire" His eyes like fire represents His **JUDGEMENT**.
 - D. "his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace" His feet of brass represents His **STABILITY**.
 - E. "his voice as the sound of many waters" Jesus' voice represents His **AUTHORITY**.
 - F. "he had in his right hand seven stars" Jesus' hand holding the seven stars (messengers / pastors) represents His **DOMINION and PROTECTION**.
 - G. "out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" His mouth as a sharp sword represents His mighty **WORD**.
 - H. "his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength" Jesus' countenance like the sun portrays His **MAJESTY**.
- We Need to SEE Jesus as LORD: Acts 9:5, 10:36
 - We Need to TREAT Jesus as LORD: Like 6:46
 - We need to MAKE Jesus our LORD: Rom 10:9

Phil. 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Lesson 4 – The Church of Ephesus

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

Key Verse for this Lesson: *Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

Jesus told John, *“What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*

The seven churches can be looked at in four different ways.

- First, all seven were **literal churches** in existence at the time John wrote.
- They represent seven different **time periods** of church history.
- They represent seven different **types of churches.**
- They represent seven different **types of church members.**

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS REVEALED

The name Ephesus means desirable. In church history they would represent **the Apostolic church** up until about A.D. 160. When Jesus ascended to heaven after his resurrection, he told His disciples *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8). As they did this, and as people were saved, churches were started.

Ephesus is looked at as the backslidden church because they left their first love. Ephesus had some unique challenges for a Christian in that it was home to the emperor’s cult and the worship of the Greek goddess Diana (Acts 19:23-40). Because of these influences, the Ephesian believers developed great discernment when it came to false teachers and heresy. Christ commended them for this discernment, but He faulted them for having left their “first love.” Jesus uses a similar format as he addresses each of the churches.

Jesus message to the church at Ephesus:

- A. Rev. 2:1 **Jesus identifies Himself to the church.** *“He who holdeth the seven stars in his right hand”*
“Who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”
- B. Rev 2:2-3, 6 – **Jesus Commends them.** He recognizes 9 good qualities of this church in vs. 2-3, and a tenth in v. 6.
- C. Rev. 2:4 – **Jesus Condemns the church.**
- D. Rev. 2:5 – **Jesus Commands the church to do 3 things:** *“Remember, Repent, Do the first works”*
- E. Rev. 2:7 – **Jesus Challenges the Church.** *“He that hath an ear, let him hear...”*

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS UNDERSTOOD

This church during the apostolic age, was a good church. The apostles were instrumental in starting this church and laying a good foundation. Paul started the church during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19) and taught there for 2-3 years on his third journey (Acts 19:8-10) Timothy was sent there as pastor (1st Tim. 1:3-4).

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Secular historians say that John served as the pastor. It was probably during the reign of Domitian (81-96 A.D.) that John was banished to Patmos. He was later released and died during the reign of Trajan (98 to 117 A.D.). The historians say that at a very old age John, too feeble to walk, would be carried to the church and would admonish the members, as little children, to love one another.

Every church should desire to emulate the good qualities of this church:

- A. They worked for the Lord. They were busy doing things for God.
- B. They labored for God. Literally means to wear themselves out in God's service.
- C. They were patient. They endured in spite of opposition and weariness.
- D. They removed those that were evil. To "bear" means to lift (with the idea of removal). Jesus recognized that they wouldn't receive those who were actively participating in evil.
- E. They tested those who said they were commissioned by Christ. "Tried" means to examine, to test, to scrutinize. "Apostles" were those sent under the authority of another. (Ambassadors)
- F. They carried their own load. "Borne" means to lift, bear, carry or take up. They carried their own burdens, not expecting others to do it for them.
- G. They worked hard for Jesus' name's sake. "Laboured" means to feel fatigue from hard work. "Fainted" means to give up, to stop or quit. Gal. 6:9
- H. They Hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes - v. 6. "Hatest" means to detest. There are two thoughts about who the Nicolaitanes were and what they taught.
 - Greek *Nikolaites*. The *Nico* part means a conquest or ruling over others. The *lai* part, means "people." The *tes* part, means "the." Together it means "rule over people". The rule of the "clergy" over the "laity". (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
 - Others believe they were a group that denied the true faith and taught sinful practices, such as eating food sacrificed to idols and committing sexual immorality.

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS APPLIED

Twelve Signs we've left our first love: [Mark 12:30 ... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.](#)

1. You **delight** in someone or something else more than you delight in the Lord.
2. Your soul does not **long for times of rich fellowship with God** through His Word or in prayer.
3. Your **thoughts** in leisure moments do not reflect upon the Lord.
4. You claim to be "only human" and **easily give in** to those things you know displease the Lord.
5. You do not willingly and cheerfully **give to God's work** or to the needs of others.
6. You don't **treat** every Christian as you would treat the Lord. (John 13:34)
7. You view Christ's **commands as restrictions** to your happiness rather than expressions of His love.
8. You look for the **acclaim of this world** rather than the approval of the Lord.
9. You allow fears to keep you from **making Christ or His words known**.
10. You won't **give up an activity** that you know offends a weaker brother.
11. You become **complacent to sinful** conditions around you and start accepting the world's ideas.
12. You are **unwilling to forgive** those who offend you.

Jesus Commands us to: *"Remember, Repent, and Do the first works"*

Jesus Challenges us: *"He that hath an ear, let him hear..."*

Lesson 5 – The Church of Smyrna

Text: Revelation 2:8-11

The seven churches of Asia represent the church age from Pentecost to the rapture of the church by Jesus at the end of the “church age”. There were four things Jesus repeated and said to all 7 of the churches:

1. “Unto the angel of the church”; 2. “These things saith” (identifying himself); 3. “Overcometh” (a reference to the believers – 1 John 5:4-5); 4. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”. The church at Smyrna is the second of the churches that received a letter from Jesus himself.

THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA REVEALED

Ephesus represents the churches that were established in the days of the apostles. **Smyrna** represents the churches from approximately A.D. 160-315. They were the Martyr Church. The word Smyrna means myrrh. Myrrh was a plant that had to be crushed to get its fragrance. This is exactly what happened during this time because it was a time of severe Roman persecution. The theme of Smyrna was the persecuted church.

Jesus message to the church at Smyrna:

1. Jesus identifies Himself to the church. *“These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;”*
2. Jesus Commends them. *“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)”*
3. Jesus DOES NOT Condemn this church.
4. Jesus Commands the church:
 - ✓ *I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*
 - ✓ **FEAR NONE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU SHALT SUFFER:**
 - ✓ *behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried;*
 - ✓ *and ye shall have tribulation ten days* **10 Periods of Persecution:** Nero—64–68 (Paul beheaded), Domitian—95–96 (John exiled), Trajan—104–117 (Ignatius burned at the stake), Marcus Aurelius—161–180 (Polycarp martyred), Severus—200–211, Maximinus—235–237, Decius—250–253, Valerian—257–260, Aurelian—270–275, Diocletian—303–313 (the worst emperor).
5. Jesus Challenges the Church.
 - ✓ **BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE.**
 - ✓ *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;*
 - ✓ *He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA UNDERSTOOD

The churches of Smyrna represent the churches during the period of the ten great Roman persecutions. Some of the most severe persecutions in all of history occurred during A.D. 160-315. Foxes Book of Martyrs and others like it give historical accounts of Christians who gave their lives for the name of Christ. Jesus said to the church of Smyrna, *“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)”*

What makes one truly rich?

1. **Salvation** – 2nd Cor. 4:4-7
2. **Wisdom** – Prov. 3:13-18, 8:10-11

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3. **Treasure in heaven** – Luke 12:21, 33-34
4. **Fearing the Lord** – Prov 15:16, Isaiah 33:6
5. **A virtuous woman** – Prov 19:14; 31:10
6. **The Word of God** – Psalm 19:7-10
7. **The blessing of the Lord** – Prov 10:22

THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA APPLIED

Jesus told the church of Smyrna, “...*be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*” The Bible teaches that there are **five Crowns** that will be given to Christians at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

Sometimes it is called the “Bema” seat. “Bema” means judges stage or stand. When the Grecian games were over, all the competitors would assemble before the Bema seat to receive a corruptible crown. Even if they did not receive a reward, they received no punishment.

The Judgement Seat of Christ is the future judgement of the believers works after the rapture of the church. **This is not a judgement for sin, but for REWARDS for our works** (1st Cor. 3:11-15). The Bible explains what crowns will be passed out and how a believer can receive them.

1. **THE CROWN OF LIFE** – For those who endure trials or testing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Rev. 2:10

2. **THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN** – For those who master the old nature.

1 Cor 9:24-25 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

3. **THE CROWN OF REJOICING** – For those who win people to Jesus Christ.

1 Thes. 2:19-20 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are not even ye* in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.

4. **THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** – For those who love his appearing.

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

5. **THE CROWN OF GLORY** – For those who feed the flock of God (pastors, teachers)

1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Rev 4:10-11 *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Lesson 6 – The Church of Pergamos

Text: Revelation 2:12-17

When Jesus spoke to each of the seven churches of Asia, He always started by saying *“And unto the angel of the church...”* The word “angel” means messenger. The letter was addressed to the pastor of each church. Jesus said unto John in the beginning of the book of Revelation *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”* (Rev. 1:20) God has the messenger of each church in His hand, and lets him know what He wants the church to know.

THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS REVEALED

The word Pergamos means marriage and represents the church between A.D. 315-600. Pergamos is rightly named this as it was during this time period that the church became connected to other things instead of the Lord. The church of Pergamos is know as the worldly church. Jesus gave instructions to the church at Pergamos:

- A. Jesus Identifies himself to the church. 2:12 *These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*
- B. Jesus Commends the Church. 2:13
 1. *I know thy works*
 2. *and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name*
 3. *and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*
- C. Jesus Condemns the Church. 2:14-15
 1. *thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam*
 - a. *who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel*
 - b. *to eat things sacrificed unto idols*
 - c. *and to commit fornication.*
 2. *So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans*
- D. Jesus Commands the Church. 2:16
 1. *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly*
 2. *and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
- E. Jesus Challenges the Church 2:17
 1. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches*
 2. *To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna*
 3. *and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS UNDERSTOOD

The church of Pergamos held to doctrines that God did not like, in fact, one He hated! There were those in the church that Jesus said, hold *“hold the doctrine of Balaam”* and those also that held *“hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”*. These two doctrines were being instructed and taught.

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1. The doctrine of Balaam

1. Through Balaam's counsel, King Balak corrupted the Israelites by getting the Moabites to befriend them & then getting them to commit fornication and idolatry with them. (Num. 31:16)
 - a) The Israelites committed whoredoms with the Moabites (Num 25:1)
 - b) The Israelites went to the sacrifices and worshipped the false Gods. (Num 25:2)
 - c) The Israelites joined themselves to Baal. (Num. 25:3)
 - d) The Midianite women caused the Israelites to trespass against the Lord. (Num. 31:16)
2. Israel's sin caused the Lord's anger to be kindled against them, so that he brought a plague against them which did not end until all the Israelite leaders were killed. (Numbers 25:3-8) 24,000 people died!

2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes - "Nicolaitanes" means to conquer the laity. It's interesting to note that the church of **Ephesus** hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes and the church of **Pergamos** was holding to the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. Rev. 2:6 and 15 say that God hates both the deeds and the doctrine. This clergy control is not what God meant by pastoral leadership. (1 Pet. 5:2-3) This doctrine elevates man (all sinners) instead of God and brought people under bondage.

THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS APPLIED

The world not only penetrated the church but also combined itself with it! The world, the flesh, and the devil are still the Christians enemies!

One of the biggest problems in the church today is that many church members hold to the doctrine of Balaam by making a union with the world. Just as Israel sinned by joining the Moabites which brought God's wrath and punishment, so we as God's people sin when we join up with the world.

The Bible is clear what kind of relationship a Christian should NOT have with the world.

- A. **We're not to Love not the World** – 1st John 2:15-17
- B. **We're not to Be not conformed to the world** – Romans 12:2
- C. **We're not to Be a friend of the world** – James 4:4
- D. **We're not to Be of the world** – John 15:19; 17:14-16
- E. **We're to Keep ourselves unspotted from the world** – James 1:27

Lesson 7 – The Church of Thyatira

Text: Revelation 2:18-29

When John saw Jesus for the first time in the book of Revelation, he saw Jesus *“in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”* (Rev. 1:13). Jesus explained that the candlesticks represented *“The seven candlesticks ... are the seven churches.”*

Those that make up the churches are supposed to be like candlesticks and be a light in a dark world. Jesus said *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* (Matt 5:14-16)

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA REVEALED

The word **Thyatira** means continual sacrifice and it represented an **indifferent** church. It represented the time period of A.D. 600-1500. During this time, The Roman Catholic church became prominent, and as they still do today, continually sacrifice Christ through their masses and crucifixes. This continual sacrifice is not necessary as Christ died once and for all.

- A. **Jesus identifies himself to the Church** – v. 18 *These things saith the **Son of God**, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;*
- B. **Jesus Commends the church** – V. 19 *I know thy **works**, and **charity**, and **service**, and **faith**, and thy **patience** (endurance), and thy **works**; and the last to be more than the first.*
- C. **Jesus Condemns the church** – 2:20-23
 1. *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to **teach**, and to **seduce my servants to commit fornication**, and to **eat things sacrificed unto idols**.*
 2. *And I gave her space to **REPENT** of her fornication; and she **REPENTED NOT**.*
 - a. *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. (the Dark Ages / Inquisition)*
 - b. *And I will kill her children with death*
- D. **Jesus Commands the Church** – 2:23-25
 1. *and all the churches shall know that I am he which **searcheth the reins and hearts**:*
 2. *and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*
 3. *But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*
 4. *But that which ye have already **hold fast till I come**.*
- D. **Jesus Challenges the Church** – 2:26-29
 1. *And he that **overcometh**, and **keepeth my works** unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*
 2. *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*
 3. *And I will give him the morning star.*
 4. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA UNDERSTOOD

Jesus said that the one thing He had against the church was that they allowed *“that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants”* Jesus said that because she wouldn't repent that He would judge her and those with her, *“except they repent of their deeds”*.

God is the judge of all the earth (Gen 18:25).

The Bible teaches seven different judgements.

1. **Judgement of the believer's SIN** – John 5:24, Isa. 53:6 **PAST** – The believer's judgement for sin is past and was settled on the cross of Calvary!
2. **Judgement of the believer's SELF** – 1 Cor 11:31-32 **PRESENT** – Our sins are put away daily by confessing and getting forgiveness from God (1 John 1:9, 2:1). While we don't get rid of the tendency to sin when we are saved we do receive a counteracting force called the new nature. (2 Cor. 5:17) **Whichever we feed the most will dominate in our life.** We judge ourselves daily, confessing our sins, so we don't have to be chastened by our heavenly father. (Prov. 3:11-12)
3. **The Judgement (BEMA) seat of Christ (believers)** – 2 Cor. 5:10 **FUTURE** – This judgment occurs after the rapture of the church (1 Thes 4:16-17). This isn't a judgement in the sense of a trial but rather like a judge's stand at a fair where rewards are distributed. This isn't a judgement for our sins but for our works. (1 Cor. 3:11-15)
4. **The Judgement of Israel** – Jeremiah 30:4-7 **FUTURE** – Judgment of the Jews under the Anti-Christ for their rejection of God. The time of Jacob's trouble. While the church is in heaven, the Jews suffer under the Anti-Christ during the tribulation. The Jews rejected God under Samuel (1 Sam. 8:7), they rejected Jesus (Luke 23:18, John 1:11), they Rejected the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51-54). The result of this Judgement is they will FINALLY call on the Lord. (Isa 66:18, Zech 12:10)
5. **The Judgement of the Nations** – Joel 3:1-2, Matt 25:31-46 **FUTURE** – Judgement of the Gentile nations that mistreat Israel at the end of the Tribulation. During the tribulation, there will be nations that will treat the Jews kindly and those that treat them unjustly.
6. **Judgement of Satan and the fallen angels.** – Jude 1:6; Rev. 20:10 **FUTURE** – When they are cast into the lake of fire forever.
7. **The Great White Throne Judgment** – Rev. 20:11-15 **FUTURE** – Judgment of the wicked (lost) dead. Their judgment isn't to see if they are entitled to eternal life (decided while alive) but to determine the degree of their punishment *“according to their works”* (v. 12-13). Many good people will spend eternity in hell, because they never put their trust in Jesus Christ.

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA APPLIED

Jesus addresses each church individually and specifically and tells them what they are doing right and wrong. To the church of Thyatira, He also makes this statement: *“all the churches shall know”*

There are 2 things for us to understand and learn:

1. *I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts:* God not only **SEES** our thoughts and hearts, He **EXAMINES** them as well. (Prov. 24:12)
2. *I will give unto every one of you according to your works* – Every person is **ACCOUNTABLE** for what he does, doesn't do, or thinks (Rom. 14:12). We'll each **REAP** what we **SOW**. (Gal. 6:7-8)

Lesson 8 – The Church of Philadelphia

Text: Revelation 3:7-13

The churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia were the only two of the seven churches that Jesus had no word of condemnation. Smyrna was the persecuted church, and Philadelphia was the church of brotherly love.

In verse 10 Jesus promises that the church will not be going through the tribulation period. He said, *“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”*

The church won't be going through the tribulation or be “kept” through it, but will be raptured before this event begins. (1st Thes. 5:1-11)

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA REVEALED

The word Philadelphia means brotherly love. The theme of this church was exactly that, a church of brotherly love.

This period of church history would be approx. A.D. 175-1900. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica he said, *“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”* (1st Thes. 4:9) The church of Philadelphia was an example of brotherly love in both name and practice.

What Jesus said to “the angel of the church in Philadelphia”.

- A. Jesus identifies himself to the church – Rev. 3:7 *These things saith he that is **HOLY**, he that is **TRUE**, he that **HATH THE KEY OF DAVID**, he that **OPENETH**, and no man shutteth; and **SHUTTETH**, and no man openeth;*
- B. Jesus Commends the Church – Rev 3:8 I know thy **WORKS**: behold, **I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a **LITTLE STRENGTH**, and hast **KEPT MY WORD**, and **HAST NOT DENIED MY NAME**.
- C. Jesus Doesn't condemn the church
- D. Jesus Commands the Church – Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: **HOLD THAT FAST** which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
- E. Jesus Challenges the Church – Rev. 3:9, 10, 12, 13
 1. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
 2. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
 3. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,
 4. and he shall go no more out:
 5. and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name.*
 6. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA UNDERSTOOD

Jesus said to this church, “I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.” Jesus didn’t say this to any of the other churches.

In the historical time period of this church, there was a great open door for the gospel around the world. Why was there an open door to the church of Philadelphia? Jesus said there were three things this church was doing that caused them to have an open door. All three are found in verse 8.

- A. “**hast little strength**” – “Strength” means force, power, or ability. This church had an open door because they knew that they could not do it, and that they really needed God. Solomon is an example of this when he told God, “I am but a little child” (1Kings 3:7) Paul gave testimony of where his strength was when he said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil 4:13).
- B. “**hast kept my word**” – “Kept” means to watch; to guard; keeping the eye open. God’s word should be preeminent in the life of the church. The churches practice should match the Word, instead of trying to make the Word match it’s practices! The Bible Should be the standard for our faith and practice.
- C. “**hast not denied my name**” – “Denied” means to contradict; disavow; reject, refuse. Even Peter, the disciple in the inner circle, denied Christ. Christians do the same thing by their words and actions. Mat 10:33 says “*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*”

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA APPLIED

This church is known for its brotherly love. As Christians, God wants His children to practice brotherly love. The Greatest command in the Bible is to “love the lord thy God with all thine heart.” The second greatest command is to “love thy neighbor as thyself” The kind of love illustrated by the church of Philadelphia was “brotherly”. “Brotherly is a term used for relationship and endearment. Family love is stronger than acquaintance love.

Romans 12:10 says, “*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*”

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

- A. Because it’s **COMMANDED** – John 13:34, 15:12, 17
- B. Because it is one of the ways we are **RECOGNIZED** by the lost – John 13:35
- C. Because it is the **FULFILLMENT** of the law – Rom 13:8
- D. Because to not love is to give an **OCCASION** (opening) to the flesh – Gal. 5:13
- E. Because it shows **OBEDIENCE** to the Spirit of God – 1 Peter 1:22
- F. Because it is **EVIDENCE** of being born again – 1 John 4:7, 12
- G. Because God loved **FIRST** – 1 John 4:11

Lesson 9 – The Church of Laodicea

Text: Revelation 3:14-22

This is the last of the seven churches Jesus addressed in the book of Revelation. Sadly, Jesus didn't have good things to say to them or about them. Even sadder for us, this church represents the age we are living in. Laodicea is known as the **LUKEWARM** church.

"Laodicea" means rights of the people. We live in an age when everyone is worried about their rights. "What about me? My rights? My feelings? My likes and dislikes?" have become the all-important issued in our day. Rather than worry about what the Bible says or what doctrine a church teaches, the "modern" day Christian worries about what type of music does the church have. What programs the church has or doesn't have. Do they have a singles group, a divorcee group, a program for my children or teen?

While these things can be important, they aren't the most important issue. Sound doctrine and reaching the next generation for Jesus should be the focus of our churches!

This church thought more about itself than it did about pleasing and glorifying God. In Rev. 1:13 Jesus is standing in the middle of the candlesticks which represent the churches. Now, Jesus is standing outside the church and knocking to come in (Rev. 3:20)

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA REVEALED

Jesus told the church of Laodicea *"thou art lukewarm."* The Laodicean church represents the time period of the church from around AD 1900 to the present. The kind of church that is predominate today is one that is neither cold or hot. As Paul put it a church that has *"a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"*. (2nd Tim. 3:5) They had the mentality that they were *"rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;"* But didn't know that they were *"wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"* let's look at what Jesus said to the church.

- A. Jesus **IDENTIFIES** himself to the Church – v. 14b *saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*
- B. Jesus didn't have any word of **COMMENDATION**.
- C. Jesus **CONDEMNS** the church – vs. 15-17 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*
- D. Jesus **COMMANDS** the church – v. 18 *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*
- E. Jesus **CHALLENGES** the church – vs. 19-22
 - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be **ZEALOUS** therefore, and **REPENT**.
 - Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man **HEAR MY VOICE**, and **OPEN THE DOOR**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
 - To him that **OVERCOMETH** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.
 - He that hath an ear, **LET HIM HEAR** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA UNDERSTOOD

From the cross until now, the church has progressively grown worse. **The next event will be the rapture of the church to heaven** (Rev. 4:1). Until Christ returns for his own. We are to do our best not to be lukewarm and indifferent to the things God wants for his children and church. We can see the problem and the solution that Jesus had for this church and for every church and Christian that has grown lukewarm.

A. **Laodicean Temperature** – Rev. 3:15-16.

Their temperature was based upon their “works”. They were not working for the Lord. They had grown indifferent and lackadaisical in serving the Lord. They were more concerned with how the church could serve them and the benefits they received than in serving and ministering to others.

B. **Laodicean Condition** – Rev. 3:17.

They said they were RICH, INCREASED with GOODS, DIDN'T NEED anything. But the reality was Jesus said they were WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, BLIND and NAKED

C. **Laodicean Prescription** – Rev. 3:18.

They needed to buy or get 3 things:

1. **GOLD**: means to be spiritual. Gold is compared to the Word of God. (Psa. 19:7-10, Prov. 3:13-14)
2. **WHITE RAIMENT**: means to be holy. White raiment is compared to the righteousness of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)
3. **EYE SALVE**: means to be Spirit led. Eye salve is compared to the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:8)

D. **Laodicean Remedy** – Rev. 3:19.

1. To be **ZEALOUS** means to have warmth or feeling for. To be serious in their desire for the gold, white raiment, and eye salve that was available to them.
2. To **REPENT** means to think differently and change the mind. They needed to repent of their pride, self-satisfaction, and lukewarmness.

E. **Laodicean Promise** – Rev. 3:20

Jesus will stand, knock and speak. He will come in if we'll just open the door and let Him in. We will have fellowship with him if we allow Him to come in.

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA APPLIED

Jesus said three times they were lukewarm. There are warning signs to being lukewarm we can learn from this church. This was the only church Jesus said he would “spew” out of his mouth. We can easily understand **God was and is not happy with a lukewarm church.**

Signs of lukewarmness include:

- A. **Proud** – they thought they needed nothing!
- B. **Prosperous** – they were doing great financially but doing poor spiritually!
- C. **Pacified** – They were satisfied with where they were spiritually. We need to examine ourselves from God's perspective.
- D. **Purposely Blinded** – There is no greater blindness than those who refuse to see their need spiritually. Satan will try to blind us to our spiritual condition, he lies to us about the seriousness and tries to turn our focus to what someone else is doing.

Lesson 10 – The Rapture of the Church

Text: Revelation 4:1

Revelation 1:19 is the key verse of Revelation. **“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter”** Chapter 1 was the things John **had seen**; chapters 2-3 were **the things which are**; and now chapter 4-22 are the things **which shall be hereafter**.

The seven churches of Asia minor were the seven literal churches that John was writing to in chapters two and three. From this point the church is not seen again until chapter 19 when they are coming back with Jesus on white horses at the battle of Armageddon.

All born-again believers will be raptured out when Jesus returns in the clouds (1st Thes. 4:13-18) and the tribulation period begins.

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH REVEALED

Rev. 4:1 says, *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”* This one verse tells us a lot about the rapture of believers.

- A. **AFTER THIS** – the church age that was revealed in chapters 2-3.
- B. **BEHOLD A DOOR** – the door is Jesus Christ as mentioned in John 10:9.
- C. **WAS OPENED IN HEAVEN** – The place Jesus said He is preparing for all born-again believers in John 14:1-3.
- D. **AS IT WERE OF A TRUMPET** – the sound the believers will hear at the rapture according to 1st Cor. 15:52.
- E. **WHICH SAID, COME UP HITHER** – The shout and voice of the archangel at the rapture as mentioned in 1st Thes. 4:16
- F. **I WILL SHEW THEE THINGS WHICH MUST BE HEREAFTER** – the things that Jesus said he would reveal concerning future events after the rapture as told in chapters 4-22

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH UNDERSTOOD

The word **“RAPTURE”** is not mentioned in the Bible. The meaning of the word comes from 1st Thes. 4:17 where it says that believers will be **“caught up.”** **BIBLE BELIEVERS** believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the saved – all those who are born-again by Christ.

PRE-TRIBULATION is the Bible’s teaching that the church, the Body & Bride of Christ, in its entirety, will by resurrection and translation, be removed from the earth **before** any part of the tribulation period begins. The apostle Paul clarified several things to the church at Thessalonica concerning the coming of the Lord for every born-again believer. (1st Thes. 4:13-18)

- A. **We shouldn’t be ignorant of his coming** – 1st Thes. 4:13 “Ignorant” means to not know, or unaware.
- B. **We shouldn’t sorrow over death like those who have no hope** – 1st Thes. 4:13 **Our Hope is in Christ!**
When a believer dies, it’s like he goes to sleep, because he will wake up in heaven. Christians don’t have to grieve like the world because their hope, expectation, and confidence is in their heavenly home promised in God’s Word!
- C. **Christians need to know that those who have died in Christ will come with him** – 1st Thes. 4:14
The great cloud of witnesses in heaven will come back with the Lord to receive them into heaven for

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

7 years. During this time, they will experience the Judgement Seat of Christ (rewards) and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. On earth, people will be experiencing the great tribulation.

- D. **Christians should simply take God at His Word** – 1st Thes. 4:15, John 14:1-3.
- E. **We should be looking for the Lord's soon appearance** – 1st Thes. 4:16, 2nd Tim. 4:8, Titus 2:13
- F. **We should understand we'll meet the Lord in the air.** – 1st Thes. 4:17

There is a difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ. The rapture is before the tribulation period and the Second Coming is afterwards.

- G. **Christians should comfort each other with the expectation of the rapture.** – 1st Thes. 4:18

This passage is comforting every time a believer is lost to the grave. Christians have the promise of seeing our loved ones again and then forever being with the Lord! 1st Cor. 15:55-58

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH APPLIED

Knowing that the lord is coming back for His own, should encourage Christians to be busy about the Father's business. The Bible says several things we should be doing since the Lord's return is imminent.

Jesus says in Matt. 24:36 *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."*

- A. **Attend Church Faithfully** – Hebrews 10:25
- B. **Observe the Lord's Supper** – 1st Cor. 11:26
- C. **Love one another** – 1st Thes. 3:12-13
- D. **Be patient (endure)** – James 5:8
- E. **Live a separated life** – 1st John 3:2-3, Titus 2:12-13
- F. **Refrain from judging (condemning) others** – 1st Cor. 4:5
- G. **Preach the Word** – 2nd Tim. 4:1-2, 1st Pet. 5:2-4
- H. **Comfort the bereaved** – 1st Thes. 4:16-18
- I. **Lead others to Jesus** – Mark 16:15, Jude 1:21-23
- J. **Set our affections on the things above** – Col. 3:1-4

Lesson 11 – God on the Throne

Text: Revelation 4:1-11

Revelation chapters 4-22 reveal to us the **“things which shall be hereafter”** as outlined in Rev. 1:19. The scene has changed from earth to heaven. In Chapters 2-3 Jesus is seen in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks (the churches). Now he is seen in the midst of the throne in heaven. Rev. 4:1 pictures the church which is now in heaven. **The first thing John saw was God on His throne.** When the Christian gets to heaven, either by death or the rapture, the first thing we'll see is God on his throne!

GOD ON THE THRONE REVEALED

John was “raptured” from the isle of Patmos and saw himself in Heaven. Rev. 4:2 says, *“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”* The first thing John saw in Heaven is a throne and the One that sat upon it which is none other than God Himself! 12 times the word “throne” is used in chapter 4.

- A. A THRONE – Rev. 4:2 – the throne is in Heaven.
- B. ON THE THRONE – Rev. 4:2, 9, 10 – The One who sits on the throne is God the Father.
- C. ABOUT THE THRONE – Rev. 4:3, 4, 6
 - A rainbow in sight like an emerald.
 - 24 seats with 24 elders sitting in them clothed in white with crowns of gold that they cast before the throne. Most likely represent the church – Luke 22:30
 - Four beasts that give glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the Throne.
- D. OUT OF THE THRONE – Rev. 4:5 – “proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices”
- E. BEFORE THE THRONE – Rev. 4:5, 6
 - Seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God
 - A sea of glass like unto crystal
- F. IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE – Rev. 4:6, 8 – The four beasts that rest not day and night saying, “Holy, Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

GOD ON THE THRONE UNDERSTOOD

The scripture has much to say about God's throne. God is sitting on the throne, and Jesus is on His right hand. God is omnipotent, all powerful: omniscient, all knowing; and omnipresent, everywhere at once. From his throne he sees, keeps, hears, and does all. The finite minds of humans can't comprehend God or His throne because he is infinite and immortal. One day when Christians see Him, they shall be like Christ, and they will understand. Let's look about what the Bible says about God's throne.

- A. GOD'S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN – Ps. 11:4, 103:19; Isa. 66:1; Matt. 5:34, 23:22; Acts 7:49; Heb. 8:1
- B. GOD'S THRONE IS FOREVER – Psa. 45:6, 93:2; Lam. 5:19; Heb. 1:8
- C. GOD'S THRONE IS HOLY – Psa. 47:8
- D. GOD'S THRONE IS WHERE HE JUDGES – Psalm 9:4, 7; 89:14; 97:2
- E. GOD'S THRONE IS WHERE HE SITS – Isa. 6:1; Rev. 6:16, 7:11, 19:4
- F. GOD'S THRONE IS WHERE HE GIVES GRACE – Heb. 4:16
- G. GOD'S THRONE IS WHERE JESUS SITS ON HIS RIGHT HAND – Heb. 12:2

GOD ON THE THRONE APPLIED

Who will come before God's Throne? Every person who has ever lived or that ever will be born will come before God's throne either as a **believer** or an **unbeliever**. Believers will find grace, but unbelievers will find judgement. Three times people come before God's throne.

A. BELIEVERS ON EARTH CAN COME BEFORE GOD'S THRONE IN PRAYER

Heb. 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

B. UNBELIEVERS WILL COME BEFORE GOD'S THRONE AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT.

Rev. 20:11-15 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

C. BELIEVERS IN HEAVEN WILL COME BEFORE GOD'S THRONE TO SERVE HIM THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

Rev. 22:3 -5 *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Lesson 12 – The Seven Sealed Book

Text: Revelation 5:1-14

The scene moved to Heaven at the beginning of chapter 4 where John heard a voice like a trumpet say, *"Come up hither"*. The first thing John saw was God on His throne. Around the throne he sees 4 beasts saying day and night, *"Holy, Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* He also sees 24 elders casting their crowns before the throne and saying, *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK REVEALED

At the beginning of chapter five, John sees God on the throne with a book in His right hand that is sealed with seven seals. He hears an angel proclaim with a loud voice, *"Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"* John wept because no one was found worthy to open the book. One of the twenty-four elders told John not to weep because Jesus was worthy to open the book and loose the seals thereof. Jesus took the book from God's right hand and all of Heaven began to say, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."*

Outline of Revelation five Revealing the Seven Sealed Book.

A. The Sealed Book - Revelation 5:1-4

1. This Sealed Book tells us what will happen on the earth **during the tribulation period**.
 - a. The seventh seal judgment contains the seven trumpet judgments.
 - b. The seventh trumpet judgment contains the seven vial (bowl) judgments.
2. It tells us what will must happen before Christ sets up His kingdom on earth.

B. The Slain Lamb – Revelation 5:5-7

1. Jesus is called "*The Lion of the tribe of Juda*" - Revelation 5:5
 - a. He is the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4).
 - b. He is of the line of Shem (Genesis 9:26).
 - c. He is of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:7, 8, 19).
 - d. He is of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Hebrews 7:14).
2. Jesus is called "*The Root of David*" - Revelation 5:5
 - a. He was prophesied to be Israel's king (Isaiah 11: 1-10).
 - b. He was David's Son and David's Lord(Psalm 110:1; Matthew22:41-46).
 - c. He was born in the city of David (Luke2:4-6).
3. Jesus is called "*The Lamb*" -Revelation5:6, 12, 13
 - a. He was the Lamb that had been slain (Zechariah 13:6) John the Baptist referenced Jesus this way when he said, "*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" (John 1 :29).
 - b. He was the Lamb having seven horns. Revealing He had perfect power. **Omnipotent**.
 - c. He was the Lamb having seven eyes. Revealing he had perfect wisdom. **Omniscient**.

C. The Special Praise - Revelation 5: 8-14

1. By the four beasts and the twenty-four elders – Revelation 5:9, 10
2. By the angels, the four beats, and the twenty-four elders - Revelation 5: 12
3. By every creature in heaven and earth - Revelation 5:13

THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK UNDERSTOOD

This Seven Sealed Book starts the Judgment of God during the seven-year tribulation period. During this tribulation period there are three sets of seven judgments: **the seal judgments** (Rev. 6), **the Trumpet Judgments** (Rev. 8, 9, 11), and **the vial judgments** (Rev. 16). These 3 judgments begin with the opening of this seven sealed book in the right hand of God, that will be opened by Jesus Christ Himself. The future of is not in the hands of man, but in the hands of God! The Twenty-four elders recognize in Heaven that all that man has or will do is because of God. He owes everything to a gracious God.

- A. **God created us** "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*" - Revelation 4: 11
- B. **God redeemed us** "*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*" - Revelation 5 :9
- C. **God made us kings and priests** "*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*" - Revelation 5: 10

THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK APPLIED

The first twelve elders are the 12 tribes of Israel. The second twelve elders are the 12 apostles. These 24 elders represent all Old Testament and New Testament saints. We can get a glimpse of what we will say and do in Heaven by watching the twenty-four elders.

- A. **What are they wearing?** "*...clothed in **white raiment**; and they had on their heads **crowns of gold.**" - Rev. 4:4*
- B. **What are they doing?**
 - 1. "***worship** him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne*" - Rev. 4:10
 - 2. "*And the four and twenty elders fell down and **worshipped** him...*" - Rev. 5:14
 - 3. "*... fell before the throne on their faces, and **worshipped** God*" -Rev. 7:11
 - 4. "*fell upon their faces, and **worshipped** God*" – Rev. 11:16
 - 5. "*fell down and **worshipped** God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.*" – Rev. 19:4
- C. **What are they saying?**
 - 1. "***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.***" – Rev. 4:11
 - 2. "*Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*" – Rev. 5:12
 - 3. "*Saying, Amen: **Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.***" – Rev. 7:12
 - 4. "*Saying, **We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned***" – Rev. 11:17
- D. **What are they carrying?** "*... four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them **harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints***" – Rev. 5:8
- E. **What are they singing?** "*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*" – Rev. 5 :9, 10
- F. **What is their number?** "*... and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands*" – Rev. 5: 11

Lesson 13 – The Sealed Judgements

Text: Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1

In Revelation 4-5, the scene was in Heaven. In chapters 6-18, the scene will be on earth. The tribulation period on earth will be one of God's wrath and the rule of the Anti-Christ. In Heaven, Jesus opened the Seven Sealed Book that was in God's hand and begins a series of judgments on the earth. The first set of judgments are the Sealed Judgments, followed by the Trumpet Judgements, then by the Vial Judgments. These judgements will be worldwide.

THE SEALED JUDGEMENTS REVEALED

The song of the redeemed in Heaven will be, "*Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation*" (Rev. 5:9). Jesus opens the seven sealed book in Revelation 6 that starts the seven sealed judgements. The Book does not tell what the judgements are, but it does reveal the effects of the sealed judgments.

- A. First Seal - White horse – Peace - Revelation 6:1-2
- B. Second Seal – Redhorse – War - Revelation 6:3-4
- C. Third Seal – Blackhorse – Famine – Revelation 6:5, 6
- D. Fourth Seal – Pale horse – Death - Revelation 6:7, 8
- E. Fifth Seal – The Martyrs – Revelation 6:9-11
- F. Sixth Seal – World-wide chaos – Revelation 6:12-17
(Chapter 7) *There is an Interval between the Sixth and Seventh Seal*
 1. Sealing of the 144,000
 2. Salvation of Gentiles
- G. Seventh Seal – Start of the Seven Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8:1

THE SEALED JUDGEMENTS UNDERSTOOD

Jesus will open this seven sealed book. The contents of this book are not disclosed, only what will happen when the seals are loosed. Each seal gives us a glimpse of what will take place on earth during the tribulation period. They reveal some of what the antichrist will be like and what he will do.

The first seal: "a white horse" - Revelation 6:1, 2

1. The rider is the Antichrist. The white horse represents **peace**. This will be a false peace, and only temporary (first three and a half years of the tribulation)
2. The rider's purpose. He had a bow, but no arrows. He will go forth in a bloodless attempt to conquer the world.

The second seal: "a red horse" - Revelation 6:3, 4

1. The rider is the Antichrist. The red horse represents **war**. Red is a symbol of blood; the sword is a symbol of war.
2. The rider's purpose. "*to take peace from the earth*" | Thes. 5:3, Matt. 24:6, 7. "*That they should kill one another*" "*A great sword*" Greatest period of war the world has ever known.

The third seal: "a black horse" - Revelation 6:5, 6

1. The rider is the Antichrist The black horse represents **famine**. Black is a symbol of lamentation and mourning.

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2. The rider's purpose. "*Pair of balances*" - the antichrist will cause an economic imbalance which will result in world-wide famine and starvation. "*in the hand*" - the antichrist will have control of food distribution. "*A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny*" Matt 24:7 A measure of wheat - (the daily ration of a slave), A penny - represents a day's wage. **Food will be so scarce that a man will work an entire day for a quart of grain.**

The fourth seal: "a pale horse" - Revelation 6:7, 8

1. The rider is the Antichrist. The pale horse represents death. Pale is a symbol of a corpse.
2. The rider's purpose. "*Fourth part of the earth, to kill*" - with sword, with hunger, with death, with beasts. These were the same four sore judgments placed on Jerusalem - Ezekiel 14:21

The fifth seal: "the martyrs" - Revelation 6:9-11

1. The martyrs identified - They were slain for: the Word of God, the testimony which they held. This was the same reason John was exiled in Rev. 1:2, 9. These were saved after the rapture, during the opening of the first four seals. Matthew 24:9-14. They preach the gospel of the kingdom - Matthew 24:14. The antichrist will persecute those who preach Christ's kingdom, which conflicts with his own. Their souls were seen under the altar, picturing a sacrifice made at the altar. They will be "sacrificed" during the tribulation period.
2. The martyr's prayer - How long till God would avenge their blood? God responded a little season: until the remainder of the tribulation was fulfilled. These martyrs will live and reign during the millennium.

The sixth seal: "world-wide chaos" -Revelation 6:12-17

1. World-wide catastrophe: Earthquakes will take place, The Sun will become black, the Moon will become as blood, Stars will fall to the earth, Heaven will depart as a scroll, Mountains and Islands will move out of their places.
2. All mankind is represented. (Everybody will be affected): Kings, Great Men, Rich Men, Chief Captains, Mighty Men, Bondmen, Freeman
3. There will be Universal terror and fear: They "*Hid themselves*", and said to the mountains, "*fall on us*", "*The great day of his wrath is come*"

THE SEALED JUDGEMENTS APPLIED

When the rapture takes place, every born-again believer will meet Jesus in the air and go to Heaven. They will experience the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. On earth, the seven-year tribulation period takes place. Those who haven't heard the gospel before the rapture will have an opportunity to be saved. Those who, before the rapture, heard the message of salvation and rejected it, will believe a lie and not be saved (II Thes. 2:11-12). During the time of Noah and the flood, God kept the door open for seven more days, before closing the door and sending the rain. The seven-year tribulation period is God leaving a door open one last time before His second coming.

What did these tribulation martyrs do, that every Christian today should be doing?

- A. Hold to the Word of God - Revelation 6:9
- B. Hold to the Testimony of Jesus Christ - Revelation 6:9
- C. Hold to prayer - Revelation 6:10
- D. Hold to patience and Faith - Revelation 13:7-10
- E. Hold to keeping God's commandments - Revelation 14:12
- F. Hold to works that will follow them - Revelation 14:13

Lesson 14 – The Sealing of the 144,000

Biblical Text: Revelation 7:1-8, 14:1-6

Between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal there is a brief interval. This interval is for two purposes: the sealing of the 144,000 and the saving of an uncaptured multitude.

The verses found in **Rev 7:1-3** show God's mercy in holding back the judgement. **He's not willing that any should perish!** (2 Pet. 3:9) The 144,000 will preach the everlasting Gospel during the tribulation period.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000 REVEALED

The 144,000 are called the "Servants of our God" (Rev:7:3) In heaven, they'll be playing harps and sing a new song only they will know (Rev. 14:3). On earth, they will be redeemed Jews that will be a witness for Christ. The Bible doesn't reveal everything about them but gives us a glimpse of what they will do during the dark days of the tribulation.

- A. **The Sealing of the 144,000** – 7:3, 14:1
- B. **The Identity of the 144,000** – 7:4-8 They will be 12,000 from each tribe living at that time.
- C. **The Description of the 144,000** – 14:1-5
 - Redeemed from the earth
 - Virgins
 - Followers of Christ
 - First Fruits of God
 - Without Fault.
- D. **The Message of the 144,000** – 14:6-7 – *"the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people..."*

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000 UNDERSTOOD

Just as in the days of Elijah, God had 7,000 that would not bow their knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:18), during the tribulation God will have His remnant that won't bow to the Antichrist.

- A. **They are sealed by an angel** – 14:2-3
 - The seal is in the **forehead** (no secret discipleship)
 - The seal is the **Father's name** – 14:1
 - The seal gives a **special protection** from the wrath of God – Rev. 6:17
- B. **They are Jews of the tribes of Israel** – Rev 7:4-8
 - **The Old Testament and New Testament spelling** differs in Judah (Juda), Asher (Aser), Naphtali (Nephtalim), Manasseh (Manasses), and Zebulun (Zabulon). Due to differences in language.
 - **The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted**. They went into too much idolatry. (Duet. 29:18-21). Joseph and Levi are substituted.
- C. **They are without fault before the throne of God** – 14:1-5 Fault here denotes that they were unblemished, blameless (not sinless).
 - They weren't **defiled with women** (virgins).
 - They **followed the Lamb** whithersoever He goeth.
 - They were **redeemed from among men**.

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- In their mouth there was “**found no guile.**”

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000 APPLIED

There are several things that we as born-again believers have in common with the 144,000. The 144,000 are God’s remnant during the tribulation period, we are to be His remnant during the church age we live in.

7 AREAS WE SHOULD HAVE IN COMMON:

1. We’ve both been **CHOSEN** by God.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you**, and ordained you, that ye should go and **bring forth fruit**, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

2. We are both **SEALED**.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby **ye are sealed** unto the day of redemption.

3. We’re both **WITNESSES**.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

4. We both can suffer **PERSECUTION**.

Mat 5:10-12 Blessed *are* they which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and **persecute you**, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

5. We’re both **REDEEMED** from among men.

1Pe 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

6. We’re both to **FOLLOW** Jesus.

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**.

7. We’ll both to be without **FAULT**

Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might **sanctify and cleanse** it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle**, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and **without blemish**.

Lesson 15 – THE TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS

Biblical Text: Revelation 8:1-9:21; 11:15

In Revelation chapters 8 and 9 John reveals the first six of the seven trumpet judgements. The seventh seal starts the seven trumpet judgements which in turn start the seven vial judgements. All the judgements stem from the seven sealed book that was opened by the Lamb. The seventh seal goes all the way up to the time when the millennium begins.

THE TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS REVEALED

Rev. 8:1-2 says, *“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were **given seven trumpets.**”*

The Bible doesn't explain a definite reason for the silence in Heaven. This silence comes immediately after the opening of the 7th seal, which was looking at the great judgement that was about to begin. Verses 2-6 the seven angels prepare to sound the trumpet judgements.

When each trumpet was blown there was a cause and an effect that took place on the earth.

A. The FIRST trumpet – 8:7

- Sound: hail, fire, and blood.
- Result: third part of the trees were burnt up, and all green grass.

B. The SECOND trumpet – 8:8-9

- Sound: mountain burning with fire cast into the sea.
- Result: third part of sea became blood, a third of the sea creatures died, a third part of ships were destroyed.

C. The THIRD trumpet – 8:10-11

- Sound: A star (Wormwood) falls from heaven upon a third part of the rivers and fountains of water. Wormwood is regarded as bitter or poisonous.
- Result: third part of water became wormwood and many died because of the poison.

D. The FOURTH trumpet – 8:12

- Sound: the sun, moon and stars darkened.
- Result: a third part of all light is darkened.
- Note: An angel announces “WOE” upon the earth in view of the remaining 3 trumpets yet to be blown – v. 13. This marks the worst part of the second half of the Great Tribulation. “WOE” means an exclamation of grief.

E. The FIFTH trumpet – 9:1-12

- Sound: The bottomless pit is opened.
- Result: Sun and Sky darkened from the smoke, locust came out of the earth.
 - ✓ They torment men five months – 9:5
 - ✓ They have power to hurt but not to kill – 9:10
 - ✓ Their king is Satan himself – 9:11

F. The SIXTH trumpet – 9:13-21

- Sound: Four angels are loosed.
- Result: They lead a supernatural army of 200 million which destroy a third part of the world's population. – 9:18 **NOTE: *Even with all this judgement men still won't repent!*** v. 20-21

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G. The SEVENTH trumpet isn't sounded until Rev. 11:15

- Sound: Beginning of the 7 vial judgements

THE TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS UNDERSTOOD

A trumpet is a unique instrument. God used trumpets throughout the scripture for different things. It is used in a group setting as it can be heard for how loud it can be played. God always has a purpose for a trumpet being blown.

- A trumpet was used as a **call for war** – **Judges 6:34** *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*
- A trumpet was used in **worship** – **Psalm 150:3** *Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.*
- A trumpet was used to **call for an assembly** – **Exodus 19:13** *...when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.*
- A trumpet will be used to **call for the rapture** – **1 Thes 4:16-17** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
1 Cor. 15:52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
- A trumpet will be used to **call for judgement** – **Rev 8:2, 6**

THE TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS APPLIED

When these trumpets are blown as part of the trumpet judgements during the tribulation period, for many it will be too late.

God has called His children to blow the trumpet of the gospel now before it is eternally too late for the lost.

Ezekiel was an example of that when God told him,

*“So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore, thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. **Ezekiel 33:7***

Ezekiel 33:1-7 reveals for different people that are affected by the trumpet.

- The watchman blows the trumpet – **33:3**
- The person who doesn't heed the warning – **33:4-5**
- The person that does heed the warning – **33:5**
- The watchman who doesn't blow the trumpet – **33:6**

- **Which category are you in?**

Lesson 16 – THE MIGHTY ANGEL and the LITTLE BOOK

Biblical Text: Revelation 10:1-11

Up to this point, in the study of the book of Revelation, John was exiled on the island of Patmos where he received the vision of the book of Revelation. He spoke to the 7 churches of Asia Minor in chapters 2-3. John's vision moves to Heaven in chapters 4-5 and God is on the throne and Jesus is holding the 7 sealed book.

Jesus opens the book, and the sealed judgements are in chapter 6 and the trumpet judgements in chapters 8-9. This lesson refers to the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period, known as the "**Great Tribulation.**"

THE MIGHTY ANGEL and the LITTLE BOOK REVEALED

Chapter 10 is an interval between the 6th and 7th trumpet. The 7th trumpet will sound in Rev 11:15. This chapter speaks of a Mighty Angel with a little book. The little book contains the Word of God concerning the end of the tribulation period and the setting up of the Christ's kingdom on earth.

A. Description of the Angel – 10:1

- Head – *"a rainbow was upon his head"* The rainbow is a symbol of mercy. Gen 9:12-13
- Face – *"as it were the sun"*
- Feet – *"as pillars of fire"*
- **NOTE:** This Angel has the same descriptions as Jesus. Head – Ezekiel 1:28, Face – Rev. 1:16, Feet – Rev. 1:15

B. Position of the Angel – 10:2 *"his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth"*

- Jesus has authority and power over all the earth – Psalm 24:1, 1 Cor. 10:26

C. Possession of the Angel – 10:2 *"he had in his hand a little book"*

- It was the written Word of God
- It contained prophecy of the final judgements and the establishing of Christ's kingdom.

D. Proclamation of the Angel – 10:3

- His voice was, *"as when a lion roareth"* Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah – Rev 5:5
- His voice sounded the seven thunders – John was commanded not to write what was said.
- His voice declared – *"that there should be time no longer"*
 - This means that God will not delay any longer – **TIME IS UP!**
 - No more delay in dispossessing Satan of the world – 2 Cor 4:4, Eph 6:12
 - The tribulation will be over when *"the mystery of God should be finished"* – 10:7
 - The 7th angel sounds the 7th trumpet in Rev. 10:15

E. Association of the Angel – 11:1-3

This mighty Angel in the next chapter refers to the two witnesses as "my two witnesses". This confirms that the "Mighty Angel" is **Jesus**.

THE MIGHTY ANGEL and the LITTLE BOOK UNDERSTOOD

Now, let's look at the little book in the angel's hand that John was told to eat. This isn't the 7 sealed book, as it is called the "little book".

John's reaction to taking in the contents of this book tells us what is left of the tribulation period. There are things that are bitter and things that will be sweet. Rev. 10:9-10.

As Christians we should do the same thing that John did with God's book.

A. The little book was to be eaten.

- **Matthew 4:4** *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
- Sweet as honey – the final victory of Jesus and the setting up of the kingdom.
- Bitter to the belly – the awful judgements and the reign of the Anti-Christ.

B. The little book was to be told to others.

Rev. 1:3 *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

Rev 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

THE MIGHTY ANGEL and the LITTLE BOOK APPLIED

Jesus is both the **Living word** and the **Written word**, John 1:1 says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

When John ate the book that was in the hand of the mighty angel, it was both bitter and sweet. The same as God's word can be to us. Sweet because of the nourishment, and bitter due to its correction.

The Bible is referred to "honey" 3 times. Psalm 19:10, 119:103, Prov.24:13-14

What honey does for us physically, God's word will do for us spiritually.

A. Gives strength:

Psalm 119:28 *"My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word."*

B. Boosts our immunity:

Psalm 119:11 *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

C. Heals and Rejuvenates:

Psalm 119:50 *"This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."*

D. Boosts memory:

John 14:26 *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Lesson 17 – THE TWO WITNESSES

Biblical Text: Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 11 deals with three things. **The temple** (v. 1-2); the **two witnesses** (v.3-14); and the **seventh trumpet** (v. 15-19). The temple mentioned is the fourth temple to be built. There was Solomons Temple, Zerubbabel's temple, Herod's Temple, and then the Tribulation Temple that will be built during the tribulation period.

After the angel tells John to measure this temple, God speaks of two people He calls "**my two witnesses**". These witnesses have their ministry in the last half of the tribulation period lasting 3 ½ years (42 months of 30 days each). **Rev.11:3**

THE TWO WITNESSES REVEALED

God doesn't name the two witnesses by name but gives us some clues of who they might be. They will perform miracles like turning water into blood like Moses and causing it not to rain for three and a half years like Elijah did. They will have the attention of the world because when they are killed "*people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see*" them. They will be prophesying and witnessing of Jesus to a lost and deceived world.

- A. **They are People** – (Their identities are not known)
 - Some think they are **Elijah and Moses** due to the miracles they perform.
 - Some think they are **Elijah and Enoch** due to being two that didn't die a natural death.
 - Some think they are **Daniel and John** due to references in their books that they will prophecy again.
 - Some think **two unknown men of that day** will be given special powers from God.
- B. **They are Powerful** – Rev 11:5-6
 - Fire proceeds out of their mouths.
 - Power to shut heaven from raining.
 - Power to turn water into blood.
 - Ability to smite the earth with plagues.
- C. **They are Prophets** – Rev. 11:3-4
 - They'll prophecy three and a half years.
 - They are two olive trees (Jewish).
 - They are witnesses.
- D. **They are Persecuted**- Rev 11:5-8
 - Man will try to hurt them. Like the days of Lot and when they were slaves in Egypt.
 - The BEAST (Antichrist) will kill them when they finish their testimony. Satan can only do what he is allowed when God is finished with them.
- E. **They will be Resurrected** – Rev 11:9-12
 - They will be resurrected after three and a half days and ascend to heaven.

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THE TWO WITNESSES UNDERSTOOD

Although we don't have an exact identification of the two witnesses, we do know what their purpose is. God in his great mercy continues to make a way of escape from the punishment of man's sins. **These two witnesses do exactly what they are called to do and that is be witnesses for Jesus Christ!** What can we know about these two men?

- A. They are sent by God! – “My witnesses”
- B. They will prophecy for 3 ½ years verse 3 says: 1260 days/30 = 42 months = 3.5 Years
- C. They will stand for God – “standing before the God of the earth”
- D. Those who try to kill them before they are finished will be killed. v. 5
- E. They have incredible power to smite the earth with all plagues. v. 6
- F. The Anti-Christ will kill them. v. 7
- G. They will prophecy and be killed in Jerusalem. v. 8
- H. All who dwell on the earth will rejoice over their death. v. 9-10
- I. They'll be resurrected after 3.5 days. v. 11-12
- J. There will be a great earthquake after they are ascended to heaven. v.13

THE TWO WITNESSES APPLIED

In **1st Kings 18:17-38** there is a parallel story that gives an example of what will happen during the tribulation period. The story of Elijah and the false prophets of Baal.

Elijah asked the children of Israel “***How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.***” (1st Kings 18:21)

The two witnesses of the tribulation will be giving the world the same message and they will either decide to follow Christ or Antichrist.

By comparing these two accounts several principles and lessons can be learned.

- A. There is a witness for God.
- B. There is a false witness against God
- C. The majority won't be following God.
- D. There is a choice for the people to make.
- E. There is persecution for God's witnesses.
- F. There is victory for those who follow Christ.

Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***

Lesson 18 – THE GREAT WONDER IN HEAVEN

Biblical Text: Revelation 12:1-17

Chapter 12 begins with the phrase, “*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven*”. The word “wonder” means a miracle, a sign, or a token.

This chapter contains signs and symbols that pertain to the future of God’s people during the 7-year tribulation. Chapters 12 and 13 contain 7 “personages”.

This lesson contains 5 of the 7 and the next chapter / lesson chapter 13 the last two.

THE GREAT WONDER REVEALED

The Bible gives a description of the 7 personages in story form and some details about what they will do during the tribulation period. Israel as God’s chosen people, will be a target of destruction by Satan, through the antichrist, during the 2nd half of the tribulation period.

- A. **The Sun-Clothed Woman – 12:1-2 – Israel**
- B. **The Great Red Dragon – 12:3-4 – Satan**
- C. **The man Child – 12:5-6 – Christ**
- D. **Archangel – 12:7-16 – Michael**
- E. **The Jewish Remnant – 12:17**
-
- F. **Beast out of the Sea – 13:1-10 – Anti-Christ**
- G. **Beast out of the Earth – 13:11-18 – False Prophet**

THE GREAT WONDER UNDERSTOOD

A. The Sun-Clothed Woman is Israel

- Symbolized by Josephs dream – Gen. 37:9
- Second of four women mentioned in Revelation.
 - Jezebel – Rev 2:20 – represents paganism
 - Israel – Rev 12:1-2 – represents the Jewish nation
 - The great whore – Rev 17:1 – represents the apostate church
 - The lamb’s bride - Rev. 19:7 – represents the true church
- The child (The Messiah) would be born through Israel. Rom. 9:4-5
- Israel had to pass through many afflictions and Judgements before the messiah came.

B. The Great Red Dragon is Satan

- Dragon’s description with 7 heads, 7 horns and 7 crowns links him to the beast. (13:1); The third part of the angels that followed Satan.
- Dragon’s names link to Satan: Great dragon, Old Serpent, Devil, Satan (accuser).
- Dragon’s domain is the Earth. 12:4. Fallen from heaven, Cast to the ground, ruler of the darkness of this world, Prince of the world.
- Dragon’s attempts to destroy the lineage of Christ: Cain disqualified, Able murdered, Males in Egypt, Athaliah killing the seed royal (missed Joash), Herod at Christ’s birth.

C. The Man Child is Christ

- He's to Rule – Millennium Kingdom
- He's Caught up to God – the Resurrection

D. Archangel is Michael – He's the Fighting Angel

- Fought for the Body of Moses
- To deliver the message to Daniel
- Cast Satan and his angels out of Heaven. (Has access to God's throne today, Accuser)
- Defeated by: The blood of the Lamb, The Word of their testimony.
- The Devil knows his time is short. 12:12 The last 3.5 years of the tribulation. 12:14
- The Dragon will persecute Israel in every way he can.

E. The Jewish Remnant represent the Saved Jews

- They keep the commandments of God, Have the testimony of Jesus Christ
- Martyrs of **Rev. 6:9** have the same description
- The Dragon (the antichrist) will make war with the remnant. Which are the 144,000 and those saved by their preaching.

THE GREAT WONDER APPLIED

Satan is a key figure in the tribulation period. He works behind the scenes to destroy Israel and all mankind. He embodies as the antichrist who'll lead the world during the tribulation.

Satan will do what he's always done.

We can get the victory by following James 4:7-8.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

We need to know our enemies' tactics, so he doesn't get an advantage over us:

- Satan Blinds – 2 Cor. 4:4
- Tempts – Matt. 4:1
- Satan Accuses – Rev. 12:10
- Satan Devours – 1 Peter 5:8
- Satan Lies – John 8:44
- Satan Steals – John 10:10
- Satan Deceives – Gen 3:13
- Satan Attacks – Job 2:7
- Satan Destroys – 1 Cor. 5:5
- Satan Hinders – 1 Thes. 2:18
- Satan Possesses – Matt. 9:32
- Satan Sows Bad Seed – Matt. 13:39
- Satan Snares – 2 Tim. 2:26

Lesson 19 – THE ANTICHRIST

Biblical Text: Revelation 13:1-10

Chapters 12 and 13 contain 7 “personages”. They are images of people who will be prominent during the tribulation period. They tell the story of Israel and the Messiah, Jesus Christ coming through the nation of Israel. Satan shows himself to be the enemy of both. This lesson deals primarily with the Antichrist.

- A. The Sun-Clothed Woman – 12:1-2 – Israel
- B. The Great Red Dragon – 12:3-4 – Satan
- C. The man Child – 12:5-6 – Christ
- D. Archangel – 12:7-16 – Michael
- E. The Jewish Remnant – 12:17
- F. Beast out of the Sea – 13:1-10 – The Anti-Christ**
- G. Beast out of the Earth – 13:11-18 – The False Prophet

THE ANTICHRIST REVEALED

The Antichrist will be a world dominating figure during the tribulation. The first 3.5 years he will appear to be peaceful and helpful to the world. The last 3.5 years he will be possessed by Satan and turn against Israel. There will be an “unholy” trinity during this period. The Dragon – anti-God, The Beast – anti-Christ, and the False Prophet – anti-Spirit.

- A. **V. 1 – The Antichrist will be a human** (“a beast rise up out of the sea”). The sea symbolizes the masses of humanity. Rev. 17:15
- B. **V. 2 – The Antichrist has the qualities of the first 3 world powers.** (Comparing with Dan. 7)

<u>BEAST</u>	<u>WORLD EMPIRE</u>	<u>QUALITY</u>
Lion	Babylon	Vicious and Destructive
Bear	Medo-Persia	Tenacity and Strength
Leopard	Greece	Swift

- C. **V. 2 – The Antichrist will receive his power from Satan.** Satan has used people throughout the scriptures.

Magicians of Egypt, the witch of Endor, Legion, demon possessed girl

- D. **V. 3 – The Antichrist will be admired by the world.** “and all the world wondered after the beast”
- E. **V. 4 – The Antichrist and Satan will be worshipped.** “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”.
- F. **V. 5 and 6 – The Antichrist will open his mouth in blasphemy against God.**

His name, His tabernacle, Them that dwell in Heaven

- G. **V. 7 – The Antichrist will make war with the saints and have power of all men and nations.**
- H. **V. 8 – The Antichrist will be worshipped by the lost.**
- I. **V. 9 and 10 – The Antichrist and his followers reap what they sow.**

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THE ANTICHRIST UNDERSTOOD

The Antichrist will be a world leader empowered by Satan himself. He will be held in high esteem by the world, and they will follow him to destruction. There are 2 beasts in this chapter. The first beast is the Antichrist and will head the one world government (political leader). The second is the false prophet, head of the one world church (religious leader). Jesus said in **Mark 13:22** *“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.”*

- A. **The word Antichrist is found 4 times in the Bible:** 1 John 2:18, 2:22, 4:3, 2 John 7.
- B. **The Antichrist’s reign will be characterized by 3 things:** One-world government, One-world Religion, One-world economy.
- C. **The Names of the Antichrist:**
 - **In the Old Testament** – The Little Horn in Dan 7:8; 8:9, King of Fierce Countenance in Dan. 8:23, The Prince that Shall Come in Dan 9:26, The Willful King in Dan 11:36, The Wicked in Isa. 11:4, King of Babylon in Isa. 14:4, The Assyrian in Isa. 10:5-6, 30:27-33
 - **In the New Testament** – The Man of Sin, The Son of Perdition, That Wicked in 2 Thes 2:3-8; Anti-Christ in 1 John 2:18, The Beast in Rev. 13:1-8
- D. **The Antichrist that John saw in Revelation chapter 13 corresponds to the Beast Daniel saw in Daniel chapter 7.**

THE ANTICHRIST APPLIED

The Antichrist will be the great deceiver during the tribulation. He will be the master counterfeit, and no wonder since the Devil will give him his power, seat, and authority. The Bible says in **2 Cor. 11:14** *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”* A counterfeit is always as close to the real thing as it can be to fool people. He will appear to be right and good, but will be a cancer and poison to destroy the world.

But even today we must be careful as the Enemy is doing his best even today to counterfeit the real thing and deceive as many as possible.

- A. **Satan counterfeits the Word of God – Gen. 3:1**
- B. **Satan counterfeits the Spirit of God – 1 John 4:1-3**
- C. **Satan counterfeits the Man of God – 2 Cor 11:13-15**
- D. **Satan counterfeits the peace of God – John 14:27**
- E. **Satan counterfeits the salvation of God – 2 Cor 4:3-5**

Lesson 20 – THE FALSE PROPHET

Biblical Text: Revelation 13:11-18

This is the last of the 7 “personages” who will be prominent during the tribulation period. This lesson deals primarily with the “Beast out of the Earth” – **The False Prophet**.

The beast that came out of the sea (humanity) is the Antichrist. The Beast that came out of the earth is the **false prophet**. He’s called this 3 times in Revelation (16:13; 19:20; 20:10). The Antichrist will counterfeit Jesus Christ, and the **false prophet** will counterfeit the Holy Spirit. Just like the Holy Spirit points people to Christ, the false prophet will point people to the Antichrist.

THE FALSE PROPHET REVEALED

The Antichrist and the false prophet are two different people. *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. **Rev. 19:20.**”*

Jesus referred to them as different people in **Matt. 24:24** *“**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**”*

- A. **V. 11 – The False Prophets’ Appearance** – *“like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon”*.
 - He tries to imitate Christ like a lamb.
 - He is influenced by Satan, by speaking as a dragon.
- B. **V. 12 – The False Prophets’ Job** – *“causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast”* He’s part of the unholy trinity
 - Satan - counterfeit God
 - Antichrist – counterfeit Christ
 - False Prophet – counterfeit Holy Spirit
- C. **V. 13-15 – The False Prophets deceitfulness** –
 - Performing miracles
 - Giving life to the image of the beast.
- D. **V. 15 – The False Prophets Power** –
 - Imposes the death penalty on those who don’t worship the image, like King Nebuchadnezzar did in Dan. 3:4-6.
 - Causes all to receive the mark in their hand or forehead. V. 16-18.

THE FALSE PROPHET UNDERSTOOD

During the Tribulation period the antichrist will be leading the world, while the false prophet will be pointing people to him. By studying these scriptures, we can get a good idea of what the false prophet will be doing and what will eventually happen to them.

- A. The False Prophet causes the world to worship the Antichrist. **Rev: 13:12**
- B. The False Prophet performs miracles to deceive the world. **Rev: 13:13, 14**

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- C. The False Prophet makes an image of the Antichrist and causes all to worship it. **Rev: 13:14-15**
- D. The False Prophet forces everyone to have a mark to buy or sell **Rev: 13:16-18**
- E. The False Prophet will speak with the spirits of devils. **Rev: 13:13-14**
- F. The False Prophet and the Beast will be cast into the lake of fire. – **Rev. 19:20, 20:10**

THE FALSE PROPHET APPLIED

During the tribulation The False Prophet will make an image of the Antichrist and will force all to worship it under penalty of death.

A similar story is told in Daniel 3 concerning Nebuchadnezzar and the three Hebrew men.

Nebuchadnezzar made an image and commanded all to bow down to it, but Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego refused and were cast into a fiery furnace. God blessed their faith and kept them from harm.

Consider the similarities:

- A. Both have an image made that require worship.
- B. Both have the death penalty for not worshipping the image.
- C. Both have believers who will be punished for not worshipping the image. Rev. 20:4
- D. Both have believers who get the victory over their tormentors. Rev. 6:9-11

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Rev 2:8-11

Lesson 21 – THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

Biblical Text: Revelation 14:9-20 and 19:11-21

Revelation 14 is an interval between the seven personages (Chapters 12-13) and the seven vial judgements (chapters 15-16). Chapter 14 gives a condensed view of the tribulation period then Chapter 19:11 fills in some more details.

1. The 144,000 sealed Jews – Rev 14:1-5
2. The Fall of Babylon – Rev. 14:8
3. The mark of the beast – Rev. 14:9-11
4. The martyred remnant – Rev. 14:12-13

Studying these passages gives us insight into this final battle, the Battle of Armageddon.

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON REVEALED

1. **The Lamb and the 144,000 Jews** – Rev. 14:1-5
 - The Lamb is Jesus Christ.
 - The Place is Mount Zion = Jerusalem - Psalm 2:6
 - The People are the 144,000. The **Fathers' name written** on their foreheads, They **Sang a new song**, They were **Redeemed from the earth**, They were **Virgins**, They **Followed the Lamb**, They were the **First fruits of the tribulation**, **Without fault** before the throne.
2. **The special announcements** – Rev. 14:6-13
 - First Angel declares the **everlasting Gospel** – Salvation by the Death, Burial and Resurrection.
 - Second Angel declares the **fall of Babylon**.
 - Third Angel declares the **doom of those who worship the beast**.
 - They're cast into the lake of fire.
 - They'll be tormented for ever and ever.
 - The Voice from heaven declares **those who die in the Lord are blessed**.
 - Because they rest from their labors.
 - Because their works (what they did for God) do follow them.
3. **The vision of Armageddon** – Rev. 14:14-20; Isa 63:1-6; Rev. 19:11-16
 - The "Son of man" is Jesus Christ
 - The "golden crown" represents his reign
 - The "sharp sickle" represents the final harvest.
 - The "vine of the earth" is the anti Christ.
 - The "winepress" is the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. "Blood...even to the horses bridles"; 1600 furlongs = 200 miles

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON UNDERSTOOD

The battle of Armageddon will take place when Jesus comes back at his second coming and begins his rightful rule on the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. **His victory at this battle begins his millennial (1,000 year) Kingdom on earth.** Believers will come back on white horses with Christ, and

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he will destroy the nations of the world with the **Word of his mouth** and then the believers will live and reign with him. Rev. 14:9-20 is the vision of the battle & Rev. 19:11-21 is as the battle progresses.

1. Jesus will come from heaven on a **white horse** – Rev 19:11-13, 16
2. The **believers will follow Christ** from heaven on white horses – Rev. 19:14
3. The antichrist will **gather the nations** to a place called Armageddon. – Rev 16:13-14, 16
4. The antichrist will try **to fight against Christ** – Rev 19:18-19
5. **Jesus will destroy those who come against Him** with the Word of His mouth. – Rev. 19:15, 17, 21
6. **The antichrist and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire** – Rev. 19:20
7. **Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a 1,000 years** – Rev. 20:1-3

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON APPLIED

Just like any battle, The Battle of Armageddon will have two leaders, two armies, and one victor. A battle cannot have two winners. One will be victorious and one will be the loser. Once Jesus is victorious he'll set up his millennial kingdom on earth.

- Two Leaders

Jesus Christ – Rev 19:16 **VS** The Antichrist – Rev. 19:19

- Two Armies

The Armies of heaven – Rev 19:14 **VS** The Armies of earth – Rev. 19:19

- One Outcome

Jesus is Victorious – Rev 19:21 **VS** The Antichrist is defeated – Rev. 19:20

*“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

Joshua 24:14-15

Thankfully the Christian is on the winning side!

Once I drifted out in sin, had no hope or joy within,
and my soul was burdened down with pride;
Then my Savior came along, and he showed me I was wrong,
Now I know, I'm on the winning side

From the straight and narrow way, I was drifting every day,
out upon the waters deep and wide;
But it all is over now, glory light is on my brow,
and my soul is on the winning side

I will never have to fear, for my Lord is ever near,
and in him so often I confide; He's the keeper of my soul,
since I gave him full control, and he placed me on the winning side

Chorus-

Well, I'm on the winning side, yes, I'm on the winning side,
out in sin no more will I abide,
I've enlisted in the fight, for the cause of truth and right -
Praise the Lord - I'm on the winning side!

Lesson 22 – THE VIAL (or Bowl) JUDGEMENTS

Biblical Text: Revelation 15:1-16:21

The events of this chapter occur towards the end of the tribulation period. God has revealed the 7 seal judgements (chapter 6), and the 7 trumpet judgements (chapters 8-9). Now he reveals the last 7 judgements to be poured out on mankind. These last 7 judgements are called the “vial” judgements. The word “vial” means a broad shallow cup. These Judgements are sometimes called the “Bowl” Judgements. The Bible says these last of the seven judgements that in them, *“is filled up the wrath of God”* Rev. 15:1

THE VIAL JUDGEMENTS REVEALED

In between the last Trumpet Judgement and the first of the Vial Judgements were the seven Personages. (chapters 12-13) and key events of the tribulation period. (chapter 14) Chapter 15 describes and introduces the last 7 judgements. These judgements will be delivered by angels and are **the worst of the judgements** God pours out on mankind before the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

1. **The first vial** – a grievous sore upon men – 16:2
 - On those who had the mark of the beast.
 - On those who worshipped his image.
2. **The second vial** – The sea became blood – 16:3
 - As the blood of a dead man – congealed.
 - Everything in the seas die.
3. **The third vial** – fresh waters became blood – 16:4-7
4. **The fourth vial** – the sun scorches men – 16:8-9
 - Instead of repenting, they blaspheme God.
 - Those who won't come to Christ under Grace, won't come under Judgement either. **2 Thes. 2:11-12**
5. **The fifth vial** – darkness on the seat of the beast– 16:10-11
 - Blasphemies continue and the refusal to repent.
 - Man still feels the affects from the first vial as well.
6. **The sixth vial** – Euphrates river dried up – 16:12
 - A main source of water for the region – 1800 miles long
 - Eastern boundary of the restored Israel
 - The eastern kings will be able to cross in preparation for the battle of Armageddon.
7. **The seventh vial** – God's judgement will be finished and complete – 16:17-21
 - God's Judgement on man is completed with the 7th vial.
 - A great Earthquake and great Hailstones. (Talent weight = around 100 pounds)
 - Rebellion and Blasphemies continue

THE VIAL JUDGEMENTS UNDERSTOOD

There are many similarities between the trumpet judgements and the vial judgements. The main difference is that the Trumpet judgements only affected 1/3 of the world, whereas the Vial judgments affect the whole world.

1. The first trumpet judgement and first vial judgement deal **with the earth.** Rev 8:7, 16:2
2. The second trumpet judgement and second vial judgement deal **with the sea.** Rev. 8:8, 16:3

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3. The third trumpet judgement and third vial judgement deal **with the fresh waters**. Rev. 8:10, 16:4
4. The fourth trumpet judgement and fourth vial judgement deal **with the Sun**. Rev. 8:12, 16:8
5. The fifth trumpet judgement and fifth vial judgement deal **with darkness**. Rev. 9:2, 16:10
6. The sixth trumpet judgement and sixth vial judgement deal **with the river Euphrates**. Rev. 9:14, 16:12
7. The seventh trumpet judgement and seventh vial judgement deal with **voices, thunder, lightning and earthquakes** (natural phenomena). Rev. 11:19, 16:18

THE VIAL JUDGEMENTS APPLIED

In preparation of God's wrath being delivered to mankind in the form of the seven vial judgements, something can be seen in heaven. Chapter 16 shows these judgements on the earth, but chapter 15 shows what is happening in heaven just before.

There were two things John sees in preparation for these final judgements. Both are in heaven and will be forever.

1. **The Sea of Glass – represents the saints – Rev. 15:1-4**
 - The sea of glass is mentioned two times in the book of Revelation.
 - Rev. 4:6 – with the redeemed church.
 - Rev. 15:2 – with the redeemed tribulation saints.
 - The description of those with this sea.
 - They had gotten victory over the beast.
 - They had harps of God.
 - They Sing.
 - What they are doing.
 - They sing.
 - They fear God.
 - They Glorify God.
 - They worship God.
2. **The Temple in Heaven – Represents the scriptures – Rev 15:5-8**
 - Seven angels came out of the temple.
 - One of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God. The beast here is one of the praising creatures of God in Rev. 4:6-8
 - John saw "*the temple of the tabernacle on the testimony in heaven*".
 - The Psalmist said, "*Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*" **Psalm 119:89**

Lesson 23 – RELIGIOUS BABYLON Biblical Text: Revelation 17:1-18

Revelation 17 reveals “**Religious Babylon**”. Babylon is the world system that stands opposed to God, the word “Babel” means confusion (Gen. 11:1-10). The **RELIGIOUS** aspect of this world’s system is referred to as a woman, a whore, and a harlot. The **POLITICAL / COMMERCIAL** aspect of this world system is referred to as a beast (the Antichrist).

RELIGIOUS BABYLON REVEALED

Religious Babylon and Political Babylon unite in verses 3 & 7. The woman (apostate religion) is carried by the beast (political power). **Both the woman and the beast will be destroyed.** The woman, apostate religion, is known as the great whore in chapter 17, is destroyed by political Babylon (vs 15-18), so that the beast may be the lone object of worship (2 Thes. 2:3-4). The beast or antichrist represents a one-world government, and will be destroyed by the Lord upon His return. Verses 1-7 tell the story and 8-18 explain the story.

A. THE WOMAN

1. **Called by different Names:** The Great Whore (17:1), The Mother of Harlots (17:5)
2. **She Represents:** The Apostate religious system that will arise during the tribulation period.
3. **She is described:**
 - a) She claimed to be Christ’s bride, but fallen from her purity and became a harlot.
 - b) Leader in both ecclesiastical affairs and political affairs (17:3)
 - c) Rich and influential (17:4)
 - d) Hadn’t been revealed before and is called a “mystery” (17:5)
 - e) She is a great persecutor of the saints (17:6)
 - f) She has a World-wide Organized system (17:15)
 - g) She’ll be destroyed by the Beast, the head of the political coalition (17:16-17)
4. **She has great influence during the first 3.5 years.** “Many waters” is multitudes of people (17:15)
5. **She is represented in the Roman Catholic Church** (17:2, 4, 6)
6. **She is Destroyed by the Beast** (17:16)

B. THE BEAST

1. **His Origin** – “*that was, and is not, and yet is*” (v. 8)
 - a) The Roman empire existed at one time, then ceased to exist, but will exist again, will be brought to life by Satan (12:3)
 - b) Daniel’s image of the revived Roman Empire – Daniel 2:40-49
2. **His Description**
 - a) Names of Blasphemy (17:3) 13:1 – “*the name of blasphemy*”
 - b) Seven Heads (17:3) – v. 9’s explanation appears to point to Rome
 - “seven mountains” – Rome is the city on seven hills. The Vatican is in Rome. Many martyrs we killed in Rome
 - From the Old Roman Empire (17:10-11) there had been 5 prominent emperors by John’s time, “*one is*” Domitian, “*the other is not yet come*” (Anti-Christ)
 - c) Ten Horns – 17:3, explained in v. 12
 - Ten Horns are ten Kings, They rule ten regions at the same time “*one hour*” (v. 12)
 - They have “one mind” – one world government under the rule of the beast. (v. 13)

RELIGIOUS BABYLON UNDERSTOOD

This Chapter has the beginning of the seven “**dooms**”. During the tribulation there will be a one-world religion and government. The Antichrist, at the middle of the tribulation will claim his leadership and crush the religious system (vv. 16-18).

The “doom” or destruction of 7 things is revealed in chapters 17-20.

1. Religious and Political Babylon – **Rev. 17 and 18**
2. The Beast – **Rev. 19:20**
3. The False Prophet – **Rev 19:20**
4. Godless Nations – **Rev 19:21**
5. Gog and Magog – **Rev 20:7-9**
6. Satan – **Rev 20:10**
7. The wicked dead – **Rev 20:11-15**

RELIGIOUS BABYLON APPLIED

Babylon began in Gen. 10 with the tower of Babel. This is an account of people in direct rebellion against God. It shows the true intent of sinful man. The desire for a one-world empire ruled by Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-10), comes to life again with the Antichrist during the tribulation. The story of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) Has many things in Common with this period.

1. Their Leader – Nimrod (Gen 10:8)
 - A. A mighty one in the earth. A mighty Hunter before the Lord. The beginning of his kingdom was Babel. He began to be mighty upon the earth.
 - B. Comparison to the Antichrist.
 - **Nimrod** means “the Rebel” – **Antichrist** is called “the Lawless one”
 - **Nimrod** was a king – **Antichrist** will be the world ruler.
 - **Nimrod** desired to make himself a name – so will the **Antichrist**.
 - **Both** are connected to Babylon.
 - **Both** try to have a world-wide empire.
2. Their Sin – Pride (Gen. 11:4)
 - A. **Pride** is Hated by God – **Prov 8:13**
 - B. **Pride** is an abomination to God – **Prov 16:5**
 - C. **Pride** is the sure path to destruction – **Prov 16:18**
 - D. **Pride** is sin – **Prov 21:4**
 - E. **Pride** keeps Christians from seeking God – **Psalms 10:4**
 - F. **Pride** is a characteristic of the Devil – **1 Tim 3:6**
3. Their Judgement
 - A. God Punished the Pride and disobedience of Nimrod and his followers by scattering them upon the face of the earth and confounding their languages.
 - B. God will punish the pride and disobedience of the Antichrist and his followers by their destruction at the battle of Armageddon.

Lesson 24 – COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BABYLON Biblical Text: Revelation 18:1-24

Babylon is both literal and symbolic. Babylon is most known for being the center of the world domination under king Nebuchadnezzar. During the tribulation there will be a city of domination that will be the center of world government under the Antichrist. “Babylon” symbolically is the world system with its eyes on itself and against God.

- Religious Babylon will be the one-world church and religion.
- Commercial Babylon will be a one-world currency and trade.
- Political Babylon will be one-world government.

Chapter 17 described the destruction of religious Babylon and chapter 18 of commercial and political Babylon.

COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BABYLON REVEALED

Verses 1-3 are a prelude to the fall of Babylon. The fall of Babylon is portrayed as a city that will be destroyed financially and physically. Chapter 18 can be divided by who is speaking.

There are 5 different people or groups speaking of the fall of Babylon.

A. The Angel – 18:1-3

1. This angel appears to be Jesus himself
2. What does he say?
 - a) Babylon the great is fallen
 - b) Babylon is become the habitation of devils
 - c) All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Kings – politically, Merchants - commercially

B. The Voice from Heaven – 18:4-8

1. Who is it? – Unknown but it is from heaven
2. What does the voice say?
 - a) Calls for Gods people to separate from them.
 - b) Says Babylon will pay double what she did to God’s people.
 - c) Says the Kings of the Earth (political) will lament – Rev. 18:9-10
 - d) Says the Merchants of the earth (commercial) will weep and mourn - Rev 11-19
 - e) The mighty Angel – gives an object lesson showing how Babylon will fall.

C. The Kings of the earth – 18:9-10

- a) The Kings represent the political authorities of the nations. They’ll be under the one-world government of the Antichrist.
- b) They’ll lament when they see Babylon’s fall.

D. The Merchants of the earth – 18:11-19

- a) The Merchants represent those who manipulate and profit from the one world system economically.
- b) They lament over losing it all over night – 18:14-18

E. The Mighty Angel – 18:20-24

- a) He’s not named but his actions are described
- b) That Babylon will be no more!

COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BABYLON UNDERSTOOD

It's interesting that just before the fall of Babylon, God calls for his people to separate. (18:4)

There are 3 times that God calls on believers to separate.

- A. **Believers living today.** Rom. 12:2, 2 Cor. 6:17
- B. **Believers raptured to heaven before the tribulation.** 1 Then 4:16-17, Rev 4:1
- C. **Believers saved during the tribulation.** Rev. 18:4

COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BABYLON APPLIED

Babel means "confusion", it's a picture of the worlds system. Babylon as a city will be rebuilt during the Tribulation. Revelation 17 and 18 combined reveal the judgement and the destruction of the World system (Religious, Political and Commercial Babylon).

The Seven Judgements spoken of in God's Word.

- 1) **Judgement of the believer's sin** (Past – Our sins were judged at the cross of Calvary) **Isaiah 53:6, John 5:24**
- 2) **Judgement of the believer's self** (Present – putting away of our sins daily by confession) **1st Cor. 11:31-32, 1st John 2:1, 1:9**
- 3) **Judgement seat of Christ** (future – judgement of the Christians works after the rapture) **2nd Cor 5:10, Eccl. 12:14, Matt. 12:36**
 - Not a judgement in the sense of a trial but more like the Judges stand at the Olympic games.
 - We'll be judged on what we've done with the talents God has given us.
- 4) **Judgement of Israel** (Future – Judgement of the Jews under Antichrist for their rejection of God) **Jer. 30:4-7**

This is the time of "Jacob's Trouble"

The church will be in heaven but the unsaved jews at the time of the rapture will be judged under the Antichrist.

- The Jews rejected God in the days of Samuel – **1 Sam. 8:7**
 - In the Days of Jesus – **Luke 23:18, John 1:11**
 - In the days of Stephen – **Acts 7:51, 54-6**
 - The Jews will finally call on the Lord – **Zech. 12:8-10**
- 5) **Judgement of the nations** (Future – Judgement of the nations that mistreat the Jews) **Matt. 25:31-46**
 - 6) **Judgement of Satan and the fallen angels** (Future – Where Satan and his angels are cast into the lake of fire forever.) **Jude 6, Rev. 20:10**
 - 7) **The Great White Throne Judgement** (Judgement of the lost dead to be cast into the lake of fire) **Rev. 20: 11-15**
 - This is not to see whether they're entitled to eternal life, but to establish the degree of punishment! "according to their works"
 - Many "good" people will spend an eternity in hell.

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Lesson 25 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Biblical Text: Revelation 19:1-21

Revelation 19 describes 2 separate and distinct scenes. The scene in **Heaven is one of great Joy** (vs.1-10), the other is on **earth is of great judgment** (vs. 11-21) Revelation chapters 6-18 showed us the tribulation period, in chapter 19, Jesus is returning to the earth and will set up His Millennial Kingdom. The 1st time he came as **Savior to die**, the 2nd time he comes will be as a **Sovereign to rule** and reign.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST REVEALED

Jesus will come back on a white horse, with the redeemed in heaven, to set up his kingdom on earth. **Those who oppose Him, will be destroyed at the Battle of Armageddon.**

Chapter 19 reveals four events that surround the Second Coming of Christ.

- A. **Four Alleluias – 19:1-6** The word “Halleluia” appears 24 times in the Old Testament and just these four times in the New Testament. “Halleluia” means “Praise ye the Lord”.
- B. **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb – 19:7-10** The Church is the bride of Christ and waiting for the Groom, the Lord Jesus. One day the church will be caught away at the rapture and taken to heaven. In heaven we’ll enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
 - It will take place in Heaven while the tribulation is happening on earth.
 - It will take place after the Judgement seat of Christ but before the second coming of Christ.
 - The bridegroom is Jesus Christ – **2 Cor 11:2, Matt 9:15**
 - The bride is the raptured church. – **Eph. 5:25-27**
 - The “honeymoon” will be the millennium when the redeemed live and reign with Jesus.
- C. **The second Coming of Christ to earth – 19:11-16** After the marriage supper, Jesus and His bride will return to the earth on white horses. The Antichrist and Gentile nations will try to make war against Jesus and his army at the battle of Armageddon. **They’ll be defeated by Christ Himself!**
 - Jesus will return on a white Horse – **19:11**
 - His Names: Faithful and True, The Word of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - Those returning with Him are clothed in “fine linen white and clean” (**19:14**) These are the same garments of those at the Marriage supper – **19:8**
 - Jesus will smite the with the sword of His mouth: **19:15-21**
- D. **The Battle of Armageddon – 19:17-21** This battle takes place at His second coming and when Jesus takes his rightful rule on earth. His victory will begin his 1000-year reign on the earth. The redeemed will live and reign with Him.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST UNDERSTOOD

A Simple Timeline of Revelation events:

Cross – Church Age – Rapture – Tribulations – Second Coming – Armageddon – Millennium

There is a difference between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming. Some people confuse them as the same event. The rapture is when the church is caught up to heaven just before the tribulation on earth. The second coming is when Jesus comes back to the earth to rule during the millennium.

A. Rapture of the Church

- No man knows the day nor the hour of the rapture – **Matt 24:36, 42, 44**
- It takes place prior to the tribulation – **Rev. 4:1-4**

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- Jesus will meet the saved in the air – **1 Thes 4:16-17**
- Happens in the twinkling of an eye – **1 Cor 15:52**
- There will be a shout – **1 Thes. 4:16**
- The Dead in Christ will rise first – **1 Thes 4:13-16**
- Believers will receive an incorruptible body – **1 Cor 15:52-57**
- Believers will be forever with the Lord – **1 Thes 4:17**

B. The Second Coming of Christ

- Jesus returns riding on a white horse – **Rev 19:11**
- The believers will follow Him riding on white horses – **Rev 19:8, 14**
- This takes place at the end of the tribulation – **Matt 24:27-29**
- It happens almost simultaneously with the battle of Armageddon – **Rev 19:16-20**
- All the earth will see Jesus come in his power and glory – **Matt 24:30**
- Jesus will reign for 1000 years on the earth – **Rev 20:6**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST APPLIED

The Lord is coming back for his own at the rapture, and then returning with them at His second coming. The book of James tells us what a Christian ought to do in view of the Lord's return.

James 5:7-20

- A. Be patient – **5:7**
- B. Establish our hearts – **5:8**
- C. Grudge not one against another – **5:9; Eph. 4:31-32**
- D. Be willing to suffer for the Lord – **5:10-11**
- E. Be careful what we say – **5:12**
- F. Pray – **5:13-18**
- G. Be busy trying to bring others to Christ – **5:19-20**

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Lesson 26 – THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

Biblical Text: Revelation 20:1-10

The word Millennium means a period of 1000 years. These 1000 years, as mentioned in Revelation 20, is a reference to the millennial reign of Christ. This period will begin at Jesus' return to earth when the antichrist is defeated at the Battle of Armageddon. The Millennium will end with the Battle of Gog and Magog when Satan is cast into the lake of Fire forever.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST REVEALED

In Revelation 20 we learn what will happen before and after the millennial reign of Jesus. Before the Millennium, Satan is cast into the bottomless pit and after the battle of Gog and Magog, he'll be cast into the lake of fire and the Great White Throne Judgement.

- A. Satan is bound and placed in a bottomless pit – **20:1-3** The devil is chained and placed into a bottomless pit for a 1000 years, then he'll be loosed for a little season.
- B. The Millennial reign of Christ – **20:4-6** Believers will not experience the 2nd death, but will live and reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years
- C. The Battle of Gog and Magog – **20:7-9** At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is loosed from the bottomless pit to go out and deceive the nations of the earth. He will gather an army as the sand of the sea to this final battle against Jerusalem. God will send fire from heaven to destroy those deceived by Satan.
- D. Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire forever – **20:10**
- E. The Great White Throne Judgement – **20:11-15** All the dead who died without Christ are in hell. And they will come to stand judgement before God and sentenced to the Lake of Fire. Anyone whose name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will spend all eternity in the Lake of Fire with Satan forever and ever.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST UNDERSTOOD

Much of what we know about the millennium is explained in other passages of the Bible. It is mentioned and pictured in just a small way in Rev. 20.

- A. **Duration** – 1000 years
- B. **Conditions** – It is referred to as time when the lion and the lamb will be at peace with one another. A few descriptions of the time like no other on earth:

✓ Peace – Isa 2:4, 11:6-9	✓ Complete Knowledge – Isa. 11:9
✓ Joy – Zeph. 3:14-17	✓ Instruction – Isa. 30:20-21
✓ Holiness – Zeph. 3:13	✓ No more curse – Isa. 65:25
✓ Comfort – Rev. 21:4	✓ Protection – Jer. 23:6
✓ Justice – Isa. 9:7	✓ Presence of God – Rev. 21:3
- C. **The Ruler of the Millennium** – Jesus, The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords
- D. **The Place of the Millennium** – Jerusalem will be the center of the Millennial rule
 - The Center of kingdom rule – Jer. 3:17; 30:16-17; 31:6,23
 - Protected by the power of the King – Isa. 14:32; 25:4; 26:1-4
 - Greatly enlarged – Jer. 31:38-40; Ezekiel 48:30-35; Zech. 14:10
 - Center of Worship – Jer. 30:16-21; 31:6,23; Joel 3:19-21, Zech. 8:4

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- Jerusalem will endure forever – Isa 9:7; 33:20-21; 60:15, Joel 3:19-21; Zech 8:4
- E. **The Subjects of the Millennium** – All the saved – Rev. 20:4, 6; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST APPLIED

During the Millennium, all believers will live and reign with Christ (Rev 20:6).

The believers responsibilities during the millennium will be awarded at the Judgement Seat of Christ based upon his work here on earth.

The parable of the Talents best teaches this principle.

Just before this parable in Matthew 25:13 Jesus said: *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.* He then goes on to give a parable.

This parable pictures those believers who use their talents and gifts that God has given them for His service and glory, and the reward they'll receive for being good and faithful.

Matthew 25:14-30

- The man** – represents Jesus
- Travelling into a far country** – Jesus' ascension to heaven following his resurrection.
- Who called his own servants** – Those who have trusted Christ as their savior.
- Delivered unto them his goods** – The spiritual gifts and talents God has given us (Eph 4:8)
- After a long time** – The church age.
- The lord of those servants cometh** – The return of Christ at the rapture.
- And reckoned with them** – The judgement seat of Christ.
- Well done, thou good and faithful servant** – What the Lord will say to those who faithfully use the Lord's "goods" while on this earth.
- I will make the ruler over many things** – The reward for serving Christ during the millennium
- Hid thy talent in the earth** – Professing believers who don't use the spiritual gifts that God has given them.

John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Lesson 27 – THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

Revelation 20:11-15

In **Rev. 19**, the Lord Jesus comes back on a white horse and the armies of heaven with Him. In **Rev 20:1-10**, The battle of **Armageddon** takes place and the nations that come against Jesus will be destroyed. Jesus will set up **His millennial reign** on earth and rule the world from Jerusalem for 1000 years. At the end of the millennium **Satan will be loosed** from his prison to deceive the nations one last time, and he will bring together an army as the sand of the sea, for a battle against Christ, called the **battle of Gog and Magog**. After this battle, Satan, will be cast into the lake of fire forever, and **every unbeliever will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgement** and will be cast into the lake of fire forever.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT REVEALED

The Great White Throne is the place where the doom will be pronounced and executed on all unbelievers. When a person dies without Christ, he goes to a **place called Hell** (Luke 16:22-23). But Hell is not the final place. **Hell is a temporary place for unbelievers, while the Lake of Fire is the permanent place that lasts forever.** It won't be until after the millennium that all who didn't accept Christ during their lifetimes will be cast into **the Lake of Fire**.

- A. **The Time of the Great White Throne Judgement** – after the millennium. Rev 20:7-11
- B. **The Judge of the Great White Throne Judgement** – God/Jesus. Rev. 20:11-12, Matt. 7:21-23
- C. **The Subjects of the Great White Throne Judgement** – All unbelievers. Rev 20:12-15
- D. **The Books of the Great White Throne Judgement** – The “books of works” and the Book of Life. Rev 20:12-15
 - The “**books**” is a collection of all the works done while alive, not for justification, but to determine the degree or level of punishment. **Luke 12:47-48**
 - The “**Lamb's book of life**” contains the names of all who accepted Christ. Rev. 21:27
- E. **The Punishment of the Great White Throne Judgement** – The lake of Fire. Rev 20:14-15

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT UNDERSTOOD

The Lake of Fire is mentioned 4 times in the Bible. It was prepared by God for the devil and his angels. **Matt. 25:41**

- A. **The Lake of Fire will be for Satan** – Rev. 20:10
- B. **The Lake of Fire will be for the Antichrist and the False Prophet** – Rev. 19:20
- C. **The Lake of Fire will be for every unbeliever** – Rev. 20:14-15

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT APPLIED

What will the Lake of Fire be like? There is no description of the lake of fire, only of the place called Hell. However, we can safely assume ***it will be worse than Hell.*** Hell is just the holding place until the day all those in hell stand before God at the Great White Throne judgement to be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. **Luke 16 gives us a good picture of what Hell will be like.**

- A. **A place where the lost go immediately after death** – Luke 16:22-23 Purgatory is never mentioned or hinted at in the Bible. It is a man-made doctrine based on the apocryphal book of 2nd Maccabees where even there it isn't directly taught.
- B. **It is a place of sight** – Luke 16:23

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- C. **A place of tears** – Luke 16:24
- D. **A place of torments** – Luke 16:23, 25, 28
- E. **A place of thirst** – Luke 16:24
- F. **A place of fire** – Luke 16:24
- G. **A place of memory** – Luke 16:25
- H. **A place of confinement** – Luke 16:26

THE BIGGEST APPLICATION is that no true Bible believer would ever want anyone to go to Hell or the Lake of Fire so he or she will do everything possible to keep people from ever going there.

This is the **WHY** behind going **Soul-winning** and **Faith Promise Missions Giving** and **Sending missionaries** to reach the lost in places we cannot go.

- **Ezekiel 18:23, 3:18-19**

Missionary Quotes:

- “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” —C.T. Studd
- “Any church not involved in the Great Commission has forfeited its Biblical right to exist.” —Oswald J. Smith
- “People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives, and when the bubble bursts, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.” —Nate Saint
- “If God wills the evangelization of the world and we refuse to support missions, then we are opposed to the will of God.” —Oswald J. Smith
- “Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love.” —Roland Allen
- “We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.” —Oswald J. Smith
- “Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor.” —Charles Spurgeon
- “The Christian is not obedient unless he is doing all in his power to send the Gospel to the heathen world.” —A.B. Simpson
- “Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it’s the Great Suggestion.” —Charles R. Swindoll
- “Not called! Did you say? Not heard the call, I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin.” —William Booth
- “Go, send, or disobey.” —John Piper

Lesson 28 – THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH

Revelation 21:1-27

Up to this point, the book of Revelation has explained the **Church age**, the **Rapture**, the **Tribulation period**, the **2nd Coming** of Christ, the battle of **Armageddon**, the **Millennium**, the **Battle of Gog and Magog**, and the **Great White Throne judgement**. This lesson looks at the New Heaven and the New Earth.

THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH REVEALED

There are 7 new things mentioned in Rev. 21 and 22:

- The new **Heaven and the new earth** (22:1-8);
- The new **City** (21:9-23);
- The new **Nations** (21:24-27);
- The new **River** (22:1);
- The new **Tree of Life** (22:2);
- The new **Throne** (22:3-4).

John writes in Rev. 21:1-8 about **what the new heaven and the new earth will be like**. The New Heaven and the New Earth are prepared for the descending of the new Jerusalem coming down from Heaven to earth (22:2).

A. **The first heaven and earth are passed away** – Rev. 21:1-2

There are 3 heavens: the **ATMOSPHERIC HEAVEN**, which includes the sky where the birds fly; the **CELESTIAL HEAVEN**, where the planets and solar system are; the **BELIEVER'S HEAVEN**, where God's throne is.

The **New Heaven and the New Earth** is referring to the atmospheric heaven, where man live, breathes, and sees.

B. **God dwells with man** – Rev. 21:3 This will be like Adam walked with God in the Garden of Eden.

C. **Former things are passed away** – Rev 21:4-5

- No more **Death**
- No more **Sorrow**
- No more **Crying**
- No more **Pain**

D. **It is Done** – Rev. 21:6-8, **1st John 5:4-5** – Every born-again believer is an overcomer, who will be with God forever!

THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH UNDERSTOOD

The New Jerusalem (21:9-27) is the place that Jesus told his disciples about in **John 14:2-3**. The place that Jesus has been preparing for His bride (the church) will descend to earth, after God makes the New Heaven and New Earth.

A. **New Jerusalem descending** – Rev 21:10

B. **New Jerusalem described**

- **The Wall** – Rev. 21:12, 15-18 - 4 square, 12,000 furlongs = 1,500 miles, made of jasper.

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- **The Twelve Gates** – Rev. 21:12-13, 21, 25 – each is a pearl, name of 1 of 12 tribes, 3 on each side, they are never shut.
- **The Foundation** – Rev. 21:14, 19, 20 – 12 foundations, each with the name of an Apostle, Garnished with precious stones: Jasper, Sapphire, Calcedony, Emerald, Sardonyx, Sardis, Chrysolite, Beryl, Topaz, Chrysoprase, Jacinth, Amethyst.
- **The Street** – Rev. 21:21 – Pure gold, transparent
- **The Temple** – Rev 21:22 – *“The Lord God Almighty and the lamb are the temple of it”*
- **The Light** – Rev. 21:23 – *“The Lamb is the light thereof”*
- **The inhabitants** – Rev. 21:24-27 – The nations of the saved, those written in the Lamb’s book of life.

THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH APPLIED

A perfect world cannot be imagined by these sin-sick eyes and mind. Yet in the eternal state of God’s plan there will be a perfect world. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world in the garden of Eden until the fall.

The difference between then and the future perfect world, is that Satan will not be there, because he will be forever in the Lake of Fire. **Rev. 20:10**

God Tells us that in the new Heaven and earth *“And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie:”*

Imagine the perfect world God had Described for every born again believer!

- A. **God Shall dwell with man** – Rev. 21:3
- B. **No more tears, death sorrow or pain** – Rev. 21:4
- C. **No evil companions** – Rev. 21:8
- D. **No sin there** – Rev. 21:27

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

1. TAKE AS MANY AS WE CAN WITH US!

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” **John 9:4**

2. SEND AS MANY AS WE CAN TO REACH THE LOST WE CAN’T PERSONALLY REACH!

“Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.” **2Cor 10:15-16**

3. HOW WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN THE HARVEST? Go? Give? Pray & Go? Soulwinning?

Lesson 29 – FOREVER and FOREVER

Revelation 22:1-5

After the **millennium** is over, there will be one final battle with Satan called the **Battle of Gog and Magog**. Satan will be defeated and then cast into the **Lake of Fire** forever. The **Great White Throne Judgement** will take place, and those who didn't put their faith in Christ will be cast into the **Lake of Fire** forever. God will make a **new Heaven** and a **new Earth**, and ***believers will be with Him forever!***

FOREVER and FOREVER REVEALED

As John nears the end of writing the book of Revelation, there is just a glimpse of what forever will be. ***Believers in Christ are eternally secure and will be forever with the Lord!*** If a person is saved now, he will be through the Tribulation Period, during the Millennium and throughout eternity. What will we be doing forever? Rev. 22:1-5 only reveals a few things that believers will be doing forever.

A. They will be living without the curse – Rev. 22:3

“And there shall be no more curse” **Gen. 3:14-19** tells us what the curse entailed after man sinned in the garden of Eden. There was a curse on the serpent, the woman, the man, and the earth.

B. They will be serving God – Rev. 22:3-4

“...but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve Him”
What this entails, we don't know, but to be able to serve God for all eternity will be a pleasure. We'll get to see the face of God Almighty forever.

C. They will reign with God – Rev. 22:5

“...and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Believers, will be living and reigning with Jesus during the Millennium (Rev. 20:6). Now John says that they will be living with God for eternity. “Reign” means to rule, so in eternity, believers will be given a responsibility to rule for ever.

FOREVER and FOREVER UNDERSTOOD

The phrase “for ever” is mentioned hundreds of times in the scripture and the word “eternal” 47 Times. Life isn't just about the here and now but will happen in eternity. Some things God says will be forever:

A. God Is forever – Is. 57:15; Ps. 9:7; 10:16; 48:14, Lam. 5:19; Daniel 4:34; Rev. 1:18;4:9-10; 15:7

God's Mercy is Forever – 1 Chron. 16:34, 41, 2 Chron 7:3, 6; 20:21; Ezra 3:11; Ps. 106:1; 107:1; 118:1-4, 29; 136:1-26; 138:8; Jer. 33:11

God's Word is forever – Ps. 12:6-7; 33:11; 117:2; 119:89, 152, 160; Is. 30:8; 40:8; 1 Pet. 1:23, 25

God's Kingdom is forever – Dan. 2:44, 7:18; Luke 1:33; Heb. 1:8

God's Glory is forever – Psalm 104:31; Matt. 6:13; Rom. 11:36; 16:27; Gal. 1:5; Phil. 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet. 4:11; 5:11; 2 Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:6; 7:12

B. Jesus is forever – Heb. 13:8

Jesus Sacrifice for sin is forever – Heb. 9:12; 10:12, 14

Jesus will reign forever – Exo. 15:18; Ps 29:10;146:10; Rev 11:15

C. The Holy Spirit is forever – John 14:16; 2 John 1:2; Heb. 9:14

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D. Believers will live forever – Ps. 37:28; John 6:51, 58; 1 John 2:17; Matt 25:46; John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28; Rom 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11, 13

Believers will praise God forever – Ps. 52:9; 61:8; 86:12; 89:1; 115:18; 145:2, 21

Believers will reign forever – Rev. 22:5.

E. Unbelievers will be punished forever – Matt. 25:46; Mark 3:29; 2 Peter 2:17; Jude 1:7, 13; Rev. 14:11; 20:10

FOREVER and FOREVER APPLIED

Moses said in **Psalm 90:10** *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

What Happens when the believer flies away either by death or by the rapture? He will be eternally living with God. **In light of forever, what should believers be doing?**

A. Laying up treasures in heaven – **Matt. 6:9-21** *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

B. Setting his affections on things above – **Col. 3:1-4** *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

C. Determining what is eternal and what is temporal – **2 Cor. 4:18** *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

D. Keeping his eyes on Jesus – **Heb. 12:1-3** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

Lesson 30 – BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY

Revelation 22:6-21

The phrase spoken by God, “*I come quickly*” is mentioned 6 times in Revelation and 3 of them are in the last chapter. The word “quickly” means suddenly, shortly, without delay, or soon.

God showed John “*the things which must shortly be done*” (v.6) and he wrote them down in the book of Revelation.

Jesus’ return to earth might seemed delayed, but it will be right on time with God. On His timeline, it will come very soon. Christians should live in expectation of His return.

- **Rev 2:5** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*
- **Rev 2:16** *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
- **Rev 3:11** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*
- **Rev 22:7** *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*
- **Rev 22:12** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*
- **Rev 22:20** *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY REVEALED

The book of Revelation begins and ends with a blessing.

The book begins by saying; “**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” **Rev. 1:3****

The book ends with a blessing by saying, “*Behold, I come quickly: **blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.***” **Rev. 22:7**

Revelation 22 mentions 4 last things:

A. The last message – Rev. 22:7, 14, 17

- *...**blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.***
- *...Blessed are they that do his commandments...*
- *...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

B. The last warning – Rev. 22:18-19

- *...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.*
- *... if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life...*

C. The last promise – Rev. 22:20 *...I come quickly.* vv. 7, 12, 20

D. The last prayer – Rev. 22:20 *... Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

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BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY UNDERSTOOD

The angel speaking to John tells him that his sayings are faithful and true and will come to pass shortly. The book finishes with the angel telling John several things that should be done considering Jesus Return which is going to come quickly.

- A. Keep the sayings of the Prophecy of the book.** – Rev. 22:7 “Keepeth” means to guard, keep the eye on, and prevent from escaping
- B. Worship God** – Rev. 22:8, 9 “worship means to recognize who God is, to bow oneself in reverence to; adore
- C. Testify of the prophecies of this book.** – Rev. 22:10, 16 “Seal not” means to not keep it a secret. “Testify” means to be a witness or to bear record.
- D. Keep God’s commandments.** – Rev. 22:11-15 ...*Blessed are they that DO his commandments.* Compare with **Matthew 5:19.**
- E. Let whosoever will take of the water of life freely** – Rev. 22:17
- F. Don’t add or take away from the prophecies of the book** – Rev. 22:18-19 **It’s a very serious matter to mess with God’s word!** See Gal. 1:8-9

BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY APPLIED

John’s response to the book of Revelation and to Jesus’ last statement of “*Surely I come quickly*” was, “**EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.**” John was saying make it today!

He was ready for the Lord’s return, and so should we. Christians should long for Jesus to return and set up his kingdom.

What kind of Christian will have this Mind set?

- A. One who Prays** – Matt 6:9-10, 13
 - B. One who Loves Him** – 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 2:9
 - C. One who desires a new body** – 2 Cor. 5:1-2
 - D. One who obeys God’s command to watch** – Mark 13:33-37
 - E. One who obeys God’s command to Go and Preach the Gospel** – Mark 16:15
- “Lord, I know you could return today...help me to live my life like it!” – Pastor Carl Chitwood
- “Only one life, will soon be past... Only what’s done for Christ shall last!” – Missionary C.T. Studd
- “*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*” – Jesus John 14:15