

The Bible Companion Series

The Book of the Revelation

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

The Bible Companion Series of Bible Studies

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The Book of the Revelation

Study Introduction

I. Some Preliminary Information

A. The Title of the Book - The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. This Book is all about **revealing**, NOT *hiding* things.
2. This is Jesus Christ's revelation. He is about to do some revealing - Jesus Christ was revealed to man in the Gospels, but here in the Book of the Revelation, Jesus is going to reveal the future.
3. The word Revelation even in Greek ("Apocalypse") means *Unveiling* as in "Revealing". Yet, why does everyone approach the Book like it is a "mysterious" book? People actually *fear* this Book!

NOTE: The **entire Bible** is "the Book of Revelation" - the revealing of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to mankind!

B. The Author: John (1:4) the son of Zebedee

The writer of this Book is the apostle John (Mt 4:21; 10:2) under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:19-21; 2 Tim 3:16). John not only wrote this Book, but he also wrote four others: the Gospel of John, First John, Second John, and Third John.

C. The Date of writing: 90-96 A.D.

A very contested issue. Why? Because, if someone wrote the Revelation before Titus had Jerusalem destroyed in 70 AD, then all the "prophecies" in the Book would seem to have all taken place in 70 AD (Caesar would fit the anti-christ, and the plagues in the Bible would be Rome's judgment on Israel, etc), and they would have no relevance after that. Yet, if the Book was written **AFTER** 70 AD, then the prophecies must apply to still future events!

D. John's audience – Revelation was written to the 7 Churches as listed in chapters 2 and 3, comprising both Christians and agnostics! As we will see, these 7 churches will have many problems, and will directly apply in one way or another to churches throughout history.

This is a very interesting concept - The Lord Jesus Christ will dictate letters to seven literal local churches as listed in chapters 2 and 3, and yet, the letters will apply to a total of four different sets of churches:

1. Seven literal, local churches in Asia minor (modern Turkey) that really existed at the time of the writing.
2. Seven types of churches that will exist over the next two thousand years from the cross to the rapture. Therefore, there are only 7 types of churches – make sure your is a GOOD ONE!
3. Seven periods of church history that span the two thousand years since Christ came.
4. And finally, this Book is directed doctrinally right at literal, local churches in Asia-minor **in the future**, in the time of the Great Tribulation. This will be demonstrated throughout our study. This is not to say that Christians will go through the Tribulation, but that those who do get saved in the Tribulation, will form churches, and those churches will be the ones directed to.

E. Its Importance and Significance

1. This Book represents one of the most "mysterious" Books in the Bible due to people's predisposition to the Book - people from the start determine that it cannot be understood, so they don't even try. Yet, see Rev 1:3 - Nothing is said about completely "understanding" this Book, just reading and hearing it. *See also Deut 29:29*. Understanding comes from three things:
 - a. A regenerated heart
 - b. The Holy Spirit teaching you
 - c. Experience – as a Christian, you need to mature over time, and experience some things in life (tough times, and moderate tribulations of your own) before these things become real and true to you.
2. This Book is primarily *prophetic* - both of coming judgment (it generates a real fear of God. See 2 Cor 5:10,11) and of future blessing. The purpose of prophecy is not just for knowledge (see 1 Cor 8:1), but to purify the believer (see 1 John 3:1-3), and to provide hope (Rom 15:4)!
3. This is the only Book other than the "Law" as mentioned in Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 that provides for a special blessing upon those that read it (1:3)!
4. How you approach this Book will determine how you approach the Second Coming of Christ (2 Tim 4:8)!

F. Its Theme - "The consummation of ALL things"

Genesis starts out with “the beginning” of everything, and Revelation ends up with the completion of all of God’s plans. Nothing is left “undone”. Everything is restored. Watch how things match between Genesis and Revelation in the following table:

| In Genesis | In Revelation |
|--|--|
| The first Adam and his wife reigning over the earth (Gen 1:27,28) | The last Adam (Christ) and His wife (the Church) reigning over the universe (Rev 21:9) |
| The creation of the sun, moon (1:5,16) | There is no further need for the sun or moon (21:23) |
| The tree of life is denied to man (3:22) | The tree of life made available to man (22:2) |
| The ground becomes cursed, woman becomes cursed, man becomes cursed (3:17) | ”And there shall be no more curse” (22:3) |
| Satan appears (3:1) | Satan is banished forever (20:10) |

Table 1 - Comparison of Genesis Themes with Revelation's¹

Prophetic subjects that will be dealt with in this study will include:

- The Tribulation
- The Rapture
- The literal reign of Jesus Christ on this earth in the near future
- The Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Great White Throne Judgment
- The Antichrist
- The Two Witnesses
- The 144,000 witnesses

G. Canonicity - Whether it should be considered as part of the Bible.

1. Why would this Book be questioned?
 - a. It clearly shows the end of: Satan, the end of the Church, the Jew, the Gentile, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Nations, Time, and the Universe.
 - b. It is primarily NEGATIVE about the future (1 Kings 22:13-28; Zech 3:8). Contrary to Darwin. Every politician is trying to work out history contrary to Rev 19-22!
2. Higher Criticism: it means the demonstration of the superiority of a man’s education instead of the authority of the word of God! People have always had problems with the Bible and have questioned significant portions, like:
 - a. Daniel: saying that it is “Too prophetic and accurate to be prophecy”
 - b. Genesis: saying that it is “Too scientific to be literal”
 - c. Esther: saying that “There is no mention of God”

H. Its Interpretation

1. There are basically three “scholarly” approaches to this Book:
 - a. The *Praeterist* (Latin word meaning *past*)- Believes that the details are unimportant. This view is primarily allegorical. Makes-up some 95% of all theologians. An A-millennial position on the Second Coming.
 - b. The *Historical* - Believes that everything happened already in the past. Only half-literal. These people have nothing to look forward to - they are like the Sadducees that did not believe in a future life (Mt 22:23).
 - c. The *Futurist* - Believes that most everything in the Book is YET to happen. This view is literal and is termed “The Pre-Millennial approach.” There are those that are “Post-Millennial” in their interpretation that are Futurist as well, but they are not Literal in their acceptance of prophetic Scripture, especially in two specific areas:
 - 1) The Millennium - Does Christ return before, or after the millennium?
 - 2) The Rapture - Does Christ come for His bride before, during, or after the Tribulation?
2. Then there are the Atheists which say that the Book is *Fictional*. We know what to do with *their* ideas!

I. Its Placement in the Bible

1. *Dispensationally*, right at the end of both the New Testament as well as the Bible making it the LAST Book. Being the LAST Book of the Bible, you should expect it to deal with primarily LAST things on

¹Wilmington, H.L., Wilmington's Guide To The Bible, Pg 537

God's calendar. *Dispensations* are distinct ways that God dealt with man for a particular time (i.e., God deals with man differently after Adam's fall, than He did before the fall. See Heb 1:1,2).

2. Understanding dispensations will help the student correctly place the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ - Is it *Post-Tribulation*, *Pre-*, *Mid-* or *A-*? As well as the Millennium - i.e., is it real or figurative?
3. The Book of the Revelation is a part of the set of "End Time" Books grouped together just as several other Books are grouped:
 - a. The Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) called, "The Books of Moses" (Luke 16:29), or "The Law"
 - b. The Poetical Books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
 - c. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
 - d. The Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus), written for the pasturing of a church
 - e. The Major and Minor Prophets - just called, "The Prophets" (Luke 24:27)
 - f. **The End Time Books** (Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude, and Revelation) which are primarily directed at people living during the end times.

NOTE: The Bible is not laid out *chronologically* (like the Jews had their Scriptures), but rather *Dispensationally*. All attempts to make events flow from one into another run into so many problems that literal interpretation is usually abandoned! Literalism is not the problem, but rather its application!

II. Our Approach:

- A. We will approach this Book of the Bible as well do all other: as Literal, as opposed to symbolic. We may not understand everything, but we BELIEVE it, and take it SERIOUSLY! We will approach this Book according to the English of the 1611 King James Bible. We may refer to other translations, or other languages, but our reference point will be the infallible, preserved word of God, the King James Bible! Our approach will be based upon a *Dispensational* view of events - which shows God dealing with man differently at different times (2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:24-30; Heb 1:1,2). Finally, we will approach this Book trembling, and with tears of joy, that God would give us such a Book! Just as evolutionists make no apology for believing their evidence, we Bible-believers make no apologies for believing this Book of books, from cover to cover! What man needs, and is looking for is a completed revelation that is NOT founded upon unverifiable opinions and traditions, but rather on tested words that can be read, understood, tested and proved to be true!
- B. This Study is written in Outline format with much comment associated with the outline as opposed to being associated with the words in the Bible. The reason being that this Study primarily is to be used as a Guide, not a commentary. I have listed at the end of this Introduction several good commentaries for your reference when you do further study.
- C. The entire King James text of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is inserted into this Study Guide as it is referred to. It will have a double line boarder around it, and will include verses numbers.
- D. At the end of each chapter, a set of Study Questions are provided for the student to fill in.

III. Some Practical Information

A. A Simple Outline Of The Book (1:19) The "Three-Fold Division"

1. "What thou hast seen..." **The Past** - Chapter 1
2. "The things which are..." **The Present** - Chapters 2 and 3
3. "The things which shall be hereafter..." **The Future** - Chapters 4-22
 - a. The soon rapture of the church (Rev 4 and 5)
 - b. The tribulation of seven years (Rev 6-19)
 - c. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ for 1000 years (Rev 20)
 - d. The new heavens and new earth (Rev 21)

B. An Expanded Outline of Future Events

1. The soon rapture of the Church which will take place without warning (1 Thes 4:13-18).
2. The "mystery of iniquity" which will set in on this earth and will increase rapidly as described in 2 Thes 2. The antichrist will appear during this time as a conqueror of all the world's problems.
3. Israel will be safe in its own land. The antichrist will make a peace pact with Israel protecting it from kings both to the north and south that desire to destroy it. Daniel's' 70th week will be in motion as described in Daniel 9.
4. Judgment from God falls on this planet throughout the next seven years. God begins to punish the Gentiles and purge the Jews. The judgments are brought about by the commands of the two witnesses that appear for the first 3 1/2 years.

5. In the middle of the seven year time called the Tribulation, the Beast (antichrist) will break his covenant with Israel and conquer it, setting himself up as God on the throne of the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thes 2:4). The false prophet will appear on the earth, directing all worship toward the Beast. Once enthroned, the Beast will slay the two witnesses out in the middle of a street with the whole world watching!
6. The Beast will assume a world-wide dictatorship. During the last 3 1/2 years the worst of the judgments will fall on this world and its inhabitants, with the Jews being protected and fed out in the wilderness like it had been in Exodus through Deuteronomy.
7. The Beast will prepare a massive army to wipe out the Jews in one final battle.
8. Jesus Christ will appear in the heavens with millions of battle-ready soldiers riding behind Him. These soldiers will do no fighting though. The Sword that will proceed out of Jesus Christ's mouth will devour the enemy completely.
9. The beast and the False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).
10. Satan shall be bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, allowing Jesus Christ to reign on the earth as King of kings during the millennium.
11. After the millennium, Satan will be loosed "for a season" and many will be deceived into following him in a rebellion against God at the final last war to end all wars - the battle of Gog and Magog (Ezek 38 and 39). At the completion of this battle, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, forever banished from this earth (Rev 20:10).
12. All the unsaved of all time will then stand before God and be judged. They will then be cast into the lake of fire, to join the devil and his angels, in torment (Rev 20:11-15).
13. This present earth and heaven will then be burned with fervent heat, and a new heaven and earth will replace it (Rev 21; 2 Pet 3:10).
14. For the rest of eternity (if you can comprehend that), God, and His people will enjoy this universe as it was intended to be, yet without sin, and its curse!!!

C. The SEVEN SEVENS in the Book of Revelation

1. The Seven **Churches** (Chapters 2, 3)
2. The Seven **Seals** (Chapters 6, 7, 8)
3. The Seven **Trumpets** (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)
4. The Seven **Personages** (Chapters 12, 13) - The Beast, False Prophet, the Dragon, the Woman, the Man Child, the Lamb, the Archangel.
5. The Seven **Vials** (Chapters 15, 16)
6. The Seven **Dooms** (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20) - Armageddon, the destruction of Babylon, the destruction of Mystery Babylon, The Beast and False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire, the battle of Gog and Magog, the Great White Throne Judgment, the casting of Satan himself into the Lake of Fire!
7. The Seven **New Things** (Chapters 21, 22) - New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, New Nations, New River, New Tree, New Throne

D. Concerning The Dispensations:

There are basically Seven *dispensations* in man's history (preceded and followed by eternity):

| |
|--|
| <i>Eternity past...</i> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innocence (Gen. 1:28 - 3:6; ends at the fall) 2. Conscience (Gen. 3:7 - 7:16; ends with the flood) 3. Human Government (Gen. 8:15 - 11:7; ends with the confusion of Babel) 4. Promise (Gen. 12:1 - Exod 20:1; ends at Mt. Sinai when the Law began to be given) 5. Law (Exod 20:2 - Mt 27:50; ends at the Cross) 6. Grace (Mt 27:51 - Rev 3:22; ends at the beginning of the Tribulation) |
| <i>Return to the Law in the Tribulation (Rev 4:1 - 19:21)</i> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Millennium (Rev 20:1 - 20:6; ends at the final battle) |
| <i>Eternity future... The day of God begins and never ends (2Pet 3:12; Eph 1:10)</i> |

Table 2 - List of Dispensations.

Specifically, these *dispensations* are periods of time where God dealt with man in a different way in order to bring about their salvation (Heb 1:1,2; Acts 17:24-30). Suffice it to say that for now, this list is just provided for your reference. The entire scheme will be more fully explained as we go through the study.

IV. Conclusion**A. Answer the following questions from memory:**

1. Who is the author of the Book of the Revelation? _____
2. When was the Book written? _____
3. Revelation “clearly” shows the end of many things. Name two things: _____,
_____.
4. Give the THEME to this Book: The _____ of ALL things
5. Our approach to this Book involves the LITERAL, or ALLEGORICAL (circle one) method of interpretation?
6. Define *dispensation*: _____
7. How many dispensations are there in man’s history? _____
8. Revelation is divided into how many basic divisions? _____
9. There are how many SEVENS in the Book of Revelations? _____

B. A Short List of Associated Study Materials

1. The Books of Daniel and Ezekiel in your King James Bible. They parallel much of what Revelation reveals.
2. *Dispensational Truth*, by Clarence Larkin
3. *The Book of the Revelation*, by Clarence Larkin
4. *The Bible Believer’s Commentary on the Revelation*, by Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, Bible Believer’s Press, 1980
5. *Wilmington’s Guide To The Bible*, by Dr H.L. Wilmington, Tyndale House, 1984

The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter One

Behold He Cometh

Focus Verse: **Revelation 1:7**

I. Chapter One - "Behold He Cometh!"

A. The Mission (1:1-11)

1. The Introduction (1:1-3) There are several things to note here at the beginning:
 - This Book is Jesus' revelation (1:1) - **He** is going to be doing the revealing (not man or a church)!
 - God is interested in teaching **SERVANTS** (1:1), not proud "educated" theologians. Come to the Lord with a right heart attitude and God will open-up th entire Bible to you! Come to it in pride and God will be silent!
 - Some things must **SHORTLY** come to pass (1:1,3; Cf Rom 16:20). We are not dealing with millions of years, but with only a couple of thousand - and for that matter, as far as John is concerned, he expected all these things to have come to pass in his lifetime (22:21), as did **ALL** of the apostles in the first seven chapters of Acts!
 - Note the emphasis on the *written* "word of God" (1:2,9; Cf John 1:1 & 1 John 1:1) - not oral tradition
 - There are promised blessings upon **readers** (1:3; Cf Josh 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3) - In other words, **Do** the words, don't just hear them. Be **Bible practicers**, not just Bible "believers." There are seven blessings in the Book of Revelation: 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14.
2. The Dedication (1:4-8)
3. The Commission (1:9-11)

B. The Vision (1:12-20) - John sees three things here:

1. *The Glorified Christ* (1:12-18; Cf Matt 17:1-8)
 - a. First saw the light of seven candlesticks. We will discern what these are in a moment.
 - b. Then saw "one like unto the Son of man" (Cf Dan 3:25; Heb 7:3). John knows that there is something familiar about this One person!
 - c. John then falls down to worship (1:17)

John remembers that "mountain top" experience in Matt 17.

QUESTION: If Jesus walked right into this room right now, would you fall down and "worship him"? If you wouldn't, you need to get right with God, if you would, do you have to wait for Him to appear before you do (see Jude vs. 25)?

- d. Jesus holds up some "keys" (1:18) - of literal "**HELL**" and death

NOTE: I sure wouldn't mess around with anybody who had **THOSE** keys, and I sure wouldn't trust anyone who **DIDN'T** have those keys!!! Notice that Jesus Christ not only has the keys, **HE IS THE DOOR!!!** (John 10:9)

- e. Jesus next tells John to specifically *divide-up* what he is writing into three sections (1:19):
 - 1) What thou hast seen - dealing with the past
 - 2) The things which are - present
 - 3) The things which shall be hereafter - future. This is the "**key**" to understanding the Book of the Revelation!
2. *The Seven Candlesticks* (1:12,20) are defined as Churches. Get the picture: an oil-powered lamp is used to represent New Testament churches that are filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Each church has *its own light* that it is responsible for, but the power behind that light is the Holy Spirit. Each time a light goes out, the world gets a little bit darker!

3. *The Seven Stars* (1:16,20) are defined as Angels, not balls of hydrogen fission as Carl Sagan would take it to mean. Angels, by definition are messengers, footmen with a message. Either they are from heaven to man, or on earth, but still to man. Here, these angels are the messengers of God in churches that are authorities in those churches - pastors!!! The Lord is not speaking or writing to denominational headquarters, or to parachurch organizations. God deals with local churches through their pastors!!! God holds the pastors responsible for what He tells them also!!!

PRINCIPLE: The Bible is its own interpreter (2 Pet 1:20)! Angels (1:20) are defined as Pastors, or something up in heaven that is a representative of each of the seven local churches. We will discover more about angels as we go along (Rev 9:1).

II. Conclusion - Some Questions

1. Give a clear cross reference for the words in 1:3 (There were two listed) _____
2. Is the word "trinity" found in the Bible? Yes No (Circle one)
3. John is in exile where? _____
4. Why is John in exile? (Give the verse reference as well)

5. What is the "Lord's day" in 1:10? _____
6. What are those "keys" for in 1:18? _____
7. List the "three-fold division" of Revelation:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____ 3) _____
8. What are the seven candlesticks defined as? _____
9. What are the seven stars defined as? _____

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapters Two and Three

The Trouble With Churches

Focus Verse: **Revelation 1:11**

I. Introduction To The Seven Churches

A. Keep in mind the following things:

Christ established and loved these churches (Matt 16:18; Eph 5:25). And like a farmer who wants his crops to produce, God desires that His churches would also be fruitful and prosperous for Him. The Lord will do whatever is necessary (prune, dig up, etc.) for growth to occur.

We will be studying all the seven churches in three ways: **Historically** (studying each church while looking back at it from our vantage point, and of what happened to it), **Spiritually** (what the practical lesson for us today is), and **Doctrinally** (what God's real focus is as He deals with each of these churches).

1. **Historically**, Revelation 1, 2, and 3 are written to real local churches in Asia Minor around 95 A.D. Asia Minor makes up the area of what is now eastern Turkey. The conditions that existed in these churches are conditions that always existed since the Lord started the church. They serve as examples and warnings to churches everywhere that they should be exemplary in their conduct and doctrine lest God should remove their influence, power, and His own presence from them (and He will do this)!
2. **Spiritually**, (or **Practically**) these chapters apply to present day churches in two ways:
 - a. As seven types of churches that exist today throughout the world. Every place that calls itself a "church" will fit in one of these seven church types. This is the most practical aspect of this study because you will be able to test yourself and your church according to God's standard of how He expects a church to be!
 - b. As the seven periods of church history. This is the most fascinating aspect of these two chapters because it details church history before it comes to pass, allowing the Bible student to look back on the last 2000 years and see how God saw it!!!
3. **Doctrinally**, these chapters deal specifically with local churches that will exist during the Tribulation in the future. Now this is the roughest part of the study because it is not self-evident unless you are a *literalist* when it comes to Bible interpretation. Many, many verses will be beyond our grasp as far as New Testament doctrine teaches in Romans through Philemon. These verses that seem to contradict the plain teaching of New Testament doctrine really are directed at saints living in the Tribulation time period, and in the millennium, and not at you and me! This can seem confusing, but is very important to integrate in your overall perception of events and commands made by the Lord (as you will soon see). Remember; the Bible student is commanded to study, and RIGHTLY DIVIDE it (2 Tim 2:15).
 - a. **This does NOT mean that churches will go through the Tribulation**, but that people will get saved during the Tribulation and will form churches of their own. Born again Christians, saved in this age WILL NOT go through ANY PART of the Tribulation!!! This will be later demonstrated.
 - b. All Scripture is not directed at just one period of time (like today). All is inspired, but not all are doctrinally affecting you today!

NOTE: This is why people get off in to "spiritualizing" passages: *because they don't know how to handle them.*

- c. Watch for some of these hard concepts as they show up in these two chapters:
 - 1) *Overcoming!* Think of this concept! What do you think it means? Wait and see.
 - 2) The *types* of rewards given. Not like any rewards we currently obtain.
 - 3) The "methods" that Jesus says He will use to bring churches back in-line with His will!

B. Note the following pattern for each church letter:

1. The **Salutation** - which informs us of who is talking, and by what authority
2. The **Complaint** (or **Commendation**) concerning the church being addressed
3. The **Counsel** - what the church is to do to get right
4. The **Warning** (or **Praise**) - what will happen if it DOES NOT get right
5. The **Promise** - what will happen if it DOES comply

II. The Seven Letters (2:1 - 3:22)

A. Unto The Angel Of The Church Of Ephesus (2:1-7)

NOTE: The name 'Ephesus' means '*fully purposed*'

1. Let's first study this church Doctrinally, just looking at what is being said:
 - a. **Salutation:** Notice whose talking, and where He is. The Lord Jesus Christ is in the midst of His churches, and writes to the authority in those local churches. If you pay close attention to the way verse 1 is written, you can pick up the fact that the Lord addresses a problem in the church right off - a problem with the fact that the Lord is in the midst of His churches, and as will be seen, is the One who wants to run them, not the churches themselves.
 - b. **Commendation:** Jesus says, "*I know you...*" - what a statement! You had better believe that He knows you! The Lord starts off each address to each church with the words, "I know thy works..." (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15). Here the Lord is pleased with the church because of some things that they do and believe!
 - c. **Complaint:** "*Thou hast left thy first love.*" Truly this is the hardest thing to maintain in any relationship isn't it! Here, Jesus states that the Christians as a whole in the Ephesian church had left their first love, and were loving something else. They had not "lost" that love, but rather "chose" another over what they had at first, when they were first saved.

This "leaving of your first love" occurs over and over in Israel (see Ezek 14:5), and is referred to as "going a whoring after 'other' gods" (Ex 34:15; Dt 31:16; Judg 2:16; 1 Chron 5:25)

Principle: The Lord is more interested in what we do "with Him," than what we do supposedly "for Him." To the public eye, this church was successful and vibrant, but to the Lord, it had failed!

- d. **Warning:** "Remember and Repent, or I will Remove"
 - e. **Praise:** "You hate the deeds of the **Nicolaitanes**"

Here is another Greek word that is really two words put together: **Nico** - to conquer, and **Laitan** - the common people, as in Laity. "To conquer the Laity." Those with the design to conquer the common people by setting themselves up as a religious class above them!
 - f. **Promise:** "Overcome this problem and you will get to eat of the TREE OF LIFE" (Gen 3:22; Rev 22:2,14). We will not deal with this issue until chapter 22 due to its complexity.
2. Spiritually: This is a "Martha" type of church (Luke 10:40-42) - One that is "Out of Balance."

These were Christians who were hard working, and devoted to the truth, yet having to fight from becoming ritualistic, and empty on the inside!
 3. Historically:

This church represents clearly the first church period from 33 AD to 200 AD, which includes the Apostles, then the "Church Fathers". This church period emphasized Doctrine, and laboring for Christ.

B. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Smyrna (2:8-11)

NOTE: The name 'Smyrna' means 'Myrrh', or 'Bitterness'. Myrrh was a perfume used in anointing the dead for embalming, and had a bitter taste when tasted.

1. Doctrinally:
 - a. **Salutation:** The eternal One speaks (not the "created one" like the Jehovah's Witnesses say), the One who was "once dead and yet alive!" This church had two problems: the deity of Christ (being the first and the last), and a problem with the resurrection. Jesus points out the false teachers that had the audacity to say that they were Jews, when they were not (a problem with people saying that they are something that they are not permeates church history)!
 - b. **Commendation:** You may be in poverty, but you are NOT poor. You don't serve Jesus for the money, or blessings (think about it!) like other Christians sometimes do.
 - c. **Counsel:** Fear not the future, as bleak as it is. See also Matt 10:28 - Fear not death for my sake! Be faithful unto the Lord, even unto your death (torture and murder). Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:12, "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*"
 - d. **Promise:** "be faithful unto death" and you will get a "crown" (James 1:12), not eternal life, but rather **rewards** for service (5 crowns to be exact). If you overcome, you will miss the "Second

Death” (see 1 John 4:4) For the Christian, death is not the ultimate failure, but rather PROMOTION! Christians who survive trials of their faith, or become martyrs for their faith become great testimonies to the rest of the world.

2. Spiritually: This is a Bitter church. All true churches are persecuted. The important thing is our *attitude* in the midst of the trial!
3. Historically:
 - a. The Smyrna period last from 200 to 325 AD consisting of the TEN official Roman persecutions against the Christian Church. This is the “martyrs” Church.
 - b. This is the church that is soul-winning, getting persecuted, killed, tortured, and doing what God intended it to be doing, and it was paying the price.

C. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Pergamos (2:12-17)

NOTE: The name ‘Pergamos’ means ‘fortified’

1. Doctrinally:
 - a. **Salutation:** Note the sharp Sword (2:12; Heb 4:12). Definitely not time for sweet fellowship! For some reason, the church at Pergamos had a problem with a Saviour that judged. A lot of people think of a loving and merciful Jesus up in heaven, and yet that is not an accurate and balanced view. The Lord truly is merciful and loving, but also is righteous in judgment!
 - b. **Commendation:** Note where these Christians dwell (“*where Satan’s seat is...*”, and the price of their commitment - **martyrdom!** Antipas probably was a powerful leader that had helped the church there stay faithful to God, and yet, when he was murdered (martyred for the Lord), the church remained faithful.
 - c. **Complaint:** the problem had to deal with WHAT A CHURCH BELIEVED! This church was teaching the doctrines of Balaam (Num 22-25), and the Nicolaitanes (we have seen this before in 2:6):
 - 1) You allow a “*Balaam*” to teach in your church! Balaam was a false teacher (“*he taught*”).
 - a) He taught God’s people **Idolatry** (worship)
 - b) He taught God’s people **Fornication** (in their worship, not just the sin)
 - 2) Here come the *Nicolaitanes* again: the clergy over the laity (2:15). This was a false system!
 - d. **Counsel:** “Repent, or I will fight against THEM”. Here the Lord shows up with His sword, ready to fight!
 - e. **Promise:** Overcome and you will get three things:
 - 1) *Hidden Manna* - Probably hidden in the wilderness during the last half of the Tribulation when the Jews will be hiding from the armies of the antichrist!
 - 2) A white stone - Possibly connected with the white stone of the Urim and Thummim in Ex 28:30 and Num 27:21.
 - 3) A new name written on the stone
2. Spiritually: This is the Worldly church!
 In type, this church is “fortified” by the world, and settles down comfortably with the world (like in a marriage). These began to think that the “Kingdom” had come (heaven on earth)!
3. Historically:
 - a. The Pergamos period lasts from 325 to 500 AD and marks the creation of the Roman Catholic Church. The marriage of “Church” and “State” at the counsel of Nicea in 325 AD under Constantine.
 - b. The church at Smyrna had so affected the world that Constantine had to get along with it in order to keep his empire from splitting, which prepared the way for the church of Pergamos.

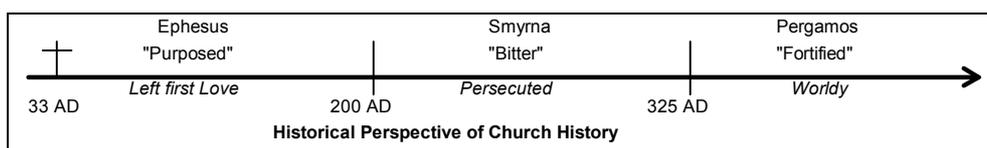


Figure 1 Historical Perspective of Church History (Ephesus Thru Pergamos)

D. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Thyatira (2:18-29)

NOTE: The name ‘Thyatira’ means ‘smell of affliction’

1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The Son of God, with eyes of flame, and feet as brass - Judgment’s coming! The church at Thyatira had a problem with the Lord’s ability to see and know all things (Luke 8:17).
- b. **Commendation:** You have “good works” (Eph 2:10). You are working harder now than when you first started! This is a very commendable list of traits:
- c. **Complaint:** But, you allow a Jezebel to teach her doctrine! (I Kings 16 - II Kings 9) - Teaching the word of God is very important to the Lord, and He doesn’t just want ANYBODY doing it (2 Cor 2:17; Rom 1:18).
 - 1) She is a Woman Preacher (really a WHORE - 17:1-f), a teacher, a seducer!
 - 2) Notice the idolatry and fornication showing up again (she was leading her followers into the “depths of Satan” (2:24).
 - 3) God now is going to intervene and judge her. God had given opportunity for repentance, but now is going to “USE” her to draw out of His church all those that are tares to judgment.
- d. **Counsel:** Hold fast till the Second Coming! Not until the Rapture, but second advent - **so, doctrinally we are dealing with a Tribulational passage.**

NOTE: The phrase “unto the end” (2:26). See Matt 24:13,14!

- e. **Promise:** If you overcome Jezebel, you will get power over nations (authority in the millennium), and the “morning star” (Cf 22:16)
- ##### 2. Spiritually and Historically: This is the Lax church!
- a. In type, this Church represents two groups: 1) those Churches that stand out as bright lights in a dark world under persecution, and 2) “churches” that don’t care WHAT is taught, nor WHO is teaching. They just don’t care - but you had better believe that the Lord does!!!
 - b. The Thyatira period lasts from 500 to 1000 AD which is the heart of the “Dark” ages, and represents the bright lights that existed during that time of oppression. St. Patrick of Ireland, the Paulicians, and the Huguenots of France are some examples.

E. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Sardis (3:1-6)

NOTE: The name ‘Sardis’ means ‘Red Ones’, as in “Earthly”, or “Natural Men” (Definitely not SPIRITUAL men)

1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The Seven Spirits come up now, and the seven stars (3:1). This church has a problem with the Holy Spirit, and with other pastors (the seven stars in His hand).
- b. **Complaint:** You have a NAME (to the world), but are really DEAD (toward God)!
- c. **Counsel:** Strengthen what’s left - “Be watchful”, means be mindful of the things that are just barely alive, and ready to die!. Notice how *remember* and *repentance* keep showing up?
- d. **Warning:** Jesus will come “on thee” as a thief (not “for thee” as in the rapture, see Matt 24:43), and will judge the church.
- e. **Commendation:** You have some good people there, even in Sardis of all places! For example, in the Congregationalists: Billy Sunday; in the Methodists: Charles Wesley; in the Anglicans: Hudson Taylor; and even in the Baptists there are those that are faithful to God!
- f. **Promise:** Overcome your weaknesses, and you will get to wear white, and not have your name blotted out of the book of life. Rough concept: *loosing your salvation?*

2. Spiritually and Historically: This is a DEAD CHURCH!

This church represents all the churches that have buildings, and people, and programs, and money, and literature, and gold altars, and vestments, and everything that makes it look, smell, walk, and sound like a church, but as far as God is concerned, it is DEAD!

- a. The Sardis period lasts from 1000 to 1500 AD and consists of the last half of the dark ages, where the entire world basically spiritually “falls apart!”

- 1) The eight “Crusades” of the Catholic Church - the most notorious was the “children’s crusade” of 1212 AD, which was led by Pope Nicholas, and ended with most drowning, or sold into slavery, or slaughtered!
 - 2) Monastic orders popping up everywhere - especially in France and Ireland.
 - 3) Two popes calling each other the Antichrist (1378)
 - 4) Three popes “reigning” at one time (1406-1415) - Avignon, Rome, etc.
 - 5) Indulgences, “Peter’s Pence”, and Simony (the purchasing of offices and positions in the Roman Catholic church)
- b. It is at the end of this period historically, that Martin Luther gets fed up with Rome and splits Germany, and that John Huss (1369), William Tyndale (1494), Savonarola (1452) have a heyday at turning millions to Christ as they get burned at the stake and tortured for preaching the true Gospel of the Grace of God!!!

F. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Philadelphia (3:7-13)

NOTE: The name ‘Philadelphia’ means ‘Brotherly Love’ - This is one special church!!!

1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The One who holds the Keys. The church at Philadelphia evidently cannot see that even though a door may be shut to them, the Lord has the keys to every door, and can open and shut any door He needs to. What an encouraging principle! Your prayer life can unlock any door that you may encounter!
- b. **Complaint:** NONE (as with Smyrna)! Can you imagine the Lord not finding ANYTHING wrong in a church full of Christians - here He did!
- c. **Counsel:** Go through the “open door” (opportunity). Up until this moment, it has been locked.
- d. **Warning:** Against all churches who don’t follow your lead! This was not a warning against this church!
- e. **Commendation:** You have *kept my word* (the Bible). What a commendation! Cf 2 Chron 34:21; Ps 199:67; 119:158; John 17:6
- f. **Promise:** Overcome those that will take away your “crown” of reward, and you will become unbeatable (Jer 1:18). You also will get three names:
 - 1) The name of Jesus’ God
 - 2) The name of the New Jerusalem
 - 3) Jesus’ new name (Cf Rev 19:12)

2. Spiritually and Historically: This is the CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR!

- a. The Philadelphia period matches history from 1500 to 1900 AD and is the last wide-spread revival period on this earth.
- b. It represents a period of time where the word of God is restored and “kept”, where an “open door” of opportunity to reach the world with the Gospel is given, and NOT missed, and where things start getting so good that people begin to think that the millennium was about to begin! Hudson Taylor (China), Adoniram Judson (Burma), William Carey (India), David Brainerd all were part of this time period!
- c. This is the period in church history that starts with Christopher Columbus discovering America, the Reformation gets in full swing with most of the world breaking AWAY from the Roman Catholic church, the renaissance (Brahms, Bach, Beethoven, Handel) is climaxing, and Revivals with Jonathan Edwards, Wesley, Whitfield, DL Moody, Spurgeon, Meuller, Fannie Crosby, Billy Sunday are springing-up everywhere!

Mix this church with Ephesus and you have got God’s pattern for a church today!!!

G. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Laodiceans (3:14-22)

NOTE: The name ‘Laodicea’ means ‘People’s Rights’. If this is not “up-to-date” I don’t know what is!

1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The beginning of the creation of God speaks (See Col 1:15-18 because as here, we are dealing with the SUBJECT, not the OBJECT of the action, because Jesus is the FIRST of whatever God does, as in, God spake, and then Jesus did the actual work, not that Jesus was the first thing to be created by God - He is *the Creating Power* of God!). The Laodicean church had three problems: 1) with Creationism and Evolutionism in their church, 2) whether God was a

- faithful and true witness, and 3) whether God was the final authority (*the Amen*) in their actions or not!
- b. **Complaint:** EVERYTHING! Neither cold nor hot, luke-warm, thinking that they were rich (materialistic - big empires, lots of money, yet no God) and had “need of nothing” (including Christ)!!! What a bad testimony! The church at Smyrna thought they were poor, but were rich in God’s eyes. Here, this church was just the opposite!
 - c. **Warning:** I am going to throw you UP and OUT! This church was disgusting to God, and made Him sick!
 - d. **Counsel:** Repent, *see yourself as you really are*, see Jesus as he is (your need supplier), and ask Him to come back into the church and be a part of it again! You have literally kicked Him out (3:20)!
 - e. **Commendation:** NONE! Now isn’t that something. There was nothing worth commending them about!
 - f. **Promise:** Overcome your pride and you will reign with Jesus in the Millennium. Those who go back to the door and let Christ back in as their Lord will have sweet fellowship once again with Him (they will have real revival)!
2. Spiritually and Historically: This is a CHAMELEON CHURCH!
 - a. This is a church that calls itself a church yet, looks like the world, smells like the world, tastes like the world, and it makes God SICK!
 - b. The Laodicean period lasts from 1900 to today and marks the most wishy-washy period of time in history with a church that professes the “fundamentals”, but would never “offend” anyone!
 - c. This is the church of the “*people’s rights*” but with no rights for Jesus Christ!!! (I Cor 6:19,20) Note *animal rights* of all things are the big issue today!
 - d. This is a constantly CHANGING church, changing to keep up with the world, and attracting the world, never getting FANATICAL about ANYTHING except sports!
 - e. This church has kicked its Saviour out, and locked the door behind Him (3:20)!

Did you notice some of the things that kept getting repeated?

- **He that hath an ear...**
- **These things saith he...** (not some preacher, but “thus saith the Lord!”)
- **I know thy works** (2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15)
- **Remember, and Repent** (2:5,16,21; 3:3,19)

After each of the seven churches were addressed by the Lord, He concluded with the statement, “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*” Only those who pay attention to the exhortations will benefit from what was said by the Lord. There is no osmosis in God’s kingdom (meaning that you won’t be blessed just because you go to church, or are around those who want to live for God). And on top of that, don’t be hearers only, but doers of the word (James 1:22)

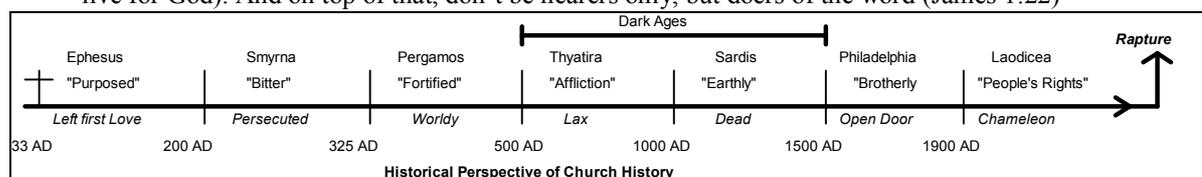


Figure 2 - Historical Perspective of Church History

III. Conclusion - What we have Seen So Far:

- A peek at seven local churches in existence at 95 A.D.
- A panorama of 2000 years of church history
- A catalogue of the seven conditions that churches are in today
- A look at the seven local churches that will be in existence during the Tribulation!

Wild, isn’t it?! Truly we have a supernatural Book in our hands don’t we? We had better take heed to what it says, believe it, and obey!

Section Review Questions

1. The word "Revelation" means: _____
2. The theme of the Book is "the _____ of all things"
3. The Book is basically divided into how many parts? _____
4. Where is the Apostle John when he is told to write this Book? _____
5. The seven candlesticks are said to represent _____
6. The seven stars are said to represent _____
7. When studying Revelation, the student must keep in mind the three ways to understand a passage. The first discussed was *Historically*. Name the other two: _____

8. When the term "Spiritually, this means..." is used, we mean what? _____
9. The word "Ephesus" means: _____
10. What was wrong with the church at Ephesus? _____

11. What does "*Nicolaitanes*" mean: _____
12. The word "Smyrna" means: _____
13. What was wrong with the church at Smyrna? _____

14. The word "Pergamos" means: _____
15. What was wrong with the church at Pergamos? _____

16. What was the "*doctrine of Balaam*" referred to in the Letter to Pergamos? _____

17. In type, Pergamos represents a church that is _____ to the _____
18. The word "Thyatira" means: _____
19. What was wrong with the church at Thyatira? _____

20. What is a "Jezebel" represent in the church? _____

21. The word "Sardis" means: _____
22. What was wrong with the church at Sardis? _____

23. The word "Philadelphia" means: _____
24. What was wrong with the church at Philadelphia? _____
25. The word "Laodicea" means: _____
26. What was wrong with the church at Laodicea? _____

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Four

Welcome To Heaven

Focus Verse: **Revelation 4:11**

“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.”

I. Introduction to Chapter Four

What we are dealing with here in this supernatural Book are clear revelations about several things:

- A. Jesus Christ as he is NOW - i.e., He is NOT on any cross, but rather in heaven, and about to come back on earth!
- B. The next thing revealed concerns churches:
 1. Historical rebukes concerning churches in existence when the Apostle John was still alive in 95 A.D.
 2. Typical representations of seven types of churches that can be found throughout New testament History.
 3. Actual Church history being laid-out for us before Church history even takes place.
 4. Doctrinally applies to churches that will be in existence during the great tribulation.
- C. When the Lord finishes revealing things about the church, He then in **Chapter 4** turns to the *Rapture*, and the *Tribulation*.

II. Chapter Four - The Rapture, and the Heavenly Temple (Rev 4:1-11)

1. 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.
2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

A. The Rapture Of The Church (4:1,2)

1. Word meaning of *rapture*: _____
2. A door opens... (opens twice in Revelation)
3. A voice sounds (I Thess 4:13-18)
4. There is the sound of a trumpet (as in “a trump”, Rev 1:10). There will be two soundings - once here, and then another at the end of the tribulation.
5. The words, “*Come up hither*” (Rev 4:1; 11:2; Prov 25:7) - A “calling away” of the Christians
6. John IMMEDIATELY was in the spirit in heaven (Rev 4:2; 1 Cor 15:52; “in the twinkling of an eye”).

Let’s look at the primary Scriptures:

- a. I Thes 4:13-18 Referred to as being “caught-up”
- b. Phil 3:20,21 Again called a “changing” of bodies
- c. John 14:1-3 Called a “receiving” of the church
- d. Acts 1:11 Only “Ye shall see him...” not everybody
- e. Titus 2:13 Referred to as “the blessed hope” of the Christian

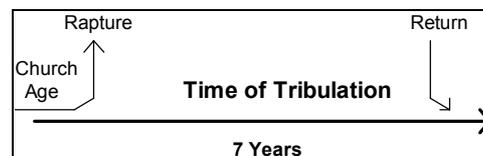


Figure 3 - Rapture/Return of Christ

7. The “rapture’s” placement Dispensationally:
 What occurs before it? _____
 What happens right after the rapture? _____

8. Some other things to note about this event:
 - a. Rev 1:10 John was “**in the spirit**” once before - a spiritual event
 - b. 1 Cor 15:51-52 Called a “changing” of bodies (referring primarily to the resurrection since this includes part of “the” resurrection)
 - c. 2 Cor 12:1-4 This place is the **THIRD** heaven that believers will go to at the rapture, as well as at normal death.
 - d. 1 Tim 6:14 We are to be pure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus to take us away

9. This is the _____ of five, and maybe six *raptures* in Scripture:
 - a. Gen 5:21-24; Heb 11:5 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 2:11 _____
 - c. Matt 27:50-53; Acts 1:9,10 _____
 - d. 1 Thess 4:16,17 _____
 - e. Rev 11:12; Matt 24:36-41 _____
 - f. Rev 14:1 _____?

7. Types or *pictures* of the *Rapture* in Scripture:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Gen 5:21-24 | Enoch is the BEST type in the O.T. in how it will occur |
| Gen 19:22 | Lot being pulled out of Sodom before Judgment fell |
| Gen 7-9 | Noah being protected from the judgment of the flood |

8. The Rapture involves the following components (as compared to the *Second Coming*):
 - a. Listening for a shout/trumpet sound
 - b. Looking for Jesus Christ to break through the clouds visible only to Christians
 - c. An urgency in soul-winning will be felt by Christians
 - d. Personal holiness will be impressed upon Christians (1 John 3:3)

B. **The Heavenly Temple** (4:1-11; Heb 8:1-3; Heb 9:1-5)

Note the similarities of this temple to the earthly tabernacle as described in Ex 34.

1. The Door to the Tabernacle (Rev 4:1; Cf Ex 26:36,37)
2. The Throne (4:2,3) - And on it sits God the Father!
 - a. One sat upon it whose appearance was like unto Jasper and Sardine stone - a semi-transparent crystal. Jasper and Sardine are **the last and first stones** listed in the high priests Breastplate in Exod 28:17,20; 39:10-13. In Ezek 28:13 the devil is described as having these two precious stones on his breast as well!

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------|
| Sardius | Topaz | Carbuncle |
| Emerald | Sapphire | Diamond |
| Ligure | Agate | Amethyst |
| Beryl | Onyx | Jasper |

- b. An eternal rainbow surrounds it (Ezek 1:28)
 - c. This is the Mercy Seat in the temple (Ex 25:17-20)
3. The Twenty Four Elders (4:4) - Present around the Throne
 - a. They wore white raiment (Cf 4:4; Isa 61:10), and had crowns
 - b. They were redeemed by the **blood** of the Lamb (5:8-10). Not just ANY blood (Cf Heb 9:12), and for that matter, not just the DEATH of the Lamb, but the B L O O D of God (Acts 20:28)!!!
 - c. They were not pictured in Moses’ earthly Temple, so they had been added since Mt Sinai.
 - d. They were not present, or at least visible when Isaiah saw heaven in Isaiah 6.
 - e. These are the elders of the Old and New Testament saints in heaven
4. The Seven Lamps (4:5) - The Holy Spirit
 - a. Called the seven Spirits of God (Cf 1:4; Isa 11:2)
 - b. This is the golden candlestick (Ex 25:31-38)
5. The Sea of Glass (4:6; Cf Rev 21:2)

- a. A very important KEY to understanding Heaven:
 - 1) It is like unto “*crystal*”
 - 2) Cf Job 38:28-33; Gen 1:2 _____
 - 3) So, eternity begins where time and motion stops!
 - b. This is the brazen laver (Ex 30:18-21; 1 Kings 7:23-27)
6. The Four Living Creatures (4:6-9)
- a. There are two sets of 4 living creatures:
 - 1) Isa 6:1-4 (Seraphims, the highest order of angels) - 4 wings
 - 2) Ezek 1:4-28;10:1-22; Gen 3:24 (Cherubims, second under the Seraphs) - 6 wings
 - b. Characteristics of these four cherubims:
 - 1) Each had four faces: _____, _____, _____, _____ (Cf Gen 9:9,10)
 - 2) Each had six wings
 - 3) Full of eyes - eight to be exact - two on each face
 - 4) Primary purpose for existence is to give glory and honor to Him that sat upon the throne!
 - c. There once were FIVE (Ezek 28:11-17; Isa 14:10-13). The fifth cherub was knocked out of heaven (the number five always refers to death).

C. The Worship Around the Throne (4:9-11)

1. When you close to the Almighty, there is nothing else to do but **worship!**
2. These elders, that have been saved, and are in the very presence of God, fall down prostrate before God and cast back their crowns to Him saying that it is only God that is worthy of any praise.
3. The elders had obtained crowns as rewards for lives lived for God, but they realised that it was more than they deserved - only the Lord is worthy!
4. This is just how all Christians will feel - we will no longer deceive ourselves about how “worthy” we are, and how much we hope to “get” in heaven - even in heaven, it will be more blessed to give than to get!

III. Conclusion

Notice how that everything being described is all centered around ONE object in the universe - God the Father on His throne!!! The Mastermind of all creation, the

QUESTION: What One of the trinity have we not dealt with yet here in the Temple in heaven? That One will be dealt with explicitly in our next lesson!

IV. Some Questions

1. The word “rapture” means: _____
2. What words are we Christians to be listening for just prior to the Rapture?

3. Write out the verse and its address that most closely describes the events of the Rapture: _____

4. How many sets of four living creatures are there? _____, and what are they called:
_____ and _____
5. Who was the fifth cherub according to Ezek 28: _____
6. How many elders are there around the throne? _____
7. What are the Seven Lamps representing in heaven? _____

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Five

The Lamb

Focus Verse: **Revelation 5:12**

“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.”

I. Introduction to Chapter Five - The Lamb

What we are dealing with here in this supernatural Book are clear revelations by Jesus Christ about several things:

- The first revelation is about Jesus Christ as he is NOW (Ch 1)
- The next thing that is revealed concerns churches (Ch 2,3)
- He then in Chapter 4 turns to the Rapture, and what’s going on in Heaven!
- Here in Chapter 5, the Lord reveals His plan to recapture this world and its kingdoms from Satan!

II. Lesson - Chapter Five - The Lamb (Rev 5:1-14)

A. **The Book** (5:1-5) - This is the _____ to the earth!

1. Note the “seven” seals (6:1). The removal of each of these seals brings about a judgment upon the earth. Once opened, the reading of this book will end this world’s occupation by Satan and his forces!
2. Check on the “sealing” of the Book in Daniel 12:4. See also Eph 1:13,14; 4:30. This is the end time, so the seals are coming off!
3. Why did John weep? (See Rom 8:19-23) _____
4. Who is NOT “worthy”? _____
5. Who then WAS worthy? _____

B. **The Lamb** (5:6-7) - Worthy to Fight, and Prevail for Possession of the Earth!

1. Whoever this is, He is called a LION (5:5)
2. Whoever this is, He is of the “Root of David” (family tree). See the following: 2 Kgs 19:30; Rom 11:16

QUESTION: I wonder who He prevailed against? See Col 2:14,15 _____. When?

3. Turns out to be “**the Lamb** of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). This Lamb had been slain - Jesus still retains visible scars from the crucifixion!
4. This Lamb has seven horns, and seven eyes (again, the seven Spirits of God as in 1:4; Isa 11:2)
5. This Lamb comes out of nowhere and steps right up to God the Father and takes the book out of His hand (5:7) - What authority!!!

C. **The Song** (5:8-10) - This is a Song of *Redemption* - Notice all the emphasis on Redemption!

1. The four beasts, and the 24 elders begin to worship the Lamb (5:8,9). They had been worshipping God the Father that sat upon the throne.

SPECIAL NOTE: All of heaven begins to worship the Lamb, while the Bible dictates that only GOD is to be worshipped (Ex 20:3; 24:14). Funny thing... Jesus MUST be God!!! (Matt 2:11; 8:2; 14:33, etc.)

Bedlam breaks out throughout heaven!

- a. Harps (See 1 Sam 10:5; Ps 43:4) - *Music* in heaven... I wonder what kind? Rock? Rap? Punk? Country and Western?
- b. Golden vials of incense - Prayers of the saints.
- c. Singing!

NOTE: The vials of odours are clearly interpreted as the prayers of the saints (5:8), explaining the purpose of the use of incense in the O.T. Temple - *it pictures prayer*.

PRINCIPLE: Prayer then is like incense. *How does your prayer-time smell to God?* (Eph 5:2). Is it stale, sweet, or sour!?

2. This is a NEW song (Ps 40:3) - about the Lamb, and Changed Lives!
 - a. What was music created for then? _____
 - b. What has our world's music degenerated to? _____
 - c. What is our music to be about? _____
3. This song is sung by redeemed people - redeemed by **BLOOD!** (Col 1:14) Here's that Blood again (see 1:5)! The Lamb turns out to be the **ONLY** Person worthy to **redeem** ANYBODY or ANYTHING!

MEANING: Redemption means to pay the ransom price required for a captive to go free again. But it does not stop there. Redemption carries the implication that if somebody paid for your freedom, they own you, instead of your previous owner (1 Cor 6:19,20).

Questions: Didn't God possess the human race to start out with? How did man get in bondage to Satan and sin (Rom 7:14)? The human race is compared to *what* in Hosea that had to be "bought back?"

4. This song is sung about Someone who is about to redeem something: _____, which is worth singing about!
 5. This song is sung by people who were redeemed out of **EVERY** kindred, tongue, people, and nation! **Now that's Missions!** (Cf 7:9)
 - a. Now we know our Lord's burden - it wasn't just that WE would get saved (1 Tim 2:4)!
 - b. Now we Christians know our job, our MISSION!
 - c. Is there someone who will accept the CHALLENGE today (Luke 10:2)?!
 6. These people "shall" reign on the earth - yet future. At this point, called 'elders', not Kings and Priests. Explains Rev 1:6
- D. **The Glory** (5:11-14) - This is the MOST neglected part of our attitudes as Christians!
1. Who gets the glory? _____ See Jude vs. 25; 1 Tim 1:17
 2. What are they giving? Let's define each of the gifts being given to God:
 - a. Power (Mt 28:18) _____
 - b. Riches (Phil 4:19) _____
 - c. Wisdom (Eccl 2:26) _____
 - d. Strength (Rev 19:15) _____
 - e. Honor (Rom 13:7; Phil 2:9-11) _____
 - f. Glory (Mt 24:30) _____
 - g. Blessing (Ps 103:1,2) _____

God gave these things to us (Matt 25:14-30), and requires us to give them back with interest!!!
 3. Who gives the glory and worship? _____ Shouldn't we now?
 4. These saints number 10,000 X 10,000 = 100,000,000 ± a couple of million!!!

PRINCIPLE: We are miserable Christians because our _____ are based upon the love of and dependence upon things on this earth instead of things in heaven (Col 3:1,2), and so we glorify the creature and the creation more than the Creator! God promises that this world CANNOT satisfy (Matt 16:25,26).

E. **The Judgment Seat**

1. Now that all the *Welcome Home* festivities have taken place, two things occur for the Christian in heaven now: 1) the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, and 2) the *Marriage of the Lamb*. The Marriage of the Lamb is discussed in Chapter 19.
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a time when the Christians who were raptured, as well as those who have been waiting since Christ's resurrection and Ascension stand before Jesus Christ to receive rewards and crowns for serving Him (2 Cor 5:10). This is both a joyous time and a terrifying time (2 Cor 5:11) since the life of the Christian will be "replayed" before the multitudes and every part examined to see the motive behind each person's life! Once Jesus Christ saved a person, their life became owned by the Redeemer (1 Cor 6:19,20), and He expects the life to be lived for the Master. If the life was wasted, then rewards will be withheld. If the life was yielded to serving Him always (1 Cor 15:18; Gal 6:9), then rewards will be abundant (1 Cor 3:10-4:5)!

III. Conclusion - Next Chapter: The Beginning of the Tribulation

In preparation for studying Chapter 6:

1. Study the “seventieth week” of Daniel 9 (especially vs 27)
2. Study the end-time events that Christ taught about in Matt 24
3. Try to identify the rider of the first horse in Revelation 6
4. Discern the purpose of the Tribulation, and for whom it is intended.

IV. Some Questions

1. What probably is the *Book* that God holds in His hands? _____
2. Who alone was worthy to take and open that Book? _____
3. Jesus Christ is referred to as the Lamb as well as the what? _____
4. The Lord Jesus still retains in heaven what evidence of His life here on earth? _____
5. Prayers are pictured how in heaven? _____
6. Redemption is conditioned on what substance being shed? _____
7. The Judgment Seat of Christ is both a joyous and _____ time for the Christian.

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Six

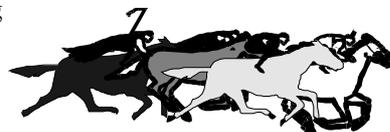
The Seven Seals

Focus Verse: **Revelation 6:17**

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

I. Introduction - The Beginning of the Tribulation

- A. We are about to begin studying Chapters 6-19 which match what is called “Daniel’s Seventieth Week” (Dan 9:20-27), and “Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer 30:7), and “the wrath to come” (1 Thes 1 :10). There no longer is any mention of ANY *church* until chapter 20. The emphasis is on the *Jews* from here on out. The judgment that is about to begin is loosed upon this world in conjunction with the release of seven “seals.” These “seals” are binding the book that Jesus took out of the Father’s hand in 5:7. Remember, John is watching all this unfold from the vantage point of heaven.
- B. **What the Tribulation is** (Matt 24:21; Daniel 9:20-27; Jeremiah 30:7).
The time of the Tribulation is the “seventieth week” of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan 9:20-27). Where one year figures for each day of the first 69 weeks listed made for 483 years from the time that the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem to the Jew’s final rejection of Christ when He was crucified. Each Jewish year consists not of 365 1/4 days, but rather 360 days. When Jesus was crucified, the timing stopped, leaving the remaining week (7 years) yet in the future. This last week of the seventy weeks will be the worst seven years in history (Matt 24:21): The antichrist will be enthroned, Christians will be gone, and before it all ends, over half of the population of this world will be destroyed
1. *The Six Purposes of the Seventieth Week* (Dan 9:24)
 - a. To finish the transgression (Rom 11:26,27), referring to the rejection of God as King in Israel.
 - b. To make an end of sins (Rev 20:1-3). This will be the time of most gross sins, just before it is rendered powerless!
 - c. To make reconciliation for iniquity (Zech 12:10). God and His people will once again be reconciled (will be born again in a day, Isa 66:8).
 - d. To bring in everlasting righteousness (Hab 2:14). The result of destroying sin will be that everlasting righteousness will cover the earth.
 - e. To seal up the vision and prophecy. Once Jesus returns to this earth at the end of the Tribulation, there will be no further need for visions and prophecies.
 - f. To anoint the Most Holy. To make Jesus Christ literally and physically King of this planet, reigning in Jerusalem!
 2. *The Events of the Tribulation*
 - a. The regathering of Israel (Jer 23:7,8).
 - b. The revealing of the antichrist (2 Thes 2:3,8). He is referred to as, “that man of sin,” “son of perdition,” and “that wicked.”
 - c. The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thes 2:4).
 - d. The world-wide requirement of idol worship (2 Thes 2:4; Rev 13:14,15).
 - e. The recruitment of a satanic army for the antichrist for Armageddon (Rev 9:16)
 - f. The regeneration of the remnant (the Jews will be saved, Rev 7).
 - g. The return of the Saviour (Rev 19), occurring right at the end of the Tribulation!



II. Lesson - The Seven Seals (6:1-17)

A. The Four Horsemen (6:1-8)

1. First Seal Released (6:1,2; Matt 24:4,5) - A *white* horse, and a male rider
 - a. We first encounter “thunder” (a storm is brewing), then springs forth a man riding furiously on a *white* horse! Thunder is usually associated with a voice, as in Acts 9 where the only one to whom the voice is directed can understand it. The white horse is one of good and not bad (or so it seems).
 - b. This rider is given a bow (no arrows), a crown, and goes forth to conquer the world.
 - c. Can we identify this man?
 - 1) Evidently he is a KING (note the crown)

- 2) Evidently he is CONQUERS with an unloaded weapon - He conquers with diplomacy instead of strength. This is exactly what the world desires, peaceful resolutions to all conflicts!
- 3) Evidently he rides a WHITE horse as if to be one of the “good guys”

Looks a lot like Christ doesn't it? But wait a minute, see 2 Cor 11:14. Compare with Rev 19:11-16 and note what follows this mysterious conqueror

2. Second Seal Released (6:3,4; Matt 24:6,7) - A **red** horse, and a male rider
 - a. This rider is given power to “take away peace from the earth”, and to cause people to “KILL ONE ANOTHER”
 - b. He is given a *great* sword. Notice how that what seems to start out for peace in this world will always end up in war, war, and more war (1 Thes 5:3)! This war here is World War III.
 - c. This horseman brings BLOODSHED (note the “red” horse)
3. Third Seal Released (6:5,6; Matt 24:7) - A **black** horse, and a male rider
 - a. This rider is given a pair of balances to measure out “food” for the people of the earth
 - b. What follows is food-rationing due to a FAMINE. A penny was a day's wage (Matt 20:1,2). These people will have to work an entire day just to be able to buy a loaf of bread. In this famine, there will be no bread, yet lots of oil and wine!
4. Forth Seal Released (6:7,8; Matt 24:7,8) - A **pale** horse, and a male rider
 - a. This rider has a definite name: **DEATH** (Heb 2:14)
 - b. What immediately follows this rider: **HELL, NOT** Heaven!!! Death comes to claim the bodies of men, and Hell follows to claim their souls (Isa 5:14)!
 - c. This rider is given power to kill off 1/4 of the earth using swords (war), hunger (famine), death, and the beasts of the field (they will turn on humans). This is the same as in Ezek 14:21.

SUMMATION: The Jews made a covenant with this rider in Isa 28:15. Now... the question is: was the first rider Jesus Christ? Of course NOT! Note how “all hell breaks loose” as soon as this rider appears on this planet. Yet, the majority of all seminaries and even Southern Baptists teach that the first rider is Jesus Christ!!! If he is, then who needs Jesus if all He does is bring Death, and ultimately HELL!?! Some commentators say that this is the Gospel. Well, if it is, look at the fruit! So, evidently there is one man who is so much like Jesus Christ, that even educated Christians will not be able to tell him, and the real Saviour apart. We are dealing with the Advent of the Anti-Christ!

Remember,

- Jesus has a bride (Rev 21) the New Jerusalem, and Satan has a bride (Rev 17) Babylon
- Jesus says “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), and Satan is called “an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14)
- Jesus is King of kings (Rev 19:16), Satan is also a king (Job 41:34), of the “children of pride”
- Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:6), Satan is called the “prince of this world” (John 14:30)
- Jesus is called “God” (John 20:28), Satan is the “god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4)
- Jesus is called a “Lion” (Rev 5:5), Satan is also called a “lion” (1 Pet 5:8)

Introducing... his majesty... the Antichrist!

Therefore, we have *clearly* just entered the time of the Tribulation.

PRINCIPLE: All those riding on white horses, proclaiming PEACE, are not good guys!

5. Some Notes on this antichrist:
 - a. The moment of his appearance (2 Thes 2:6-8). After the rapture of the church.
 - b. The manner of his appearance (2 Thes 2:9-11). Satanic signs and lying wonders will back up the antichrist's claim to authority in this world.
 - c. The message of his appearance (2 Thes 2:4). The antichrist comes to set himself up as God (Cf Isa 14:12-15)! Those who do not like the message of the Bible will readily accept the message of the antichrist!

B. **The Souls of Martyrs** - The Wrath of This World Against the Tribulation Saints (6:9-11)

1. This is the Fifth Seal (See also Matt 24:9-13).
2. Notice the Altar - Again, part of the “true tabernacle” in heaven as we discussed in chapters 4 and 5. The altar was used for sacrifice in the Old Testament. Here, the picture is of a multitude of people who

have been slaughtered in the rebuilt Jewish Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation, and are around the Altar in Heaven waiting for revenge!!!

3. We now come across multitudes of “souls” (no bodies)

- a. Souls therefore have voices, memories, and a shape that can wear a white robe.

These souls are without their “bodies” which are back on the earth (Cf Luke 16 for the rich man in hell). Hence, if you threw a sheet over them, they would look like “ghosts” (very interesting). A “soul” is the emotions, and eternal part of a human.

- b. How did these people die? Rev 20:4 They were _____
c. Why were they killed? Same reason why John was in exile (see 1:9)

- 1) For the _____ of God!
2) For the _____ which they held!

This was the wrath of this world against God’s people!

QUESTION: Do you have a _____ like them that would be worth dying for?

4. These souls requested one thing: Revenge! And boy was it about to take place! God said “Vengeance is mine, I will repay...” (Rom 12:19), and He will!

C. **The Beginning of Sorrows** - The Wrath of the Lamb (6:12-17)

Up to this point, the devil has had control, but now, the Lamb is mad, and His wrath is turned loose on this old world! (Cf Matt 24:29; Luke 21:25; Mark 13:24-26; Joel 2)

1. This is the Sixth Seal Revealed (See also Matt 24:29,30).
2. A great earthquake - like never before!
3. The sun became black - darkness upon the face of the earth - maybe due to volcanic ash?
4. The moon became blood
5. Stars fall from heaven - producing great craters

The heaven (universe) is split from side to side. Very interesting statement since this takes place in chapter 19 with Jesus Christ coming back, implying that we were just escorted through the Tribulation. The idea is this: that the Book of the Revelation is not a chronology of events, but rather will contain several accounts of the Tribulation (the second advent) in series just as we have several accounts of the first advent of Jesus Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

6. Every mountain and island is moved out of place (6:14)
7. Every man, woman, and child runs and attempts to hide knowing Who is behind these events, but they have no desire to repent and turn to the Lamb for mercy, but instead, turn to the “rocks”.

III. Conclusion - Next Chapter: Chapter 7 & The 144,000 Jews

- A. Satan moves in and brings about a false peace in preparation for some REAL war! Be careful, because there are at least THREE more world wars ahead!
- B. The Lamb will however direct His wrath against this world as well! You see, this world has turned against its only Saviour, and to a false Saviour not really realizing what it was getting into!
- C. Some Questions:

1. What introduces the beginning of the Tribulation (what sound)? _____
2. List the colours of the four horses in sequence: _____
3. _____
Whom do all the major commentators think the rider of the white horse is? _____
4. Define “soul” _____
5. List the four basic things in 6:12-17 that take place in the Tribulation:
1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____
6. The Book of Revelation is going to take the reader through the Tribulation how many times? _____

- D. Note how that THIS PART of the Tribulation is called the “great day of His wrath,” and that it “is come” (Rev 6:16,17), not that it is at the END of the Tribulation! Compare this with 1 Thes 1:10.

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Chapter Seven

The 144,000 Witnesses

Focus Verse: Revelation 7:13,14

“And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

I. Introduction To The Lesson

We are now well into the period of time called the Tribulation, called “Daniel’s Seventieth Week” (Dan 9), and “Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer 30:7). Right after the judgment of the sixth seal, there is a diversion to another subject other than the seven seals. This is called a “parenthesis” in the chronology of the Revelation.

II. Lesson - The Sealing of the 144,000 (7:1-17)

In preparation for the releasing of the 7th seal, four angels get ready to “hold back the wind.”

A. The Seal of the living God (7:1,2)

1. Explained as the seal of a NAME on their foreheads (Rev 14:1) - Just as the seal of the antichrist is the “number of his NAME” on his followers head or hand (Rev 13:16-18) called a “mark”.
2. All the O.T. priests had this seal on their heads (see Ex 28:36-38).
3. The purpose of this sealing: to protect the bearer of the seal through the tribulation (Cf Rev 14:1-3). This sealing process “preserves” the bearer!

B. The Servants of our God (7:3-8)

1. Consists of all the “tribes of Israel”
 - a. 12,000 from each of the literal, actual tribes of Juda, Reuben, Gad, Aser, Nephthalim, Manasses, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph, and Benjamin.
 - b. A tribe is missing from this list: _____. Why? _____

PRINCIPLE: This tribe therefore is *not* protected from the judgments that fall during the Tribulation because of its idolatry, but it will show up again during the millennium (Ezek 48:1,32)

- c. What happened to the rest of the children of Israel? They possibly were killed off: See Rev 6:8; Zech 13:8,9. These Jews were saved, but they had to give their lives for their testimony!
2. These are the “*elect*” of Rom 11:1-4
 - a. God always has a “remnant” (Cf I Kings 19:18)
 - b. These represent God’s witness during the Tribulation to all the world, who will have no fear for all the judgments falling all around them.

C. The Scene in Heaven (7:9-17) - Tribulation Saints

1. The Blood-Washed Multitude (7:9-15; Cf 6:9-11)
 - a. Again, a multitude of people from all nations
 - b. They are wearing white robes
 - c. They came out of the Great Tribulation (7:14) - Can’t be THE church (1 Thes 1:10)
 - d. They now serve God continually (Cf Rev 4:11)
2. The Blessings of Heaven (7:16,17; Cf 21:4)
 - a. No more hunger - The Lord feeds them
 - b. No more thirst - The Lord provides Living Water
 - c. No more cancer causing sun-rays
 - d. No more sweltering heat
 - e. No more tears - God personally shall wipe away ALL tears!

PRINCIPLE: There will be tears in Heaven (See 2 Cor 5:10,11; Rom 14:10-12), but it is up to you whether they will be tears of joy, or of sorrow!

But the greatest of these blessings is found in vs 15 where “*he that sitteth upon the throne shall DWELL AMONG THEM!*”

III. Conclusion - Some Questions

- A. The Tribulation is referred to as _____ in Daniel 9, and _____ in Jer 30:7
- B. What will be the seal of God on the foreheads of the 144,000 Jews? _____
- C. How many tribes of Israel are there? _____
- D. What tribe is missing from the list in 7:3-8? _____
- E. Why is the tribe missing from the list? _____
- F. Define “the elect” _____
- G. Define the “Great Tribulation” as opposed to “the Tribulation” _____
- H. List some of the blessings of heaven _____

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Eight

The Seven Trumpets

Focus Verse: Revelation 8:13

“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”

I. Introduction - Where Are We?

Here we are going to attempt to place some of the events that we have read about, and are about to read about in the Book of the Revelation on a prophetic “time-line.” Some things to note about Scriptural prophecy:

- A. Prophecy really is simple to work with
- B. Scripture most often is chronological, but does not always have to be
- C. If a scripture doesn't make sense, it is because of any of the following reasons:
 1. Nothing like what is being talked about may never have happened before (ie, the flood in Noah's day)
 2. You have not found a cross-reference verse that would explain the passage from a different light
 3. Or, you have not learned yet that FACT (the Bible) is always wilder than FICTION (as portrayed on TV, radio, and in magazines)!

II. Introduction To The Lesson

As far as I can tell, the Book of the Revelation from chapters 6-19 is divided up into 4 sections. Three deal with the specific judgments of seals (5-7), trumpets (8-11), and vials (15-19), and the fourth deals with the seven specific works of the Antichrist (12-14). Probably, each of these sections runs the reader through the entire seven years of the Tribulation each time. Whatever these divisions may be, we know that the ending of each definitely starts the whole judgment process over again just as you would read the four Gospels (Matthew, then Mark, Luke, then John).

| Trib Event | Judgments | | | | | | | (Gap) | 7th |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | | | |
| 7 Seals (6:1-8:1) | White Horse Antichrist False Peace | Red Horse Wars | Black Horse Famine | Pale Horse Death & Hell | Great Persecution Genocide | Earthquake Sun Darkened | 144,000 Witnesses | Silence | |
| 7 Trumpets (8:2-11:19) | Fire & Hail | Meteor | Comet “Wormwood” | Sun & Moon Darkened | Plague of Locusts | Army of 200,000,000 | The Little Book | The “Last” Trumpet | |
| 7 Persons (12:1-14:20) | A Woman | A Red Dragon | A Man Child | Michael | The False Prophet | The Living Image of the Beast | The Lamb and the 144,000 | The Son of Man and the Death Angel | |
| 7 Vials (15:1-18:24) | Grievous Sore | Sea becomes Blood | Rivers become Blood | The Sun Novas | Darkness | Euphrates Dries Up | BABYLON | ”It is DONE” | |

Table 3 - List of Tribulation Judgments

III. Lesson - The First of the Seven Trumpets, or The Worst is Yet To Come (8:1-13)

A. The Seventh Seal - Silence (8:1)

The Seventh Seal - Silence (8:1) - Can you imagine this? Implies here, as well as when the seventh judgment occurs with any of the four divisions, that the end of the Tribulation is in view (see the 7th Trumpet 11:15; the 7th Vial 16:17; and the 7th personage 14:18).

B. First Trumpet (8:2-7) - 33% of All Trees Are Burned Up!

1. The land and its ecological systems are affected.
2. The altar of incense is related to the prayers of the saints (8:3,4)
3. The answer to their prayers is the judgment of this world by *fire*
4. The judgment starts off with 1/3 of all the trees burning up - what an ECOLOGICAL thought! This is the same as the 7th Egyptian plague (Ex 9:22-26)

C. Second Trumpet (8:8,9) - 33% of the Sea Became Blood

The sea and its ecological systems are affected. See Ex 7:19-21 for the sea being turned to blood before in the first Egyptian plague. This is probably either a large land mass sinking into an ocean (like California),

or a meteor falling into an ocean. Note the words, “and as it were a great mountain.” This judgment matches the first Vial in 16:2,3.

D. Third Trumpet (8:10,11) - 33% of the Rivers Become Poisoned

1. The rivers and their ecological systems are affected.
2. A comet named “Wormwood” falls to the earth and disintegrates over a large portion of land. Cf Jer 9:15; 51:25 - A VERY intoxicating herb!

E. Fourth Trumpet (8:12,13) - 33% of the Sun and Moon Darkened

1. The atmosphere and its ecological systems is affected.
2. Seems to match the sixth seal of 6:12, and the fifth Vial in 16:10.
3. Yet, the worst is YET TO COME (8:13)!

IV. Conclusion - Some Questions

1. Provide one of the three reasons given why Scripture sometimes may not make sense to you: _____
2. How many sections is the Book of the Revelation divided up into? _____
3. What is the name of the star that falls to the earth and affects the rivers? _____
4. Describe how each series of “seven judgments” ends as we looked at it in the Table: _____

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Nine

The Depravity of the Human Race

Focus Verse: **Revelation 9:20,21**

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

I. Introduction - The “Progress” and “Evolution” of Man

- A. Throughout history, man has attempted to convince himself that things will only get better! People never look back and objectively see even from history that we just keep going around in circles, and are on a basic downward spiral. The Bible portrays man as messing up everything that God created, and that man would destroy himself if God did not intervene from time to time and hold him back!
- B. In this chapter of Revelation, God clearly demonstrates that man by nature does not learn from his mistakes, and that he as a general rule, would rather see everything destroyed around him before he would repent of his sins and yield to an almighty God! This is because they are of their father, the devil (John 8:44), and until they obtain the new birth (John 3:3,7), they will do *his* will, and not Gods!

II. Lesson - “The Three Woes,” or, “The Depravity of the Human Race”

A. The Fifth Trumpet - Another “star” falls from heaven (9:1-12)

1. Refining our definition of Angels (9:1)

- a. Here, this “star” is a person (Cf Rev 1:20; Job 38:7)
- b. According to Rev 20:1, this “star” is an angel. Therefore, all stars are not gaseous balls of hydrogen fission, but, some live in Los “Angeles”, and live in the lime “light,” and seek their own “worship”! Therefore, angels are definitely NOT like the feminine winged creatures dreamed up by Greek mythologists.
- c. Angels are “messengers” (Matt 1:20,21), “ministering spirits” (Heb 1:7,14), “representatives” (Rev 1:20), always male (never are they female), and here they are “stars” as in celestial beings that “shine” (Dan 10:5,6) and come down from the “heavens.”
- d. Above all, angels are NEVER to be worshipped (Col 2:18; Rev 19:10; 22:9)!

2. Identifying the “bottomless pit” (9:2)

- a. Note the “sides of the pit” in Isa 14:15
- b. Hell is located in the center of the earth (Prov 15:24; Ezek 31:16; Mt 12:40; Luke 16:19-26). Therefore, can you imagine what Hell is like? How about a giant ever-turning clothes drier, with the heat turned up on HIGH, and all the inhabitants being constantly thrown up and down the sides “as the world turns!”
- c. There are various “departments” of Hell. Note that there is a place called the “lowest hell” Dt 32:22. Just for fun, let’s list the different sections to the lower parts of the earth (remember, this is more advanced than science by about 400 years!):
 - 1) The grave
 - 2) Paradise (no longer exists, just like Eden doesn’t)
 - 3) A Great Gulf (the Gulf of Mexico?)
 - 4) Hell
 - 5) The bottomless pit - the lowest Hell

There is a sixth place called, “the lake of fire” which seems to be located in a separate place (Cf Rev 20:14).

3. The first Woe (9:3-12)

Get ready, because everything that man has dreamed up for the Twilight Zone, and Hitchcock is about to become real!

- a. Involves humanoid/demoniac locusts being let loose out of the bottomless pit (9:3-12)
 - 1) These are not “normal” locusts

2) These locusts:

- a) Have the power of scorpions - they sting
 - b) Don't eat grass and leaves (which is their normal diet)
 - c) Attack and "torment" humans for 5 months
 - d) Shaped like horses, with human faces
 - e) Have a king over them (vs 11; Cf Prov 30:27). Could be the "death angel of Exodus 12.
- b. Creates a "Hell on earth" situation (9:5). The tormentors of hell are allowed out onto the surface of the earth. There not only are locust-type creatures in hell, but also never-dying worms (Isa 66).
 - c. Brings about the "hope" of modern medicine (9:6) No more death, only slow dying. Death sometimes is a real blessing, but at this time, God even holds back the Law of mortality for a while in order to bring about this time of Tribulation.

B. The Sixth Trumpet - 200,000,000 Armed Horsemen (9:13-21)

1. The second of the three Woes.
2. The four angels bound in the Euphrates river (9:13-15)
 - a. Emerge out of the area around Babylon
 - b. Definitely not "good" angels - they were "bound"
 - c. Lead an army larger than any seen yet!
3. The 200,000,000 demoniac horsemen (9:16-19)

Again, as with the locusts, these creatures and their riders are definitely not your run-of-the-mill horse and rider, but something very supernatural (II Kings 6:13-17)!

- a. The horses have the heads of "lions"! (9:17)
 - b. The horses breath fire! (9:17)
 - c. These horsemen are directed to kill off 1/3 of the remaining population (9:18)
 - d. These horses have tails like snakes (9:19)
4. The depraved human race (9:20-21)
 - a. Didn't see the connection of their punishment with their sins (9:20)
 - b. Didn't repent of two things:
 - 1) Their goodness - their religion (false as it is)
 - 2) Their wickedness: Murders, sorceries, fornication, and thefts.

Evidently, man's religion has a lot to do with these four sins! Thank God for **SALVATION!**

PRINCIPLE: God's primary intention throughout history has been to get man (a sinner) to repent (a definitely New Testament doctrine; Acts 20:21), NOT to become religious, or do good works, or go to church, or anything other than realize the he is a sinner in need of the blood of Jesus Christ!!!

III. Conclusion - Some Questions

1. Define the Bottomless Pit: _____
2. Where is Hell located? _____
3. According to the Bible, is man getting better and better? _____
4. What two things didn't the human race repent of after all the judgments? _____
5. What comes out of the bottomless pit in the first woe? _____
6. How many armed horsemen come to attack Israel? _____
7. What is God's primary intention throughout history? _____