



The Book of Revelation Study

A Ladies for Jesus Group Bible Study written by Kelly Dixon

This Study Book Belongs To:

How we will do our study.

Eight Good Reasons

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

1. Revelation is the Word of God.
2. Jesus told us to watch for signs of things to come.
3. Revelation is about Jesus.
4. Revelation reveals God's plan for the future.
5. A special blessings is promised to all those who read Revelation.
6. Revelation will change our lives.
7. Revelation will give us a concern for those who reject God and His Son, Jesus.
8. If prophecy is being fulfilled, people should want to know the details.

Why I study the book of Revelation?

When I began teaching God's Word I was attracted to the book of Revelation because of the desire to understand the "mystery" that was within. However, as I study this book I am amazed at how my relationship with God is strengthened and how that gives me confidence in fulfilling the great commission He has given to all of His children. My desire to teach this book is fueled by the blessing of understanding my Savior Jesus Christ more and more. I know this blessing will fall on all who study Revelation and I desire all to have this experience in their Christian walk.

Your Sister in Christ,
Kelly Dixon

How we will do our study.

Our Goal: To Look for Jesus!

When one studies the book of Revelation they can become puzzled. At the same time, it is a book of interest that leads one into deep, deep study. ***Our overall goal is to not get bogged down with details, but to understand the book as it points us towards Jesus and His righteousness.***

Many do not realize that *the book of Revelation tells not only of end times but explicitly of God's righteousness.* He is a righteous God and because He is a righteous God the just will be saved and the unjust will be judged accordingly. In God's righteousness He shows mercy even to the end giving time for all to repent. As Matthew Henry states "No part of Scripture more fully states the gospel, and warns against the evil of sin."

Homework

As we go throughout this study we will use many charts and diagrams to help us understand these Scriptures. These charts and diagrams will become your homework. You are encouraged to prayerfully examine them thoroughly at home especially with your Bible in hand. Engage others in conversation about these items as you go throughout the week. Use every opportunity you can to look for Jesus. In these actions you will be blessed and understand this study thoroughly.

Understanding My View

I feel it is important at this time that I take a moment to explain the view in which I have in regards to Revelation and the rapture. The reason this is important is because this study is written based off of this foundation. I believe the millennialism view specifically Pretribulation view. In other words, I believe that the events of Revelation are not figurative and they will indeed happen. I also believe that the church will not go through tribulation period. Therefore, we will be raptured before the tribulation begins. However, I see much evidence in Revelation that states there will be those who come to Christ during tribulation. Therefore, I believe there will be those who are saved during the tribulation and will be recognized as a special group known as the great multitude (Revelation 7:14).

In Christ, Kelly Dixon

Now grab your Bible and a cup of coffee and let's get started!!

Who wrote Revelation?

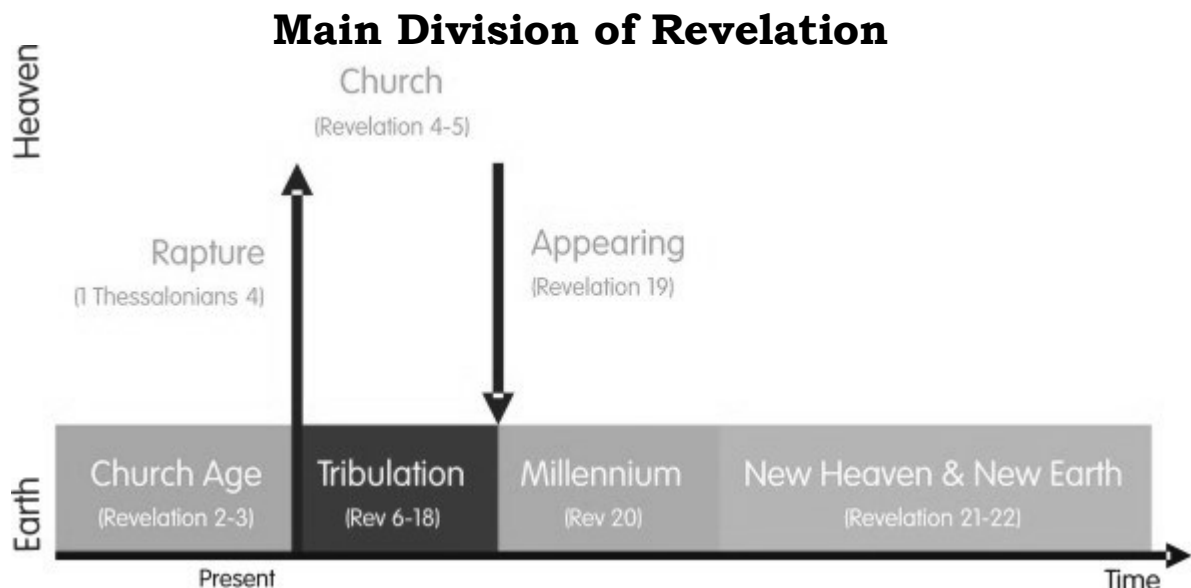
John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, wrote Revelation under the guidance of its true author—the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The word trinity is not found in the Bible, but it is used to explain the three different ways God reveals Himself—as God the Father; His Son, Jesus; and the Holy Spirit. These are three different expressions of God, just as thoughts, spoken words, and written words are three different expressions of every person.

Symbols, Symbols, Symbols

"Revelation is filled with symbols. John was in prison when he wrote this book, and some believe he used symbols to smuggle it to the outside world. They seem to believe that he had to convince the prison authorities these were the writings of a madman. Others believe God had John write with symbols to make us study the entire Bible to understand their meanings. Whatever the reason, the symbols make some people believe they must be a theologian to understand Revelation. No one can deny the value of a good education, **but people of all educational backgrounds do read and understand Revelation. Many times these are ordinary people like you and me who seem to love it and get a lot out of it.** You will find with studying Revelation you will learn about God, Jesus, the Church, and the future.

Other Tidbits about Revelation

This last book of the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language around AD 96. It is divided into 404 verses, of which at least 265 contain quotes drawn from the Old Testament and many quotes from the New Testament. This does not mean one has to be a Bible expert to understand it, but it does mean that John had an excellent understanding of all the other books of the Bible; an understanding that could have only been obtained from the Holy Spirit.



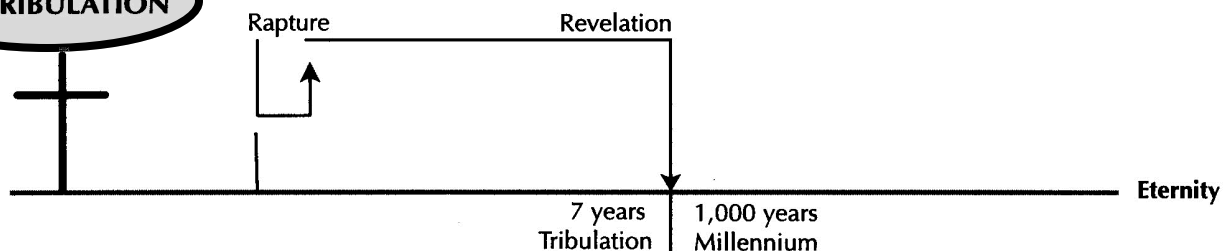
OUR STUDY WILL NOT BEGIN WITH THE RAPTURE!

Reality is that we are already in the times of Revelation because we are still in the Church Age. Therefore, our study of the book of Revelation will not begin with the Rapture!!

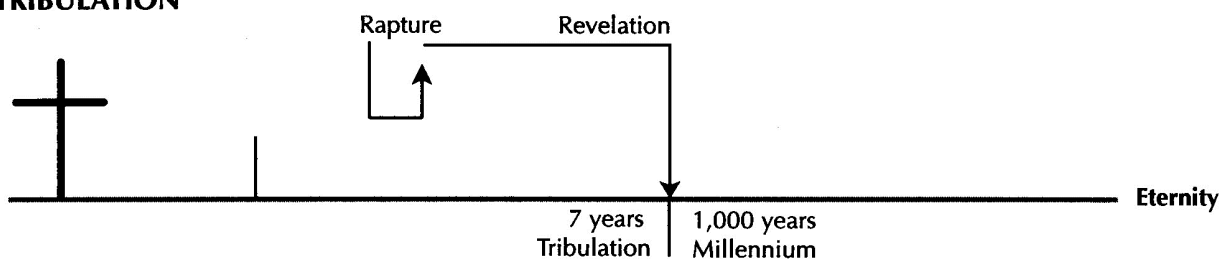
The Many Different Viewpoints

This class will be taught along the lines of this viewpoint!

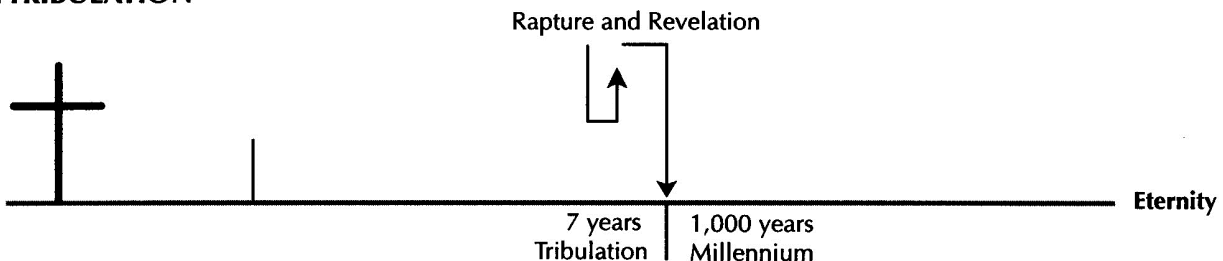
PRETRIBULATION



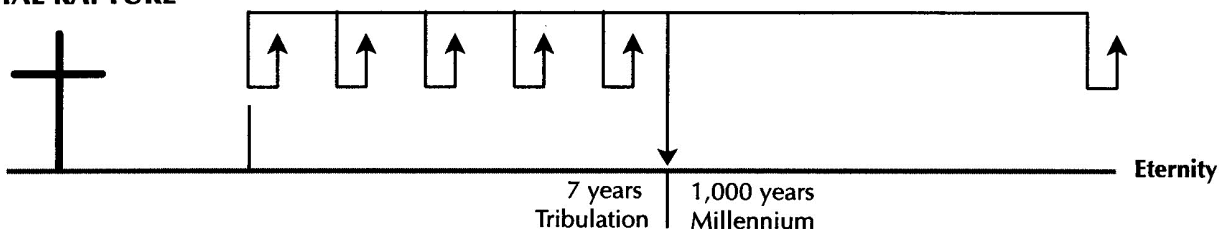
MIDTRIBULATION



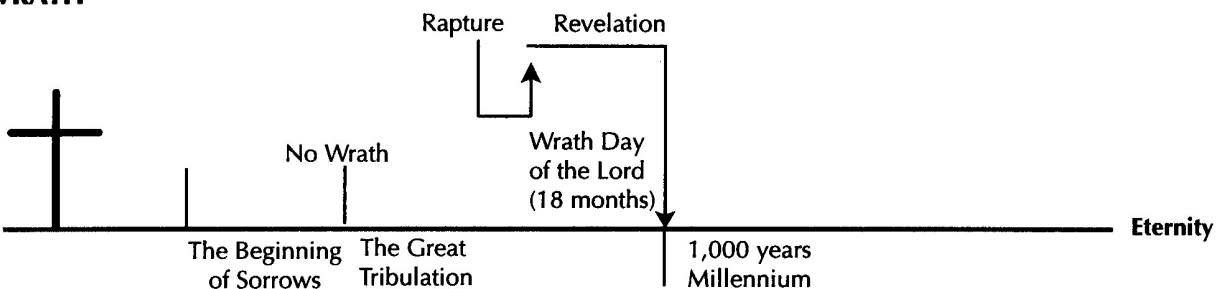
POSTTRIBULATION



PARTIAL RAPTURE



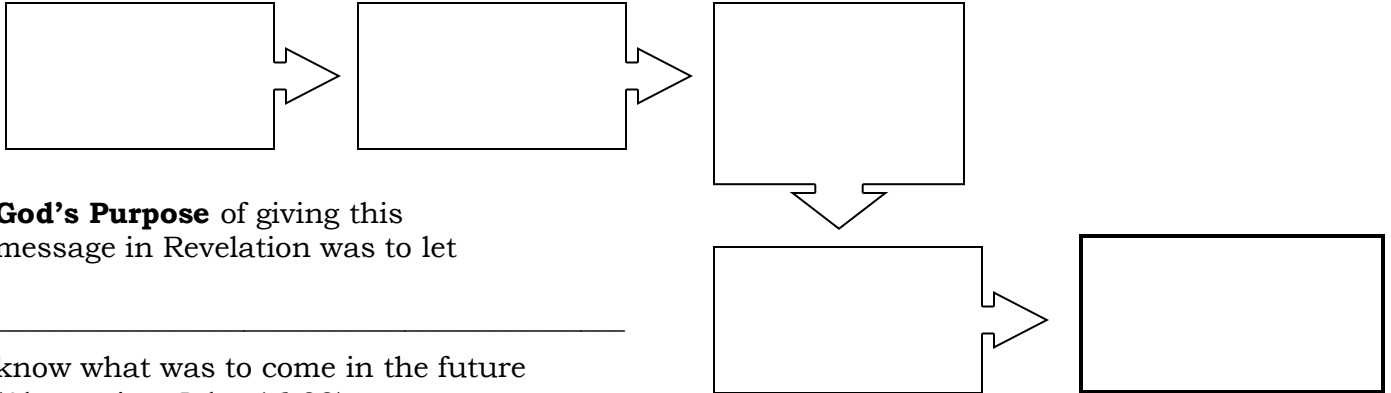
PREWRATH



Let's Begin with Revelation 1:1-6

Read Revelation 1:1-6 and answer the following questions.

Fill in the sections below as to how the book of Revelation was communicated. (Rev. 1:1)



God's Purpose of giving this message in Revelation was to let

know what was to come in the future
(Also review John 16:33)

List in this box how we can be blessed according to Revelation 1:3.

What does the "Seven Spirits" who are before His throne mean? (Revelation 1:4)

To find this answer let's look at Isaiah 11:1-2

The Holy Spirit in His Seven-Fold Nature:

- (1) Spirit of _____,
- (2) Spirit of _____,
- (3) Spirit of _____,
- (4) Spirit of _____,
- (5) Spirit of _____,
- (6) Spirit of _____,
- (7) Spirit of _____,

The Bible doesn't tell us specifically who/what the seven spirits are, but it is most likely the Holy Spirit - The Spirit of Jesus and God the Father - representing here the Three in One.

It has always been God's plan for Jesus to be on the throne.
Review the angel Gabriel's words to Mary in Luke 1:31-32.

***Throughout our study let us always remember God is in control.
Jesus will judge from His righteous throne and holds the keys to death and hades.***

We are Subjects - Understanding Our Role

In **Revelation 1:6** John's greeting and praise of Christ expresses our explicit role that Jesus has made us to be through His blood sacrifice. What is this role? _____



Turn back to **1 Peter 2:9-10**. What does Peter tell us is our responsibility in fulfilling this role? _____

***"Look, He is coming with the _____,
and _____ eye will see Him,
even those who _____ Him;
and all peoples on earth "will _____ because of Him.***

So shall it be! Amen."

Revelation 1:7



Turn back to **Acts 1:7-9** and **Matthew 24:30-31**. According to Acts 1:9, How did Jesus ascend into Heaven? _____

According to Matthew 24:30, and Revelation 1:7, how will Jesus return?

In Revelation 1:7, why do you think all people on earth mourn when Jesus returns?

Note This!

While this Scripture is in the beginning of Revelation, it may become confused with the Rapture. However, the return of Jesus described in Revelation 1:7 and Matthew 24:30-31 are both referring to Jesus Second Coming - not the Rapture. We will discuss further the detailed differences of the Rapture and Jesus Second Coming after our discussions on the Church Age (Revelation 2 & 3). For now, just note that the "elect" referred to in Matthew 24:31 are the saved of the Tribulation period who have come to faith in Christ by the grace of God and are gladly anticipating their Lord's return.

John's Vision of Christ

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Revelation 1:8



The book of Revelation is the only place where Jesus proclaims Himself as being the Alpha and Omega. No other can make this claim. The title signifies the completeness with which God revealed Himself to mankind through Christ. This is nothing less than an official affirmation by Jesus of His personal deity.



Read Revelation 1:9-20

As John turned to see who was speaking to him (Revelation 1:12), he saw seven golden candlesticks and a person in their midst, for whom he lists ten very descriptive details. Nothing about the person of Christ needs to be misinterpreted here because the Holy Spirit has interpreted these details on other occasions in the Scriptures. Let's look at them for each.

1. *"someone like a son of man"* ~ Jesus referred to Himself in this manner.
2. *"dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet"* ~ typical High Priest wear.
3. *"with a golden sash around his chest"* ~ An ancient world symbol of strength and authority.
4. *"The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow,"* ~ Indicates Righteousness of God
5. *"his eyes were like blazing fire."* ~ Indicative that Christ is indignant/displeased
6. *"His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace"* ~ The bronze imagery speaks to us of judgment.
7. *"his voice was like the sound of rushing waters."* ~ Indicative that all other voices will be stilled
8. *"right hand he held seven stars"* ~ In Revelation 1:20 Jesus tells us this interpretation. This could mean that all churches have guardian angels, just as Christ indicated that little children have guardian angels (Matthew 18:10)
9. *"coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword."* ~ the Word of God.
10. *"His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."* ~ Speaks of the divine nature of Christ.



Turn back to these Scriptures for further reinforcement:

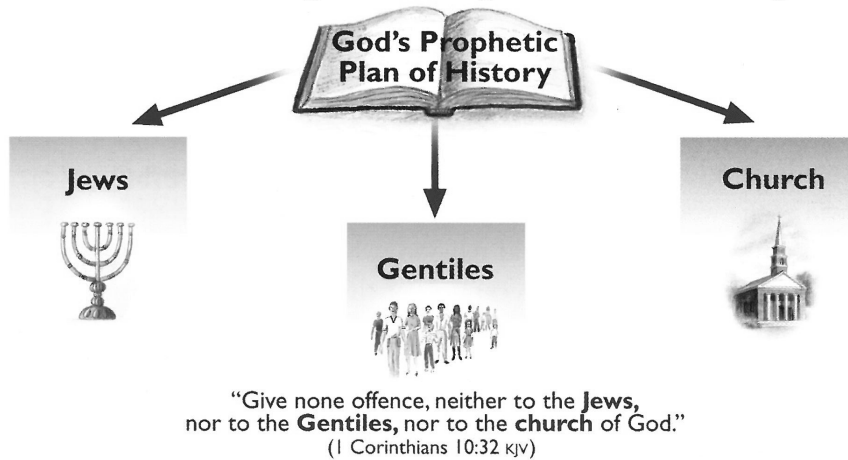
Daniel 7:9-13

Hebrews 2:17; 3:1

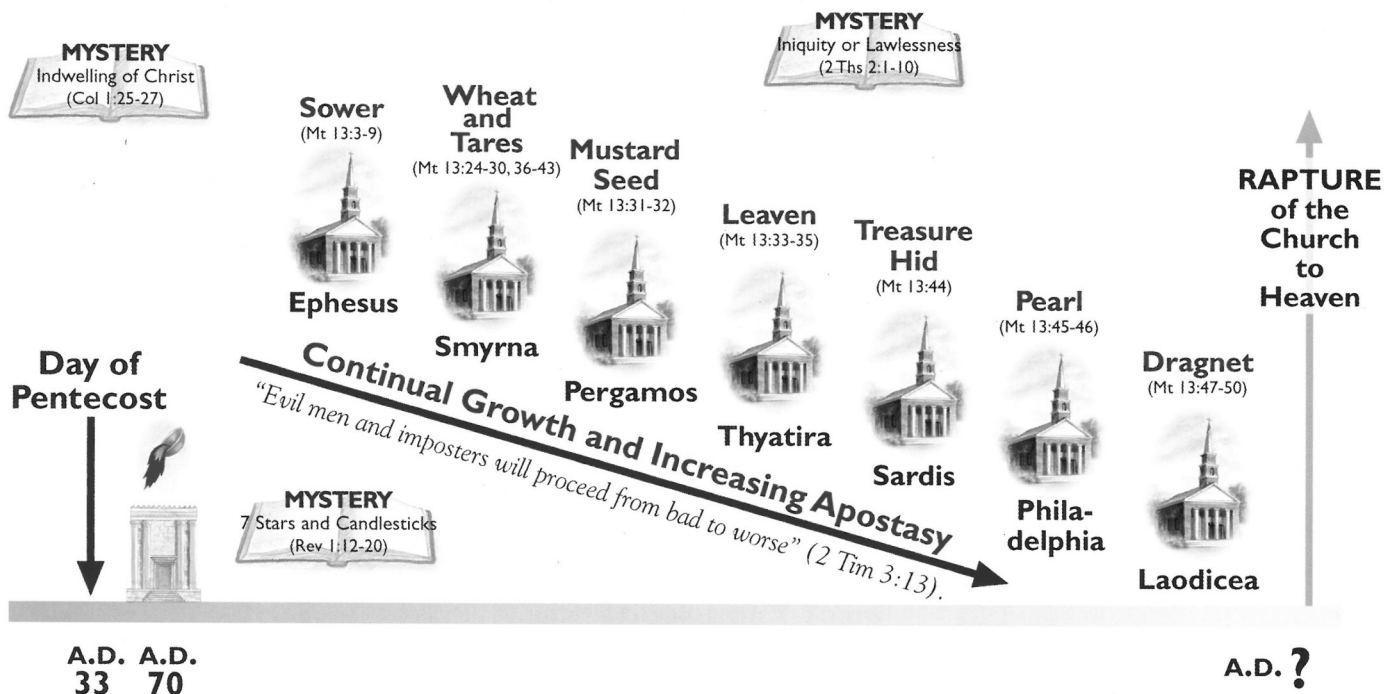
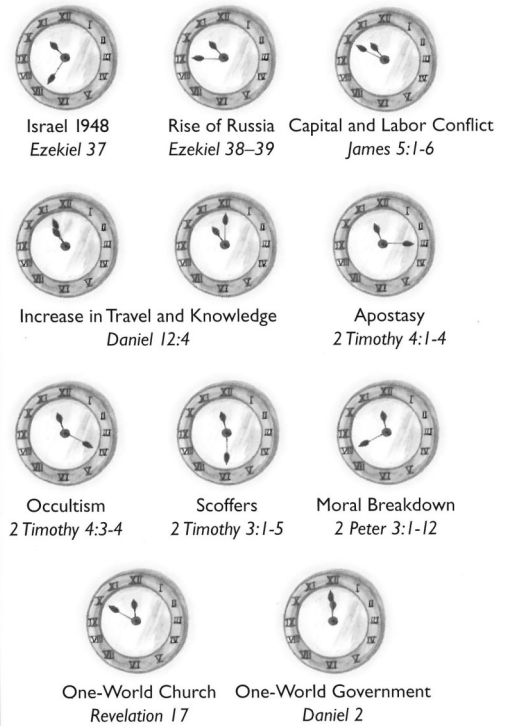
Matthew 28:18

Matthew 17:2

The Three Groups of People in Bible Prophecy



Signs of the Times





To the angel of the church of Ephesus write . . .

The Preoccupied Church

Revelation 2:1-7

Meaning: Desirable

Rebuke/Exhortation: You have strayed from your first love of Christ

Characteristics: Faith and patience Doctrinal truth

Promise: I will let you eat of the Tree of Life

The eyes of God are everywhere

According to verses 2-3 what does the Lord Jesus know about the church of Ephesus and us today?



Let's look back to see what other Scriptures tell us about God's eyes . . .

2 Chronicles 16:9

Proverbs 15:3

What is the key to the motivation of our works, deeds, patience and testing of false teachings?

How does knowing God's eyes are watching us make you feel about the work of our church?

Falling Away / Backsliding

What does Jesus state that He has against the church of Ephesus?

What does He state needs to be done to correct this problem?



The meanings of key words . . .

Falling Away / Backsliding: Slipping back into sin.

First Love: Original commitment to Christ.

In the Flesh: The things we desire in our human body.

The Spirit of a Man: The immaterial part of man; the soul.

False Doctrines: Beliefs contrary to God's teachings.

False Practices: Dishonest or deceptive practices.

Love the Person, but Hate the Sin

Jesus commends the church of Ephesus for hating what particular aspect of the Nicolaitans?



Look back to these Scriptures and list what it says about sin.

1 John 3:4 Sin is the _____ of God's _____

James 4:17 Sin is knowing to do _____ but not _____ it.

Romans 14:23 Sin is anything that is not of _____

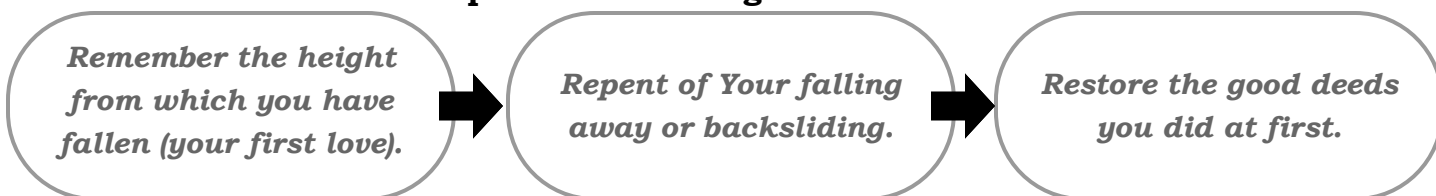
1 John 5:17 Sin is all _____; wickedness

*Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.
Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.
Amos 5:15*

Overcomers

What does Jesus promise in Revelation 2:7 to those who overcome?

Steps to Overcoming Sin in our Lives



When one **overcomes** it means that they overcome sin in their lives through faith in Jesus Christ. This is initially done by accepting Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. In addition, when we apply Christ's teachings to our lives we can overcome by avoiding sinful acts.



After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they were forbidden to eat the fruit of the tree of life (Genesis 3:22-24). Apparently there was something on that tree that could cause a person who ate it to live forever. Jesus promises to give overcomers the opportunity to eat from that tree. The tree that was once located in the Garden of Eden is now located in paradise.



Don't forget - Next Sunday will be a Current Events Sunday where we will discuss current events in relations to end times.



To the angel of the church of Smyrna write . . .

The Persecuted Church

Revelation 2:8-11

Meaning: Myrrh

Rebuke/Exhortation: Have no fear in the midst of tribulation; be faithful

Characteristics: Martyrdom Persecution

Promise: I will give you a crown of life.

Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

The church of Smyrna, though they were rich, lived in a way that they remained in poverty. Christ commended them for laying up treasures in heaven by spending their material blessings on ministering instead of their own personal gain.



Look back to Matthew 6:19-21 to see what Jesus said about treasures. What is He telling us about the correlation between our treasures and our heart?

CRUSHED TO RELEASE THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

The name Smyrna refers to myrrh, and the crushing process used to release its fragrance symbolizes the persecution of believers. This church reminds us even though we may be persecuted the crushing process releases the fragrance of Christ in our lives.

Jesus Knows His Sheep

At the end of Revelation 2:9 Christ points out that the Smyrna church had “wolves” among them - those that said they are Jews, but in reality they worshipped Satan.



Look back to these Scriptures to see what Jesus tells us about His sheep.

John 10:14-16

Matthew 7:21-23



Five Heavenly Crowns for Overcomers

Throughout the Scriptures there are five crowns that are referred to in regards to overcomers. These crowns will be given as rewards at The Judgment Seat of Christ The Bema. (Romans 14:10-12)

1. **The Incorruptible Crown** (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) *The Victor Crown, The Imperishable Crown:* Those who have purged themselves from the attraction and pleasures of the world in order to be of profitable service for the Lord Jesus Christ merit this crown.
2. **The Crown of Life** (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10) *The Martyr's Crown:* Those who have suffered much yet endured with a sweet Christian spirit will be given this crown. The crown is also a special reward for those who have been “faithful unto death” as a witness for Christ.
3. **The Crown of Glory** (1 Peter 5:2-4) *The Elder's Crown, The Shepherd's Crown, The Pastor's Crown:* This crown is reserved for those who have given their lives to teaching the Word of God.
4. **The Crown of Righteousness** (2 Timothy 4:8): This special crown is reserved for those Christians who, inspired by the imminent return of Christ, have lived a very righteous and holy life.
5. **The Crown of Rejoicing** (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20) *The Soul Winner's Crown:* This crown is reserved for those who have devoted their primary attention to the salvation of lost souls.



Jesus told the church of Smyrna that there would be ten days of tribulation. Exactly what these ten days mean is not certain, but history reveals that there were ten distinct periods of intense persecution during the Smyrna period. During this time, Satan let loose all the forces of hell in an effort to stamp out the Church. Christians were beaten, jailed, tortured, and killed, yet Jesus urged faithfulness. The ten periods of persecution were during the time of Roman emperor rule and dated from 64 AD to 312 AD.



To the angel of the church of Pergamos write . . .

The Lax Church

Revelation 2:12-17

Meaning: Height, Elevation of Power

Rebuke/Exhortation: You are holding to false doctrines

Characteristics: Worldly alliance
Great external growth

Promise: I will give you hidden manna and a white stone with a new name.

Outwardly Strong; Inwardly Weak

Jesus points out to the church of Pergamos that while they were standing strong against the evils that surrounded them, inwardly they were allowing false doctrines to infiltrate their church.



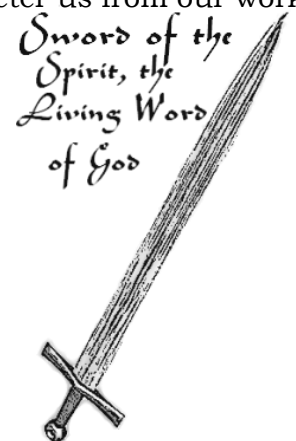
Look back at the way the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to address such an issue in 1 Corinthians 5:1-8. What is the main focus that Paul was calling for in Corinthians and Christ is calling for in the church of Pergamos?

Read more about Balaam and his sinful acts in Numbers 22-31.

The Sword out of Christ's Mouth is the Living Word of God

Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2:16. The Word of God holds authority over our lives and should be used in this world as the spiritual sword we use in fighting our enemy, who seeks to deter us from our works for Christ. The Word of God . . .

- ... Reveals all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
- ... Shines the light of God on our failures (John 3:20)
- ... Reveals the true will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- ... Convicts us of sin (John 8:7)
- ... Reveals the love of God (John 3:16)
- ... Reveals the judgment of God (Romans 14:10)
- ... Calls for repentance (Acts 2:38)



In what ways are you allowing God's Word to penetrate your life and reveal Christ within the body of believers, as well as, to the rest of the world?

The Manna from Heaven

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna . . . Revelation 2:17a

In the Old Testament (Exodus 16) the manna from heaven provided daily food for the Israelites. Likewise, Jesus' Word provides daily spiritual provision. Hidden Manna is given to those who are victorious (or overcome). We can only be victorious in Christ. This begins by first accepting His salvation. By doing so we are given His Holy Spirit (the hidden manna) to dwell in us and always testify about Jesus. (John 15:26)



Look back to John 6:30-35. What does Jesus tell us about the bread of life?

The White Stone with a New Name

. . . I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. Revelation 2:17b

Here we see the promise from Jesus that overcomers will be found innocent when God judges all things. Because of the shed blood of Jesus, overcomers are set free from the penalty of sin.

WHITE STONES

White stones were used in John's day to cast votes at the courts of justice. When a case was tried, the jurors voted by dropping stones into an urn: black for guilty or white for innocent.

Why is there a new name written on the white stone?

Accepting Jesus as our Savior saves us from the penalty of sin, but it also gives us a personal relationship with Him. The new name written on the white stone can be interpreted in different ways. However, if we think about our relationship with Christ and consider what the Scriptures tell us about the relationship, then we see how we are given a new identity ("new name") in Christ.



Look back to the following Scriptures and consider how they describe this "new name" we are given by Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Peter 1:3

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

*¹Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy Name.
²Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, . . . ¹⁰He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Psalm 103:1-4, 10-12



To the angel of the church of Thyatira write . . .

The Neglectful Church

Revelation 2:18-29

Meaning: Sweet smell, Sacrifice of labor

Rebuke/Exhortation: You have some committing fornication; you who are faithful hold fast till I come

Characteristics: False teachers

Promise: I will give you power over the nations.

We are what we do!

Jesus sees everything and He will judge all believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). It is at this judgment that believers will receive heavenly crowns based off of their deeds and the motive behind doing them. These deeds are closely related to our faith.



Look back to Galatians 5:22-23, what is the fruit of the Spirit?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

How does this fruit relate to what Jesus was saying in Revelation 2:19?



Look back to James 2:14-18. What does James tell us about the close relationship between faith and deeds?

What key detail is Jesus pointing out to the church at the end of verse Revelation 2:19 when He states, “. . . *And as for your works, the last are more than the first.*” ?

Satan within the Church—“Jezebel”

In the church of Thyatira Jesus points out that there is a “Jezebel” who is leading many astray and it seems that she has many followers.



Look back to Matthew 7:15-20. What does Jesus tell us about wolves in sheep clothing and how we can recognize them?



When Jesus talks about being the One who searches hearts and minds, He is reminding us that He looks inside us to our innermost core. He looks to see what our real affections are. He looks at our emotions, desires, and thoughts. Nothing is hidden from Him.

To Those who rejected Satan (Jezebel's) teachings: Hold Fast! You will receive power and authority.

In Revelation 2:24-29 Jesus promises power and authority to those who refuse to follow the teachings of Jezebel. He gives us this power through His own Holy Spirit, Who always points us to Jesus and intercedes for us in accordance to God's Will.



Look back to Romans 8:26-27. How can these actions of the Holy Spirit empower us and give us authority?

In Revelation 2:28 Jesus promises to those who overcome to give them the morning star. Look ahead to Revelation 22:16. who is the morning star?



The planet Venus is called the morning star because it is the brightest object in the sky just before the sun rises. It is sometimes a guide to navigators, who use it to determine their location on earth. This symbolization is one in which we can correlate to Christ, Who is our Bright and Morning Star. We should seek Him first thing each morning and throughout our day so He may help us to navigate the trials of this world.

Personal Reflection: In what ways are you allowing God's Holy Spirit to guide you in serving the Lord? Are you seeking to stay faithful to Him in your deeds, love, and service?

How have you allowed His Holy Spirit to empower you in your life lately?



To the angel of the church of Sardis write . . .

The Pretend Church

Revelation 3:1-6

Meaning: Prince of joy

Rebuke/Exhortation: You appear to be alive, but in your heart you are dying, and your works are imperfect

Characteristics: Dying, Faith, Ritualism

Promise: I will dress you in white raiment and

“And they say they are a Christian!”

A Pharisaical Church is dead!

Revelation 3:1: Here again Jesus says He knew the works of the church. However, unlike Thyatira whose works were greater than the first, Sardis' works were decreasing. Jesus said they had a reputation of being alive, but they were actually dead. In what ways can we look “alive” and actually be “dead?”



In reality this church was being a Pharisaical church because they were trying to portray that they were holy when in fact they were not. Jesus spoke against this many times in the gospels. Let's look at two occasions.

When the disciples didn't wash their hands - the Jewish traditional way - before eating, Jesus was criticized. What is His response in Mark 7:8-13?

What was the results of their “traditions?” (Mark 7:13)

Look also at Matthew 6:5-6. What does Jesus say about our prayer life?

In what ways can praying only in public hinder your relationship with God?

So what is a church to do . . .

*Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die,
for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.*

Revelation 3:2

When we receive correction from God, we need
to put into action the things He has revealed to us!

Don't be Surprised!

"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."

Revelation 3:3



Paul talks about the thief in the night in relation to our Lord's return. Look back to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 to see what the Holy Spirit led Paul to write about the Lord's return and our responsibility while we wait.

Two Different Books of Life

"Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels."

Revelation 3:4-5

THE TWO BOOKS OF LIFE

Referenced throughout Scripture you will see these books. In Revelation they are mentioned specifically at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15 and in regards to the Bride of Christ's entry into the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:22-27.

Jesus promised to those who are victorious

... They would walk with Him in robes of white.

... He would never blot out their names from the Book of Life.

... He would acknowledge the names of the saved before God and His holy angels.

On your own . . .

Glorification, justification, and sanctification - what do these all mean? Prayerfully look at the following Scriptures and ask God to reveal specifically what it means *in your own life*.

Glorification: Romans 8:17-18

Justification: Romans 5:16-18

Sanctification: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Personal Reflection: In what ways have you neglected to strengthen your relationship with God? Do you need to "wake up" and strengthen the things that remain? Ultimately, what are you going to do with Jesus?



To the angel of the church of Philadelphia write . . .

The Persevering Church

Revelation 3:7-13

Meaning: Brotherly Love

Rebuke/Exhortation: Hold fast and continue to keep My Word

Characteristics: Evangelism; Missions

Promise: I will make you a pillar in the house of God.

The Key of David held by The Holy and True One

In Revelation 3:7, Jesus was reassuring this church that even though doors had been closed to them on earth they would not be closed eternally. He did so by reassuring them that He held the keys of David.



Let's look back to Isaiah 22:20-25 to see the earthly significance of these keys.

Jesus also describes Himself as being holy and true. How does this reality of Jesus effect your life?

When We are Weak He is Strong

In Revelation 3:8, Jesus expresses that the church of Philadelphia had little strength, had kept His Word, and had not denied His name. For someone to be able to keep God's Word and not deny Christ's name when they are weak, they must be submissive to the Holy Spirit.



Look back to 2 Corinthians 12:6-10. What does Paul state about God's grace and Paul's weakness? What does Paul state he will boast in?

"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses,
in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

For when I am _____, then I am _____."

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)

An Hour of Trial

Here again, in Revelation 3:10, is another promise from Jesus that He will keep His Church from going through the time of tribulation



Let's look back to 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10; 5:8-11 and Romans 5:9 to see other references to this promise.

The Promise for the Overcomers

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Revelation 3:11-12

In Revelation 3:12-13, Jesus' promises to those who overcome:

- ♦ *I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God*—Jesus will make His followers strong, durable, and stable in the house of God.
- ♦ *He shall go out no more* - Jesus will make His followers secure. They will desire to stay forever, and no one will move them.
- ♦ *I will write on him* - Jesus will write three things upon His followers:
 1. The *Name of God* to designate them as a child of God;
 2. The *Name of His Eternal Home* which is referred to as “New Jerusalem.”
 3. The new *Name of Jesus*, signifying their personal relationship to the Lord of lords and King of kings.

Personal Reflection: Jesus promises His church that they will not endure God's wrath. How does this comfort you? In what ways does this motivate you to witness to those who are not believers - those who will endure God's wrath? Take a moment to list below either names or a reminder of someone of whom you are close to but you do not know **for a fact** that they have accepted Christ as their Savior. Use this list to pray over daily and ask the Lord to open the door for you to ask them this question, “If you died today, do you know you will be with Jesus in Heaven?” Remember, you may feel fearful and weak in doing this, but when we are weak, He is strong. He will be there to strengthen you along the way!!



To the angel of the church of Laodicea write . . .

The Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

Meaning: Laypeople

Rebuke/Exhortation: Your material riches have blinded you to your spiritual shame.

Characteristics: Apostasy

Promise: I will allow you to sit with me

The Great Amen

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.”

Revelation 3:14 (NIV)

Jesus expresses here that He is the “Amen.” The word Amen in the Hebrew was a declaration of affirmation that meant “so be it.” Jesus used it meaning times in affirming statements. For example when He told a parable or story He would start by saying, “Amen, Amen.” Common English translations of this was “Verily, Verily” or “Truly, Truly.”

In this verse, Jesus is telling the church of Laodicea and us today that He is the Amen. He is affirming that He is the faithful one and true witness. He is the ruler of God’s creation!

Hot, Cold or Lukewarm?

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.

I wish you were either one or the other! So, because

you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV)

There are three states in which a church or church member can find themselves:

Cold: Without Spiritual Life

Lukewarm: Indifferent or straddling the fence

Hot: Passionate or Zealous Spiritual Life



Look back to Matthew 6:19-21. What does Jesus tell us about our treasures?

Continue in this chapter to Matthew 6:22-24. What does Jesus tell us about our eyes and serving two masters?

Continue in this chapter to Matthew 6:28-33. What should we seek first? If we do, what is added unto us?

All the Money in the World

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

Revelation 3:17-18

All the money in the world won't save your soul. We must have Jesus. The power of Jesus working through us sheds the rule of the flesh in our lives.



Colossians 2:9-12 tells us of the Spiritual fullness of Christ. What does it say about our fullness? What does it say about the rule of the flesh?

In Revelation 3:18, Jesus expresses to come to Him to purchase gold refined in the fire. What does 1 Peter 1:6-9 tell us about the gold Christ is speaking about here?

Open Your Heart

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on His throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:19-22

The Lord will not allow anyone He loves to escape discipline. Even the harshest discipline is a sign of His love. It is done for two reasons:

1. To cause people to be honest about their sins.
2. To bring them to repentance.

The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote about this in Hebrews 12:5-8. What do these verses tell us should be our response to God's discipline?

Personal Reflection: In this letter to the Church of Laodicea lies the final promise to the overcomer: *"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on His throne."* (Rev. 3:21) This promise is preceded by an invitation from Christ. He states that He stands at the door and knocks. If anyone hears His voice and opens the door He will come in and eat with them. While salvation is one time that Christ knocks on the door, it is not the only time. He continues to knock on our heart's door to request we hear His voice. He continues to knock and ask to dine with us and communion with our heart. Do you hear His voice? Are you opening your heart to commune with Him?

The Rapture

End of the Church Age and Before Tribulation Period

Revelation 4:1-2

It is important for us to understand that the “Rapture” is not Jesus’ Second Coming. It is a separate event when He comes in the clouds to receive His church. This event is represented in Revelation when John is called up to heaven.

¹ After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

Revelation 4:1-2

Christ’s Second Coming is His Glorious Appearing. This is when He actually descends to the earth and at that time we, His Church, will be with Him. What this means along the lines of pre-tribulationist belief is that the rapture will happen before the tribulation and Christ’s Second Coming will happen after the tribulation.

Below are Scripture References which refer to the Rapture and the Second Coming

Rapture Passages:

John 14:1-3	1 Thessalonians 1:10	Hebrews 9:28
Romans 8:19	1 Thessalonians 2:19	James 5:7-9
1 Corinthians 1:7-8	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Peter 1:7, 13
1 Corinthians 15:51-53	1 Thessalonians 5:9, 23	1 Peter 5:4
1 Corinthians 16:22	2 Thessalonians 2:1	1 John 2:28-3:2
Philippians 3:20-21	1 Timothy 6:14	Jude 1:21
Philippians 4:5	2 Timothy 4:1, 8	Revelation 2:25
Colossians 3:4	Titus 2:13	

Second Coming Passages:

Daniel 2:44-45	Mark 13:14-27	1 Peter 4:12-13
Daniel 7:9-14	Mark 14:62	2 Peter 3:1-14
Daniel 12:1-3	Luke 21:25-28	Jude 1:14-15
Zechariah 12:10	Acts 1:9-11	Revelation 1:7
Zechariah 14:1-15	Acts 3:19-21	Revelation 19:11-20:6
Matthew 13:41	1 Thessalonians 3:13	Revelation 22:7, 12, 20
Matthew 24:15-31	2 Thessalonians 1:6-10	
Matthew 26:64	2 Thessalonians 2:8	



Look back to John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. These passages show the words of Jesus in regards to the Rapture and the words of Paul. Compare these two passages and list the similarities below.

The 15 Differences Between the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing

Rapture / Blessed Hope

1. Christ comes in the air for His own.
2. Rapture of all Christians.
3. Christians taken to the Father's house.
4. No judgment on earth.
5. Church taken to heaven.
6. Imminent—could happen any moment.
7. No signs.
8. For believers only.
9. Time of joy.
10. Before the “day of wrath” (Tribulation).
11. No mention of Satan.
12. The judgment seat of Christ.
13. Marriage of the Lamb.
14. Only His own see Him.
15. Tribulation begins afterwards.

Glorious Appearing / Second Coming

1. Christ comes with His own to earth.
2. No one raptured.
3. Resurrected saints do not see Father's house
4. Christ judges inhabitants of earth.
5. Christ sets up His kingdom on earth.
6. Cannot occur for at least 7 years.
7. Many signs for Christ's physical coming.
8. Affects all humanity.
9. Time of mourning.
10. Immediately after Tribulation (Matthew 24)
11. Satan bound in abyss for 1000 years.
12. No time or place for judgment seat.
13. His bride descends with Him.
14. Every eye will see Him.
15. 1000-year kingdom of Christ begins.

The Holy Spirit and The Rapture

The Church is the Spiritual Temple of God. His Holy Spirit indwells all believers and we are His holy temple purified by the blood of Christ. At Pentecost the church age began by the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell in all believers and at the Rapture the church age will end because all believers will be removed from the earth. Afterwards, the Holy Spirit will be represented similarly on earth as He was in the Old Testament.



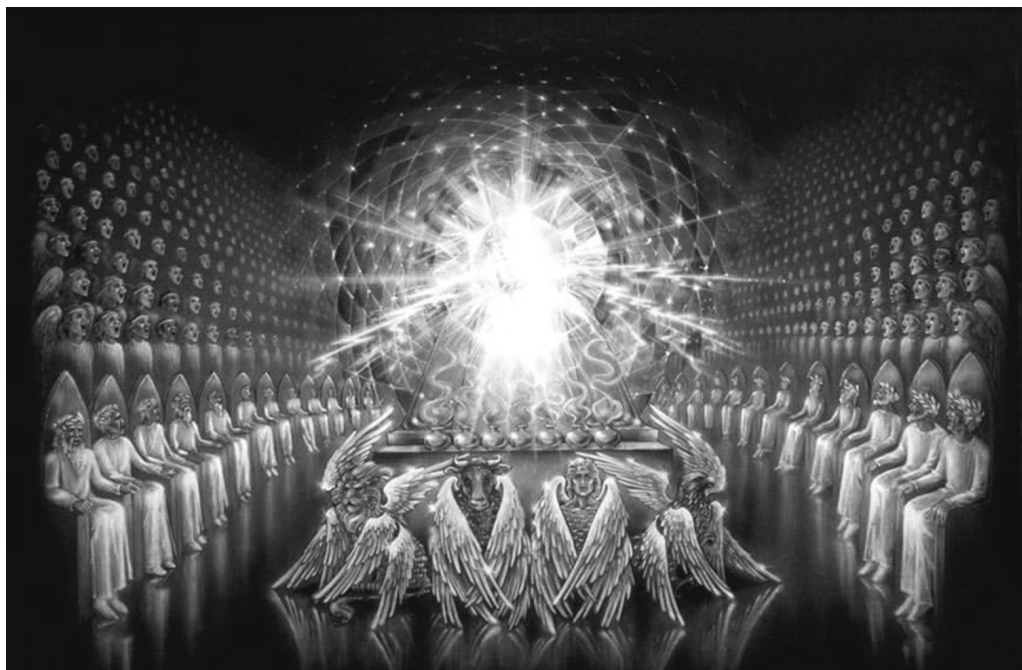
Look back to these Scriptures to see what they say about believers being God's Spiritual Temple. Write below key things you notice from these passages.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 1 Peter 2:4-5

As believers of Christ, we have been given the Holy Spirit to guide us and direct us in seeing Jesus. The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth and speaks on the authority of the Father. (John 16:13). Are you submitting to Him in your life? Do you seek His direction? Read Romans 8:1-16 and ask the Father to reveal to you how you can be more submissive to His Spirit.

The Throne Room of God

Revelation 4:3-11



“And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby.

A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.”

Revelation 4:3

Here we see indications of Christ being our High Priest. These stones are the first (Sardius) and the last (Jasper) stones in the breastplate of the High Priest (Exodus 28:17-19 NKJ).

- ♦ Sardius is fiery red like the blood of Jesus shed on the cross.
- ♦ Jasper is opaque or translucent like a diamond and represents the purity or holiness of Jesus.

A Rainbow: Particularly reassuring in this verse are these words *“rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.”* When the Church enters heaven as John did, there will be a rainbow surrounding God’s throne. An immediate reminder that God is a God of grace, a God who keeps His promises.

Appearing like Emerald: Emerald green is the color of the rainbow. Green is the color of life, the eternal life that comes from God as a result of the shed blood of Jesus and the grace of God.



Look back to 1 John 5:6-12 and answer the following questions.

Who gives us eternal life? (vs. 11)

How does He give us eternal life? (vs. 11)

What MUST we have in order to obtain eternal life? (vs. 12)

Personal Reflection: Is this what you have been testifying to the lost?

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 4:4

The Twenty-Four Elders: On one occasion, the entire nation of Israel was represented by twenty-four special priests (refer back to 1 Chronicles 5 and Aaron's family). Just as these priests represented all of Israel, twenty-four elders will one day represent all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture - the Church. They will surround the throne of God as representatives of a nation of kings and priests. They will stand in for all overcomers.

Three indications that these 24 elders represent the Church:

1. They are dressed in white—the Church is clothed in white by the righteousness of Christ.
2. They are wearing crowns—the Church will be given crowns as rewards for our earthly deeds.
3. Title of Elders—the term elders is only used in Scripture when it is referring to those who are leaders of the Church.

Revelation is one of the most sequence-oriented books in the Bible. Therefore, this is indicative that the Church will receive its white robes and crowns and it will begin its reign with Jesus in heaven before the Tribulation period begins. Since the church has their crowns, the Judgment Seat of Christ would have already happened by this point. This confirms the fact that the Judgment Seat of Christ happens at the time the church is raptured. **NOTE:** Refer back to page 11 for a listing of crowns promised throughout Scriptures for those who overcome (the Church).

*From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.
In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.
Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.
In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front
and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like
an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.
Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around,
even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, ‘who was, and is, and is to come.’”*
Revelation 4:5-8

The Four Living Creatures represent the gospel message of Jesus Christ as follows:

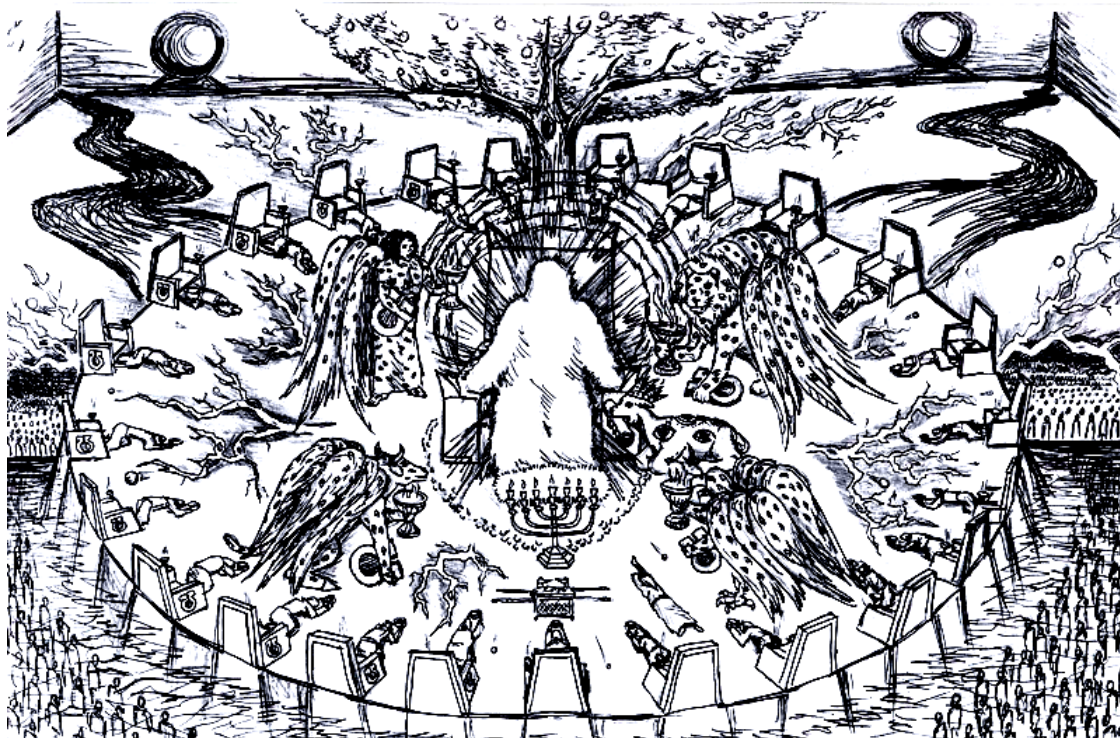
Creature	Nature	Gospel Link to Jesus Christ
Lion	King of Beasts	Jesus is the King of the Jews (as depicted in Matthew)
Ox	Beast of Burden	Jesus is a Servant (as depicted in Mark)
Man	Human	Jesus is the Son of Man (as depicted in Luke)
Eagle	Rules the Skies	Jesus is God (as depicted in John)

*“Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”*
Revelation 4:9-11

Personal Reflection: How do the elders response when hearing glory and honor and thanks given to Christ by the four creatures? What should your response be to the gospel of Christ?

The Worthy Redeemer

Revelation 5



"Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?'"

Revelation 5:1-2

The scroll God the Father held in His right hand was the "**Deed to the Earth.**" Why did God ask the question, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" To understand this we much go back to the law of the Jews and look at how land was redeemed.



Look back to Jeremiah 32:1-25 to see the recording of Jeremiah and the request from his cousin that Jeremiah redeem their family land. This Scripture gives us an understanding of the scroll and it's seven seals. Use the space below to write down what you understand the scroll is for and why it has the seven seals.



But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:3-5

The Lion of Judah and Root of David is the worthy Redeemer.

How did Jesus fulfill being **The Lion of Judah**?
Refer also to Genesis 49:9-10

How did Jesus fulfill being **The Root of David**?
Refer also to 2 Samuel 7:1-17

NO TEARS IN HEAVEN?

Christians often say there are no tears in heaven, but this is not wholly true. John wept much. And God can't wipe away tears in heaven unless there are tears in heaven. The tears of God's people will not cease to exist until the New Jerusalem comes out of heaven and God destroys death, sorrow, and crying. (Revelation 21:4)

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Revelation 5:6-8



Look back to John 1:29-31. How did John the Baptist, who was sent to be the messenger before Jesus, describe Jesus when he saw Him?

Look back to 1 Peter 1:17-21. How are we redeemed? When was Jesus chosen to be our Redeemer?

And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:9-14

Personal Reflection: Review Revelation 5:9-14 and highlight the worthiness of Christ to be your Redeemer. Prayerfully consider Who Christ really is in your life and how it should change the way you live your life; a life that has been redeemed by His precious blood?

The Time of Tribulation

Old Testament Tribulation References	New Testament Tribulation References
The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7)	The Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:2)
The Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9:27)	The Wrath of God (Rev. 14:10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1)
Jehovah's Strange Work/Act (Isaiah 28:21)	The Hour of Trial (Revelation 3:10)
The Day of Israel's Calamity (Deuteronomy 32:35 & Obadiah 12-14)	The Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb of God (Revelation 8:16-17)
The Tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30)	The Wrath to Come (1 Thessalonians 1:10)
The Indignation (Isaiah 26:20 & Daniel 11:36)	The Wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9; Rev. 11:18)
The Overflowing Scourge (Isaiah 28:15, 18)	The Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21, Revelation 2:22, 7:14)
The Day of Vengeance (Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2)	The Tribulation (Matthew 24:29)
The Year of Recompense (Isaiah 34:8)	The Hour of Judgment (Revelation 14:7)
The Time of Trouble (Daniel 12:1; Zeph. 1:15)	
The Day of Wrath (Zephaniah 1:15)	
The Day of Darkness (Amos 5:18, 20)	
The Day of Gloominess (Joel 2:2)	
The Day of Trumpet and Alarm (Zeph. 1:16)	



What does 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Tell us about "The Day of the Lord."

Because we know this time is coming, what does this passage tell us is our responsibility?
(Refer to verses 6-8)

Look up Matthew 24:29. What does Jesus tell us will happen during the Tribulation days?

Back up to Matthew 24:22, what does Jesus promise to the "elect" about the Tribulation period?

Why a Period of Tribulation?

Everything God does has one or more purpose, and that's true about the Tribulation. In Scripture we can find at least four purposes for the Tribulation.

1. *To bring time to an end.* Read Daniel 9:24 and list below the things that will be brought to an end at the completion of the "Seventy Sevens" that Daniel describes.
2. *To fulfill Israel's prophecies.* Many prophecies about Israel have yet to be fulfilled. The Jewish people's return to the land during this last century and their recognition as a nation in 1948 is only one (described in detail in Ezekiel 36-37). Other prophecies, such as the rebuilding of the Temple and the renewal of the Temple sacrifices, will be fulfilled during the Tribulation. God is not done with Israel!
3. *To shake man from his false sense of security.* A stable world leads man to think that he can function independently of God. Earthquakes, plagues, and other physical phenomena from God will so shake man's natural confidence that, when he hears the gospel through the preaching of the 144,000 witnesses (Revelation 7), he will be more open to its offer of forgiveness and grace.
4. *To force man to choose Christ or Antichrist.* One major purpose of the Tribulation is to give the billions of individuals living at the time seven years of opportunity in which to make up their minds to receive or reject Christ. That may be part of what Daniel meant in calling it "the consummation." - consummate in the verb form means "To bring to a state of perfection, fulfill; to complete." - God will complete the opportunity for all men to come to Him.

The Length of the Tribulation



Looking back once again to Daniel 9:24-27 we see that Daniel prophesied of the 70 weeks or 490 years (1 week = 7 years) of which the tribulation would be "one week." Daniel uses the Hebrew word designating a week of years, or seven years. The first 69 weeks of years, which started with the decree of Artaxerxes to restore the walls of Jerusalem and ended with the rejection of Jesus, was exactly 483 years. And the Tribulation, or the last week of years, will be seven years long.

In Revelation, we find the seven years divided into two periods of 1260 days, or 42 months, or three-and-one-half years. Or "time and times and half a time" (Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6-7, 14; 13:5). Everyone of those time spans total up to seven years. The first half or first 42 months, is the Tribulation, while the last half is called by our Lord "the great tribulation." (Matthew 24:21)

Calculating the Weeks: Because of the 42 months listed in Revelation 11:2 being correlated with the 1260 days listed in Revelation 11:3, it is understood that there are 360 days in a year in calculating the seventy weeks of Daniel. Therefore, calculation of the time period would be:

1 week = 7 years → 7 years x 360 days = 2,520 days of total Tribulation.

2,520 days / 2 = 1260 days of Great Tribulation (as described in Revelation 11:3)

This is further verified in the first 69 weeks: 69 x 7 x 360 = 173,880 days.

March 5, 444 B.C. (Artaxerxes' Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem) + 173,880 days = March 30, AD 33 (Christ Death)

The First Six Seals are Opened

Revelation 6

In Revelation 5 we saw that the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is the only One who is qualified to redeem the earth and all that is in it. The earth that was made for the ones He loves - man kind - and the creation which currently groans for these days to be over.



Look back to Romans 8:18-25

For what is creation eagerly awaiting? (verses 19-21)

What is creation currently doing as it awaits? (verse 22)

As believers, we join creation in this sorrow, but Who do we have that gives us a foretaste of the future glory? (verse 23a)

List below what we, as believers, look forward to because of this foretaste of future glory that has been revealed to us. (verses 23b-25)

As we experience our present sorrows and begin to look at the sorrows to come during Tribulation, we must realize the necessity to look beyond the troubles of this time and the requirements that God has set for the redemption of the earth and the ones He loves. Look beyond to the glorious time when He will reveal His children and give us glorious freedom from death and decay forever. This brings us to the opening of the seals which begin the Tribulation Period. A time that must take place for the full redemption and the glory of God to be revealed.

The Number Seven in the book of Revelation: During the Tribulation Period, Jesus will start to deal with the satanic trinity and man's rebellion on earth. His course of discipline will be directed from heaven, but the terrible events will take place on earth. God the Father has divided these events into three sets of seven:

Seven Seal Judgments

Seven Trumpet Judgments

Seven Bowl Judgments

Each of these judgments build upon the other in the following manner:

The opening of the seventh Seal → produces the → Trumpet Judgments.

Then the blowing of the seventh Trumpet → produces the → Bowl Judgments

When the seventh Bowl is poured out the Tribulation period will come to an end.

Therefore, all of these judgments will take place in and make up the seven year Tribulation period. The order of the seventh seal producing the trumpets and the seventh trumpet producing the bowls tells us that **these will be done in consecutive order and not simultaneously.**



The number seven throughout Scripture is used to indicate perfection and completeness of all God creates and does. This number being used in Revelation in regards to God's judgments (7 Seals; 7 Trumpets; 7 Bowls; 7 Years of Tribulation) is an indication that God's judgment will be complete and perfected at the end and ready for Christ's Second Coming!

Seal	Symbol	Result	Scripture
1st	Rider on White Horse	Release the Antichrist	Revelation 6:1-2
2nd	Rider on Red Horse	Removes Peace, Causes War	Revelation 6:3-4
3rd	Rider on Black Horse	Economic Collapse and Famine	Revelation 6:5-6
4th	Rider on Pale Horse	Death of Unbelievers—1/4 of World	Revelation 6:7-8
5th	Souls Under the Altar	Persecution and Death of Believers	Revelation 6:9-11
6th	Great Earthquake	Cosmic Upheaval (Sun, Moon, Etc.)	Revelation 6:12-14
7th	<i>The 7 Trumpet Judgments are produced (This is opened in Revelation 8:1-2)</i>		



The First Seal is Opened. *“As I watched, the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals on the scroll. Then one of the four living beings called out with a voice that sounded like thunder “Come!” I looked up and saw a white horse. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory.”* Revelation 6:1-2



The first seal is opened and the rider on the white horse is revealed. Do not be misled - just because this rider is on a white horse does not mean he is Christ. ***This is indeed the Antichrist coming on the scene.*** Christ will come on a white horse, but this does not happen until His second coming (Revelation 19). You will notice that this Scripture mentions the rider has a bow, but doesn't state his possession of arrows for his bow. It is believed this is because he plans to conquer the world's government by peaceful diplomacy rather than military might. This white horse could indicate the deception he will portray in order to get Israel to believe that he is their long awaited Messiah. However, it is believed that this time of the Antichrist being revealed is being restrained by the Church who possesses the Restrainer.



Look back to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. List what you observe about the order of things that must happen before the Lord's second coming & what is stated about the man of lawlessness.

Verse 7 states that there is One holding the man of lawlessness back from being revealed. Who is this? Fill in the letters to complete the answer:

The H ___ L ___ S ___ I ___ I ___ T who is currently indwelling all

B ___ L ___ E ___ E ___ S!



When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Then another horse came out, a fiery red one.

Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

Revelation 6:3-4

This is the red horse judgment. The color of the horse appears to indicate blood and death.



When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

Revelation 6:5-6

In the black horse judgment the rider has a pair of scales in his hands and announces ridiculously high prices for food. This indicates a severe famine, which often is the case following military conflicts like the first two seals will bring. The monetary description indicates that a small quart of wheat will cost the equivalent of one day’s wages. Therefore, many will not be able to survive on this amount. They will be forced to buy barley a cheaper food that is usually fed to animals because they get more of it for the same day’s wages. There will be no money left for other necessities. In spite of all this, the rich will still be able to afford luxury items as oil and wine.



When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:7-8

The pale horse judgment is the most severe of the four judgments. This horse will surge forth, creating an eerie sight because of its pale color; the color of spoiled meat and rotting flesh. His rider and the creature following him are personified by Death and Hades. This rider won’t be looking for the saved who have been raptured or the few who have accepted Jesus during the Tribulation period. Instead, he will be hunting the great mass of people who are destined for an eternity in hell.



When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

Revelation 6:9-11

Evidently, 25 percent of the world’s population will die during the first part of the Tribulation. When the fifth seal is broken, martyrs of the Tribulation will cry out to God for revenge upon those unbelievers who killed them. They are told that the time for vengeance has not yet come, but it will. The passage mentions that more martyrs are yet to come. We will see that their prayer of vengeance will be finally answered in Revelation 16:4-7 during the third bowl judgment.



I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

Revelation 6:12-17

As you read through Revelation 6 and even before you read the sixth seal you might be thinking, “It can’t get any worse.” But in reality it does because the sixth seal opens up and an earthquake happens; the sun blacks out; the moon becomes like blood; the stars fall to the earth; the sky tears apart like a scroll; and every mountain and island are removed. Such tragedy that the very ones who are placed in government to protect the people will be among the slave and free to hide in the caves. Such tragedy that they will ask the mountains and rocks to fall on them to hide them from God’s face of judgment!

Personal Reflection: Consider how the knowledge of these judgments to come should motivate your life in Christ. How will you become more for Him by striving to overcome sin and living a life which shows a great witness to those who are lost? How does this motivate you to be bold and speak to the lost in your life about Christ and His desire for them to come to Him?

The Mark of God

Revelation 7

Today Christians are spreading the Word of God through the world by radio, television, and the internet. The Bible has been translated into more than half of the known languages in the world, and many Christians are working diligently to translate it into every language. The world has repeatedly heard the message of salvation, and yet following the Rapture, there will be multitudes who have rejected the Bible and its message.



Look back to Matthew 24:3-14. What does Jesus say about the gospel being preached? When does Jesus say this will happen?

144,000 Sealed

*After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. From the tribe of **Judah** 12,000 were sealed: from the tribe of **Reuben** 12,000, from the tribe of **Gad** 12,000, from the tribe of **Asher** 12,000, from the tribe of **Naphtali** 12,000, from the tribe of **Manasseh** 12,000, from the tribe of **Simeon** 12,000, from the tribe of **Levi** 12,000, from the tribe of **Issachar** 12,000, from the tribe of **Zebulun** 12,000, from the tribe of **Joseph** 12,000, from the tribe of **Benjamin** 12,000.*

Revelation 7:1-8

The Angels: God has the angels hold back the winds because there is an important task that must be done. It is impossible to believe the Bible without believing in angels. They play a prominent role in God's plan for mankind. We see throughout Scripture that angels must be divided into different categories or ranks because of their roles. Satan, being created as an angel, also took some fallen angels with him when he was cast out of heaven. These are known as demons and are spiritual beings and we must be aware of their existence.



Look back to 1 John 4:1-6. What does this Scripture tell us about testing the spirits? What does it tell us about the spirit of the antichrist?

The Marking of God's Servants:

God will send out His angel to mark His own during the tribulation. Write below specifics about this mark.

GOD'S MARKS

God has been marking throughout Scripture. On your own, go back to read Ezekiel 8-9 to see where God has the man with a "writing case" mark the ones who groaned over the idolatry that was happening. And recall Genesis 4:15 where he marked Cain when he sent him away.

Somebody's Missing . . . Look over the tribes again and identify which tribes are missing from the list. Here's the original list: Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, Naphtali, Dan, Asher, Issachar, Judah, Zebulun, Simeon, Reuben, and Gad.

Who is missing?



Look back to these Scriptures to see why some scholars believe they are left out.
Judges 18:27-31; 1 Kings 12:25-30; Hosea 4:17-19

Who are these two missing tribes replaced with?

Levi - Tribe of Priests. Look back to Deuteronomy 10:8-9

Tribe of Joseph. Look back to Joshua 14:4; Numbers 13:11, 36:5. Joseph's tribe was divided between Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim's tribe went astray by continuing in their idolatry beliefs. Therefore, it is believed that the Manasseh descendants will be the ones who will be marked during the Tribulation period and are the ones being referred to as the tribe of Joseph.

Personal Reflection: As believers we have been sealed with God's Holy Spirit. Look back to Galatians 5:16-26. What does this Scripture tell you about the Holy Spirit? In what ways have you neglected to submit to the Holy Spirit so that His marking can show Christ in your life?

The Tribulation Saints

Revelation 7:9-17

Throughout Scripture we can see special groups who relate to God in different ways depending upon the time period in which they lived.

- ⇒ **Israel (Old Testament):** Holy Spirit did not indwell this group of God fearing followers. He visited upon them at times to empower them through prophesying, performing miracles, guiding judges, etc.
- ⇒ **Church (Birthed at Pentecost):** Believers who make up the church are sealed with the Holy Spirit. He indwells them giving them guidance and comfort always pointing them towards Christ.
- ⇒ **Tribulation Saints:** These individuals are those who come to know Christ during tribulation and are then sealed with the Holy Spirit. The group has two sections:
 1. **The Sealed 144,000:** This group begins with the 144,000 whom God marks with His Name on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1). They are set apart from the world as anointed ones to spread the word about Christ. These 144,000 take the message to the ends of the earth which is evident in the ones they reach.
 2. **The Great Multitude:** This group comes to Christ during Tribulation. Most of them are reached by the 144,000 who are given a special song (more on this in Revelation 14). They make up the group in Revelation 7:9-17. This group is also given white robes and it is possible that after receiving Christ they will be indwelled by the Holy Spirit just as the Church.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

At the end of Chapter 7 John sees an overall view of those who come to Christ during Tribulation. Chronologically, we are near the beginning of tribulation. However, before the last seal is opened and before the beginning of sounding the trumpet judgments, John is shown the great multitude that will come to Christ during this horrendous time.



We have glimpses of hope that are given to us as well. Look back to Romans 8 to answer these questions:

According to Romans 8:18 what does Paul consider about his sufferings?

Who helps us in our weaknesses? Why? How? (Romans 8:26-27)

What do we know about the character of God according to Romans 8:28?

Who has God predestined us to be like according to Romans 8:29?

Because of this predestined likeness, what is the overall view of our lives now and throughout eternity? (Romans 8:30)

The Seventh Seal Broken ~ The First Four Trumpets are Blown

Revelation 8

As the seventh seal is open there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour. In Job 2:13 we read that his friends set in silence with him and did not speak a word for seven days and seven nights. It was their custom to not speak during great grievance and tragedy, such as Job had encountered, until the one who was grieving spoke first. While this was a sign of respect for the one grieving, God is showing us here in Revelation 8 that there is this same type of grieving that will be in heaven after the seals and right before the trumpets are blown. A silence that is broken only by God's answering the prayers of His people.



Silence throughout Scripture: Silence is encouraged throughout Scripture as a way for us to reflect upon God and trust in Him. Look back to these Scriptures to see what they have to say about being quiet/silence/still.

Proverbs 11:12 Psalm 4:4 Exodus 14:13-14 Job 6:24 Psalm 46:10 Isaiah 26:3

Personal Reflection: How have you practiced being still before the Lord and trusting in Him?

Incense mixed with prayers: In Exodus 30:1-3, we see that God had the Israelites make a gold altar for burning incense. They were most likely directed to do so because it was a replica of this altar we read about in Revelation 8:3 which is in heaven. We see here the prayers of God's people are mixed with incense. During Old Testament times incense was burned as a sweet aroma and representation of the prayers of God's people being sent up to heaven.



We have already encountered this bowl of prayers. Look back to Revelation 5:6-8 to refresh your memory. What was taking place then?

Look back to Exodus 19:16-19; Leviticus 16:11-14; and Psalm 141:2. As John had knowledge of these Old Testament events and Israelites' (his people's) interaction with God, how do you think he took in the viewing of the way these prayers were being dealt with in heaven? In what way do you put value on your prayers to God?

Trumpet	Symbol	Result	Scripture
1st	Hail, Fire, Blood	1/3 plants burned	Revelation 8:7
2nd	Like burning mountain	1/3 sea, ships, fish affected	Revelation 8:8-9
3rd	Burning star Wormwood	1/3 fresh water polluted (death)	Revelation 8:10-11
4th	Heavenly bodies struck	1/3 sun, moon, stars darkened	Revelation 8:12
5th	1st Woe - Satan opens pit	Demon-possessed locusts released	Revelation 9:1-12
6th	2nd Woe - 4 fallen angels	Fire, smoke, brimstone (1/3 die)	Revelation 9:13-21
7th	3rd Woe - The 7 Bowls/Vials are opened (<i>This is opened in Revelation 11:15 - 12:12</i>)		



The First Trumpet

*Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.
The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood,
and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the
trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

Revelation 8:6-7

With the first trumpet sound the devastation continues on earth. Falling straight from heaven is hail and fire mixed with blood. All of this results in one-third of the earth being burned up, including the trees and grass. Can you imagine one third of our known world being burned up? What impact would this have?



The Second Trumpet

*The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all
ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of
the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

Revelation 8:8-9

With the second trumpet sound comes one-third of the sea being turned to blood. Consider how important the seas and the sea creatures are to human existence. How would you describe this devastation to our world today which hasn't had the seals already open and the first trumpet blown? In considering we are given a glimpse of what it will be like?



The Third Trumpet

*The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch,
fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water
- the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter,
and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.*

Revelation 8:10-11

Bitterness is physically prevalent throughout the earth when the third trumpet is blown. The source is a star called "Wormwood."

What is Wormwood? Wormwood by it's first definition is a woody shrub of the daisy family with a bitter aromatic taste. By it's second definition it is defined as a state or source of bitterness or grief.



This trumpet brings about physical death by the changing of the water to bitterness. However, bitterness in our own lives can cause us to destroy ourselves spiritually. Look back at these Scriptures and examine what they have to say about bitterness.

Proverbs 20:22 Ephesians 4:29-32 Matthew 6:14-15 Hebrews 12:14-15



The Fourth Trumpet

"The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night."

Revelation 8:12

The sound of the fourth trumpet cuts 1/3 of the light from the heavenly bodies - sun, moon and stars. What role do these heavenly bodies play in the way God created earth to function?

How will this affect those on the earth?

The Three Woes

As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice:

"Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

Revelation 8:13

The last three trumpets are to be so devastating that there is an announcement of their coming. These are referred to as "The Three Woes."



Jesus issued woes during His ministry here on earth. Look back to *Matthew 23:13-29* and consider the woes that He gave then. What were they in regards to?



The Fifth Trumpet (The First Woe)

"The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss."

Revelation 9:1-2

What is this star that is referred to as falling from the sky to the earth? In the third trumpet, the star Wormwood is named as an indication of the bitterness that was brought to the water. Here we have a star falling from the sky that possibly can indicate a description of this fifth trumpet's woe and the direction from which it comes—the Abyss. However, it is most likely an angel that carries the key.



Satan was created as an angel and God cast him out of heaven. Look back to the symbolic description of Satan's fall from heaven described in *Isaiah 14:12-14* and *Ezekiel 28:12-18*. While these two passages are referring specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan.

While Satan symbolically “fell from heaven,” it is unlikely that this star as described in Revelation 9:1 is referring to Satan. It is most likely, since the stars in Revelation 1 are used to describe angels, that this is an angel who has been given the key to open the Abyss. Time wise, Satan’s symbolic fall occurred before the tempting of Adam and Eve. Therefore, John seeing the fall of Satan happening during the Tribulation period is not reasonable.



What is the Abyss or the bottomless pit?

To answer this question let’s look back at a time when Jesus cast out demons in the region of Gerasenes. *Luke 8:26-33.*

TIMING OF SATAN’S FALL

What do we know about *when* Satan “fell from heaven?” The angels were created before the earth (Job 38:4-7). Satan fell before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:1-14). Satan’s fall, therefore, must have occurred somewhere after the time the angels were created and before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Whether Satan’s fall occurred a few minutes, hours, or days before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden, Scripture does not specifically say.

The Abyss is obviously such a horrible place that even the demons did not want to be cast into it. From this place will come unique type demons who will be allowed out as part of God’s judgment and this first woe. Keep an eye out for this Abyss/bottomless pit. It will be referred to at least three other times in Revelation.

The Demons from the Abyss - “The Locust”

And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Revelation 9:3-6

What power does a scorpion have on earth? When Scripture refers to a being having “power like” something on earth, we should examine the power that God created that being to have. The scorpion has power to debilitate a being because when their venom is injected it attacks the nerve cells. This is tormenting to the victim.

What power will this “locust” with power like that of a scorpion be given? God restricts this demonic being by giving it specific instructions. List below what they CANNOT harm?

Of those they can harm, what do they desire after being struck by the being?



The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.
Revelation 9:7-12

The Sixth Trumpet (The Second Woe)

Revelation 9:13-21



Bound angels in Scripture usually refers to demonic beings (2 Peters 2:4). Therefore, the four angels that were released in these Scriptures is most likely referring to demonic angels. These particular ones are obviously "blood thirsty" and desire to kill humans.

They continued to be held and bound from doing so until this time in God's judgment. Two million mounted troops are released with another demonic being that has interesting features.



The harden heart of those who reject the Lord are stated specifically in this Scripture. Here we see how the Lord continues to give chances time after time for the lost to repent and accept His forgiveness. Look back to Deuteronomy 4:28-29. What does this Scripture tell us about seeking God?

A harden heart is not developed overnight. It is a long road that is traveled. Look at James 1:13-15 and fill in the blanks (on the right) as to what "stops" are made on this trip and then it's final destination.

James 1:13-15

...each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own _____ and enticed.

Then, after desire has _____,

it gives birth to _____;

and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to _____.

Personal Reflection:

What desires do you have that lead you to sin?



The Mighty Angel and The Little Book

Revelation 10

This particular angel in Revelation 10 is described as having . . .

... a cloud as clothes.

... a face like the sun.

What could these descriptions mean about this particular angel?

The description continues to bring curiosity with the description of what was in his hand— a little scroll and it was open. Later in this chapter John is instructed to take the scroll and eat it. John describes the book as sweet to the taste and bitter to the belly.



Look back to Jeremiah 15:16. What does this “weeping prophet” have to say about God’s Word? Why did he say they were sweet?

This eating of a scroll has happened before in Scripture. Look back to Ezekiel 2:8 - 3:3. What are the similarities of this account with John’s in Revelation 10? What is the difference?

What things in God’s Word can be sweet upon tasting it, but then bitter when we “digest” it in our lives?

Jesus said . . .

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

This angel has his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth. What might this suggest about what he is proclaiming?



His voice was loud like a roaring lion and seven thunders sounded when he spoke. John was not allowed to write what was uttered by the seven thunders. Similarly, Daniel was told to “seal up” the words he was told about the future. Look back at these accounts in Daniel 8:26 and Daniel 12.

In Revelation 22:10, we will see were these prophecies will ***no longer*** be sealed.



The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:1-14

Two of the most interesting characters in all of biblical prophecy may be the supernatural prophets that burst on the scene during the first half of the Tribulation. According to Revelation 11, these two characters dress in sackcloth, prophesy, dispense astonishing miracles, and witness to the grace of God in the most evil culture known to mankind. There is much speculation as to the identity of the two witnesses.

There are two beliefs as to who these two witnesses will be and a third one which should be considered.

- **Elijah and Enoch:** Many believe that Elijah and Enoch must be the witnesses because they both went to heaven without dying physically. This belief is because of the Scripture in Hebrews 9:27 which states,
“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”
- **Elijah and Moses:** Bible Scholars who believe these witnesses will be Elijah and Moses point out the following:
 - ◊ They are the most influential Hebrew men of their respective times. Moses introduced God’s written Law to Israel, while Elijah was the first of the writing prophets and even started the “school” for the prophets.
 ⇒ Whenever Jews referred to “Moses and Elijah,” they usually meant “the law and the prophets.”
 - ◊ These two men accompanied Jesus at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17)
 - ◊ The miracles that are referred to in Revelation 11 resemble the miracles and plagues done by Moses and Elijah in the Old Testament (Exodus 7-12; 1 Kings 17:1)
- **Two New Witnesses:** There is also the possibility that the witnesses who are mentioned could be neither Elijah, Enoch nor Moses. They could be new characters brought on the scene for this very time.

The actions and purpose of these two witnesses: The two witnesses will be sent to the earth for a particular purpose. Review Revelation 11 to answer these questions:

1. When during tribulation will these two witnesses appear on earth and for how long will they prophesy? (Revelation 11:2-3)
2. How do they defend themselves if anyone tries to harm them? (Revelation 11:4)
3. What type of power do they have? (Revelation 11:6)
4. What happens to them when they have finished their testimony? (Revelation 11:7-8)
5. In what ways do the people disgrace the two witnesses after their death? (Revelation 11:9-11)
6. What happens after they have been dead for 3 1/2 days? (Revelation 11:12-14)



The Seventh Trumpet (The Third Woe)

Revelation 11:15-19

When the seventh trumpet sounds there will be a heavenly declaration of God and His Son, Jesus, will be taking over. However, the sounding of the Trumpet unleashes the seven bowl judgments so the world will still have a way to go.



God has been at work with this goal as to the reign of Christ from the very beginning. Look back to 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 to see how Paul describes these efforts of God.

Worship of the twenty-four elderly is told about once again in Revelation 11:16-17. The announcement that it has come to the time for Jesus' reign to be revealed to the world causes a tremendous reaction in heaven. Satan at this time will stir the anger of the nations. At the same time God's wrath will burn brighter, which will put Satan and Jesus on a collision course. Satan will unite the nations against Jesus. The conflict will come to a head at the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16 ~ the sixth bowl).

In what ways do you see that the nations of this world are already becoming angry against Jesus?

Jesus' wrath or the wrath of God is coming. What do you think of when you hear reference to this event in Scripture?

The Wrath of God in the Book of Revelation:

Description:	Scripture Reference
The wrath of the Lamb	Revelation 6:16
The great day of His wrath	Revelation 6:17
Your wrath has come	Revelation 11:18
The wrath of God	Revelation 15:1
The bowls of the wrath of God	Revelation 16:1
The wine of the fierceness of His wrath	Revelation 16:19
The fierceness and wrath of Almighty God	Revelation 19:15

The temple of God opened in heaven: In Revelation 11:19 we have reference to God's mercy by stating the temple of God was open in heaven and seen in His temple. How does this reveal God's mercy? To whom does this mercy apply?



The Woman, Israel
The Red Dragon, Satan
The Male Child, Christ

Revelation 12:1-6

John sees a vision of a woman "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

The twelve stars on the woman's head refer to the twelve tribes of Israel. The woman represents Israel.

Refer back to Joseph's dream in Genesis 37-9-11.

What do the following represent?

The Sun: _____

The Moon: _____

The Stars: _____

While it is true that Mary gave birth to Jesus, it is also true that Jesus, the son of David from the tribe of Judah, came from Israel. In a sense, Israel gave birth—or brought forth—Christ Jesus. Verse 5 says that the woman's child was "a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne." Clearly, this is describing Jesus. Look back to Psalm 2:7-9. How does it describe Jesus' rule?

A great red dragon, a symbolic of Satan, is the second sign in heaven. He will cause a third of the stars to fall to earth due to rebellion. Who do these stars represent?

What do the ten heads of the dragon represent?

Revelation 12:6 says that the woman (Israel) will flee into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God. It is believed that this place is Petra because of the protection they can obtain there from the mountainous rocks. You may find it of interest to do further research about Petra.

The Angel, Michael wars against Satan

Revelation 12:7-14

Satan will war against God in heaven but God's angel will overpower him, and throw him to earth. There are several judgments of Satan. Some have already been fulfilled and others remain to be fulfilled.

1. He was removed from guarding the throne of God. (Ezekiel 28:14, 16)
2. God placed judgment against him in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:15)
3. He was defeated at the cross. (John 12:31)
4. He will be barred from heaven. (Revelation 12:9)
5. He will be confined to the abyss. (Revelation 20:3)
6. He will be forever in torment in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10)

As each of these judgments past, Satan knows that his time is running out and this infuriates him. Referring to Revelation 12:10-12, what does the voice from heaven say about this event of Satan being thrown out of heaven? What is the woe (or warning) that is given to the earth and sea?

According to Revelation 12:11, what power will the believers have who remain on the earth during this time?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What will Satan do to Israel since he knows he has a short time?
(Rev. 12:13)

What does God do to save Israel? (Rev. 12:14)

A Faithful God:

A woman can forget her nursing child, but God will not forget Israel.	Isaiah 49:14-16
If the sun, moon, and stars stop shining, and the ocean waves stop moving, and someone measures heaven, God will forget Israel.	Jeremiah 31:31-37
God has not cast away Israel.	Romans 11:1-2
God's gifts to Israel (covenants, land, etc.) and His promise to save them are irrevocable.	Romans 11:26-29

SATAN'S PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS

Satan has always persecuted God's people. He especially hates the Jews because Jesus was a Jew. He and his demons will come to the earth with great wrath, but God will have Israel flee into the mountainous desert before they arrive.

There are many biblical examples of those who waged war against Israel. Below are examples of recent history.

Recent History Examples Jewish Persecution:

- The Holocaust.
- Special taxes were imposed on Jews by Europeans during the Middle Ages.
- They were placed in ghettos during the Middle ages in Europe.
- They were driven out of Spain in 1492.
- In the 1800s, Poland and Russia killed them in massacres called pogroms.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."
For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.*

Psalm 122:6-9



The Beast out of the Sea

Revelation 13:1-10

As if the call was for enter stage right, John sees the dragon standing on the shore of the sea and then a beast comes out of the sea. This beast is described as follows. Write down the symbolization for each.

Ten Horns and Seven Heads: *Refer back to Daniel 7.*

On each head was a blasphemous name:

Resembled a Leopard:

Had Feet like those of a Bear:

A mouth like that of a Lion:

One of the heads had a fatal wound that had been healed:

ATTRIBUTES OF THE ANTICHRIST'S PERSONALITY

Scripture reveals these attributes or characteristics of the Antichrist's personality:

- He will be an intellectual genius.
(Daniel 8:23)
- He will be an oratorical genius.
(Daniel 1:36)
- He will be a political genius.
(Revelation 17:11-12)
- He will be a commercial genius.
(Daniel 11:43; Revelation 13:16-17)
- He will be a military genius.
(Revelation 6:2; 13:2)
- He will be a religious genius.
(2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 3:8)
- He will emerge from a reunited Roman Empire. (Daniel 7:8; 9:26)

The power of the beast.

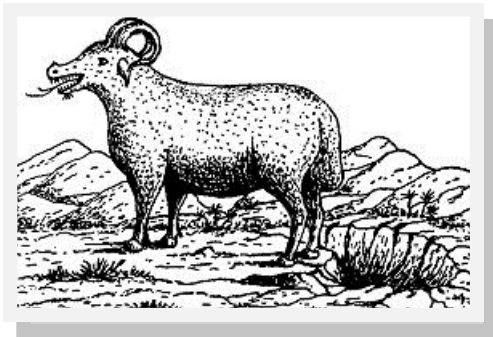
Who gives this beast power?

What will he be given power to do?

Because of this power the beast will have over the inhabitants of the earth verses 9-10 gives this warning.

*Whoever has ears, let them hear.
If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go.
If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance
and faithfulness on the part of God's people.*

Revelation 13:9-10



The Beast out of the Earth

Revelation 13:11-18

Next on the scene, as if the call was for enter stage left, we have the beast out of the earth. The symbolization here is of a lamb. Why do you think this is so?

What authority will this beast exercise? (v. 12)

What will it make the inhabitants of the earth do?

What will it perform? (v. 13)

What will this performance do? (v. 14)

What will it force all people to do so they can buy or sell?

Jesus told us in regards to end times . . .

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:24

Reasons for the Mark of the Beast ~ 666

1. To counterfeit the mark God will give the 144,000 Jews.
2. To extend favors to those who support the world government.
3. To identify and eliminate opposition to the world government.
4. To track and control commerce.
5. To force people to stop worshiping God.
6. To force people to worship the Antichrist.
7. To permanently tie people to the kingdom of the Antichrist.



The Great Harvest

Revelation 14

Chapter 14 continues to discuss peoples, nations, languages and kings that will exist during Tribulation Period. There is more to learn about the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the Tribulation Saints, the city of Jerusalem and those who take the mark of the Beast. Further understanding of Armageddon and Babylon is also referred to in Revelation 14.

The Lamb and The 144,000

Revelation 14:1-5

The 144,000 will stand with Jesus on Mount Zion and sing a new song since they will be redeemed from the earth and offered as firstfruits. These are also the ones who will keep themselves pure during the Tribulation.

Characteristics of the 144,000:

Characteristic	Reason
They stand with Jesus on Mount Zion.	They are victorious with Jesus.
They are marked on their foreheads.	They have the name of Jesus' Father.
They understand the heavenly new song.	They understand because of their trials.
They kept themselves pure.	They avoid immorality and idolatry.
They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.	They abide in His presence.
They are purchased from among men.	They are bought with the blood of Jesus.
They are offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb	They are the first Jews saved during the Tribulation.
No deceit was found in their mouths.	They are faithful and true.



The Three Angels

Revelation 14:6-13

There will be three angels who will further the spreading of the gospel and warn those from going wrong. We see in Revelation 7 that the 144,000 Jewish evangelists were sealed and will proclaim the message of God's salvation. Here we see a continual merciful hand of God as He will send further proclamation through angels. Angels were created for the purpose of being His messengers and performing His will. Throughout Scripture we see how God uses them when He wants the exact message of His will proclaimed. This case is no different. God wants the world to understand His offer of salvation through Christ fully before the end of time.



When we look back to Galatians 1:8-9 we see that the proclaiming of God's gospel by angels is not unusual.

Look back to Jesus' Words in Matthew 24:9-14. What does it say will happen before the end will come?

The First Angel (Revelation 14:6-7): An angel will fly through the air proclaiming the gospel to all the earth's inhabitants and warning them that the hour of God's judgment is near.



Look back to Matthew 24:14. What does Jesus say about the gospel?

Wanting no one to perish (2 Peter 3:9), God makes sure that the gospel is proclaimed throughout the earth. At this point in Scripture, people have two choices (1) believe the Antichrist, believe his lie, and worship him, or (2) fear God alone and give him all the glory.

The Second Angel (Revelation 14:8): This angel will follow the first angel and proclaim the fall of Babylon because she caused the nations of the earth to sin.

Babylon is known as the city of Satan because of its long history of idolatry, astrology, witchcraft, and other occult practices. It is the birthplace of many false doctrines and religions such as goddess worship. The ancient city died out many centuries ago, but during the 1980s and 1990s Saddam Hussein poured hundreds of millions of dollars into rebuilding it. Based off of this Scripture, it is believed that the rebuilt city will become a great center of religion and trade during the Tribulation Period. It is also believed that the False Prophet will locate the headquarters of his false religion there.

**Read more
about the falls of
Babylon in
Isaiah 13:1-14:27
& Jeremiah 50-51**

Fallen, fallen: ~ It is believed that the word "fallen" is repeated twice to indicate two separate falls or judgments. (1) The false religion system itself. (2) The physical fall of the city when it is burned to the ground in one hour. We will see more about this in chapter 17.

Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication ~ This is a reference to the force of false religion upon all the world.

The Third Angel (Revelation 14:9-12): This angel will follow the first two and warn the people of earth to not worship the Antichrist or receive his mark. Those who do follow the Antichrist will suffer God's fury forever.

Two Harvest of the Earth

Revelation 14:14-20

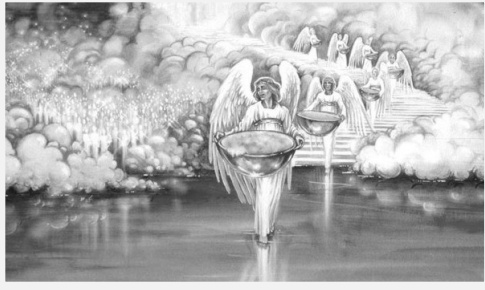
Two harvests of the earth will occur. The first one will be by Christ and the second by the angel who will throw his harvest into the winepress of God's wrath.



Look back to Matthew 13:39-42. How did Jesus describe this time of harvest when He was here on earth?

Revelation 14:15 refers to the fact that the harvest of the earth is ripe. The Greek word for "ripe," *xeraino* (xay-rah'-ee-no) means "totally ripe, rotten, or withered." When this Scripture says that "the harvest of the earth is ripe" it is showing us that God will withhold His judgment until the last minute. When his judgment falls, the Church will have been raptured, most of the Tribulation Saints and Jews will have been martyred, and the world will be totally corrupt. No one will be able to truthfully claim that Jesus acted too soon.

The two harvests of the earth will occur. The first one will be by Christ and the second by an angel who will throw his harvest into the winepress of God's wrath.



Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

Revelation 15

Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in Revelation. Most scholars believe it should be combined with the next chapter because it is the introduction to the seven bowl judgments of Chapter 16. It predicts what will go on in heaven just before the final judgments fall.



Refer back to Revelation 4:6. How does this sea of glass change in Revelation 15:2? What does this indicate in regards to the time of God's judgment?

Angels clothing: The angels who came out of the temple were clothed with pure bright linen, and golden bands around their chests. What do you think these would indicate?

Pure Bright Linen:

Golden Bands around their Chests:

How are these contrary to our concept of angels?

The temple was filled with smoke . . . Revelation 15:8 states that the temple was filled with smoke. Compare this to Isaiah's description in Isaiah 6:1-6. What do you think this smoke indicates?

The Seven Bowls

Revelation 16

Bowl	Result	Scripture
First	Foul and loathsome sores on the followers of the Antichrist.	Revelation 16:2
Second	Sea turns to blood and kills every living creature in it.	Revelation 16:3
Third	Rivers and Springs turn to blood to avenge saints and prophets.	Revelation 16:4-7
Fourth	Sun scorches people; they blaspheme God and refuse to repent.	Revelation 16:8-9
Fifth	Dark over land of Antichrist, great pain, sores, no repentance.	Revelation 16:10-11
Sixth	Euphrates River dries up; armies gathered for Armageddon.	Revelation 16:12-14
Seventh	Greatest Earthquake, islands moved, mountains disappear, hail	Revelation 16:17-21

In review of the above judgments administered by the "bowls," consider how they are different than the ones that have already been administered via "seals" and "trumpets?"



The Prostitute on the Beast

Revelation 17

John is taken by an angel to be shown “the punishment of the great prostitute.” He is taken away in the Spirit into the wilderness and he sees a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. Continue listing below the descriptions of her and the beast. (Revelation 17:3-6)

TIMEFRAME

Starting with Revelation 17, it is believed that John has been taken back in timeframe to describe another aspect about what will happen in regards to the Great Tribulation—the last 3 1/2 years of the seven year tribulation. Therefore, this is a description of what is going on at the same time of the seven bowl judgments.

This overall description of the Prostitute on the Beast is a description of the world system and how corrupt it will be as it is being run by Satan. It is described as “Babylon the Great.” Babylon is represented in the Scriptures as the evil one who captured God’s people and, therefore, symbolically here represents the same.

The angel continues to explain to John that the woman and her seven heads and ten horns represent the overall rule of the earth during Tribulation times. Refer back to Revelation 13 (or page 47 of this workbook) for a tie in to this from when we saw the Beast of the Sea.

The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18

In Revelation 18 the angel shows John that Babylon will fall because of the great lust of evil. Babylon at this state represents the whole world. Therefore, at some point God will call His people, who came to Him after Rapture and during Tribulation, to come out of her so that they will not share in the judgments for her sins. In what ways does this Scripture say they will be judged? (Revelation 18:4-8)

Threefold Woe over Babylon’s Fall

In Revelation 18:9-24, there are three woes that are given over Babylon’s Fall. List them below

1.

2.

3.

Threefold Hallelujah Over Babylon's Fall

Revelation 19

The Fall of Babylon brings an outpour of praises from heaven. List below what they were praising the Lord for and who was doing the praising. (Revelation 19:1-8)

Write Revelation 19:9 below:

Are you invited to the Wedding Supper?

Jesus Defeats the Beast—The Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 19:11-21



Refer back to Revelation 16:12-20. This is the mention of the Battle of Armageddon. In Revelation 19:11-21 we have a more descriptive detail of what will happen.

How is Jesus described? What is written on His robe and on His thigh? (v. 11-16)

Who were following the Rider of the white horse? (v. 14)

What was coming out of the Rider's (Jesus') mouth? (v. 15)

What were the birds called together to do? (v. 17-18)

Who gathered together to wage war against the Rider of the horse? (v. 19)

Which two beings were captured? (v. 20)

How were the rest killed? (v. 21)

The Thousand Years

Revelation 20:1-6

After the Battle of Armageddon an angel appears and the Millennium begins.

What happens to Satan during this time? Will this be forever? (v. 1-3)

Who were the ones who reigned with Christ during the Millennium? (v. 4, 6)

Who *did not* come to life until the end of the Millennium? (v. 5)

The Judgment of Satan

Revelation 20:7-10

After the Millennium is over, Satan is released from his prison. What does he do after being released? (v. 7-8a)

How many did Satan gather for battle? (v. 8b)

How were they defeated? (v. 9)

What happened to Satan? Will he return again? (v. 10)

The Judgment of the Dead ~ The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

Once Satan is finally judged and thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, it is time for *the dead* to be judged. Who is it that sits in judgment over the dead? (v. 11)

Who are *the dead* referring to and what was used to judge them? (v. 12)

What was the ultimate punishment for those whose names were not recorded in the book of life? (v. 13-15)

The Great White Throne Judgment is for those who do not believe in Christ. They will be judged by their works and ultimately will not live up to the righteousness of Christ. Because they do not have their name written in the book of life, they have no payment for their sins and will have to suffer the second death - the lake of fire. In what ways does this inspire you to witness of Christ's salvation?

A New Heaven and New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8

After living in our world today and after experiencing this study on how this world will become worse and be pure evil, it is hard to imagine a new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21 gives us a glimpse of what it will be like in the future. A future well worth dreaming about because it will come to fruition. How do these Scriptures describe the new heaven and new earth? (v. 1-8)

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-27

The description continues with a detailed explanation of the new Jerusalem. How does the angel describe this new Jerusalem? (v. 9)

Where did this new Jerusalem come from? (v. 10)

How did John describe the look of the new Jerusalem? (v. 11-21)

What four things were *not* in the new Jerusalem? Why?

1. (v. 22)

2. (v. 23)

3. (v. 25)

4. (v. 27)

Who will be able to enter the new Jerusalem? (v. 27b)

The Restoration of Eden

Revelation 22:1-5



Look back at Genesis 2:4-17 to review when God first planted the Garden of Eden. What did he place there and what was God's intentions at that time?

As we read Revelation 22:1-5 we see that God is restoring His perfect will by restoring Eden. What is the one thing this new restored Eden will not have? (v. 3)

What is the most magnificent thing about this new restored Eden? (v. 4-5)

Revelation's Closing and Final Warning

Revelation 22:6-21

John attests that these words were true given to him by the Lord. How is one blessed in regards to these words? (v. 7)

Why does the angel tell John not to seal up the words of prophecy? (v. 10-11)

Who is the one who is coming soon? (v. 12-13)

Those who wash their robes will be blessed. How does one wash their robes? (v. 14)

What is the warning that is given and who is being warned? (v. 18-19)

Our Lord is coming to redeem His people and pass judgment upon the world and Satan. How have you been living in this truth? Have you been sharing this fact throughout your life? Do you share it by the way you live and the words you speak? Do the words you speak match the way you live? It is my hopes that this study has brought not only a better understanding of God's love and judgment to come, but an urgency within you to live more like Christ—testifying of His undying love for all and witnessing to the salvation He brings!

In Christ's Love,
Kelly Dixon



Ladies for Jesus ministry desires to inspire and equip all Christian women to deepen our walk with Christ; to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to Him; and to delight in our intimate relationship with Him. We hope that we have inspired you through fellowship, music and message to deepen your walk with Christ.

The entire ***Ladies for Jesus*** Leadership Team is made up of ladies who deeply love the Lord and want to experience Him more. They will inspire you as they share their gifts and life experiences with Christ. During our group sessions this team will spiritually grow along with you as they lead you in exploring the retreat's topic at a deeper level. The group sessions have been described as "fabulous" and "life changing." You definitely don't want to miss what the Lord has for us to explore in these retreats!

Check out the other Bible Studies Kelly Dixon has written for Ladies for Jesus on www.ladiesforJesus.com. Ladies for Jesus retreat topics are also located on the website. Please email retreats@ladiesforJesus.com if you would like to book a Ladies for Jesus retreat.