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# REVELATION

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

**ANDREW M. DAVIS**

**Revelation**  
**Bible Study Questions**

**By**  
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Published by Two Journeys  
414 Cleveland St,  
Durham, NC 27701  
[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Printed in the United States of America

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ISBN: 979-8-9892332-2-9 (print)

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## Preface to the Reader

One of the most important elements of a healthy Christian life is regular study of God's word. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19:7-8 that *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."* I yearn for Christians to reap the rich benefits of scripture study, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God's word through directly engaging with the biblical text. This is why I have chosen to publish Bible Study Questions instead of commentaries. There are many valuable commentaries to help aid your study of scripture, and I recommend using them. For guidance on commentaries visit [www.bestcommentaries.com](http://www.bestcommentaries.com).

However, the focus of this book is to engage you, the reader, and to challenge you to answer relevant questions based on the scripture. I have in mind three types of users for this book: First, group Bible studies. Most of these questions were written for my weekly men's Bible study. I recommend that the leader use this resource to prepare beforehand, reading all the questions and picking only five to seven for discussion. Twenty questions would certainly be a lot of material to discuss! For the Bible study, each participant could have a copy to follow along. Second, sermon preparation. Asking questions of the text can be very helpful for understanding the flow and point of a passage of scripture. Third, personal Bible study. Again, you can gain valuable insights by asking questions of the text.

My hope for these Bible study questions is that they would encourage and facilitate Christians' gathering together to study God's word. One day, as Habakkuk 2:14 says, *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Critical to this prophecy in Habakkuk is our *knowing* about the glory of God, and this is best achieved through the study of the Bible. So, let's do our part!

I challenge you, reader, to ask some friends, colleagues, classmates, or fellow church members to join you for a Bible study. Ask God to open your eyes to understand the scripture (Psalm 119:18) and step out in faith to spread the knowledge of the glory of God. May this book enrich your study of God's living and active word (Hebrews 4:12) and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless your Bible studies!

## Summary of Revelation

The Book of Revelation is the climactic end to the canon of scripture, the indispensable final word of the Holy Spirit to the human race. The word “revelation” comes from the Greek word “*apocalypsis*,” meaning “unveiling.” The book unveils invisible realities that God deeply desires his people to know, especially the hidden glories of Christ and the mysteries of the future.

First, the Book of Revelation unveils the glories of Christ as the resurrected Lord of heaven and earth, and as the coming conqueror of all the forces of wickedness that oppress his precious people. Whereas in his first coming, Christ is displayed as meek and lowly, having no beauty or majesty that we should desire him, in his second coming, Christ is revealed as a warrior riding before the armies of heaven with a double-edged sword coming out of his mouth with which to slaughter all his enemies. In the meantime, Christ is revealed as our resurrected and glorified High Priest, with a white robe and a golden sash, ministering directly among the seven golden lampstands—representing all local churches throughout all time. The final display of the glories of Christ is in the new heaven and new earth, and in the new Jerusalem, which are radiantly illuminated by him and by God, for all eternity.

Second, the Book of Revelation unveils the **mysteries of the future**, especially the cataclysmic events immediately preceding the second coming and the end of the world. The steps toward the end are marked by three series of seven—seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Heaven initiates these sevens, but it is the earth that feels the devastating effects of each. They represent the judgments of God on a wicked human race, including ecological disasters such as the world has never yet seen. They culminate in a time of tribulation so horrific that only the direct intervention of Christ once again into the world can save his people.

Central to the message of the Book of Revelation is the terrible wickedness of the enemies of Christ, culminating in the reign of the beast from the sea (the Antichrist) and his terrible persecutions on all who refuse to worship him as God. This final form of rebellious human government and idolatrous human religion is destroyed by the splendor of Christ’s coming and the breath of his mouth, his word of judgment.

The final glories of the eternal state, the new heaven and new earth, and the new Jerusalem, are presented briefly, powerfully, and radiantly, in the final two chapters of the Bible. They give vital details to our hope for a world in which there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

The Book of Revelation promises blessing on all who study its complex words and take to heart its powerful truths. May the Lord use this booklet of discussion questions to help deliver that blessing.

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## REVELATION 1:1-20

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the reading and understanding of the Book of Revelation is so essential to the Christian life? Why is a blessing promised to anyone who reads and takes to heart what is written there (Revelation 1:3)?
2. What does this chapter teach us about the risen Christ?
3. What does this chapter teach us about God's purposes in history?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the word "*revelation*" (as in English, so also in Greek, the word literally means "unveiling")? Who/what is unveiled? How was he/it "veiled" before? What is the nature of this "unveiling"? (1)
2. What does verse 1 teach you about the origin of the Book of Revelation? What does it teach you about how it was transmitted, like a relay race? (1)
3. What is the significance of John's assertion that he "*testifies to everything he saw*"? How is his testimony "*the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ*"? (2)
4. John MacArthur says the Book of Revelation is the only book in the Bible that begins with a promise of blessing for everyone who reads it and takes to heart its words.<sup>1</sup> What is the blessing inherent in reading and taking it to heart?
5. What do you make of the statement "*the time is near*"? Note that the book ends with three similar statements from Jesus Christ, "*Surely, I am coming soon*" (22:7, 12, 20), and the same message is given in 2:12 and 3:11. Since it has been 19 centuries since this book was written, what do you make of this? (3)
6. The greeting in these verses is like many of the letters in the New Testament: John identifies himself as the author, he identifies the churches he's writing to, and he says, "*Grace to you and peace...*" as Paul usually does in his epistles. What is unique about John's greeting, however, in verses 4-5? From whom is the grace given in these verses?
7. What does John say about each member of the Trinity in verses 4-5?
8. To whom is the book dedicated in verses 5-6? What does John say Christ has accomplished for us? (5-6)
9. Verse seven introduces the main theme of Revelation: the second coming of Jesus Christ. How does John introduce this theme? Compare verse seven with Daniel 7:13, John 19:34, 37, and Zechariah 12:10. What do these parallel verses teach you about the second coming of Christ? (7)
10. What is the significance of the fact that "*every eye will see him*"? How does that relate to faith, which is "*the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1)? (7)
11. What is the significance of the title, "*Alpha and Omega*"? What does it teach you about God? What does it teach you about history? The term, "Alpha and Omega," also appears in Revelation 21:6 and 22:12-13. In Revelation 22:12-13 it is clearly referring to Jesus Christ. Here it is referring to "*the Lord God*" who most commentators say is God the Father. This is especially poignant in that



the phrase, “*who is and who was and who is to come,*” is used of God the Father in verse four, in Revelation 4:8, and in 11:16-17. What does that phrase mean? What does this teach you about Christ if the same descriptions are used of him? (8)

12. What is the importance of verses 9-20 in the Book of Revelation?
13. How do these verses relate to the phrase, “*the Revelation of Jesus Christ,*” with which John began the book? (9-20)
14. Why do you think John never mentions himself in the Gospel of John (calling himself “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*”) but mentions himself four times in Revelation (1:1, 1:4, 1:9, and 22:8)? Commenting on Revelation 1:9 and 22:8, “*I, John*”, MacArthur says: “It’s almost as if he’s saying, ‘Can you believe this? I, John, saw this. Me.’”<sup>2</sup> How would you feel if God had chosen you to see these visions? (9)
15. How does John describe himself in verse 9? What does this teach you about the Christian life?
16. Why was John on the island of Patmos? (9)
17. What are the circumstances of John’s receiving this revelation?
18. What begins the entire encounter? (10)
19. What is John commanded to do? (11)
20. What did John see when he turned around? What is the significance of the seven golden lampstands? (12)
21. What does he call Christ? Why do you think he uses the term, “*one like a son of man*”? See Daniel 7:13-14. How do you know for certain that it is Christ in his vision? (see verse 18). (13)
22. Where is Christ in the vision? (13)
23. What details of description does John give of the risen Christ? What does this teach about the glory of Christ? What is the significance of the symbols?
24. What was John’s reaction to seeing Christ? Why did he react this way?
25. How does Jesus show his tender love for John at that terrifying moment? See also Christ’s tenderness with his disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:6-7).
26. What does Jesus say about himself to John? What do these statements teach you about Christ in his resurrection power and heavenly glory? (17-18)
27. What does it mean when he says, “*I hold the keys of death and Hades*”?
28. Some scholars say that verse 19 is the key to the whole book of Revelation, like Acts 1:8 in tracing out an outline for Revelation: “What you have seen” is Revelation 1, “What is now” is Revelation 2-3 (the letters to the seven churches), and “What is yet to come” is chapter 22. What is your opinion? (19)
29. How does Jesus explain the “mystery” of the vision to John in verse 20?
30. What is the significance of the fact that the seven stars are in Jesus’ right hand?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John introduces and dedicates the whole book and records the incredible vision of Christ that was the basis of the book.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How would the details of this chapter help you put sin to death in your own life?
2. How would they empower you to evangelize?

## Christ's Letters to the Churches: Ephesus

### REVELATION 2:1-7

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How should modern churches approach the reading of these letters to the seven churches?
2. What is the central lesson of the church of Ephesus? Of Smyrna?
3. How does the idea of Christ making detailed assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of particular local churches affect your view of the Christian life? Of your own life?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the "*angel of the church in Ephesus*"? What does this mean? (1)
2. Who is speaking to the church in Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7? Why is this significant for us? (1)
3. Why does Christ emphasize his words in every case? What does this teach you about the power and necessity of the word in the life of a church? (1)
4. How does Christ describe himself to the church at Ephesus? What image does this description give you? (1)
5. What is the significance of the fact that Christ "*holds the seven stars in his right hand*"? Or that he "*walks among the seven golden lampstands*"?
6. What is the significance of Christ's repeated statement to the churches, "*I know...*" followed by something specific about that church? (2)
7. What positive assessment does Christ make of the church in Ephesus? How does this assessment challenge you personally? (2)
8. Why is it important for a church not to tolerate wicked men? Aren't Christians supposed to be tolerant? (2)
9. What does the fact that the church at Ephesus is able to "*test those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false*" teach you about that church? (2)
10. What is commendable about the church at Ephesus in verse 3? What does it show you about them? (3)
11. What does the fact that Christ still has something against this church show you about Christ? (4)
12. What does he have against this church? What does it mean that they have "*forsaken their first love*"? How does this happen to an individual or a church? (4)
13. What is the significance of the word "*forsaken*"? What does it show you about what happened? (4)
14. What does "*first love*" mean? Note the use of the word "first" also in verse 5, "*Repent and do the things you did at first.*" (4-5)
15. What remedy does Christ give the church for this problem, and what three words would you use to sum up the three steps of remedy?
16. What is the "*height from which you have fallen*"? What does it show you about danger in the Christian life? (5)

17. Martin Luther's first of the 95 Theses was, "When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said 'Repent', he called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." How is that proven out by his command to the church at Ephesus? (5)
18. What were the first works the church had done? How do works relate to love? (5)
19. What warning does Christ give them if they will not repent? Does Christ actually "*remove lampstands*" from their place in church history? (5)
20. Who are the Nicolaitans? What commendation does Christ give them about this heretical group? (6)
21. What is the significance of the repeated phrase, "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*"? (7)
22. What is the significance of the repeated phrase, "*To him who overcomes, I will give*"?
23. What specific reward does Christ promise? (7)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

Christ speaks directly to the church at Ephesus, commending them for their hard work, doctrinal purity, and perseverance. However, he rebukes them for "forsaking their first love." He urges them to "remember, repent, and do," to recover their earlier lofty spiritual position.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

What steps can we take if we feel we have forsaken our first love, as those in Ephesus had?

## Letters to the Churches: Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira

### REVELATION 2:8-29

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do the letters to these three churches teach you about modern spiritual threats to the church?
2. Why does Christ tell the suffering church of Smyrna that they are “rich”?
3. What is the main problem with the church at Pergamum? How is it like the problem in the church at Thyatira? How is it like the church in America?
4. What does the fact that spiritual fruit and great faithfulness can coexist with such sin in one local congregation show you about the nature of the Christian life and church?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Christ describe himself in his letter to the church at Smyrna? (8)
2. Why do you think Christ emphasizes his triumph over death to this persecuted church?
3. What does Christ “know” about this church? How does he describe their suffering? (9)
4. How can a church be both poor and rich at the same time? See Laodicea—Revelation 3:17. (9)
5. Who was slandering the church at Smyrna? What does it mean that the Jews were a “*synagogue of Satan*”? Is this an antisemitic statement? Compare it with Christ’s assessment of his Jewish enemies in John 8:44. (9)
6. On what basis does Christ tell this church not to fear what they are about to suffer? (10)
7. What does verse 10 teach you about the role of the devil in persecution? How does the persecution “test” (literally “try”, “prove”) Christians? How does it relate to Job 1:12, 2:6, and Luke 22:31? (10)
8. What is the significance of the expression “*ten days*”? Do you take this literally or figuratively? See Daniel 1:12. (10)
9. What does Jesus mean, “*Be faithful, even to death*”? See also Matthew 10:22, 24:13, and Romans 8:36. How can we prepare for such a trial? (10)
10. What is the “*crown of life*” which he will give the faithful? See James 1:12. For the idea of crowns as rewards, see 1 Corinthians 9:25, Philippians 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 2 Timothy 4:8, and 1 Peter 5:4. See also the command to protect your crown (Revelation 3:11) and the elders laying down their crowns (Revelation 4:10).
11. What final encouragement does Christ give to this suffering church? Why do you think the reward speaks of freedom from the “*second death*”? Why would this be especially encouraging to a church facing extreme persecution? What is the second death? See Revelation 20:6,14 and 21:8.
12. How does Christ describe himself to this church? What does this description teach you about Christ? Why do you think he chose that description to give to this particular church? (12)

13. What does Christ single out about this church at Pergamum? How does he describe their circumstance? (13)
14. What do you think Satan's "*throne*" teaches you about him? See also the royal language of Satan's "*kingdom*" in many different patterns: "*his kingdom*" (Matthew 12:26), "*ruler of the kingdom of the air*" (Ephesians 2:2), and "*rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*" (Ephesians 6:12). See also Colossians 1:16 and 2:15. (13)
15. What does Christ commend in this church, even though they lived where Satan has his throne? What does it mean that they remained "*true to his name*"? How would one not remain true to Christ? See Mark 8:38. (13)
16. Who was Antipas? Why does Christ mention him as a form of commendation for this church? When one of God's servants is put to death, what could that do to the rest? (13)
17. What does Christ have against this church? Why? (14-15)
18. Review the story of Balaam in Numbers 22-24 and Peter's scathing denunciation of him in 2 Peter 2:15. What does Christ bring up about Balaam and apply to this church? (14)
19. Assuming the Nicolaitans were of the same sort as the Balaamites, what is the problem this church was facing? How can the grace of God be changed into a license for sin? See Jude 4. (14-15)
20. What should the church have done about these people in their midst, since Jesus has this against the whole church, "*I have this against you...*" (vs. 14)?
21. What does Christ command? What does he threaten? (16)
22. What does Christ offer to any who overcome? How do you understand these gifts? (17)
23. How does Christ describe himself to the church at Thyatira? What is the significance of these descriptions? (18)
24. What good things does he have to say about this church? Are these significant commendations? (19)
25. What is the significance of the church at Thyatira now doing more than at first? How would you contrast that with the church at Ephesus? See Revelation 2:4-5. (19)
26. What significant problem exists at Thyatira? What does it mean that this church "*tolerates that woman Jezebel*"? See 1 Kings 16:31, 18:4, 19:1-2, 21:1-26, and 2 Kings 9:1-37. (20)
27. America desires to be known as a "tolerant" country, and many churches in America desire to be known for their tolerance. Why is Jesus so against the tolerance of Jezebel here? What does it teach you about what Christ expects from his church? (20)
28. What is the significance of the fact the Thyatira's Jezebel calls herself a "*prophetess*"? What was she teaching God's people? (20)

29. Verse 21 is a very important verse to explain why Christ doesn't deal immediately with sin. What does this verse teach you about the patience of Christ? See Romans 2:4. (21)
30. How does the "punishment fit the crime" in verse 22? Does the punishment of killing "*her children*" and making those who commit adultery with her "*suffer intensely*" seem harsh for Christ to do? How do you explain it? What does it show you about him? (22-23)
31. What does Christ say is the goal of this severe discipline? (23)
32. How is verse 23 a strong inducement to personal holiness?
33. What does Christ say to the rest of Thyatira's church members? What are Satan's so-called deep secrets? (24-25)
34. What does it mean to, "*Hold on to what you have until I come*"? See Revelation 3:11 and Philippians 3:12-14. (25)
35. What does Christ promise "*him who overcomes and does my will to the end*"? (26-28)
36. How does Christ promise to give authority to Christians? See Daniel 7:22, 27. What is the "morning star"?

### III. SUMMARY:

The glorified Lord Jesus Christ gives specific letters to three different churches: to Smyrna, the persecuted church; to Pergamum, the church struggling for and with the truth; and to Thyatira, the growing church that tolerates sin.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. What is the significance of the fact the Lord had not a single bad thing to say about the church at Smyrna that was suffering persecution? What does that teach you about going through extreme suffering? What does it tell you about our experience in comfortable America?
2. What common sins face the churches at Pergamum and Thyatira that also face the churches in America today? What warning do you derive from these letters?
3. In what ways do you think American Christians underestimate the seriousness of sexual sin?

# Letters to the Churches: Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea

## REVELATION 3:1-22

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the main lesson of the church at Sardis?
2. How does it speak to us today?
3. What is the main lesson of the church at Philadelphia? How does it speak to us today?
4. What is the main lesson of the church at Laodicea? How does it speak to us today?
5. John Stott says the church at Laodicea characterizes the modern church in the West more than any other letter.<sup>3</sup> Do you agree? How should we respond to this severe criticism?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Christ identify himself to this church? (1)
2. What does it mean that Christ holds the “*seven spirits of God*” in his hand? What do the “*seven stars*” represent (see Revelation 1:20), and what is the significance of Christ holding them in his hand? (1)
3. What is Christ’s overall assessment of this church? (1)
4. What is significant about Christ’s assessment of this church, following his usual pattern of saying, “*I know your deeds*”? Why is Christ so negative about it?
5. Discuss the theme of hypocrisy, of appearing better than we are as Christians. Why is this “appearance vs. reality” issue so vital for the church today? (1)
6. What is a “*dead*” church? How is it characterized today?
7. What do you make of the command, “*Wake up!*”? If a church is a dead church, how can they live again? (2)
8. What does the further command, “*Strengthen what remains and is about to die,*” teach you about this dead church? What does it teach you about the critical moment in time that they faced? (2)
9. What does the phrase, “*I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God,*” imply? What does God consider complete? See Ephesians 2:10 and James 2:14-26.
10. What three commands does Christ give to cure them of their deadness? (3)
11. What, specifically, are they to “*remember*”? See Hebrews 2:1. (3)
12. What threat does Christ give if they do not wake up? What is the significance of this threat? (3)
13. What does verse four teach you about the church at Sardis? How does it relate to his command in verse two, “*Strengthen what remains and is about to die*”? (4)
14. What does it mean not to soil our clothes? What is the reward given to those who keep their clothes from being soiled? See James 1:27, “*pollution.*” (4)
15. What is promised to “*him who overcomes*”? What is the significance of the promise that they will be “*dressed in white*”? See Revelation 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9-14, and 19:14 for further references to white clothes. Revelation 7:14 explains how the robes are made white. (5)



16. The promise, *“I will never blot out his name from the book of life,”* is a powerful one. What does it mean? Does it teach that some people will be blotted out from the book of life? (5)
17. Can you imagine Jesus acknowledging your name before the Father and the holy angels? What does that mean to you (Matthew 10:32)?
18. What is the overall lesson from the church at Sardis?
19. How does Christ describe himself to the church at Philadelphia?
20. What is Christ claiming when he says he *“holds the key of David,”* and that what he shuts no one can open, and what he opens no one can shut? See Isaiah 22:22. What attribute of Christ is most pronounced here? (7)
21. After saying (as usual), *“I know your deeds,”* what does he tell them? What is the significance of the *“open door”*? See Acts 14:26-27, 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, 2 Corinthians 2:12, and Colossians 4:3. What do these “open doors” refer to? See also Matthew 7:7-8, Revelation 3:20, and 4:1 (8)
22. When Christ says, *“I know you have little strength,”* what does this teach you? (8)
23. Despite their small strength, what have they accomplished for Christ? (8)
24. What is the *“synagogue of Satan”*? See Revelation 2:9 and John 8:37-44. What does Christ say he will do to these people? (9)
25. What else does he promise in verse 10? What does he say is the basis of his promise to them? Do you think this verse teaches a pretribulation rapture of the church? It is, for some people, the strongest verse on that. (10)
26. Again and again Christ promises, *“I am coming soon.”* Why does he make that promise so frequently? What should the effect be on Christians? (11)
27. How do you interpret, *“Hold on to what you have, lest anyone take your crown”*? (11)
28. What does Christ promise to the one who overcomes? This language is very reminiscent of the temple in the Old Testament and of Isaiah’s promise of adorning Zion in Isaiah 60:1-14. Please see also the incredibly similar promise made to faith-filled eunuchs in Isaiah 56:4-7. Note that both passages highlight God’s work among Gentiles! (12)
29. What is the overall message to the church at Philadelphia?
30. How does Christ describe himself to this dreadfully disappointing church at Laodicea? (14)
31. What does it mean when Christ says, *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot”*? (15)
32. Why do you think he says, *“I wish you were one or the other”*? If “hot” is good and “cold” is bad (or vice versa), why would he wish they were something bad?
33. What does it mean to be “on fire for Christ”? See Romans 12:11 and Jesus’ example in John 2:14-17.
34. What is so dangerous about being lukewarm? Why is it better never to have heard about Christ than to be lukewarm after having thoroughly been instructed in the gospel? See 2 Peter 2:20-22.
35. What does Christ threaten this lukewarm church? (16)

36. How does 3:17 give terrifying insight into what made this church lukewarm?
37. What advice does Jesus give to this church in verse 18? How does this advice connect with our understanding of salvation? How do we see wealth, covering, and sight as metaphors of salvation?
38. How does verse 19 give us insights into the way Christ deals with his people while they struggle with sin in this present age? Why is it vital for us to embrace the rebukes Christ gives when we need them?
39. How does verse 20 stand as a timeless invitation toward intimacy with Christ? What is the "door"? What does Christ knocking on the door represent? How is it a picture of the shameful state of the Laodicean church that Christ is on the outside trying to get in? How could it be read as representing personal salvation and closeness with Christ?
40. How could verse 20 give us insight into a healthy prayer life?
41. What does Christ promise to him who overcomes? What does it mean that the saints will sit with Christ on his throne? How does it relate to the Father's authority? (21)
42. What do you make of the repeated invitation to hear what the Spirit says to all seven of the churches? (22)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

Christ continues his incisive letters to the seven churches with the last three: to Sardis, the dead church; to Philadelphia, the faithful church; and to Laodicea, the lukewarm church. His analyses and exhortations are a timeless lesson for all churches everywhere.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How can you "wake up and strengthen what remains" in your local church?
2. In what ways do you personally need to return to Christ and repent of sins?
3. What obstacles in your life are keeping you from regular Bible study and prayer?
4. Take your spiritual temperature. Are you zealous for God's glory and doing good works? Ask Jesus for faith of refined gold and holiness like white garments.

# A Heavenly Throne and Heavenly Worship

## REVELATION 4:1-11

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chapter teach you about heaven?
2. What does this chapter teach you about worship?
3. What is the significance of a throne at the center of this heavenly vision?
4. What does this chapter reveal about God's relationship to creation?
5. How should this chapter affect the way we live? What is God's purpose in revealing himself to the church like this?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. There are striking similarities between Daniel 7:9-27 and Revelation 4-5 (these two chapters should be studied as a unit). What similarities between these two great visions do you see?
2. How does this chapter begin? (1)
3. What is the significance of the words, "*After these things,*" which appear twice in verse 1? Do you believe it refers to the future or simply that it was the next vision that God showed John? (1)
4. What did John see? What is the significance of the image of a door standing open in heaven? (1)
5. What did John hear? Who spoke to him? What did the voice say?
6. The elevation or loftiness of the door in heaven is emphasized: "*Come up here.*" What does that symbolize? See Isaiah 57:15. (1)
7. What does it mean, "*At once I was in the Spirit*"? See Ezekiel 3:12-14.
8. What did John see once he was through the door and entered heaven? (2)
9. Why is it significant that the first thing John saw was a throne with One sitting on it? And that the word throne appears 17 times in Revelation 4-5? What is the purpose of this intense focus on the throne in heaven?
10. How did John describe the One sitting on the throne? Jasper is also mentioned prominently in Revelation 21:11, 18, 19. It is a precious stone of varying colors, usually translucent. Carnelian is usually red in color. Why do you think John likens the One who sat on the throne to these two precious gems? (3)
11. How else does John describe God? How do you picture an emerald-colored rainbow? What does the rainbow remind you of? See Ezekiel 1:28. (3)
12. What did John describe next in his vision? What is significant about the fact that there were other thrones in heaven besides the central one? What is significant about them encircling the central throne? (4)
13. Who sat on these thrones? How many were there? Who are the twenty-four elders? What is the significance of the number twenty-four? Some different interpretations are: angels representing all the people of God, twelve from the OT, twelve from the NT, exalted OT saints, patriarchs (twelve tribes) and apostles (twelve in number). (4)

14. What effect would the flashes of lightning and peals of thunder have had on John? What did these represent? See Exodus 19:16.
15. The seven spirits of God are represented by “*seven lamps of fire burning.*” What does this image remind you of in the Old Testament? See Exodus 25:31-37. Why might the Holy Spirit be represented by burning lamps of fire?
16. What does the sea of glass represent? Compare Daniel 7:2-3, Revelation 13:1, 15:1-3, and especially Revelation 21:1. If (as some commentators believe based on Daniel 7 & Revelation 13) the sea represents the churning nations, constantly in upheaval because of sin and Satan (see Isaiah 57:20-21), what does a sea of glass like crystal before the throne of God represent? How would that image be a great comfort to persecuted believers on earth who are suffering under the power of the “*beasts that come from the sea*” on earth? (6)
17. What do the four living creatures represent? Compare with Ezekiel 1:10. What are the similarities and differences between Revelation 4 and Ezekiel 1’s living creatures? (7)
18. How does John describe them? What do you think the eyes symbolize? (8)
19. What do the living creatures spend their time doing? (8)
20. What is the content of their worship? Why do you think they focus so much on God’s holiness? What does their worship remind you of? See Isaiah 6. (8)
21. How do the elders respond to the worship of the living creatures?
22. What do you make of the key worship words “*glory, honor, and thanks*”? (9)
23. Why do the elders fall down? Why do they cast their crowns before the One who sits on the throne?
24. What is the significance of the fact that they have thrones and crowns to cast before God? See Daniel 7:27 where it is said that the saints will rule, but that all rulers will worship and obey the Most High. (10)
25. Describe the elders’ worship in verse 11. What are they marveling over?
26. Why do they focus primarily on God’s sovereignty over all creation in their worship? How would that be strengthening to the suffering church on earth?
27. What does the word “*worthy*” mean to you? How should that word affect your view of God?
28. What is the theological importance of the fact that all things in heaven and on earth exist and derive their existence from God’s will? (11)
29. What is the significance of the fact that the living creatures and the elders spend their whole time in active, energetic worship?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John is invited heavenward through an open door to glimpse an awesome scene of heavenly worship. The focus of everything is God, who is actively ruling over heaven and earth on his throne, which is central to all other powerful created beings. The scene in heaven is one of constant, energetic, joyful worship, and the theme of the worship is God's holiness (separated far above his creation) and his sovereign rule over all creation which he himself created for his own glory.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How should this scene of heavenly worship affect your earthly life?
2. How should it affect our private and corporate experiences of worship?
3. How could a meditation on God's throne calm your earthly fears and troubles?
4. Is the throne of God truly central in your life? If not, how could Revelation 4 help bring order to your chaos, like a stormy ocean becoming a glassy sea?

# The Lion-Lamb Takes the Scroll

## REVELATION 5:1-14

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chapter teach you about the worthiness of Christ?
2. What does this chapter teach you about the unworthiness of humanity?
3. What do the radically opposite images of Lion and Lamb teach you about Christ?
4. What is the significance of the song: "...with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"?
5. What does this chapter teach you about worship?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Revelation 5 relate to Revelation 4?
2. What is the focus of verses 1-4? (1-4)
3. What does the scroll represent? (1)
4. How does John describe the scroll? (1)
5. What does the mighty angel proclaim concerning the scroll? (2)
6. Why is the issue of worthiness brought up here? What does worthy mean?
7. What is the result of the search for a worthy person to take the scroll and open its seals? (3)
8. What does the fact that no one was found worthy teach you about humanity? What does it teach you about yourself personally?

**Note:** When Samuel went to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as king over Israel, he saw the firstborn Eliab and thought he must be the Lord's anointed. The Lord said something very significant: 1 Samuel 16:7, "*But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'*" Basically, the idea in Revelation 5 is that God has assessed the entire human race person by person and rejected every one of us individually and personally as unworthy to take and open the scroll. This is humbling, and helpful for us. In heaven, not one of us will be the focus.

9. What was John's reaction to the fact that no one worthy could be found? Why did he react like this? (4)
10. Who spoke to John as he was weeping? What was his message to John?
11. Why do you think he says, "*The Lion of the tribe of Judah*"? See Genesis 49:9-10.
12. What is the significance of the term, "*Root of David*" (Isaiah 11:1,10)?
13. What does the emphasis on Judah and David highlight about the One who will come and take the scroll?
14. See Numbers 23:24, 24:9; Deuteronomy 33:20; Judges 14:5; 2 Samuel 17:10; Psalm 10:9; Proverbs 20:2, 30:30; Isaiah 5:29, and especially **Isaiah 31:4**. What do these verses teach you about lions? How is Jesus like a lion? (5)

15. The elder says that the Lion of the tribe of Judah *“has triumphed.”* What does this refer to? How does verse 6 give some insight into the triumph?
16. Why then is Jesus worthy and able to take the scroll, break open its seals, and look inside it? (5)
17. Immediately contrasting the statement about the “Lion” is John’s astonishing comment, *“Then I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been slain…”* How do you account for the contrast between Lion and Lamb? (6)
18. Read Isaiah 40:11 and 53:7. What do these verses teach you about lambs? How are lambs usually mentioned in the Old Testament?
19. How is Jesus like a lamb? (6)
20. Jonathan Edwards preached a sermon during the Great Awakening entitled “The Excellency of Christ” on Revelation 5:5-6. He meditated on the wide contrast between the nature of a Lion and that of a Lamb. He wrote: *“There is an admirable conjunction of diverse excellencies in Jesus Christ: The lion and lamb, though very diverse kinds of creatures, yet have each their peculiar excellencies. The lion excels in strength and in the majesty of his appearance and voice; the lamb excels in meekness and patience, besides the excellent nature of the creature as good for food, and yielding that which is fit for our clothing, and being suitable to be offered as a sacrifice to God… These diverse excellencies are seen both in Christ’s person and in His actions.”*<sup>4</sup> Edwards went on to talk about Christ’s infinite highness and majesty and his infinite lowliness and condescension. Comment on this insight from Edwards.
21. Why does John say, *“a Lamb looking as if it had been slain”*? What is the significance of this? What does it teach you about Christ’s resurrection body? Why do you think the resurrection did not “heal” his crucifixion wounds? (6)
22. John says he was *“standing in the center of the throne.”* How do you relate this to someone sitting on the throne (Revelation 3:21, 4:2, 5:1)?
23. What is the symbolism of the seven horns and seven eyes? How are the seven eyes *“the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth”*? What does this teach you about Christ? About his relationship to the Holy Spirit? (6)
24. What happened in verse 7? Why is this important? Relate it to Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:19-22, Daniel 7:14, and Psalm 2:8. (7)
25. What happened next, after the Lamb had taken the scroll? (8-14)
26. Describe the heavenly reaction to Christ taking the scroll.
27. Explain the significance of the 24 elders falling before the Lamb. (8)
28. What is the significance of the harps they hold and of the golden bowls of incense? (8)
29. How are the prayers of the saints like incense? (Revelation 8:3-4)
30. What do you think of the fact that the elders *“sang a new song”*? Why is singing important? Why is the newness of the song important?
31. What is the new song about? What is its message? (9-10)
32. To whom are the elders singing? (9)
33. On what do they base their statement that the Lamb is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals? (9)

34. What does verse 9 teach you about the atonement of Christ?
35. What do verses 9-10 show about the people that Christ purchased?
36. How are God's people to be priests? How are they rulers? See Daniel 7:27.
37. What happened next in the vision? What does it teach you about heaven? About angels? About worship? (10,000 times 10,000 is one hundred million, but it may just give a sense of a number too great to count.) (11)
38. What do you think that many angels singing, "*in a loud voice*" would sound like?
39. What was the message and theme of their song? Why is the worthiness of Christ such a major theme in heaven? (11-12)
40. How does Christ "*receive*" all the things they say he is worthy to receive?
41. Who joined the praise next? (13)
42. Who do they praise? How does this prove the deity of Christ? What was the message of their praise? (13)
43. How does the chapter end? (14)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John extends his description of the heavenly scene of God on his throne which he began in chapter 4. The focus here is a scroll in God's hand and of no one being found worthy to take it and open it. Finally, Christ (depicted as both Lion and Lamb) is found worthy and comes and takes the scroll, prompting an overwhelming river of worship from the elders, the angels, all creation, and the four living creatures.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How would meditation on the fact that only Christ is worthy to take the scroll help to humble you and make you more Christ-focused?
2. How could this chapter help feed your worship of Christ?
3. How could it make you more joyful in your present circumstances?
4. How would the obvious harmony between the Father and the Son, and indeed between all the twenty-four elders, the millions of angels, and the living creatures help motivate you to live at peace with those in your life?



# The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

## REVELATION 6:1-8

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus breaks open the seals and as a result events happen on earth?
2. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus breaks open the seals and great suffering results on earth?
3. What are the similarities and differences between these “Four Horsemen” and the horses seen in Zechariah 1?
4. What is the relationship between this passage and Luke 21:9-11?
5. How do the “Four Horsemen” relate to the flow of human history? How do they relate to the end times?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does the breaking open of the first four seals relate to Revelation 4-5?
2. Who opens the seals in these verses? What does this teach you about the sovereignty of Christ over earthly events? (1-8)
3. What happened after Christ broke open the first seal? What is the significance of the living creature being the one to speak? What did he command? What did his voice sound like? (1)
4. After the living creature gave the command to come, what happened next? (2)
5. How does John describe the first horse? Some commentators have linked this rider on a white horse with Christ, who later (19:11) appears from heaven riding a white horse. Do you agree with this interpretation? Why or why not?
6. What does the bow in his hand symbolize? What does he ride forth to do? How does the fact that the second horse is given power to take peace from the earth (vs. 4) help you understand the nature of the first rider’s “conquest”? (2)
7. What happened when Christ opened the second seal? (3)
8. Describe the second horse. What is he given permission to do? What does he represent? (4)
9. How does this relate to Christ’s prediction of “*wars and rumors of wars*” in Matthew 24:6?
10. What happened when Christ opened the third seal? (5)
11. Describe the third horse. What is he given permission to do? What does he represent? (5-6)
12. Scales are frequently related to the weighing out of food, and the voice that calls out represents famine conditions. A quart of wheat for one day’s wages is not enough for a man to support his family. How does this famine relate to the progression of the seven seals? What is the relationship between war and famine? (6)
13. What does the limitation on famine, “*do not damage the oil and the wine,*” show you about heaven’s control of these calamities? How do you interpret this restriction? (6)

14. What happened next? What does the fourth horseman represent?
15. It says, "*Its rider was named Death, and Hades followed close behind him.*" What does this mean? (8)
16. What is the scope of the death the fourth horseman brings? One fourth of the earth's population now would be 1.6 billion. (8)
17. What does this teach you about Christ? About death? (8)
18. How (in what ways) is the fourth horseman given power to kill so many people? How do these various ways relate to the three horsemen that preceded? (8)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

Christ begins to open the seven seals, and as he opens each of the first four seals a horseman appears on earth and brings some severe trial to the earth. The trials of conquest, war, famine, and death result in one quarter of the world's population being killed.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

The glorious kingdom of God that will be established in heaven and on earth, described so beautifully in the closing chapters of Revelation, will not come painlessly upon the earth but rather only after immense worldwide upheaval and suffering.

1. What does this teach you about the present flow of human history?
2. What does it teach you about Christ's control of human events?
3. What does it teach you about Christ's view of human suffering and death?
4. What does it teach you about your own suffering and death?

## The Fifth and Sixth Seals

### REVELATION 6:9-17

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does the fifth seal teach you about the role of suffering in the Christian life and in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan?
2. What does it teach you about the role of patience in waiting for God's plan?
3. What does it teach about the propriety of vengeance on those who shed the blood of the saints?
4. How does the sixth seal display the power and attributes of God?
5. How does it display the weakness of man and the impermanence of life on earth?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What does John see when Christ opened the fifth seal? (9)
2. Where is the scene set-on earth or in heaven? (9)
3. Who are the "*souls slain for the word of God and their testimony*"? (9)
4. Does the fact that these suffering saints seem to have undergone martyrdom affect your understanding of the possibility of saints undergoing the tribulations of Revelation?
5. Do they have their resurrection bodies? (9)
6. What is the significance of the fact that John sees them "*under the altar*"? Note: see 1 Kings 1:50 and 2:28 in which Adonijah and Joab both flee to the altar for refuge and protection, also Paul's statement that Christians are "*like sheep for the slaughter*" (Romans 8:36), and his own life is poured out like a drink offering (2 Timothy 4:6). How are suffering Christians like an offering to God? (9)
7. What reason does the text give for their suffering? (9)
8. What do these souls cry to God? What is the significance of their cry? How do you account for their cry for vindication, given that Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them,*" and Stephen said, "*Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge,*" each speaking about their persecutors. (10)
9. Compare their statement concerning God, calling him "*holy and true,*" with the statement in Revelation 16:7 (read Revelation 16:4-7 for context). (10)
10. How do you understand their central cry, "*How long, O Lord?*" This cry is repeated many times in the Psalms in connection with the suffering of the people of God. See Psalm 6:3, 13:1, 79:5, and Habakkuk 1:2. (10)
11. What answer are these crying souls given? What is the significance of the white robe? See Revelation 7:9 and 13-14. Why must they wait for their vindication?
12. What happened next in the account? In general terms, what did the sixth seal bring about? (12)
13. How wide is the scope of the judgments connected with the sixth seal? (12-17)
14. Describe the devastation to those who lived on earth.

15. How is the earthquake a display of the wrath of God? What is the lesson of an earthquake to the inhabitants of the earth? See Psalm 104:5, Exodus 19:18, Isaiah 2:19, and Haggai 2:6.
16. What is the significance of the sun, moon, and stars being affected by this sixth seal? What does it show you about earth's role in the universe? (12)
17. Compare this passage to the following: Acts 2:20, Isaiah 13:9-11, Ezekiel 32:7, and Amos 8:8. See especially Isaiah 34:1-5, which speaks of the exact same phenomena described here. See also Christ's prediction in Mark 13:24-26.
18. Is it possible to understand these things literally and still hold that events in chapters 7-22 follow chronologically after Revelation 6? If so, how would you put it together? (12-14)
19. What is the response of humanity to these cataclysms? Who does John list as having a reaction to what has happened? What is the significance of the people listed here: kings, great men, rich men, commanders, mighty men, every slave, and every free man? (15)
20. What do all these people seek? (16)
21. Why do they seek it? (17)
22. What do you think of the expression, "*the wrath of the Lamb*"? (17)
23. What does this passage teach you about God the Father and God the Son?
24. What does it teach you about the need for salvation from the wrath of God? What does it teach about the possibility of standing before God as an unforgiven sinner and surviving? (17)

### III. SUMMARY:

John describes the events connected with the fifth and sixth seals: martyrdom and a cry for vengeance, a terrifying earthquake and awesome celestial portents, and a cry for refuge from the wrath of the Lamb.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. How would understanding this passage help you in your understanding of suffering in the Christian life? And of patience in waiting for the unfolding of God's plan?
2. How would it affect our passion for evangelism, in that there is now possible a refuge from the wrath of God (see 1 Thessalonians 1:10)?
3. How should we think about the earth and the sky and outer space based on the events of the sixth seal? How should we think of our physical lives and our possessions as a result?

## An Interlude: The Saints in Heaven

### REVELATION 7:1-17

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do these verses teach us about the saints in heaven?
2. What do they teach us about the future success of world evangelization?
3. What do they teach us about heavenly worship?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Revelation 7 relate to Revelation 6?
2. What did John see next? (1)
3. Read Daniel 7:1-3. Compare it with Revelation 7:1-3.
4. What are the four angels tasked to do? What were the parameters of their instructions? Who gave them their instructions? (1-3)
5. What is the significance of one angel commanding others? (2-3)
6. What is the significance of a “*seal*”? When you think of a sealed document, or of a seal from the King or emperor, what do you think of? What is that kind of a seal usually used for? (2-3)
7. Read Ezekiel 9:1-11 and compare it with Revelation 7:1-4.
8. Why do you think the angels were commanded to prevent the winds of the earth from destroying the earth during the sealing process? (1-3)
9. In what ways are Christians “*sealed*”? See 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14, and 4:30.
10. How many were sealed? What is the significance of the number 144,000?

**Note:** there are two different ways Christian commentators have interpreted this number—literally and symbolically. The literal interpretation simply takes as a fact that God will seal that precise number from the tribes listed. The symbolic interpretation notes that 144,000 is twelve squared times ten cubed; it also notes that twelve is the number of fullness and/or perfection associated frequently with the people of God. For example, later in Revelation, the New Jerusalem is measured to be a perfect cube, 12,000 stadia in length, and as high and wide as it was long (Revelation 21:16); also commentators note that the number twelve is used seven times in describing the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 – twelve gates, twelve angels, twelve apostles, twelve foundations, twelve pearls; and in Revelation 22, the tree of life give forth its fruit twelve times, once per month; therefore, symbolic commentators argue that 144,000 is the number of perfect fullness, representing the people of God idealized; and the, “*multitude greater than anyone could count from every tribe,*” represents the people of God realistically.

11. What do you notice about the listing of the tribes of Israel? Notice that John says the 144,000 were sealed from *every* tribe of Israel. Compare the listing of Revelation 7 with that in 1 Chronicles 2:1-2. What differences do you notice? How do you account for them?
12. Why do you think the tribe of Dan was omitted?
13. What specifically did John see next? (9-12)

14. These are some of the greatest verses in the Bible on the ultimate success of the church's missionary work. What encouragement do these verses give you about missions? (9)
15. How do these verses help destroy racism among Christians? (9)
16. What is the significance of the fact that there was such a great multitude around the throne? Reconcile that with Jesus' statement that the road to life is narrow and "*only a few find it*" (Matthew 7:14).
17. How are the multitude described, and why is this important?
18. What is the significance of the palm branches they hold in their hands? See John 12:13 and Leviticus 23:40 for background.
19. What were these people doing? (10)
20. What is the significance of their cry, "*Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb*"? What does it teach you about the heavenly view of our salvation?
21. What happens in verses 11-12? What does it teach you about the harmony of human and angelic worship in heaven?
22. What happens in verses 13-17? Who is talking to whom?
23. Who initiates the conversation? Compare it with Daniel 7-8 in which Daniel interacts with angels in his vision and asks them questions (Daniel 7:15-18).
24. What does the elder ask? How does John answer? (13-14)
25. What is the "*great Tribulation*"? See Matthew 24:21-22.
26. What does it mean that they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white? (14)
27. What is their reward as described in verses 15-17?
28. Compare this with the promises of Revelation 21:1-6.
29. What does it mean that God will "*spread his tent over them*"? What does this represent? (15)
30. What reason is given for their happiness and lasting safety? (17)
31. What does it mean that the Lamb will "*shepherd them*"?

### III. SUMMARY:

Amid the terrible seven seals, John sees a vision of the redeemed of the Lamb in heaven, the "Israel of God," a multitude greater than anyone could count from every tribe on earth. They are perfectly holy, free from all suffering and eternally worshipping the Lamb who shed His blood for them.

### IV. APPLICATIONS:

1. Have you received the seal of God's Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? If not, ask him to save you and make you born again.
2. As you consider the multitudes of different people who will be in heaven do you see any thoughts or actions you have had that treat certain people as less than fully created in God's image?

3. How can you be more open to relationships with brothers and sisters from other nations and people groups?
4. Can you do more to take the gospel to unreached people in the world?
5. How is God calling you to serve him and be served by him as your Shepherd?

## The Seventh Seal Gives Way to the Seven Trumpets

### REVELATION 8:1-13

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does this section connect physical creation and sinful humanity?
2. What do these judgments reveal about God's zeal to avenge the suffering of his people?
3. How do these judgments relate to God's love for his creation and his desire to establish a new earth?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What happened when Christ opened the seventh seal? (1)
2. What is the significance of silence in heaven? Of the half hour? (1)
3. Habakkuk 2:20 says, "*The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silent before him.*" How does that verse relate to Revelation 8:1? How was silence an awesome preparation for the coming plagues on the earth? How is our silence a proper response to the revelation of God's awesome holy power and wrath?
4. What did John see next because of the seventh seal being opened?
5. What is the significance of the statement that these angels "*stand before God*"? See the angel Gabriel's statement to Zechariah in Luke 1:19. What does it mean to Gabriel that he stands in the presence of God? (2)
6. Read Exodus 19:16-19 and 20:18. What was the trumpet blast's purpose then? What effect did it have on the people? How is it like these seven trumpets?
7. Read Joshua 6 (especially 6:4 and 6:20) and Numbers 10:1-10. What are some different ways trumpets were used in the Old Testament?
8. What prelude happened after the seven angels were given the seven trumpets?
9. What did the golden censer signify? What is the relationship between the prayers of God's people and the coming wrath? See Revelation 6:10 and Luke 18:6-8, parable of the unjust judge (3-4)
10. After the smoke of the incense and prayers rises, what happens next? How does this show a close connection between the prayers of the saints and the coming wrath? What happens when the angel fills the censer with fire and hurls it on the earth? (5)
11. Compare this with Ezekiel 10:2-7. What connection do you see?
12. How does 8:6 serve to heighten the suspense of the seven trumpets' judgments? (6)
13. What is the difference between the judgments of the first four seals and or the first four trumpets? (see Revelation 6:1-8 for review)
14. What is attacked in the first four trumpets? Why is it significant that these judgments come on the earth physically, on the realm of nature, and not directly on people, although people suffer greatly from these judgments? (7-12)
15. What happened when the first trumpet sounded? What effect would a judgment like this have on human lives? What would the earth look like? (7)



16. What happened when the second trumpet sounded? What realm of nature is the focus of the second trumpet judgment? (8-9)
17. What do you think it would look like if a huge mountain all ablaze fell from the sky into the ocean? (8-9)
18. What does the water turning into blood remind you of?
19. Why is it significant that a third of all the ships were destroyed? (9)
20. What happened when the third trumpet sounded? What realm of nature is the focus of this judgment? How is it like the second trumpet? How is it different?
21. These things falling from the sky implies what about God's role in these judgments? (10-11)
22. Compare this judgment to the miracle of Exodus 15:25. What do you notice?
23. What effect will this judgment have on humanity? (11)
24. What happened when the fourth angel sounded his trumpet? What realm of nature is being judged here? (12)
25. The Greek implies that a shocking blow was struck on the sun, moon, and stars. How do you visualize this happening? List the immediate effects on the earth.
26. Copernicus rightly observed that the earth revolves around the sun, not (as the clerics insisted) the other way around. What do these judgments imply about the significance of the earth to the sun, moon, and stars? Note that they were created *"to give light to the earth"* (Genesis 1:15-17).
27. Compare this passage to Amos 5:18, Joel 2:2, Isaiah 13:10, and Mark 13:24.
28. What do you think it will be like to live in that kind of darkness? What effect will it have on plant life? What would the long-term effects be? (12)
29. How does the account end? Why does the eagle warn the earth of the dreadful judgments yet to come? What is the significance of a three-fold "Woe!!!" coming from heaven to earth? What do you think of the fact that God gave the task to an eagle? See also Revelation 19:17-18. (13)

### III. SUMMARY:

John sees the judgments from heaven to earth escalate with the opening of the seventh seal which gives way to the seven trumpets. The first four trumpets sound, resulting in vast natural catastrophes and immense suffering on earth. But an eagle implies that worse is yet to come. In this chapter we get a startling glimpse of our prayers ascending to the altar of heaven before God and triggering global angelic activity as well as silence in heaven.

### IV. APPLICATIONS:

1. How do you need to *"be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10)?
2. What are some global issues you can be praying about?
3. How does the Lord's prayer teach us about God's desires for our prayer life?

# The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: Satan and His Demons Devastate the Earth

## REVELATION 9:1-21

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do these verses teach us about the holiness of God?
2. About His wrath?
3. About the nature of Satan and of his demonic warriors?
4. About the sovereignty of God over Satan?
5. About the nature of sin and of repentance?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What does John see after the fifth trumpet sounds? The Greek verb is in the perfect tense, meaning a completed action: *“a star that had fallen from heaven to earth.”* Who or what does this star represent? Compare with Isaiah 14:12 and Luke 10:18. See also Revelation 12:9 and 12:13. (1)
2. What was the star given? What does this represent? (1)
3. What is the *“abyss”* (or *“bottomless pit”*)? Compare with Luke 8:30-31 and Revelation 20:1-3. See also 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6.
4. If the star does indeed represent Satan, what does it mean that he was given a key to the abyss? How does it relate to Revelation 1:18 and 20:1?
5. What did he do with the key? What happened as a result? (2)
6. How does the great cloud of smoke blocking the sunlight represent the effect of demonic evil in the world? (2)
7. What happened next? Who are these *“locusts”*? How are they described in 9:3?
8. Compare Revelation 9:3 with the passage on locusts in Joel 1:4 and 2:1-10. What was a locust invasion like? How is the demonic horde coming from the pit like a locust swarm? (3)
9. How are these demons different from locusts? (4)
10. What is the mission of the demonic horde? What do they do? (4)
11. What is the significance of *“having the seal of God on their foreheads”*? What does this represent? (4)
12. How is their mission limited? (4-5)
13. What does verse six teach you about the agony of humanity at that time? How do you conceive of this kind of suffering? What does it teach you about the wrath of God and the sinfulness of sin? (6)
14. How does John describe the appearance of these demonic warriors? (7-10)
15. What do these descriptions teach you about the demonic horde? What is the significance of their crowns of gold? Of their human faces? Of their women’s hair? Of their lion’s teeth? Of their iron breastplates? Of the deafening sound of their wings? Of their scorpion stingers in their tails?
16. What is the significance of the five month’s limitation to this agony? (10)

17. Who is their king? What does verse 11 teach you about Satan? In what sense is Satan a destroyer? In what sense is he like a king? See Ephesians 2:2 and Matthew 12:25-26. (11)
18. What effect will Satan and his army have on the human race in these verses? Why does God permit Satan such a wide range of freedom to torment humanity at this point?
19. What does 9:12 teach about the suffering that follows the fifth trumpet? (12)
20. What happens when the sixth angel blows his trumpet? (13-14)
21. What does the heavenly voice giving permission to release the army teach you about God's sovereignty during the suffering of Revelation 9? (13-14)
22. What does it mean that the four angels are bound at the river Euphrates?
23. What happens when the four angels are released? (15-19)
24. What is the significance of the statement about the precise "*hour, day, month and year*"? What does this teach you about God's sovereignty and his plan? See Isaiah 14:26-27.
25. How great is the slaughter effected by this demonic army? Why were the demons not given power to kill at first? What does the fact that they are later given power to kill teach you about them? Note that God forbade Satan from killing Job, and that Jesus says that the devil was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44).
26. What is the number of the mounted troops? What is the significance of their being so numbered? (16)
27. How does John describe this demonic cavalry? (17)
28. How does he describe their weaponry? How powerful is it? (18-19)
29. What is the tragic effect of this horrific plague on unbelieving humanity? What does this teach you about the nature of sin? What does it teach you about repentance?

### III. SUMMARY:

John sees the effect of the fifth and sixth trumpets: a horde of demonic warriors who cover the earth causing first, immense torment and suffering, and secondly death for a third of the human race. Yet for all of that, humanity still does not repent of their wickedness.

### IV. APPLICATIONS:

1. In what ways is God challenging you to repent from idolatry and perhaps unknowingly worshiping demons?
2. Try a time of fasting from an activity you think might be hurting you or someone else spiritually. If it is very hard, that could be a sign that it has a hold on you.
3. Spend some time in prayer asking God to search your heart and thoughts to see if there is any sinful way in you along the categories listed in this passage: idolatry, materialism, anger/murder, sorceries, sexual immorality and stealing. Think about how these sins manifest in our hearts and our actions.

4. Let Jesus heal, forgive, and restore you. Consider sharing your struggles with a godly friend who can pray for you and help you be accountable.

# The Angel and the Little Scroll

## REVELATION 10:1-11

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does this section relate to the previous one (5th and 6th trumpets)?
2. What is the main message of the angel and the scroll?
3. What does this passage teach you about angels?
4. In what way is the message of Revelation both sweet and bitter?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. By what of review, what is an angel? How are they like humans? How are they different? What is their role in redemptive history (see Hebrews 1:14)?
2. What is the usual way that angels are portrayed in popular culture? How is the angel described here in this section? How does this description compare with the popular depiction of angels? (1-3)
3. What is the overall impression you get of the angel in verses 1-3? What words would you use to describe him? (1-3)
4. What is the significance of him being “*clothed with a cloud*”? Of a rainbow upon his head? Of his face shining like the sun? Of his feet like pillars of fire? (1)
5. What did he have in his hand? How does John describe it? (2)
6. Is this the same scroll that Jesus opened in Revelation 5? What reason would you give for your answer? (2)
7. What is the significance of the angel’s stance, with one foot on the land and the other foot in the sea? Compare it with his statement in verse 6 (head in heaven, one foot on land, one foot on the sea).
8. How does John describe this angel’s voice, his cry? How does this sound contribute to the sense of this angel’s power? (3)
9. What happened after the angel cried out with the loud voice? What are the “*seven thunders*”? (3)
10. What did John hear along with the seven peals of thunder? What was John commanded to do? Who gave him this command? Compare with Daniel 8:26 and 12:4. (4)
11. What stance does the angel take next? What is the significance of this solemn oath-taking? Compare with Hebrews 6:13, 16-19. What is the purpose of God’s oath in Hebrews 6 and Genesis 22? What is the purpose of the angel’s oath here? (5)
12. By whom does the angel swear? How does the angel describe God in verse 6?
13. What is the content of the angel’s oath? To what truth is he swearing? (6)
14. Why is the issue of “delay” such a big one for the people of God? (see Luke 18:7-8 and Revelation 6:9-10) (6)
15. What is the significance of the seventh trumpet according to the angel here? What will happen when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet? (7)
16. What is “*the mystery of God*” mentioned in verse 7? How did he “*preach*” to his prophets? (7)

17. What was the voice that spoke to John from heaven? Whose voice was it? Compare with verse 4. See also Revelation 1:10,12, and 4:1. The word “*voice*” is one of the most important in John’s descriptions of heavenly communication used of a mighty angel in Revelation 5:2, of many angels in 5:11-12, of the four living creatures in Revelation 6, and of the great multitude of the redeemed in Revelation 7. Always it’s a loud voice, a mighty voice! (8)
18. What did the voice command John to do? What is the significance of eating the scroll? (8-9)
19. How does this compare with Ezekiel 2:8 and 3:1-3? See also Jeremiah 15:16 and Matthew 4:4. (9)
20. What was the effect of eating this scroll? What did that signify?
21. What final command was given to John and why? How does it describe the role of the church until the end comes? (11)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John saw a vision of a mighty angel, awesome and powerful in his appearance. This angel’s head was in the clouds, one foot on the earth and the other on the sea, encompassing all of creation. He took an oath-stance and swore by the Creator of heaven and earth and the sea that there would be no more delay. He held a scroll in his hand, and John was commanded to eat it; it tasted sweet in his mouth but bitter in his stomach. This symbolizes the mixed feelings we have at the overall message of judgment involved in this Apocalypse.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. What the apostle John received as a little scroll we have today revealed in scripture. How does God’s word taste to you?
2. Are you able to swallow the bitter and the sweet?
3. How are you doing with digesting it and sharing it with others?
4. Ask God for a heart of faith to receive and obey His word.
5. Think about God speaking directly to you as you read and study the Bible.

## The Two Witnesses

### REVELATION 11:1-14

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How should we interpret this section: literally or symbolically?
2. What does this section teach us about witnessing in a hostile world?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How do you explain the temple referred to in Revelation 11:1, especially in that it is spoken of as the “temple of God”? (1)
2. What is John told to do to the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there? See Ezekiel 40-43, Zechariah 2:1-2, and Revelation 21:15-17 for other measurements. (1)
3. What is the significance of the measurement and why does God want it done?
4. Why does John not report his findings? Could it relate to the fact that it is a heavenly temple and those who worship there are a numberless multitude according to Revelation 7:9-15, and thus John could not complete his task? (1)
5. What exclusion was given John in 11:2? Why was this exclusion given? (2)
6. What is the “*holy city*”? In Matthew 4:5 (Luke 4:9) it is Jerusalem (as also probably in Matthew 27:53), but in Revelation 21:2, 21:10, 22:19 it is the new Jerusalem (the heavenly “*bride*” of Christ, namely the people of God). One interpretation therefore is that the “*outer court of the temple*” is the part of the “*holy city*” that can still be trampled by the Gentiles, i.e., the elect of God who are still on the earth suffering persecution. What do you think?
7. What is the significance of the forty-two months? A prophetic month lasted thirty days, so this is 1260 days (see also Revelation 11:3, 11:9, 12:6). It also corresponds to Daniel’s “*times, time, and half a time*” (3 ½ years, Daniel 7:25) and to the 3 ½ years of Elijah’s drought (Luke 4:25). (2)
8. Who is the focus of 11:3-13? How do you understand the “*two witnesses*”? (3-13)
9. What is the ministry of the witnesses? What does God empower them to do? (3-6)
10. Can these two witnesses be taken literally? Can they be taken figuratively for the people of God?
11. What is the range and scope of the ministry of the two witnesses?
12. What is the significance of their sackcloth? What does it usually signify? (3)
13. What is the significance of their being called “*olive trees*” and “*lampstands*” (see Zechariah 4:2-3 and Revelation 1:20). What does it mean that they stand before the “*Lord of the earth*”? (4)
14. What does verse five teach you about their power? About their protection from God? Can the fire coming from their mouths be taken literally? Can it be taken figuratively? See Jeremiah 23:29. (5)
15. How does 11:6 remind us of Elijah? (see Luke 4:25, James 5:17, and 1 Kings 17:1) How does it remind us of Moses? (Exodus 7:17-20)
16. What does 11:6 teach about the power of faithful witnesses in a hostile world?

17. Again, we are faced with a choice between literal and figurative interpretations. According to a literal interpretation, what happens to the two witnesses? Where? When?
18. What does 11:7 teach you about the power of the beast? A key background here is Daniel 7:17, 21, 25 which describe the war of the “*beast from the earth*” (wicked human government) against the “*saints of the Most High.*” Revelation 12:17, 13:7, 16:14, and 19:19 also testify to the power of the beast against the people of God.
19. Who or what is the “beast”? See Daniel 7, Revelation 13, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, and 1 John 2:18. What does Matthew 24:21-22 teach you about the horror of the beast’s persecution of the church? (7)
20. How do you interpret verse 8 from a literal point of view? How from a symbolic point of view?
21. What happened to their bodies? Could this happen literally? How would this verse possibly argue against a literal interpretation of the two witnesses? (9)
22. What does verse 10 teach you about the hearts of unregenerate people? Why would they celebrate the death of the two witnesses?
23. What happens next? (11)
24. What does this show you about the power of God? How does this passage encourage you in your courageous witness to unbelievers?
25. What was the effect of the resurrection of the two witnesses on the celebrating unbelieving world? (11)
26. What is the significance of the command, “*Come up here*”? See also Revelation 4:1. How is this parallel to Christ’s resurrection and ascension? See 1 Peter 3:22.
27. How does this relate to the “rapture” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17?
28. What is the significance of the fact that the enemies of God see them and are watching them as they are resurrected and as they ascend? (11-12)
29. After the ascension of the two witnesses, what happened to the city? How could we interpret this literally? How symbolically? (13)
30. How does this account end? (14)

### III. SUMMARY:

John reports the ministry of the two witnesses. Taken symbolically, they represent the witness of God’s people on earth in the face of opposition and persecution. Taken literally, they represent two specific individuals who will be called upon to perform an astonishing ministry in the future.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. As you behold the supernatural boldness of the two witnesses, pray for God’s Spirit to give you courage to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.
2. Do you believe that sharing the gospel with someone can change the world?
3. Who is God putting in your life to witness to?
4. How can you glorify God by giving thanks today?



## The Seventh Trumpet

### REVELATION 11:15-19

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe the celebration of this section? How could it stimulate you to worship?
2. What is the significance of the fact that God and Christ's reign on earth is celebrated as a past and accomplished fact in this section?
3. What is the significance of the vision of the ark in heaven? What does it teach you about God? About the sacrificial system and the laws of God?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What are some similarities between the seventh seal, the seventh trumpet and the seventh bowl? See the heavenly setting, the silence (8:1), loud voices heard (11:15), a voice saying, "*It is done*" (16:17); see also the fact that all three are at the end of seven-part cycles and give us information about the end of time (Kistemaker, p. 341).<sup>5</sup>
2. What happened when the seventh angel blew his trumpet? (15)
3. What do the loud voices in heaven celebrate? Put it in your own words? Note: these words from Revelation have been made even more famous by their inclusion in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."
4. What are the "*kingdoms of this world*"? Who ruled them before? Who rules them now in the vision of Revelation 11? See Luke 4:5-6; see also Daniel 2:44, 7:13-18, and Psalm 2:2.
5. What is the significance of the phrase "*of our Lord and of his Christ*"? How does it help to prove the deity of Christ? (15)
6. "*And he will reign forever and ever.*" How is this promise a striking contrast to the present kingdoms of this world? See Daniel 2:44.
7. Who do the twenty-four elders represent? See Revelation 4:4,10; 5:8; 11:16; and 19:4. What do they do here? (16)
8. Why do they fall on their faces? How could this affect your own worship of the Lord? (16)
9. What do the twenty-four elders say as they worship God? (17)
10. To which person of the Trinity do the elders give their thanks and praise?
11. Compare the statement here (17) with Revelation 1:4, 1:8, and 4:8. Do you notice a difference? How do you account for the difference? (17)
12. What does it mean that God has taken his great power and begun to reign? Why do they mention God taking up his power in this situation? Note: repeatedly in the Psalms and Prophets, the people of God lament the contrast between God's mighty acts in the past and the fact that wicked people are triumphing now while it seems God is asleep or has become weak and powerless. See Psalm 44 especially for this theme; see also Habakkuk 3:2. Revelation 11:17 is the ultimate answer to this complaint.

13. How is Christ's victory over Satan at the cross the key to this celebration? See 1 John 5:19; John 12:31; 14:30; and Hebrews 2:14-15.
14. How does it relate to Jesus' statement in the Great Commission: "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*"? See also 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. These verses are vital for understanding how both the Father and the Son reign at the same time.
15. Verse 18 pits the wrath of the nations against the wrath of God. Read Psalm 2:1-5 for this same theme. How did the nations display their wrath against Christ and his people throughout history? How does God display his wrath against the nations in Revelation? (18)
16. What is the significance of, "*The time has come to judge the dead and to reward your servants...*"? What is that time? What does it mean, "*The time has come*"? (18)
17. What do you think about the concept of rewards for Christians who serve God? This is a major theme in the New Testament. See Revelation 22:12, also Matthew 5:12; 6:1-6, and 6:16-18; Matthew 10:41-42, 16:27; 1 Corinthians 3:8,14; Ephesians 6:8; Hebrews 11:6,26, and 2 John 8. How do you understand these rewards? Are they justice or grace? (18)
18. Who receives a reward in verse 18? What categories of people are there?
19. Who is punished in verse 18? Why are they punished? What do you think this verse teaches about God's attitude toward human beings who sinfully destroy this planet with their pollutions? How do you think this verse could be used to support a biblical environmentalism? Especially since we were given charge over the earth to serve it and protect it (see Genesis 2:15). This phrase could also relate simply to the effects of our sin on people themselves. See Revelation 19:1-2 and Matthew 18:7. (18)
20. How does this section end? What is the significance of the ark appearing in heaven? Remember that the ark contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, that the blood of the atoning sacrifice was poured out on the mercy seat on top of the ark, and that God in his glory dwelt in a cloud above the cherubim on the ark where he met with Israel. Note also that all of this was made according to a heavenly pattern shown Moses on the mountain. See Acts 7:44, Hebrews 9:1-6. Also, God predicted a time when the ark would be no more (Jeremiah 3:16-17). What does that passage tell you about the future of the ark? Note that the temple John sees is the heavenly temple. What does this heavenly ark represent? (19)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John hears the seventh trumpet sound and a great celebration in heavenly worship begins. The focus of the worship is the fact that the sovereign God has now taken His rightful place as open ruler over the earth and will remain in that position forever and ever. The celebration also centers on Judgment Day, the punishment of sinners and the rewarding of saints.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How could this passage affect your present life of worship?
2. How could it help you make sense of the messy state of international politics, of wars and bloodshed, of powerful anti-Christian nations, and of the suffering of God's people?
3. How could the concept of heavenly rewards help you serve Christ more boldly and courageously during your lifetime?

# The Woman, the Dragon, and the Child

## REVELATION 12:1-17

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chapter teach you about Satan?
2. What does this chapter teach you about God's power compared with Satan's?
3. One commentator said that this chapter portrays Satan as a five-time loser. Can you find five ways that he strives and loses in Revelation 12? Hint: see verses 5, 9, 14-17.
4. What contrast does this chapter give us between the situation in heaven and that on earth?
5. How does this chapter help us in our struggle against Satan and temptation?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Revelation 12 fit into the overall structure of the whole book of Revelation? How does it relate to chapter 11?
2. Some critics have said that John borrowed from pagan mythology to write chapter 12. How would 1:1-2, 1:11, and 1:19 help refute that charge?
3. What is the significance of the words, "*A great sign appeared in heaven*"? What is a sign?
4. What "sign" did John see in verse 1? How does he describe it? (1)
5. Who is this woman? What are some possibilities for our interpretation? What is the significance of her being pregnant? (1-2)
6. Some have said the vision of 12:1 represents the triumphant, glorified church in prophetic perspective and the rest of the chapter represents the church militant, still struggling against the devil on earth. What do you think of that assessment?
7. How is her pregnancy described? (2)
8. What is the second sign that appears? Where does John say it appears? What does this teach you about the heavenly realms? (3)
9. How is the dragon described? Based on verse 9, who is this dragon? What is the significance of the numbers seven and ten? What is the significance of the dragon having seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns? (3)
10. What is the nature of Satan's authority on earth? See John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, and Luke 4:6. Compare how the angel interprets the seven heads and ten horns in Revelation 17:9-10 with Daniel 7:7, 24.
11. How do you interpret the fact that the devil swept away a third of the stars from heaven with his tail and flung them to the earth? What does this represent? See Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:13, and Revelation 9:1-2 in which stars seem identified as angels. If these are angels, what is the significance of their being flung to the earth? (3)
12. How does 12:4 picture the dragon before the woman? What does it show about the devil's attitude toward God's people in general? About babies? About the Christ in particular? How has 12:3 been fulfilled throughout

- history? See John 8:44, 1 John 3:12, Exodus 1:15-16, 1 Samuel 18:10-11, 2 Kings 11:1-2, 2,17:17; Esther 3:8-9, Jeremiah 32:35, and Matthew 2:16-18. (4)
13. What does verse four teach you about the modern abortion issue in America?
  14. What happens next in the vision? Who is the “*male child*” to whom the woman gives birth? (5)
  15. The Greek literally says he is “*about to rule all the nations with an iron rod.*” What does it mean, “about to”? What is the “iron rod”? Read Psalm 2:9, Revelation 2:27, and Revelation 19:15.
  16. What does verse five teach you about Christ? About the power of God compared to the power of Satan? Why do you think verse five omits mention of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection, and simply refers to his ascension and sitting at the throne of God?
  17. What happens next in the vision? What is the significance of her flight? Where does she flee to? What is God’s role in that? How long is she there? What is the significance of the number of days? See Revelation 11:2. (6)
  18. What do verses 7-9 teach you about the heavenly realms? What do they teach you about angels? What do they teach you about Satan? About Satan’s angels?
  19. What is the outcome of the battle? (7-8)
  20. Who is Michael? See Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1, and Jude 9. What do these cross references teach you about Michael?
  21. What is the importance of the fact that Satan lost his battle with Michael and his angels? (7-8)
  22. What does it mean that “*a place in heaven was no longer found for them?*” When did this happen? How is it connected with Christ’s triumph at the cross, his ascension, and reigning over earth? “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*” (Matthew 28:18).
  23. Do you think Satan had more free access to the throne of God before Christ’s ascension than he does now? See Job 1:6, 2:1; see also Zechariah 3:1-2. What did Jesus mean when he said, “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*” (Luke 10:18)? See also John 12:31.
  24. What does verse 9 say about the outcome of the war in heaven? What names are given to Satan here? Why do you think John uses all five? What do each of the names teach you about Satan? Why do you think it so strongly emphasizes that the devil was “*thrown down*” or “*cast out*” six times in verses 9, 10, and 12-13?
  25. Why is it important for believers to understand both the devil’s great power and great limitation?
  26. Where is the scene of the great song of triumph in verses 10-12? How is it contrasted with the scene on earth?
  27. Who speaks the celebration in these verses? Note that the speaker says, “*The accuser of our brothers.*” Do angels call us “brothers?”
  28. What is the significance of the word, “*Now,*” in verse 10?
  29. Compare this hymn of triumph with Revelation 11:15,17?
  30. Why do you think heaven spends so much time celebrating God’s sovereignty?

31. Who is the “accuser of our brothers”? See Zechariah 3:1-2 and Job 1:9-1, 2:4-5. What is the significance of the fact that he’s been cast out? See Romans 8:33-34. Has he given up his accusing of the brothers and sisters? (10)
32. What does verse 11 teach you? How does this verse help you face the accusations of the devil? How do they help you lead a triumphant, courageous, and powerful life as a witness for Christ?
33. What does verse 11 teach you of the power of Christ’s blood?
34. What is “*the word of their testimony*”? How does it help overcome the accusations of the devil?
35. It is a natural thing to love our lives and try to preserve them. Is it possible to love our lives too much? See Luke 14:26-27. How does the courageous example of martyrs from church history help us be courageous now?
36. What does verse 12 teach us about the contrast between heaven and earth? How does heaven rejoice while the earth quakes under Satan’s wrath? (12)
37. Why is the devil so angry in verse 12? What does the fact that the devil *knows* his time is short teach you about him?
38. Relate verse 12 to Romans 16:20.
39. What happened after the dragon was flung to the earth? What did he seek to do to the woman? How does this help to interpret who the woman is in 12:1?
40. What happened when the devil pursued the woman? How did God intervene on her behalf? Why doesn’t the woman stand and fight as Michael and his angels did?
41. What do you think of the eagles’ wings that enable her to fly? See Exodus 19:4, Deuteronomy 32:11, Ruth 2:12, Isaiah 40:31, and Psalm 91:4.
42. What is the significance of the time frame “*time, times, and half a time*”? Again, see Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, Daniel 7:25 and 12:7.
43. What did the “*serpent*” do next? What does the word serpent connote about Satan? See Genesis 3:1. (15)
44. What does the flood spewing from the mouth of the serpent represent? See Isaiah 43:2. What happened to the Satanic river that threatened to drown the woman? What does this show you about God’s power for his people? How is it different than the power he exercised through Michael? (16)
45. What was Satan’s reaction to what happened to his river? What does verse 17 teach you about Satan’s hatred of you personally and of the church generally?
46. How does verse 17 describe believers?

### III. SUMMARY:

Revelation 12 speaks very pointedly about the battle of Satan against the people of God; how again and again he seeks to attack them, accuse them, kill them, chase them, harass them, and ultimately destroy them. It also speaks of God’s greater power over Satan on behalf of his people, how again and again he thwarts Satan’s attacks and renders them void. It teaches the church the need to “*be self-controlled and alert; your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to destroy; resist him, standing firm in the faith because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of sufferings*” (1Peter 5:8-9).

#### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How would understanding this chapter help you to prepare better for battle against Satan and his demons?
2. How would it help you be willing to suffer for your faith?
3. How would it help you pray more fervently for persecuted brothers and sisters around the world?
4. How would it help you resist temptation?
5. How would it help you answer the accusations of the devil and of a guilty conscience?
6. How does 1 Peter 5:8-10 connect with Revelation 12?
7. How can you apply the sovereignty of God over Satan to the trials in your life?
8. How would understanding this chapter help you have a realistic expectation of what life will be like until you die?

## The Beast from the Sea

### REVELATION 13:1-10

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach you about Satan, his influence over human government, and his vicious attack on the church?
2. What do you learn about human government in general, and that of the Antichrist in particular? How would you argue that the beast is the Antichrist and not merely Rome in its persecution of the church during John's era?
3. How has human government generally dealt with the church? Draw a contrast between Romans 13 and Revelation 13.
4. Why do you think God ordains that the church go through such great suffering at the hands of the beast (see verse 7)?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

*Read Daniel 7, 8, and 11 for full background.*

1. How does the sentence, "*And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore,*" set up this chapter? Who is the dragon? See Revelation 12:9.
2. What does the beast represent? How does John describe him (heads, horns, etc.)? How would this description argue against the beast just being one man?
3. Why do you think both Daniel and Revelation liken wicked, persecuting human governments to powerful and deadly beasts?
4. From where does the beast come? What is the significance of the sea? See the parallels in Daniel 7:2-3 and Isaiah 57:20-21. (1)
5. What is the significance of the ten horns? The seven heads? The ten diadems? What do these show about the beast? (1)
6. Blasphemy (both spoken and written) by wicked tyrants is a great theme in Daniel and Revelation. Read Revelation 13:5-6. What is the nature of the blasphemy the beast speaks? Why do you think blasphemy is so central to scripture's description of the beast's reign? See Daniel 7:8, 20, 25; 8:9-11, and 11:36-37 for this blasphemy. See also 2 Thessalonians 2:4. (1, 5-6)
7. What beasts does John see represented in the beast from the sea? What attributes do you think each of these beasts represents? (2)
8. How does the dragon give the beast his power, throne, and great authority? What does it reveal about evil human governments? (2)
9. What does verse three teach you about the beast? Do you think this represents one individual ruler that is miraculously healed? What effect does the amazing recovery of the beast have on the world? (3)
10. The issue of worship comes up strongly in 13:4, 12, and 15. How is this worship a direct challenge to God and to Christ? See also Matthew 4:8-10.
11. How does the worship statement, "*Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war against him?*" a direct affront to Almighty God? See Exodus 15:11 and Psalm 89:6-10. For an answer to their "worshipful" question about the power of the



beast, see 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 17:14, and 19:11-21. How do these verses answer the question?

12. We have already addressed the blasphemy. What is the significance of the expression, *“There was given him a mouth... and authority”*? Who gave the mouth, and who gave the authority? How do both God and Satan in some sense BOTH give authority to the beast? (5)
13. What is the meaning of the 42 months? See Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 11:2.
14. What specific aspects of blasphemy are mentioned in verse six? What does the word “tabernacle” refer to? (6)
15. Notice that 13:7 also speaks of authority given to the beast to make war against the saints and defeat them. Who gave that authority? This is a major theme in Daniel and Revelation. Perhaps it may be why the book was written, so that the elect would not be discouraged when it occurs. See Daniel 7:25. Why would God do this? What does it teach about the limits of the beast’s sovereign power? (7)
16. How widespread is the authority of the beast in verse seven?
17. What shocking revelation comes in 13:8? How does beast-worship divide the whole world into two camps? How is it the fulfillment of everything Satan has been aiming for all along? How does Paul explain the beast’s ability to capture the worship of the world in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10? See also Revelation 13:13-15 for the mechanism of capturing worldwide worship: a combination of wonder and terror.
18. Various translations handle the clause, *“from the foundation of the world,”* differently. Some have it modifying the slaying of the Lamb, some the writing of the names. What would each option teach you? Either way, what does the concept itself (“from the foundation of the world”) teach you about God’s plan? (8)
19. What is the purpose of verse 9?
20. What does verse 10 mean? Is it a warning to the persecutor that he will be punished according to what he does? Or is it a warning to the persecuted that their suffering is inevitable and controlled by God? How would either option help the perseverance of the saints? (10)

### III. SUMMARY:

John sees the dragon welcoming a beast from the sea described as having dreadful power and authority used to wage war against the saints and establish itself as deity on earth. It can deceive the entire earth into worshipping it, but the saints are protected not only from the deception but in and through (but not from) the terrible consequences of refusing to worship the beast.

#### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. Understand the two sides of government: servant of God (Romans 13) and beast from the sea (Revelation 13). Be willing to act accordingly depending on how it reveals itself.
2. Pray fervently for brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering persecution. Stand in awe of the complexity of the plans of God who allows the beast this kind of amazing power and authority to achieve His own ends. God's ways are not ours!

# The Beast from the Earth

## REVELATION 13:11-18

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the relationship between the “*beast from the sea*” (Revelation 13:1-10) and the “*beast from the earth*” (13:11-18)?
2. Why do some commentators call the beast from the earth “the final false prophet”? In what ways does he behave like a false prophet?
3. In what ways do the dragon, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth parody the Trinity?
4. What is the great danger about which these verses are warning the people of God?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the fact that the second beast of Revelation 13 comes from the earth? (11)
2. How does John describe him? Compare with Daniel 8:3, “*two horns.*”
3. What are the usual characteristics of a lamb? How then does this lamb speak like a dragon? What is the implied relationship between this beast and the dragon of Revelation 12 and 13? (11)
4. How is this beast like “*a wolf in sheep’s clothing*” (Matthew 7:15)? (11)
5. What is the work of this beast, as described in verse 12? What does the beast seek to do? On whose behalf does he work?
6. What is the significance of the false worship in this passage? How is this consistent with Satan’s work throughout the ages? (12, 15)
7. What insight do the following passages shed on the miracles mentioned in verse 13: Exodus 7:11-12, 22; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 24:24; and especially 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10? (13-14)
8. What specific sign is mentioned? What does it remind you of?
9. In what way is deception a major part of the second beast’s work? What insight do Matthew 24:24 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9 give on the issue of spiritual deception? (14)
10. What does the beast from the earth order the inhabitants of the earth to do? How is the setting up of an image to be worshiped consistent with Satan’s approach throughout history? (14)
11. What does the expression, “*He was given power to,*” signify? Who gave the beast the miracle-working power described there? (15)
12. What miracle does the beast from the earth do in verse 15? What effect do you think that had on the inhabitants of the earth?
13. When the image of the beast from the sea comes to life and speaks, what does it do to the people? What effect will it have on the population? On Christians?
14. Verses 16-17 describe the famous “mark of the beast.” Who is supposed to receive it?
15. Where is the mark placed? Compare with Revelation 7:3, 9:4, and 14:1.

16. What will happen if they don't receive it? What effect will this have on commerce and on the daily lives of the people of the earth? How is it a measure of government control? (16-17)
17. What will happen if they do receive it (Revelation 14:9-11)? How then does this situation force people to choose between their eternal souls and their earthly lives? (16-17)
18. What does the mark of the beast represent? (17)
19. How does "*wisdom*" come into the issue of calculating the number of the beast? Compare with Daniel 12:10, "*None of the wicked will understand, but the wise will understand.*" Note there that Daniel himself does not understand, even though he is wise. So, the wisdom may be something given to people at the time that is needed, but which is as incomprehensible to previous generations as Daniel's own vision was to him (See Daniel 12:4, 8-10).
20. The number of the beast is 666. How does that compare with the "*number of man*"? (18)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

In John's vision, a second beast comes after the one from the sea. This beast is from the earth, and it works together with the beast from the sea to deceive and corrupt the people of the earth into false religion, worshiping the beast from the sea. The situation will be deadly for the lives of Christians and the souls of non-Christians. The mark of the beast is introduced which becomes the focal point of government control of commerce and religion.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does understanding this passage help you in your personal worship of the true Trinity?
2. Given the important role of deception in the "final false prophet's" work, how can a Christian prepare now? What role will faithful intake of the Bible have in that preparation?
3. What does this passage make you think about idolatry? Commerce? Government? Truth?

## The Lamb and His 144,000

### REVELATION 14:1-5

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the 144,000 in this vision?
2. What do these verses teach you about what kind of life God honors?
3. What do these verses teach you about worship?
4. How do these verses motivate you as a Christian?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does this section relate to the previous two chapters?
2. How would you compare the 144,000 to the followers of the beast? What points of comparison are there between Revelation 13 and 14:1-5?
3. What did John see in this vision? (1)
4. Why do you think John continues to call Christ, “*Lamb*,” throughout the book of Revelation? Why not, “*Lion*,” or some other expression? (1)
5. What does “*Mount Zion*” represent? Is it a location? Is it heavenly or earthly? See Psalm 48:2,11; Isaiah 4:5, 8:18, 10:12, 24:23, 31:4; Lamentations 5:18; Joel 2:32. What does Hebrews 12:22 say about “*Mount Zion*”? See also “*Zion*” in Isaiah 40:9, 51:3, 11, 16.
6. How does John describe the 144,000? How do they relate to the 144,000 sealed in Revelation 7:1-8? Are they the same people? Do they represent all the redeemed or a select group of “*super-saints*”?
7. What is the significance of having Christ’s name and the Father’s name written on their foreheads? Compare with the mark of the beast (13:16). See also Revelation 22:4. (1)
8. What did John hear in the vision? What is noteworthy about the sound? Why do you think it was so loud? (2)
9. What does the harp music connote to you? See Revelation 5:8. How does extremely loud music connect with harp playing? (2)
10. What is the significance of the “*new song*” that the 144,000 sing? How does it relate to the song of Moses and of the Lamb in 15:2-4? (3)
11. Why does it say they sang their song before the throne and before the elders and living creatures? What is the significance of that? (3)
12. It says, “*No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.*” Why do you think this is so? (3)
13. What does the word “*redeemed*” mean? See also 1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23; Revelation 5:9 (“*with your blood you purchased men for God*”), and verse 4 in this chapter. In what sense are the 144,000 (and we) purchased? (3)
14. How does verse 4 describe these 144,000? What three descriptions does John give of them? (4)
15. What do you think it means that they did not “*defile themselves with women*”? It literally says, “*for they are virgins.*” Does this mean these are unmarried virgin men? What are the possible problems with such a literal interpretation? What

does it say about lawful sexual relations in marriage? How are such marital relations seen in Scripture? See Ephesians 5:31-32 and 1 Timothy 4:3.

16. Is there a possible figurative interpretation? See 2 Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7-8 & 21:9 and James 4:4.
17. What does it mean, "*They follow the Lamb wherever he goes*"? See Matthew 4:19, 8:19-23, 9:9, 10:38-39, 16:24-25; John 10:27, John 12:24-26, and 1 Peter 2:21.
18. What is the significance of the expression, "*first fruits to God and to the Lamb.*" (4)
19. What else does it say of them in 14:5? Why does it mention lying in particular? Compare this with 1 John 1:6, 2:21-22, Colossians 3:9, Revelation 3:9 and 21:8.
20. What does "blameless" mean?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John has a vision of the redeemed on Mount Zion with the Lamb. They are worshipping powerfully and are described with exceptional language concerning their purity and their redemption. It is a heavenly picture of final salvation designed to encourage the church after the dreadful images of the previous two chapters, Satan's powerful attacks on the church.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How do these verses make you want to live for the glory of God?
2. How do they stimulate you to worship Christ?
3. What do they teach you about purity and holiness?

## The Proclamations of the Three Angels

### REVELATION 14:6-13

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the fact that an angel was given the eternal gospel to proclaim to inhabitants of the earth? How does it relate to Romans 10:14-15?
2. What does this passage teach about worldliness and its danger?
3. What is the significance of this passages' teaching on the nature and duration of the torments of hell?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What are angels? What role are they given in this text? Note: the word "angel" is a transliteration of the Greek word which means "messenger."
2. What message does the first angel bear? What is the significance of the phrase, "eternal gospel"? What is the significance of the fact that God entrusted this mission to an angel? To whom does the angel preach the eternal gospel? (6)
3. How do you reconcile the obvious pressure of Romans 10:14-15 (namely that human beings must go to unreached people groups and proclaim the gospel) with the fact that God gives the task here to an angel flying in midair?
4. How would you characterize the angel's message? What commands does he give? (7)
5. What does the first angel's proclamation teach you about evangelism? About missions? About worship? (7)
6. How would you relate the angel's message to Paul's statement about the wrath of God on idolatrous humanity in Romans 1:18-23? (7)
7. How does it relate to the worship given to God the Creator in Revelation 4:11? (7)
8. What is the message of the second angel? What does, "Babylon the Great" represent? See also Revelation 17:1-5 and 18:1-24. (8)
9. What is the "maddening wine of her adulteries"? Why is the term "adultery" used of involvement with Babylon? See James 4:4. (8)
10. What is the message of the third angel? (9)
11. What is the general purpose of the third angel's message? (9)
12. What is the specific sin of the tormented in Revelation 14:9-11?
13. For a second time in this passage, the image of drinking is used. What does it mean to drink from the cup of God's wrath? (10)
14. Why is the image of drinking wine used in verse 10? How is this wine also "maddening," though the term isn't used?
15. What is the significance of the expression, "full strength" or "without mixture"? What does it teach you about hell?
16. What is the significance of the words "he will be tormented"? What does it teach you about hell? (10)

17. The phrase, “*in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb,*” means what about hell? (10)
18. Why do you think some people have such difficulty accepting the doctrine of God’s wrath and of eternal torment in hell?
19. What would you say to someone like John Stott who says it is unjust to punish someone eternally for something they did in time?
20. What does verse 11 teach you about hell?
21. How does verse 12 connect with what precedes? How does this angel’s message, “*call for patient endurance on the part of the saints*”?
22. What description does John give to the saints in verse 12? What does this teach you about the nature of the Christian life in this world?
23. Who speaks next in the passage? What does he command John to do?
24. How is verse 13 meant to be an encouragement to saints during the period when the beast stalks the earth demanding worship and demanding people receive his mark?
25. What does it mean to die, “*in the Lord*”? How are they blessed? (13)
26. Who also speaks to John in verse 13b? How is this significant? How does the Spirit speak to an apostle writing Scripture? (13)
27. What does the Spirit say to John? How is heaven a place of rest from labor? How do the deeds of those who die “*in the Lord*” follow them? (13)

### III. SUMMARY:

John hears the proclamations of three angels which he records. The first angel proclaims the eternal gospel from the sky to people all over the earth, urging them to worship the God who made all things. The second angel celebrates the fall of “Babylon the Great,” the idolatrous and immoral world system which has lured people into sin from the beginning of history. The third angel warns saints of the eternal danger of taking the mark of the beast in the clearest terms. The message of the third angel is a clear warning about the eternal torments in hell awaiting sinners. The proclamations are supported by two voices from heaven (one of which is the Spirit) urging saints to focus on the blessedness of obedience and faithfulness to Jesus.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. How does the angel’s proclamation of “the eternal gospel” to “every nation, tribe, language and people” help urge missions forward? What does it teach us about the nature of evangelism?
2. How would meditating on Revelation 14:9-11 (the nature of hell) affect our lives in the following areas: worldliness, evangelism, meditation on the cross of Christ, thankfulness, worship, and obedience?
3. How would it affect our relationship with unsaved relatives, neighbors, friends, and co-workers?



## Two Visions of Divine Judgment: Harvest and Winepress

### REVELATION 14:14-20

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do these two visions of divine judgment teach you about God? About Christ? About the seriousness of sin?
2. What do these passages teach you about the timing of God's judgment?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How do these two visions of wrath and judgment fit into the overall flow of Revelation?
2. What does John see in the first vision? (14)
3. Compare verse 14 with Daniel 7:13-14. What do you observe about the two passages?
4. Who is the "Son of Man" in both visions? What does this passage (in Revelation) teach you about him? (14-16)
5. Compare verse 14 with Jesus' statement in John 5:27.
6. What is the significance of the golden crown upon his head? (14)
7. What is the significance of the sickle in his hand? (14)
8. What happens next in the vision? (15)
9. What does the angel command the Son of Man to do? Why is the command given according to the verse? (15)
10. Some find the fact that the angel gives a command to the Son of Man troubling. How would you answer this? (15)
11. What is the significance of the issue of timing to the wrath of God? See Genesis 15:16 on "the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." How do you understand that statement compared with verse 15?
12. Verse 16 comes at us with remarkable restraint and understatement. Why do you think this verse is so simple? What effect does this give in the account?
13. Compare this harvest image with Matthew 3:12, 9:37-38, 13:30,39, and John 4:35.
14. What different image comes to John next? (17-20)
15. How many angels are involved in this image? How are each of them described? (17-18)
16. What does it mean that the angel had power over fire? (18)
17. What does the second angel tell the first angel to do? Why does he tell him to do it? (18)
18. What is the significance of the statement, "*for the grapes are ripe*"? See question 11 above. (18)
19. What did the angel with the sickle do with it? (19)
20. How is the winepress described? What is the winepress of God's wrath? What is Christ's relation to it in Revelation 19:15? See also Isaiah 63:3. (19-20)

21. What is the outcome of the treading of the winepress? What is the significance of the fact that it is trodden "*outside the city*"? (20)
22. Verse 20 gives an incredible statement concerning the flow of blood from the winepress. How do you understand this passage? Note: a horse's bridle may stand as high as 4 feet; 1600 stadia is 184 miles; an average person has about 5 liters of blood. If the amount of blood were like a large cylinder of 92 miles in radius, 4 feet high, it would be a volume of blood sufficient for 1 quadrillion people, or equivalent to the blood on 140,000 earths at 7 billion people on each planet. What conclusion can you draw from the statement then about the volume of blood?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John sees two visions of final judgment, one of a great harvest, the other of a great winepress. In both cases the judgment occurs because the time has fully come.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. In sharing the gospel, how can we make use of these two visions?
2. How would meditation on these two visions help us in our present responsibilities of personal holiness and world evangelization?

## God Prepares the Final Judgments for Earth

### REVELATION 15:1-8

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of this chapter?
2. What does the heavenly worship of those who triumphed over the Beast teach you about the temporary nature of earthly persecution and suffering?
3. Why is it helpful to see the attitude of the angels who pour out God's wrath on the wicked of the earth?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does John introduce this chapter?
2. What is the significance of the statement concerning these last plagues, "*because with them God's wrath is completed*"? (1)
3. What did John see in his heavenly vision? How do you understand the sea of glass mixed with fire? What do you think the sea represents? Keep in mind that the four beasts, representing the four great empires, came up out of the sea in Daniel 7; so also, the beast (Antichrist) came up from the sea.
4. Who did John see standing beside the sea? Who are these who were victorious over the beast and his number? How did they triumph? See Revelation 12:11.
5. What were they holding in their hands? What does that represent?
6. What song did they sing? How would you understand the "*song of Moses and of the Lamb*"? Compare with the song of Moses in Exodus 15:1 after the defeat of Pharaoh at the Red Sea. This is the last mention of Moses in the Bible.
7. What words did they sing? Why were they celebrating the ways of God? Look back at Revelation 14... what had just happened there?
8. What is the significance of the question, "*Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?*" How does that question show the irrationality of sinful rebellion against Almighty God?
9. How do God's judgments cause all nations to fear him and worship him?
10. What did John see next in the vision? What is the significance of him seeing a heavenly tabernacle?
11. How does the existence of this heavenly tabernacle connect with Hebrews 9:11, which says Jesus entered a "*greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is, not a part of this creation*"?
12. What came out of the heavenly tabernacle in John's vision? (6)
13. How were the angels dressed? What were they carrying?
14. How does the carrying of the bowls of wrath which they will pour out on the surface of the earth in Revelation 16 relate to Ezekiel 10:1-8, the collection of fire by the cherubim which is then poured out on the wicked city of Jerusalem?
15. Why does the heavenly tabernacle fill with smoke? What does that signify? (8)
16. How does that compare with Moses' tabernacle and Solomon's temple filling with smoke?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

The seven angels prepare the seven last plagues that will be poured out on earth. Before God brings any judgment on a people, he first prepares it.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How can meditating on God's final judgments on earth help us to live holy lives?
2. How can it help us be more fruitful in evangelism?

# The Seven Last Plagues

## REVELATION 16:1-21

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chapter teach you about the holiness of God?
2. What does it teach you about the repentance of the wicked?
3. How does this chapter affect your thinking about the future, about history, and about the physical earth on which we live?
4. What do you feel is the main message of this chapter?
5. How could understanding this message help us both in personal holiness and in witnessing to the lost?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does God pour out His judgments in this chapter? What means does he use to do it?
2. How would you compare the seven bowls of this chapter with the seven trumpets of chapters 8-11? Perhaps a chart would help:

#### Seven Trumpets

1. earth (8:7)
2. sea (8:8-9)
3. rivers, springs (8:10-11)
4. sun, moon, stars (8:12)
5. pit of the Abyss (9:1)
6. river Euphrates (9:13-15)
7. lightning, hail (11:15, 19)

#### Seven Bowls

1. earth (16:2)
2. sea (16:3)
3. rivers, springs (16:4-5)
4. sun (16:8)
5. throne of the beast (16:10)
6. river Euphrates (16:12)
7. lightning, hail (16:17, 21)

Why do you think there is such a clear parallelism between the seven trumpets and seven bowls? Are there differences? Compare what happens to the sea in each case:

**Revelation 8:8-9** *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 16:3** *The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.*

3. How does the final onslaught of plagues begin? What is the significance of this “voice from the temple”? See Isaiah 66:6. (1)
4. Compare the use of the word, “Go,” here and in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). What “Great Commission” are the angels given here?
5. What did the first bowl judgment do? Compare with the plagues in Egypt (Exodus 9:10-11). Describe life with these repulsive boils festering on everyone’s bodies. (2)
6. Who does John say specifically received these boils? (2)
7. What did the second bowl judgment do? How will this affect those living on the earth? What do you think it means, “blood as of a dead man”? (3)

8. What happened when the third angel poured out his bowl? What is the significance of these two plagues on the water (salt and fresh) on earth? How does water relate to life? (3)
9. What is the significance of the angel's statement (16:5-6) concerning the terrible judgment he has just poured out on the rivers? What does it teach you about angelic obedience? What does it teach you about God's justice? What does it show you about the thinking process of angels? Do they understand what God is doing? Does it seem to make sense to them? What does the angel call God? How does the angel link the judgment to the wickedness of the people? Describe God's concern for his own suffering people who died as martyrs. (5-6)
10. What is the significance of the answer back in verse 7?
11. Do you see the justice of God in these judgments? Or is it difficult for you to understand why God would deal so harshly with the earth?
12. What is the result of the fourth bowl poured out on the earth? What does it show you of the power of God given to angels? What is the significance of the simple statement that the sun was "*given the power*" to burn people? What does it teach you of God's sovereign control over the universe? (8)
13. What happened in the hearts of the people who were being tormented by these plagues? What do we learn about the sinful human heart? About repentance? About the duty of man to glorify God? See Romans 1:21. (9)
14. What happened when the fifth angel poured out his bowl? What is the significance of the fact that he poured out the bowl directly onto the throne of the beast? Why did the people bite their tongues? Again, what does it show you that the people only blasphemed more because of this plague? (10-11)
15. What is the result of the sixth bowl? Verses 12-16 cover this, paving the way for the final showdown between Christ and his foes. What was the result of the drying up of the Euphrates River? Who are the "*kings of the east*"? What effect did the unclean spirits coming from the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet have? Note that they can work miracles, which we have mentioned before (see Matthew 24:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). Why is the whole world being assembled for war? Joel 3 specifically predicts the assembling of the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat for judgment. (12-16)
16. What function does the warning of verse 15 play in this chapter? How does it motivate you?
17. The word, "*Armageddon*," has produced almost as much popular speculation and interest as "*666*" the "*Number of the Beast*." What is the function of Armageddon in this chapter? (16)
18. What happens when the seventh angel pours out his bowl? What is the significance of the statement, "*It is done*"? (17)
19. What is the significance of the flashes of lightning and peals of thunder? What of the earthquake? How are they associated with the wrath of God throughout scripture? (18)
20. What happens to Babylon the Great as a result? What does it mean that it was split into three parts and says, "*Babylon the Great was remembered before God*"?

21. What effect did the final bowl have on the physical surface of the earth?
22. How does the chapter end? With what plague? Once again, note the reaction of the people! (21)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

With this chapter John reveals the final outpouring of wrath on the surface of the earth. These are the final expressions of God's wrath in human history, paving the way for the final judgment and the New Heavens and the New Earth. These plagues are dreadful and comprehensive, but they do not produce repentance and faith in the hearts of the wicked people who suffer them.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How is God calling you to repentance?
2. Where are you spiritually sleeping and need to wake up and get dressed?
3. How is the fear of God teaching you wisdom?

# The Great Harlot and the Beast

## REVELATION 17:1-18

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

(note: chapters 17-19 present a united theme of the fall of Babylon by the second coming of Christ)

1. What does the prostitute sitting on the beast represent? How is the allurements of the world's anti-God systems a threat to human souls?
2. How does Jeremiah 2:13 describe this danger?
3. How is 1 John 2:15-17 a commentary on this chapter and Revelation 18? How is Nahum 3:1-4?
4. Why do so many commentators think the prostitute of Revelation 17 represents the "One World Religion"? Can you support this claim from Revelation 17? Note: the words "worship", "idol", "idolatry" etc. do not appear at all, and there is no direct mention of anything to do with religion in this chapter. John MacArthur writes "The great harlot that will be judged is not an actual prostitute. The term 'harlot' is a metaphor for false religion, spiritual defection, idolatry, and religious apostasy" (*Commentary on Revelation 12-22*, p. 161)<sup>6</sup>. Could it be rather that the harlot represents any worldly system that draws people's hearts away from worshiping the true and living God, including money, power, lust, fame, etc.? The clearest statement in the chapter concerning the identity of the woman is in verse 18: "*The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.*" Does that not argue more for power-producing, lust-filled, anti-God pleasures? Comment on this.
5. How does the obvious reference to Rome ("*seven hills*", verse 9) help with this interpretation? In what way should we who live sixteen centuries after the fall of Rome apply this chapter?
6. What does this chapter show about the nature of evil and of the alliances between evil people?
7. What does it show about the persecution of the church?
8. What does it show about the power of Christ?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Who is John's guide in this chapter? What does he tell John he will show him?
2. Why is the image of a "harlot" used here? What does a "harlot" signify? (1)
3. What does the angel promise to show John concerning the harlot? What is the nature of her judgment? (1)
4. What is the significance of the fact that she "*sits upon many waters*"? See also verse 15.
5. Who are the "*kings of the earth*"? In what way did they commit adultery with the harlot? How were the inhabitants of the earth intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries? (2)
6. What happened next? See Revelation 4:2, 21:10; Ezekiel 3:12-14, 8:3, and 11:1. See also Philip's amazing journey in Acts 8:38-39. (3)
7. Where did the Spirit carry John? Why do you think the vision occurred in a desert?



8. What did John see in the desert? What does the beast signify? How is the beast described? What do you make of the blasphemous names on the beast? What is the significance of the fact that the woman is sitting on the beast? (3)
9. How is the woman described? What of the fact that both the beast and the woman are scarlet? What does this represent? Comment on the woman's clothing – what does all this finery represent? What is in her hand? What does this represent? What insight does it give into her "*fornications*"?
10. What name is written on her head? What is the significance of the name? Why is it (or she) called a "*mystery*"? (5)
11. What does the name, "*Babylon*," conjure up in the mind of anyone familiar with Old Testament history? What does Babylon generally represent? See Revelation 14:8. (5)
12. What does it mean that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, specifically those who bore testimony to Jesus? What does this show you concerning the relationship of true Christians to the harlot, and concerning her relationship to them? (see 1 John 3:13, John 15:18-19; also Paul's statement in Galatians 6:14) (6)
13. What is John's reaction to this vision? Why do you think he reacted thus? (6)
14. What did the angel say to John at this point? Why do you think he comments on John's amazed reaction to the vision of the harlot?
15. What does the angel promise to explain to John? What does this tell you about the book of Revelation itself and its deep mysteries? See Acts 8:30-31. (7)
16. What does the angel tell John about the beast? What does it mean that he "*was, is not, and is about to come from the Abyss*"? What is the beast? Is it "THE Antichrist" or is it the "spirit of antichrist" of which many have come? What two aspects of the future of the beast does the angel describe in this verse? What does it mean that he will come from the Abyss? See Revelation 9:1-2,11; 11:7; and 20:1-3. (8)
17. How does Daniel 7:19-21 help explain the hatred of anti-Christ leaders for the church?
18. How is Revelation 17:9-14 a prediction of trouble ahead for the church at the hands of Rome? (9-14)
19. Why do you think the angel says, "*This calls for a mind with wisdom*"? See also Revelation 13:18. What do the "*seven hills*" represent? (9)
20. What else does the number seven represent in verse 10? Who are these seven kings? How are they described? Many commentators have tried to identify the kings with specific Roman Emperors. The five who have fallen are Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero; the one who is Vespasian, and the one to come is Titus. But all these attempts run into historical problems. Mounce writes: "Perhaps the most satisfying explanation of the seven kings is that the number seven is primarily symbolic and stands for the power of the Roman Empire as a historic whole." He goes on to say the five fallen, one is, one to come simply implies the end is coming soon. (10)

21. The central mystery is who is the eighth king? How does the angel describe him in verse 11? What does he mean in saying he, "*is not*"? (11)
22. How does the angel interpret the ten horns on the beast? What does he say about them? What is their purpose? How do the ten horns of Revelation 17:12-13 relate to the ten toes of Daniel 2, if at all? (12-13)
23. What does verse 14 teach you about the kings of the earth who gave their power to the beast? With whom will they fight? What will be the outcome of the battle? What reason does the angel give for this certain outcome? How does this depict the final victory of Christ? See Revelation 19:11-21. What significance does the title "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" play at that point? (14)
24. What does it mean when it says, "*and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful followers*"? See Revelation 19:14 and Jude 14.
25. How does the angel continue at this point? What is the interpretation of the waters on which the woman sits? What is the significance of the harlot sitting on the peoples of the earth? Notice this same phrase speaks of the national origins of all the elect as well in Revelation 7:9. How does this show the pervasive influence of the harlot over human history? (15)
26. What a shock is 17:16! Why do the evil leaders turn on the harlot? What is the significance of this? See Amnon's hatred of Tamar after raping her in 2 Samuel 13:15. See also the fate of Oholiab in Ezekiel 23:11-35. (16)
27. What does this show about the end of those who seek pleasure from the world, about how little it satisfies and how it ends in hatred for the very pleasures which drew us from God to begin with? (16)
28. What does verse 17 teach us about the sovereignty of God over all these events? See Proverbs 21:1 and Daniel 4:35. (17)
29. How does verse 18 help us interpret the whole chapter? (18)

### III. SUMMARY:

This stunning chapter teaches a basic lesson taught repeatedly in the Bible love for the world is hatred toward God. The message of Revelation 17 has specific prophecies for the final form of the worldly power that has enticed people away from God, but the abiding issue is, do we seek pleasure from God himself or from the things God created?

**IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does this chapter help us to battle worldliness in our lives?
2. How does it give us confidence about the future triumph of Christ over the world's anti-God system?
3. How could understanding this chapter help us in viewing the future of world government?

# "Babylon Has Fallen!!"

## REVELATION 18:1-24

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does Babylon represent in this chapter? Is it a future city, the capital of the Antichrist's worldwide empire, or is it a symbol of the whole of humanity's cities, the "world" with all its wealth and commerce, built for the glory of man in opposition to God? See Genesis 11, Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51, and 1 Peter 5:13.
2. Either way, what is the significance of the fall of Babylon in this chapter? What does it teach you about the righteousness, justice, patience, and wrath of God?
3. What is the significance of the lamenting of the kings, merchants, and sea captains, and the rejoicing celebration of the saints?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. The phrase, "*After these things*," occurs nine times in Revelation [1:19, 4:1 (twice), 7:9, 9:12, 15:5, 18:1, 19:1, 20:3]. How does this repeated phrase tend to function in this book?
2. What does John see in this new vision? How is the angel described? What does it mean that the angel had "*great authority*"?
3. What is said of the angel's glory? Compare with the following verses: Exodus 34:35, Daniel 12:3, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and Matthew 13:43. (1)
4. How is the voice of the mighty angel described? See also 7:2, 10:3, 14:7, 14:9, 14:15, and 19:17 for loud angelic proclamations. (2)
5. What does the angel proclaim? What is the significance of this moment in human history?
6. The fall of Babylon is predicted in the Old Testament (Isaiah 21:9, Jeremiah 50:2, 51:8). How do you compare the fall of the original city of Babylon with what is described here?
7. What does it mean that Babylon has become the "*dwelling place of demons*" and of unclean spirits, birds, and beasts? Compare with Isaiah 13:21 and 34:14. (2)
8. What reason is given in verse 3 for the fall of Babylon? How does 1 John 2:15-17 help interpret this verse? What is the "*wine*" of "*fornications*" and "*adulteries*" that Babylon gave to people? Who drank it, according to this verse? (3)
9. How is the illicit wealth of the kings of the earth connected to the fall of Babylon here? (3)
10. What does John see (hear) next in this vision? (4)
11. Who is commanded to flee from Babylon? What is the significance of this command? How do we obey it? See also Isaiah 48:20, Isaiah 52:11, Jeremiah 51:45, and especially 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. (4-8)
12. What reason does the voice from heaven give for fleeing? (4)
13. What does verse 5 teach you about God's justice and about judgment day? See also Romans 2:5 and 1 Timothy 5:24 (5)

14. Who is speaking in verse 6? To whom is he talking? What is he asking for? Why? (6)
15. What does verse 7 teach about the attitude of Babylon while in power? What is so sinful about this attitude? How do you see it reflected in the world system today? For parallel verses, see Isaiah 47:7-8. (7)
16. What does this verse teach about lavishing luxury on ourselves in these “*last days*”? See also James 5:5. (7)
17. What is God’s response to Babylon’s arrogance and self-indulgent luxury?
18. What are the various responses to the fall of Babylon and who gives them in verses 9-20? (9-20)
19. Why do the kings of the earth, the merchants, and the sea captains mourn the fall of Babylon so deeply?
20. What is said of the “*kings of the earth*” and their lament? What does it mean that they committed adultery with Babylon? How did they share in her luxury? What sight causes them to weep so bitterly? (9)
21. What are they afraid of? Why do they stand so far off from the city that made them rich and brought them such pleasure? (10)
22. What is the significance of the statement, “*In one hour, your judgment has come*”? (10)
23. Whose lament is the focus of verses 11-17? Why do they lament so bitterly?
24. What cargoes are described in verses 12-13? How is this commerce represented today? (12-13)
25. Read the following excerpt from John Bunyan’s classic allegory *Pilgrim’s Progress* as he describes “Vanity Fair”; how does it compare with the merchandise of Babylon the Great?

Almost five thousand years ago, there were pilgrims walking to the Celestial City, as these two honest persons are: and Beelzebub, Apollyon, and Legion, with their companions, perceiving by the path that the pilgrims made, that their way to the city lay through this town of Vanity, they contrived here to set up a fair; a fair wherein, should be sold all sorts of vanity, and that it should last all the yearlong: therefore at this fair are all such merchandise sold, as houses, lands, trades, places, honors, preferments, titles, countries, kingdoms, lusts, pleasures, and delights of all sorts, as whores, bawds, wives, husbands, children, masters, servants, lives, blood, bodies, souls, silver, gold, pearls, precious stones, and what not. And, moreover, at this fair there is at all times to be seen juggling, cheats, games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues, and that of every kind. Here are to be seen, too, and that for nothing, thefts, murders, adulteries, false swearers, and that of a blood-red color. And as in other fairs of less moment, there are the several rows and streets, under their proper names, where such and such wares are vended; so here likewise you have the proper places, rows, streets, (viz. countries and kingdoms), where the wares of this fair are soonest to be found. Here is the Britain Row, the French Row, the

Italian Row, the Spanish Row, the German Row, where several sorts of vanities are to be sold.<sup>7</sup>

26. How does 18:14 describe the end of human commerce in Babylon the Great?
27. What does the lament of the merchants teach you about God's judgment on the earth? What do you make of the lavish descriptions of luxury and wealth? (15-17a)
28. What warning do you take for your own personal spiritual health from this?
29. What is the significance of the repeated phrase, "*in one hour*" (like in 18:10)? (17)
30. Who laments Babylon next? Why do they lament so bitterly? Note again the phrase "*in one hour*"! (17b-19)
31. How is verse 20 a stunning contrast? Why would the saints rejoice when the rest of the world is mourning? (20)
32. Describe the events in this final section. What is significant about the casting down of the millstone? Compare with Jeremiah 51:63-64. (21)
33. What do verses 22-23 teach about the destruction of Babylon and the ending of everyday life as we know it? (22-23)
34. Why does verse 23 liken the merchants of Babylon to sorcerers casting a magic spell on the nations? What does this teach you about our own world system and its allurements and temptations?
35. Why is the luxury of Babylon also mingled with the blood of the saints? How is this the greatest motivation for God to destroy Babylon? (24)

### III. SUMMARY:

In a dramatic vision, Babylon is thrown down by the judgment of God, suddenly destroyed ("in one hour") in a fiery burst of wrath. The reasons given are clear: immorality, luxury, and persecution of the saints of God. The sudden fall of Babylon is a shock to those who loved her and is bitterly lamented by the kings of the earth, merchants, and sea captains who profited from her wickedness. But the saints of God rejoice and celebrate.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. How can we practice the separation that Revelation 18:4 and 2 Corinthians 6:17 (as well as 1 John 2:15-17) demand?
2. Since the luxury of Babylon is so offensive to God, how can we know if the comfortable lifestyle we have here in America is also offensive to God? We live at a higher level than most of the people on the earth. What do you think this chapter says to you personally about luxury and wealth?
3. How does this chapter give encouragement to us as we see the injustices and wickedness of the world?
4. How is it an incentive to evangelism and missions?

# Heavenly Hallelujahs

## REVELATION 19:1-10

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach you about the heavenly perspective on the fall of Babylon? Why is heaven celebrating what the earth is lamenting?
2. Why is God's sovereignty such a ground for passionate heavenly celebration?
3. What does this passage teach about God's zeal for the protection and vindication of his people, the "*bride of Christ*"?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does this passage relate to chapter 18, the Fall of Babylon? How would you contrast the reaction in heaven with that on earth?
2. What does John hear at the beginning of the passage? What does it sound like? What does it teach you about heavenly worship? (1)
3. Compare this passage with Revelation 7:9-10.
4. What does "*Hallelujah*" mean? Why is it appropriate here? What is the significance of its repetition in three verses? (1, 3, 4, 6)
5. What reasons do they give for their celebration? "*Hallelujah, for...*" What does this teach you about the content of worship? (1-2, 6)
6. How do these heavenly worshipers feel about the sovereignty of God? Read the following quote from Charles Spurgeon and note the contrast between normal human feelings on the sovereignty of God and those of the heavenly mindset:

There is no attribute more comforting to his children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of his own hands—the throne of God and his right to sit upon that throne. On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except on his throne. They will allow him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow him to be in his almonry to dispense his alms and bestow his bounties. They will allow him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends his throne, his creatures then gnash their teeth, and we proclaim an enthroned God, and his right to do as he wills with his own, to dispose of His creatures as he thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on

His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.<sup>8</sup>

7. What is the significance of the statement “*salvation... belongs to our God*”? See Jonah 2:9. (1)
8. Why is it important in this context (i.e. the fall of Babylon) that his judgments are true and just? (2)
9. How does God’s concern for the sufferings of His people come across in 19:2? How does it relate to Luke 18:7-8? (2)
10. Does verse 3 shock you? What is the heavenly multitude celebrating here? Why is it ground for celebration? See also Revelation 14:11. (3)
11. What does verse 4 teach you about heavenly worship? How does the worship of the elders and living creature harmonize with that of the great multitude of verse 1? What does the word, “*Amen*,” signify here?
12. Who speaks next in this scene of heavenly worship? What is the significance of this? Note the other times that a voice comes “*from the throne*” in Revelation: 4:5, 16:17, 21:3, 22:1. (5)
13. What does the voice from the throne command? What is the significance of the phrase “*both small and great*”? (5)
14. What is the alternative to being a servant of God? (5)
15. Who speaks next? How are their voices described? (6)
16. Again, what are they celebrating? Note: This is included in the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel’s Messiah.
17. What is the attitude that the multitude has toward God’s reign here? (6-7)
18. What does it mean, “*Let us give him glory*”? How do we do that? See Psalm 29:1-2. (7)
19. What is the “*wedding of the Lamb*”? What are the Old Testament roots of this concept? See Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 2:2-3; 3:14,20; 31:32; and Hosea 2:16.
20. How does the bride, “*make herself ready*”? See Ephesians 5:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 11:2.
21. How are good works like fine linen in which the people of God may be clothed? How does this relate to the imputed righteousness of Christ? (8)
22. What does the angel tell John to write at this point? What is the significance of an invitation to the wedding banquet of the Lamb? See Matthew 22:1-14. (9)
23. Is the image here confusing to you? Are we the bride or are we guests invited to a wedding? (9)
24. What does John do at this point? What is the significance of this moment? What does it teach you about John? About the angel? About angels in general?
25. What is the significance of the angel’s statement, “*The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*”? (10)



### **III. SUMMARY:**

John has a vision of heavenly worship of great passion and power; multitudes proclaiming “Hallelujah” over the sovereign power of Almighty God, especially in the Fall of Babylon.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does this section affect your own personal worship life?
2. How should it affect our corporate worship life?
3. How should this section make us understand the sovereignty of God?
4. How should it help us understand God’s reaction to the suffering of his persecuted people?

## The Second Coming of Christ

### REVELATION 19:11-21

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How important is the doctrine of the second coming of Christ?
2. How does this passage depict the overwhelming power of Jesus Christ in the battle against evil?
3. What does this passage teach you about the future world beyond the second coming?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does this vision begin? Compare the statement of John's seeing heaven standing open with what he saw in Revelation 4:1. Why was heaven open then, and why now? (11)
2. What is the significance of the vision of a white horse with a rider on it? What names is he given here, and what is the significance of those names? (11)
3. Why is Jesus' faithfulness so important when it comes to the doctrine of the Second Coming? How does it relate to the many promises he has made to return to earth in power and great glory? See Matthew 24:27,30; Matthew 25:31; Mark 8:38; John 14:3; and Acts 1:11.
4. Why is it vital to understand the statement, "*With justice he judges and makes war*"? How is it different from the way earthly conquerors make war? (11)
5. Describe the rider in verse 12? What is the significance of his eyes being like blazing fire? See Habakkuk 1:13, Revelation 1:14, and 2:18. (12)
6. What is the significance of the "*many crowns*" that are on his head?
7. Why do you think He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself? What does this teach you about Jesus? See Matthew 11:27 in which Jesus says, "*No one knows the Son except the Father.*" (12)
8. What is the significance of the fact that his robe is dipped in blood? What does this blood signify? See Isaiah 63:1-6. (13)
9. How does, "*His name is the Word of God,*" help identify/describe the rider? (13)
10. Who is riding with Jesus? How are they described? Compare this with Jude 14-15. Who are the armies of heaven? If Jesus is omnipotent and can slay all his enemies with the simple breath of his mouth, why do the armies of heaven ride out with him? (14)
11. How do you interpret the sword coming out of his mouth? Relate it to 2 Thessalonians 2:8. What does it teach you about the power of Christ's word?
12. Why do you think John quotes Psalm 2:9 at this point? How is it applied at this climactic moment of the Second Coming of Christ? (15)
13. What does it mean, "*He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty*"? How does it relate to Isaiah 63:2-3? How does it relate to Revelation 14:19-20? What does this verse teach you about the wrath of God? See also Romans 2:5-6 and Colossians 3:5-6 to understand the reasons for God's wrath. (15)

14. What is the significance of the name so familiar to us: “*King of kings and Lord of lords*”? What of the fact that this name is written on his robe and on his thigh? (16)
15. What happens next in John’s vision? How is the heavenly messenger described? What strange “*invitation*” does he give? What is the “*great supper of God*”? (17-18)
16. Where does all the flesh come from that the birds of the air feed on? Who is mentioned? (18)
17. What does verse 19 describe? What army is this? Would you agree that this battle is the greatest mismatch in the history of humanity? Why so?
18. What was the outcome of the battle? What happened to the beast and the false prophet? Why do you think John pauses to relate the deception that the false prophet had worked in the hearts of the people? (20)
19. How do you visualize the “*fiery lake of burning sulfur*”? (20)
20. What happened to the rest of the wicked army that had been gathered to fight against Christ? What does it teach you about Christ? (21)
21. What is the significance of the birds gorging themselves on the flesh of the wicked at the end of this vision? (21)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

Here at last is described the second coming of Christ and the final battle of human history. Heaven is opened; the Lord descends with a vast heavenly army and crushes Antichrist’s wicked army. The Antichrist and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does this passage help you when you see the evil in the world?
2. How would understanding this message help you in witnessing to the lost?
3. How can meditating on Christ’s power as displayed here strengthen you in overcoming temptation and sin? See especially Colossians 3:5-6 and Ephesians 5:3-7.

## The Millennium

### REVELATION 20:1-10

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the “millennium”? How can we understand this passage?
2. What does it teach us about Satan? What about hell?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does this passage relate to the previous section?
2. How does the vision begin? Why is it said that the angel was “coming down from heaven”? Where was he going and to do what? How does this relate to the angel in Revelation 9:1-2? (1)
3. What is the “*abys*”? The Greek noun is related to an adjective which literally means bottomless or unfathomed. How does it relate to Jude 6 and Luke 8:31?
4. What is the angel holding in his hand? What does he do with it?
5. Who is the “*dragon*”? Why do you think all these different names are used for Satan? See also Revelation 12:7-8, 12:12, and 12:15 for the same names being used. (2)
6. How is it that such a powerful being as Satan can be bound so completely? (2)
7. For how long is he bound? What is the significance of this number? Note: Revelation 20:2-7 is the only passage in the Bible that this phrase “thousand years” is used in conjunction with this event – the binding of Satan and the ruling of the saints. The phrase is used in each verse here (2,3,4,5,6, and 7); it is also used in different senses in Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 to teach the timelessness of God, and in Ecclesiastes 6:6 to speak in an exaggerated sense of a man who lives an extremely long time not having as much rest as a stillborn child. (2)
8. What image does verse three reveal about the binding of Satan during this period? What phrases does John give us? How completely is Satan incapacitated? Where is he put? (3)
9. According to 20:3, what is the purpose of the binding and incarceration of Satan? How does Satan seek to deceive the nations? See Mark 4:15, Matthew 13:38, and 2 Corinthians 4:4.
10. One of the key issues in resolving the question of the millennium is this: did Jesus bind the devil at his first coming to keep him from deceiving the elect among the nations, OR does this passage speak of so complete a binding of Satan (and many other passages speak of his being on the loose this present age) that this passage has yet to be fulfilled? The first position tends toward Amillennialism (the view that the “*thousand years*” is a metaphor for the extended period of the church age when the gospel advances irresistibly through evangelism and missions); the second position tends toward Millennialism (the view that there will be a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. See the evidence below and discuss:

Satan was bound by Jesus:

- a. Matthew 12:29: “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.”
- b. Luke 11:21-22: “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.”

Satan is on the loose, not “bound”:

- c. 1 Peter 5:8: “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
11. Tending toward Millennialism, notice that the passage speaks of an angel binding Satan, not that Christ bound him. (Of course, one may answer that Christ sent the angel.) Also notice the effect of the binding of Satan is that he should no longer deceive the nation, yet many verses show Satan’s deceiving power at work: see 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, 2 John 7, and Revelation 13:14. If Satan no longer has power to deceive the nations, how are these passages explained? If it is answered that he cannot deceive the elect of the nations, 2 Corinthians 11:3 speaks of the danger of the church being deceived. What are your thoughts on this issue? (3)
  12. What happens to Satan at the end of the thousand years? What is the significance of the statement, “he must be set free for a short time”?
  13. What else did John see in his vision? Who sits on these thrones? Is this some limitation of those who will reign on the earth during the thousand years? What people are specifically mentioned in 20:4? Are they the ones who will reign for a thousand years? (4-6)
  14. How are the martyrs described? How did the martyrs die? What did they refuse to do? (4)
  15. What does verse 5 teach? How do you explain this verse considering rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17) and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51-57) passages? Does this teach two different resurrections?
  16. How does resolving the resurrection issue affect the millennial question?
  17. What blessing does verse 6 confer upon those receiving the “first resurrection”?
  18. What is the “second death”? See Revelation 20:14.
  19. How does the statement, “and they will reign with him for a thousand years,” relate to Revelation 22:5, “and they will reign forever”? (6)
  20. What of the statement that these will be “priests of God and of Christ”?
  21. What is the significance of the statement, “they will reign with him”? Does this teach the bodily reign of Christ on earth during the thousand years?
  22. What happens when the thousand years are over? What does this teach you about Satan? (7-8)
  23. What happens because of Satan being set free? (8)
  24. Who are “Gog” and “Magog”? See Ezekiel 38:2 and 39:1. (8)
  25. Who do Gog and Magog seek to attack and destroy? (9)

26. What happened to this evil army? (9)
27. How does this passage end? How does the devil “deceive” Gog and Magog? What is the devil’s final fate in verse 10? What does this passage teach you about hell?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

In one of the most discussed and controversial passages in the Book of Revelation, the devil is bound for a thousand years, and the saints of God reign with Christ. At the end of that time, the devil is released and deceives the nations one last time. He organizes a vast army to try to destroy the people of God. But Satan and his army are defeated, and Satan is thrown into hell.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. Ask God to show you any demonic lies you are believing and replace them with truth.
2. Pray through Ephesians 6 and put on your spiritual armor.
3. What are some spiritual battles you have been fighting lately and how can you rely more on God for aid?
4. How do you see spiritual warfare going on in the world currently and how can you be praying about it?
5. What are some deceptions of the nations you see and how can you combat them with God's true word?

# Judgment Day

## REVELATION 20:11-15

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach us about Judgment Day?
2. What does it teach about eternal condemnation?
3. How should we live as Christians considering this passage?
4. How should this passage affect our evangelism and witnessing?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does this passage relate to what preceded (vs. 1-10)?
2. What does John describe first in this vision? What is the significance of this throne? Note: the word “throne” is very important in Revelation, appearing 37 times in the book. It is especially important in John’s first vision of heaven, mentioned eleven times in Revelation 4 alone! How does this verse compare with 4:2? (11)
3. What is the significance of its color, white? And of it being called “great”? (11)
4. What do you think it means when it says, “*earth and sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them*”? (11)
5. What does John see next? Who is standing before the throne? What is signified by their standing there? (12)
6. Since it says “*the dead*” are standing there, does this imply that no Christians will have to stand before the great white throne? Some commentators teach this, because they say the righteous were already raised in the “*first resurrection*” in verse 6.) (12)
7. How does this scene of judgment relate to the sheep and the goats passage in Matthew 24:31-46? How does it relate to the judgment of works and the accountability passages: 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:12, and Hebrews 13:17? (12)
8. What does it signify when it says, “*the books were opened*”? What books are described in this verse? See Daniel 7:10. How does it relate to Christ’s statement in Matthew 12:36?
9. On what basis are the dead judged? See Romans 2:5-10 and 1 Timothy 5:24. How does this terrifying future account of works lead first to the cross of Christ and second to a life of good works and a clear conscience? See Acts 24:15-16, 25. (12)
10. For Christians, what is the difference between being judged (assessed) by works and being saved by works?
11. What is the “*book of life*”? How does its presence help answer question #6 about Christians? (12)
12. What does it mean, “*The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.*”? (13)
13. What does it mean that Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire? Relate that to the following verses: 1 Corinthians 15:26 and Revelation 21:4.

14. What does the lake of fire signify? (14)
15. What is the “*second death*”? How does it relate to Romans 6:23 and John 11:25-26?
16. What do Revelation 14:10-11 and Matthew 25:41,46 teach you about hell, along with this verse? (15)
17. How does verse 15 clarify Judgment Day and evangelism?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

This terrifying passage describes the final judgment – Judgment Day. Hebrews 9:27 says it is appointed to each human being to die once and after that to face judgment. This passage, along with some others, describe this dreadful day. Thank God that there is a “Book of Life” which saves us from eternal wrath!

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does this passage help us to battle sin daily?
2. How does it give us power and motivation in evangelism?
3. How does it give us greater appreciation for the work of Christ on our behalf?



# The New Heaven and New Earth

## REVELATION 21:1-8

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach you about the future world?
2. What is the most encouraging aspect of these verses for you personally?
3. What do these verses teach about our future relationship with God?
4. What is the significance of the fact that there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the words, “*new heaven and new earth*”? How does this new creation relate to 2 Corinthians 5:17? (1)
2. What does it mean the “*first heaven and first earth had passed away*”? Read Hebrews 1:10-12, 2 Peter 3:10-13 and Romans 8:19-22. What do these passages teach about the present and future worlds? (1)
3. Do you think that the present heaven and earth will be entirely removed and a new one created from nothing in its place? Or do you believe that this present universe in some sense be resurrected so there is continuity yet difference much like our present physical bodies? (1)
4. Do you look on the new heaven and the new earth as being united or two separate places, two separate spheres? (1)
5. What do you think it means, “*there was no longer any sea*”? Why do you think God would remove the sea? Does this disappoint or excite you? (1)
6. What is the “*holy city, the new Jerusalem*”? What is the significance of the fact that it is, “*coming down out of heaven from God*”? (2)
7. Why do you think the new Jerusalem is likened to a “*bride (prepared)*” and “*beautifully dressed for her husband*”? Why the marriage analogy here? (2)
8. What does John hear next? What does the “*loud voice from the throne*” proclaim?
9. What other verses or biblical themes come to your mind when you consider the words of verse 3: “*Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God*”? Some possible verses to consider: Genesis 17:8; Exodus 6:7; Leviticus 26:11-12; Jeremiah 7:23, 11:4, 24:7, 30:22, 31:1,31:31-34, 32:37-38; Ezekiel 37:27; and 2 Corinthians 6:16. What is the cumulative effect of these verses on you? See also “*Emmanuel*” (Matthew 1:23) and John 1:14.
10. What does verse 4 teach about the future world? What does it teach about God’s compassion for his people?
11. What do you think life will be like in the new heaven and new earth without death, mourning, crying, or pain? Does this include psychological pain? (4)
12. What comfort does verse four give to you in your daily life?
13. What does it mean “*for the old order of things has passed away*”? (4)
14. Why do you think God speaks the words of verse five? Why does he specifically command John to write this down?

15. What is the significance of the words, "*It is done*"? How would you relate this sentiment to Jesus' final words from the cross, "*It is finished*"?
16. Why does he claim, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end*"? Why does he state this at this point in Revelation 21? What does it teach you about history? (6)
17. What do you make of the promise of verse 6, "*To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life*"? How does it relate to Matthew 7:7, Isaiah 55:1, John 4:13-14, 6:35, 7:37-39, and Revelation 22:17? (6)
18. Why is it essential that the water of life be "*without cost*"? (6)
19. What is the significance of the statement, "*He who overcomes will inherit all this*?" What does it mean to "*overcome*"? Overcome what? See Revelation 2-3 (the end of each of the letters to the seven churches); see also Romans 8:36-37. (7)
20. What is the significance of the promise, "*I will be his God, and he will be my Son*"? Relate it to Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:4-6, and John 1:12.
21. Who is excluded from this vast inheritance? What do each of these words teach you about God and sin: cowardly... unbelieving... vile... murderers... sexually immoral... sorcerers... idolaters... ALL liars. How do you reconcile the statement, "*all liars*," with the verse in Psalm 116:11, "*All men are liars*"? (8)
22. How does this list make you think about your own sin and about the grace of Christ in your life? See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, especially verse 11!! (8)
23. What is the punishment of these unredeemed sinners? How is it described? (8)

### III. SUMMARY:

John sees a vision of the new heaven and new earth coming down out of heaven from God. The center of it is the new Jerusalem, the capital city of the new universe. The blessings of heaven are sweetly described, and the curse of hell also set forth as a warning.

### IV. APPLICATION:

1. How would meditation on these verses help you in your daily walk with Christ?
2. Why is it important for Christians to think much about the biblical details of heaven? Why do you think we do it so little?
3. How would it help Christians who are suffering great pain, either physically or psychologically?
4. How does hope relate to Revelation 21:1-8?

# The New Jerusalem

## Revelation 21:9-27

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do these verses teach you about our future home, the New Jerusalem?
2. How do they show the primacy of the glory of God?
3. How would meditating on these verses help to encourage you in the Christian life?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of the angel's statement, "the bride, the wife of the Lamb"? (9)
2. In what sense is a city also a bride?
3. How is this passage a clear contrast to Revelation 17?
4. How does this relate to Isaiah 61:10?
5. What does the phrase "And he brought me in the Spirit..."? Compare it with Ezekiel 3:12, and 11:1, 24. (10)
6. Compare Revelation 17:3 and 21:10 for the location where each vision is seen. (10)
7. What is the significance of the fact that the New Jerusalem was seen descending out of heaven from God? How does that compare with man's efforts to build a city from the ground up in Genesis 11:1-9? (10)
8. John calls the city "holy". What does that mean, and why is it important? How does it compare with Ephesians 5:26-27? And Ephesians 1:4 for that matter! See Isaiah 52:1, Daniel 9:24, Matthew 4:5 (10)
9. How does verse 11 describe the New Jerusalem? What is the source of the city's brilliance? What is clarity such an important issue for the New Jerusalem (see verse 18, also "transparent" in verse 21, and John's statement of verse 23)? (11)
10. What do verses 12-14 describe? What is the usual function of city walls? Why would a city wall need to be "great and high"? What do these walls represent? What feeling do they give you about this city? (12-14)
11. What does verse 12 focus on particularly? Why do you think the number twelve is so important in these verses, appearing ten times in this chapter and chapter 22? (12)
12. How do the names on the gates and the names on the twelve foundations relate? What is symbolized by these twelve + twelve names? (12-14)
13. Why do you think John doesn't list the names of the tribes or of the apostles?
14. In what way do the apostles represent foundations? See Matthew 16:18, Hebrews 11:10 and Ephesians 2:20. (14)
15. How does this section describe the New Jerusalem? (15-21)
16. What is the significance of the angel measuring the city? See also Ezekiel 40:5-15 and 45:1-2. What is the importance of the fact that the measurements here differ from those in Ezekiel? (15)

17. What does the measurement teach us about the shape and size of the city? The size is a “perfect” number, 12 x 10 x 10 x 10, and it calculates out to over 1400 miles. What does this teach you? (16)
18. What is the significance of the thickness of the wall: 144 cubits (about 220 feet)? Should this number be interpreted literally or symbolically? (17)
19. Why are the city and its wall transparent? How do you understand transparent gold? (18)
20. What do verse 19-20 contribute to our understanding of the New Jerusalem? How do they relate to color? How might they relate to the stones in Aaron’s breastplate (Exodus 28:16, 39:9)? Could it be that this city has a priestly function? (See 1 Peter 2:9) (19-20)
21. Next come the famous “pearly gates.” What does this detail contribute to our understanding? Note: Pearls were among the most precious things in the ancient world. A pearl was precious in proportion to its quality and size. (21)
22. What do these verses teach us about the New Jerusalem? (22-27)
23. What is the significance of the fact that John did not see a temple in the city? What explanation does he give? See John 2:19. Compare also with 1 Corinthians 6:19. (22)
24. What does verse 23 teach you about the future light of the New Jerusalem? How does this complete the image of Genesis 1:3 and John 1:3?
25. What do verses 24-26 teach you about life in the New Heavens and New Earth? How does it describe movement, glory and nations? Compare with Isaiah 60:11.
26. What does the fact that the gates will never be shut teach you? (25)
27. What is the “honor and glory of the nations” that is brought into the city? (26)
28. What does verse 27 teach about the New Jerusalem? (27)

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John describes the New Jerusalem, the holy city, in stunning detail. The city is alight with the glory of God.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How can you fill your life with more of God’s word to shine his glory?
2. Pearl symbolizes beauty that is made by intense pressure or pain. Thank God for Jesus, our pearl of great price, as well as beauty that God has created out of your own sufferings.
3. How can you live increasingly in the light of day rather than the darkness of night?

# The River of Life

## REVELATION 22:1-6

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this section teach us about our heavenly future?
2. What is the significance of the River of Life in this passage? Of the Tree of Life?
3. How would understanding these verses help encourage someone struggling with chronic or even terminal illness?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does John describe the River of Life? (1-2)
2. Where does the river flow from? Where does it flow to? (1)
3. How would you explain the river flowing from the throne of God? Does God constantly create more and more water? (1)
4. Compare this river to that described in Ezekiel 47:1-12. What similarities do you see? What differences?
5. What is the “*water of life*?” Compare with “*living water*” in Jeremiah 2:13, Zechariah 14:8, John 4:10-11, John 7:38, and Revelation 7:17.
6. How would you describe the “*great street of the city*”? (2)
7. What is the significance of the tree of life? See Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 3:24, and Proverbs 13:12. Especially in Genesis 3:22-24, God blocks the way to the tree of life. How does the presence of the tree in the eternal city help complete the Bible?
8. How do you picture the tree of life on each side of the river? What is the significance of it bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding fruit every month? (2)
9. What is the relationship between the leaves and the “*healing of the nations*”?
10. What does it mean, “*No longer will there be any curse*”? (3)
11. It says God’s throne will be in the city. Why is this important? (3)
12. What does the statement, “*His servants will serve him*,” teach us about servanthood in heaven? See also Luke 12:37 for a different view of the same question. (3)
13. Verse four contains an incredible promise: “*They will see his face*.” How is that the greatest blessing of the gospel? See Exodus 33:20-23, Psalm 11:7, 17:15, Job 19:26, Matthew 5:8, and 1 John 3:2. How do you reconcile this hope with John 1:18, 1 Timothy 6:16, and Isaiah 6:2? (4)
14. What does it mean, “*His name will be on their foreheads*.” What is the significance of this? (4)
15. It also says, “*There will be no more night*.” Night has its soothing and beautiful qualities. Why do you think God would abolish it, especially since it was part of His original creation in Genesis 1:5 that God called good in Genesis 1:31. (5)
16. How does the glory of God permeate the new heavens and new earth? How is the Lamb the lamp of God? (5)

17. The final statement is, “*and they will reign forever and ever.*” Other verses teach our position of authority in the new heaven and new earth: 2 Timothy 2:12, Luke 12:43-44, Luke 19:17, Daniel 7:18, 27; and Revelation 2:26, 3:21, 5:9-10. What does it mean to “*rule with Christ*”? Should Christians want to rule? Is that prideful? What is your take on this?
18. How does verse six function in the passage? What does it teach you about prophecy?

### **III. SUMMARY:**

John has a vision of the River of Life flowing down the center of the New Jerusalem, and of the Tree of Life. He also sees the final glory of the saints, seeing the face of God and ruling with Him forever.

### **IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How does the description of the new Jerusalem inspire you to worship God?
2. What attributes of God on display are the most compelling to you?

# Preparing Immediately for the Imminent Return of Christ

## REVELATION 22:7-16

### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How do these verses help us prepare for the second coming of Christ?
2. What new insights do they give us into Christ's glory?

### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Who is speaking in verse seven? How do we know the speaker is different than the one in verse six? (7)
2. What does Christ say in verse seven? How do you understand the word "*soon*"? See also Revelation 22:10, 20 and chapter 13. Compare with Peter's answer to this very question in 2 Peter 3:3-9. (7)
3. According to Christ, how should we wait for the second coming? What does it mean to, "*keep the words of the prophecy of this book*"? (7)
4. Why do you think John includes verse 8? This is so humiliating, that he, an apostle, would fall down and worship an angel! How does the angel stop John? What does the angel urge John to do instead? (8-9)
5. What is the significance of the angel's statement, "*I am a fellow servant with you*"? See Daniel 7:10, Hebrews 1:14, and Revelation 22:3.
6. Why does the angel tell John not to seal up the words of the prophecy? Compare this with what Daniel is told in Daniel 8:26, 10:4, and 12:9. Why do you think they are told different things about sealing up the words of their prophecy? (10)
7. What does verse 11 mean? Why would God command evildoers to continue in their evil doing? Do you think this refers to the eternal state, both heaven and hell, in which people will make no substantive changes to their basic character but will be confirmed in it forever? (11)
8. Who is speaking in verse 12? Why do you think he keeps repeating the imminence of his second coming? (12)
9. On what basis will Christ reward people? See also Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:6, and Revelation 20:12-13. (12)
10. What does verse 13 mean? What does it teach you about Christ? What does it teach you about history? (13)
11. How would you compare Isaiah 44:6 and Revelation 22:13? How does this comparison help prove the deity of Christ? (13)
12. Why is the washing of the robes necessary to eat from the tree of life and go through the gates into the city? How are our robes washed? See Revelation 7:14 and 19:7- 8. (14)
13. What does verse 15 teach about the new Jerusalem? About sin? Compare with 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and also Isaiah 66:24. (15)
14. What sins are mentioned in verse 15? Is this an exhaustive list of sins or merely suggestive? (15)
15. What does verse 16 teach you about Christ's concern for local churches?

16. What titles does Jesus take for Himself in verse 16? What is the “*Root and Offspring of David*”? See Revelation 5:5 and Isaiah 11:1,10. Why does he call himself the “*Bright Morning Star*”? See Numbers 24:17 and 2 Peter 1:19.

**III. SUMMARY:**

Jesus gives John a personal exhortation to commit to the local churches which will help them prepare for His imminent return.

**IV. APPLICATION:**

1. What are some ways you can drink God's living water every day even here on earth?
2. How does God's presence heal, nourish, and refresh his people?
3. Pray for God to shine through his word on you today.



## A Final Invitation

### REVELATION 22:13-21

#### I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significant message of this passage of scripture, especially given that it is the last written word of God to the human race?
2. What does this passage teach us about Jesus Christ?
3. How could you use this passage to urge a non-Christian to be saved?

#### II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Who is speaking in verses 13-16?
2. What does Christ say about himself in verse 13? What do these titles teach us about Christ? What does the phrase, “*Alpha and Omega*,” refer to? All these titles speak of a beginning and an end... beginning and end of what? (13)
3. What does verse 14 teach us about personal holiness in relation to going to heaven? See Hebrews 12:14 and Psalm 24:3-4. What is the relationship between Christians washing their robes and the work of Christ on the cross?
4. What does the word “*outside*” mean in verse 15? What does the list of sins in verse 15 teach you about holiness? (15)
5. What does verse 16 teach about Jesus’ love for churches? What does it teach about the role of angels in revelation? See Revelation 1:1, as well as Galatians 3:19 and Acts 7:53, which mention angels as messengers of the old covenant to Moses?
6. What is the significance of the titles Jesus gives to himself in verse 16? What does, “*Root and Offspring of David*” (see Isaiah 11:10 and 53:2), signify? What of “*bright Morning Star*”? See 2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 2:28, and Numbers 27:17)
7. In this section Jesus identifies himself with nine titles in verses 13 and 16. Why so many titles for Jesus? (13, 16)
8. Who is being invited to do what in verse 17? Why is it so significant that the Bible ends with an invitation to come to Christ?
9. What is the partnership described in verse 17: “*The Spirit and the bride say ‘Come!’*” What insight does it give into evangelism? See also John 15:26-27 and Acts 1:8, which speak of the same partnership in testimony to Christ.
10. Compare verse 17 with Isaiah 55:1-2 and John 4:10.
11. What warning do verses 18-19 give? Why is it dangerous to add additional commands to God’s words either by false prophecy or by legalism? Why is it dangerous to take away from God’s words? How do people take away from God’s words, perhaps by liberal views of scripture or “higher criticism” which denies that scripture is completely inspired? See also Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32; and Proverbs 30:5-6. (18-19)
12. Do you think the warnings of verses 18-19 refer just to Revelation or to the whole Bible?
13. What promise does Jesus make in 22:20? Why does He say it yet one more time?

14. How does John respond? How should all Christians respond to this promise of Jesus' soon return? See 2 Peter 3:11-12. (20)
15. How does the Bible end? Why is this significant? (21)

**III. SUMMARY:**

The Book of Revelation ends with an invitation to all people to come to Christ for salvation, because Christ is coming soon to the earth.

**IV. APPLICATION:**

1. How should this passage (and indeed the message of the whole book of Revelation) motivate us to faithfulness in witnessing to the lost?
2. How should it motivate us to personal holiness?
3. How should it motivate us in our prayer lives?

## Notes

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In Romans 4:3, the Apostle Paul asks one of the great methodological questions Christians should always ask: “*What does the Scripture say?*” This question reveals the crucial understanding that the foundation of truth and knowledge is God’s word. Bible Study Questions will help you grow in your understanding of the Scriptures by asking you questions and challenging you to answer from Scripture. Each Bible study contains broad questions concerning the major themes of a passage and verse-by-verse questions to focus on the details.

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