Revelation:
Introduction:

1 The revelation of[a] Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, **Revelation 1:1 CSB**

- There are 3 ways I want to share this book with you
- The historical view
- The literal point of view
- The prophetic point of view
- Above all else
- This is a book about the victory of Jesus
- This book talks about how Christ wins
- Theses 2 words are the important things about this book
- This book isn't designed to be scary or intimidating
- This book should bring hope
- That Jesus is victorious
- The overall theme of this book is worship
- This is a worship book
- If Christ is victorious, then why turn anywhere else
- Will you worship the lamb or worship the beast
- The lamb is victorious, so why would you worship the beast
- There are 4 or 5 different views about this book
- There are also 3 or 4 views just on Chapter 20
- They can't all be wrong, but they can't all be right since they are different
- How do we use this book to bring unity beyond all the differences
- How do we bring unity in the book of Revelation

Historical Background

- The authorship is John, who writes this to the churches
- Revelation doesn't tell us who this John is
- Traditionally, it is thought to be John the disciple, the brother of James, son of Zebedee.
- One of the 12
- One of the inner 3
- That we see in the synoptic gospels
- That is what most people think
- The reality is that we are not 100 percent sure it is him.
- All we know is that probably the author of the gospel of John and the Apocalypse of John is the same
- There are many reasons for that

Similarities between John and Revelation

1) Jesus as "logos" (Jn. 1:1& Rev 19:3)
2) Jesus the Lamb (Jn. 1:29 & Rev 5:6)

3) Water of Life (Jn 7:37& Rev 22:17)
4) "Alethinos" (true) (Jn. 9 times; 1 Jn 4 times; Rev 10 times; rest of the NT 4 times)
5) Both books refer to Zechariah 12:10

Differences between John and Revelation

- The book of John is good Greek; the book of Revelation is very bad Greek
- So, hence why people ask, can this be the same author
- Although they have these similarities
- It could be easily done, due to the situation involved
- Revelation is written from imprisonment
- The gospel isn't
- It is very common for writers, even for educated people like Paul, to have help from scribes writing letters for them
- Like John, a Galilean or from Jerusalem
- He wasn't highly educated in the Greek
- So naturally, he had help writing the gospel
- If Paul had to do so, so did John
- There wouldn't be many scribes in prison helping him
- So, it would conclude that this is the natural Greek of John

Who was John

- We have 2 options
- The traditional view
- That he is the beloved disciple who is talked about in John's gospel, the son of Zebedee
- The second view from the early church would describe him as John the Elder
- Who is listed in the disciple list along with John the beloved
- So, hence 2 Johns
- So, there is this character that is talked about as being the author of Revelation and being the beloved disciple
- Probably wouldn't be John the fisherman
- He would be more likely to be John living in Jerusalem
- A part of the high priest family,
- Some people's reasons for allowing Peter into the courtyard
- Ex. (in the trial of Jesus in the high priest's house)
- So, there is a difference in opinion in which disciple He is
- John the disciple or John the elder
- He is the beloved disciple, but it's not clear if it's 100 percent that it's the son of Zebedee

When it was written

- There are 2 ideas about when it was written
- 60s ad or the 90s first century
- This depends on who is persecuting the church
- Who was the persecutor
- Is it Emperor Nero in the 60s or Domitian in the 90s
- Most scholars think it is Domitian in the 90s

- In more recent times, Domitian would be the correct
- Most scholars would believe that John wrote this in the 90s
- During the persecution of Domitian's reign
- Both of these 2 people are the bad guys
- If you want to say who the beast is
- Its either Nero or Domitian
- In terms of the first century
- The emperor is persecuting the church.

Who is it written to

- It is written to 7 churches (Pergamum, Smyrna, Ephesus, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
- In the Roman province of Asia
- We know these are not the only 7 churches in Asia
- Colosi, Throes, Myelitis
- That we know from Acts and the New Testament letters
- There are more churches than these 7
- It is unknown why John is writing specifically to these 7
- What we do know
- John is identified as living in Ephesus
- Bringing Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Why Ephesus
- Ephesus was the mother church for the region
- It's where Paul did his ministry
- Where the gospel spread all over the province of Asia
- It's like Ephesus is the mother church, then you have daughter churches
- 7 is a significant number for the Jews
- It means completion
- Or perfection
- John might be talking about the complete church by choosing 7
- What we do know
- We have 7 churches in the province of Asia that John is connected to
- Through his connection through Ephesus
- That he is writing to
- Giving his visions to

Events that happened in the 1 century

- The fire of Rome, 64 AD
- We don't know how or who started it
- A huge part of Rome burned down
- Nero, the emperor, was quickly blamed
- Partly because he wanted to rebuild Rome
- Which he did
- So, what Nero does
- He deflects the blame to an unpopular group at the time

- He blames the church in Rome for the fire
- The fury of the city and the Roman state fall upon the church
- Mostly in Rome
- That could then affect the rest of the region or the emperor
- We have a short 3 ½ years of violent persecution
- Many are imprisoned
- Many are Murdered
- Including Peter and Paul die during this time
- So the idea of the blood of the Martyrs
- Comes from this event
- The first great mass persecution
- Between the state of Rome and the church.
- Another Event is the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD
- This happened because
- The zealots rebelled against Roman rule
- They started one of the longest and biggest rebellions in Roman history
- So, the Romans come back and retake the land and take Jerusalem
- While they are taking over Jerusalem
- Nero kills himself
- Then they need a new emperor
- There is a civil war happening
- Because they had 4 emperors in one year
- The last one stabilizes the empire
- Then send his son Titus to renew the empire
- This happens for 3 ½ years
- This is happening inside the city.
- The Zealots are doing terrible things inside the temple and in the city
- The Romans were attacking outside the city
- The Romans got in and it's said that they were so disgusted by what happened
- They destroyed Jerusalem and the temple
- Jesus had already prophesied this before it had happened in Mk.13; Matthew 24; Luke 21
- Jesus tells the church, if you see these signs, get out
- If 2 are in a field, go
- The entire Jerusalem church was saved because they fled

The emperor's cult

- This happens before the 1st century
- It's a movement that is growing through the New Testament
- In ancient times, the Roman leader where never worshipped while they were alive
- That's how they looked at it
- All this changes with Agustus
- He made himself the chief priest of Rome
- He made himself also the chief priest of all religions
- So all religions had to pray for him and thank him
- This was a new way to control people through religion

- Now this change in culture
- Makes people's idea to look at just one figure for the Roman Empire
- This shift happened in the culture
- When they stopped praying for him but now praying to him
- They began to worship him
- Creating a cult by worshipping Rome and the Emperor
- This was extremely strong in Asia
- There were multiple temples created for them
- So this shift in culture made people think that they were more than humans
- This resembles a lot to Domitian
- He is the first emperor to demand to be worshipped
- He demands that people call him lord and god
- It became a law that people would have to say Cesar is lord
- You had to worship Domitian as a god
- So, these churches easily accepted this
- Which made it difficult for people believe in God alone

Types of Literature in Revelation

- There are 3 types of literature in Revelation
- It's a letter
- It's a normal first-century letter
- This is one half of the communications between
- The 7 churches and John
- We don't know what kind of communications happen between them
- There is a reason why this letter is written
- They are the intended audience
- The message is to them
- We must consider them more than us
- First for them, then to us
- This is also a prophetic letter
- For us, this is a letter of hope
- It is to encourage and build up the church
- The goal is to console and comfort them
- This is an apocalyptic writing
- Apocalyptic literature was big between 200 bc and 100 ad
- Apocalypse is the revealing
- It's a revelation of what is going on
- This is written in the poetic art form
- From the Old Testament
- Isaiah, Daniel, Ezequiel, Zechariah,
- All this is the background of the book of Revelation

Revelation is an Apocalyptic literature

- This word is used as an end-of-the-world event

- Apocalypse means unveiling
- To have your eyes open
- That's why in English it is translated as revelation
- An apocalypse is an event of unveiling
- **2 Kings 6:8-17 CSB**

8 When the king of Aram was waging war against Israel, he conferred with his servants, "My camp will be at such and such a place."**9** But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Be careful passing by this place, for the Arameans are going down there." **10** Consequently, the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had told him about. The man of God repeatedly[a] warned the king, so the king would be on his guard.**11** The king of Aram was enraged because of this matter, and he called his servants and demanded of them, "Tell me, which one of us is for the king of Israel?"**12** One of his servants said, "No one, my lord the king. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedroom."**13** So the king said, "Go and see where he is, so I can send men to capture him. "When he was told, "Elisha is in Dothan," **14** he sent horses, chariots, and a massive army there. They went by night and surrounded the city.**15** When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?"**16** Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."**17** Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, please open his eyes and let him see." So the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

- Elisha is in a city called Dothan
- Vs 15 says this
- The servant is confused
- All he can see is what his natural eye can see
- So, Elisha prays in verse 17
- Open his eyes
- Elisha was the only one who could see it
- So, he asked God for an apocalypse of his eyes
- This is what is happening in the first century
- Christians are being persecuted
- Domitian believed that because the Romans destroyed the temple in 70 A.D
- Yahweh caused Mount Vesuvius to erupt, destroying parts of the Romans empire
- Which now causes severe persecution
- But John says, when I got a revelation

- When I went to Heaven
- It feels like Domitian is in control
- It feels like the Roman Empire is on the throne
- Guess what happened
- When the Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes
- I saw that the lamb was on the throne
- This is to reveal that Jesus is Lord
- This is to show the Christian people that Jesus is in control
- Far beyond what we see or feel in this current time
- Apocalyptic literature is Jewish literature that relies on images and symbols to provide hope during persecution
- It is not to be taken literally
- It is to provide hope to people who read it

4 main ways that people read the book of Revelation

1) The historical view- revelation is being unfolded in every historical time of the church
2) A Preterist view- They believe that most of the prophecies happened in the first 100 years of the church.
3) A Futuristic View- Where people would say, the locus in revelation is a helicopter, since there was nothing close to it in that time.
4) An Idealist view- a spiritual application of the book

John is writing from Ephesus, and to understand Revelation, we must understand what was happening at that time

- The first church in the 7 churches is Ephesus
- Ephesus is the 2nd most important city in the Roman Empire
- Ephesus is also the home of the largest gymnasium in the Roman Empire
- There are some similarities between the book of Revelation and the Olympic Games
- This is how the opening games would start during Domitian's rule

1) The presentation of the emperor, Ch. 1. The emperor would enter the arena
2) A herald would give announcements, but he would give the achievements of all the things Caesar did
3) Caesar would start making some pronouncements. Ex. to this city or to this region, saying I've heard you have done a good job, but I think you can do better in these areas, and this is what I'm going to do if you don't do better

4) There were 24 legal religions in the Roman Empire, which means there were 24 priests who represented those religions. There was then an empirical song that was sung led by a chorus of 24 elders
5) Another herald would open the scroll to officially open the games
6) We would get chariot races with 4 horses, not a competitive race, but of ceremony, a black horse, a white horse, a red horse, then a pale or spotted horse.
7) The trumpet would sound, and the games would begin

- All John is doing is taking the opening format of the ceremony of the Olympic Games and formatting it to the first 7 chapters of Revelation
- The presentation of the emperor is the first half of Chapter 1 of Revelation
- The herald that gives announcements and achievements is the second half of Chapter One of Revelation.
- The pronouncement of Caesar to the 7 churches is found in Ch. 2 and 3.
- The chorus of 24 priests had to wear white robes; they would sing the emperor song Ch. 4
- A herald would open the games with the scroll Ch. 5
- Chariot race Ch. 6
- The trumpets would have the games begin in Rev. Ch 7

The church at this time is not trying to see how the world would end

- John is sharing the similarities because
- John is trying to have the church remain faithful during persecution
- John is using the Olympics because
- In the Olympics, you weren't representing yourself when you ran the race
- You are representing the strength of the god that you are running on behalf of
- So, in today's Olympics, you run to represent your country
- In the original Olympics, you're running to represent the God of your city
- the God of your region
- Here's what John is saying he's saying
- You need to run this race called life in such a way that you represent Yahweh well
- That you represent Jesus well, you need to be faithful in the midst of persecution
- You need to run your race in the arena of life so that God will be displayed
- So that the empire will get an apocalypse of the person of Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3 **CSB**

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, **2** keeping our eyes on Jesus,[a] the pioneer and perfecter[b] of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,[c] he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 CSB

24 Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. **25** Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown,but we an imperishable crown. **26** So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. **27** Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

When we look at the Book of Revelation, we must understand that there's a certain outline that the book takes

- Chapters 1:1-8- Prologue
- 1:9-20 - The call of the prophet by the first and last, the living one who holds the keys of death and hades
- 2:1-3:22- Letters to the seven churches
- 4:1-5:14- The vision of God and the Lamb
- 6:1-8:1- Opening of the seven seals
- 8:2-11:19- 7 trumpets
- 12:1-14:20- Visions of the dragon, the beast, and the lamb
- 15:1-16:21- 7 plagues and 7 bowls
- 17:1-19:10- Judgment of Babylon and the harlot
- 19:11-21:8- Transition from Babylon to the new Jerusalem
- 21:9-22:5- The new Jerusalem and the bride
- 22:6-21- Epilogue

1 The revelation of[a] Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, **Revelation 1:1 CSB**

1:1 Who are his servants

- Acts 2:18- Those who have the Holy Spirit
- Romans 6:19- Those who are slaves to righteousness, then sanctification
- 1 Peter 2:16- Free people

- Revelation 22:6- his servants (under submission to his lordship)

1:1 What must soon take place

- Daniel 2:28- 29- The dream of Nebuchadnezzar (the mysteries)
- Daniel 2:45- The stone breaking off the mountain (Iron, Bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold)
- Revelation 2:6 – The practices of the Nicolaitans

The Nicolaitans were an early Christian sect, mentioned in Revelation 2:6, 14-15, criticized for teaching a doctrine of compromise, including participating in pagan idolatry and sexual immorality. They advocated for a lifestyle that blended Christian freedom with pagan practices, likely encouraging believers to attend pagan festivals and eat food sacrificed to idols.

- In Ch 22-24
- Balak hires Balaam
- At that time, the people of Israel had rebelled 7 times out of 10
- 7 times in the book of Numbers 3 in the book of Deuteronomy
- Balak saw what had happened to the Amorites, Numbers 2:2
- Balak was one of the Moabite kings at the time
- He sent to get a man named Balaam
- Balaam
- Balaam was a Mesopotamian Baru
- A sorcerer
- Basically, someone who would persuade the gods
- Balaam was a famous oracle
- So, God Yahweh is talking to Balaam
- He tells him you must bless Israel
- In Ch. 23
- Balaam asks Balak to build 7 altars
- Prepare 7 bulls and 7 rams
- So instead of cursing the people of Israel
- Balaam blesses the people of Israel
- They were set up on a barren hill
- Since they believed the closer you were to heaven, the closer you were to the gods
- Now we only see 4 oracles happen
- Since they believed that depending on the region,
- That is the god who would have control of the territory
- Now something supernatural happens on the 3rd oracle

5 How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel.6 They stretch out like river valleys, [a]like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the Lord has planted, like cedars beside the water.7 Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted.8 God brought him out of Egypt; he is like[b] the horns of a wild ox for them. He will feed on enemy nations and gnaw their bones; he will strike them with his arrows. **Numbers 24:5-8 CSB**

- Balaam sees a garden in the desert
- From the hilltop, he would have seen
- The tabernacle in the middle
- Then the symbol of the cross
- 3 tribes to the west
- 3 tribes to the east
- 3 tribes to the north
- 3 tribes to the south
- With the Tabernacle facing the east
- On the 4th oracle, we see a prophecy of Jesus

17 I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead[a] of Moab and strike down[b] all the Shethites.[c] **Numbers 24:17 CSB**

- Since Balak couldn't destroy the people of Israel
- Balaam advised Balak to have them open doors
- As Christians, we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- We have the full armor of God all around us
- That means no matter what the enemy throws against us
- It will not prevail
- Just like the people of Israel
- We are blessed
- No weapon formed against us will prosper
- But this is what Revelation is talking about
- Of the things that will come
- To those who compromise
- Numbers 25 tells us the advice Balaam gave to Balak was this

Israel Worships Baal

25 While Israel was staying in the Acacia Grove, [a] the people began to prostitute themselves with the women of Moab. [2] The women invited them to the sacrifices for their gods, and the people ate and bowed in worship to their gods. [3] So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger burned against Israel. [4] The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute[b] them in broad daylight before the Lord so that his burning anger may turn away from Israel."

[5] So Moses told Israel's judges, "Kill each of the men who aligned themselves with Baal of Peor."

Phinehas Intervenes

[6] An Israelite man came bringing a Midianite woman to his relatives in the sight of Moses and the whole Israelite community while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. [7] When Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand, [8] followed the Israelite man into the tent,[c] and drove it through both the Israelite man and the woman—through her belly. Then the plague on the Israelites was stopped, [9] but those who died in the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.

[10] The Lord spoke to Moses, [11] "Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the Israelites because he was zealous among them with my zeal,[d] so that I did not destroy the Israelites in my zeal. [12] Therefore, declare: I grant him my covenant of peace. **Numbers 25:1-12 CSB**

- A side note, Phinehas was the first zealot
- Simon was a Zealot, one of Jesus disciple
- The people of Israel allowed sin to enter their camps
- Since we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- The only way the enemy can get into your camp will be through the doors you open

[14] But Moses became furious with the officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, who were returning from the military campaign. [15] "Have you let every female live?" he asked them. [16] "Yet they are the ones who, at Balaam's advice, incited the Israelites to unfaithfulness against the Lord in the Peor incident, so that the plague came against the Lord's community. **Numbers 31:14-16 CSB**

- Who are the Midianites
- Midian is the leader of the Midianites

- Cousins to the Israelites, Gn. 25:1
- From Abraham's wife Keturah
- This is what will soon take place
- The purification of the body of Christ

1 The revelation of[a] Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John. **Revelation 1:1 CSB**

1:1 Sending his angels

- Genesis 24:7- When Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for Isaac, his angels went beforehand)
- Matthew 1:24- The angel telling Joseph to marry Mary
- Acts 12:11- The angel rescues Peter from prison

Week 3

1 The revelation of[a] Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, **2** who testified to the word of God and to the testimony[b] of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw.[c] **3** Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep[d] what is written in it, because the time is near.

4 John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from[e] the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits[f]before his throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has set us free[g] from our sins by his blood, **6** and made us a kingdom,[h] priests[i] to his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**7** **Look, he is coming with the clouds,** and **every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. And all the tribes**[j] of the earth[k]**will mourn over him.**[l][m]
So it is to be. Amen.**8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." **Revelation 1:1-8 CSB**

- A lot of the writers in the N.T spoke about the end times event
- As something that was happening in their time

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. **Romans 16:20 CSB**

[2] In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe[a] through him. **Hebrews 1:2 CSB**

[7] The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. **1 Peter 4:7 CSB**

- Everything points to
- 1) God's final victory
- 2) The establishment of HIS kingdom
- Since Genesis, God has been establishing His Kingdom
- The Bible is showing us 6 steps throughout scripture
- Chaos (Tohuvavohu)
- Water (Tehom)
- Wind (Ruach)
- Order
- Test
- Genesis 1:1-2; Gn. 6-9; Exodus (The Red Sea); Joshua 3; Matthew 3:13-4:11
- All this is God establishing His Kingdom
- He tried to bring redemption through bringing order and testing their faithfulness
- Only Jesus was able to pass the test
- Since he is the One who is, who was, and who is to come
- Since Jesus breaks the Chaos cycle
- Now a new cycle begins
- This is known as the grace period
- Where Jesus has now died and been resurrected for our sins
- We now must choose to follow the chaos cycle or
- Follow the one who broke the cycle on the cross
- If someone told you following Jesus would be easy
- They are mistaken
- Since the establishment of the church
- There has been conflict
- Spiritual warfare

- Oppression
- Not everyone lives in a free country like ours,
- We must remember that Christians were being persecuted
- Just like today
- All around the world
- Christians are being persecuted
- Some are even being killed for our beliefs

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep[d] what is written in it, because the time is near. **Revelation 1:3 CSB**

- Revelation has 7 Beatitudes in Revelation

- Rev.1:3 (Who reads aloud the words) (and those who hear)
- Rev. 14:13 (The dead who die in the Lord)
- Rev.16:15(Alert and remains clothed)
- Rev. 19:9 (Invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb)
- Rev. 20:6 (Shares in the first resurrection)
- Rev. 22:7 (Who keep the words of the prophecy)
- Rev.2:14(Who was their robes)

4 John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from[a] the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits[b] before his throne, **Revelation 1:4 CSB**

- John uses the number 7 for many reasons
- 7 is used as completion or fullness in the O.T
- Gen 2:2; God finished his work
- Lev 26:18; Discipline 7 times for sin
- Josh 6:4; 7 priest, 7 trumpets, 7th day
- John uses the same similarities as the O.T
- 7 bowls

- 7 trumpets
- 7 churches
- The number 7 would resemble that it would be for the entire world
- The letter to the 7 churches is not just from Jesus
- It is also from the 7 spirits
- Or the sevenfold Spirit
- So what is the sevenfold spirit
- We can find the sevenfold spirit of God in Isaiah 11:2

[2] The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, **Isaiah 11:2 CSB**

- These are the sevenfold spirits
- The Spirit of the Lord
- The Spirit of Wisdom
- The Spirit of Understanding
- The Spirit of Counsel
- The Spirit of Strength
- The Spirit of Knowledge
- The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord
- The number 7 indicates the fullness of the Holy Spirit's work
- Just like the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one
- The Holy Spirit carries itself in seven
- When we look at the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an object
- The Holy Spirit is God
- When we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives
- The Spirit of the Lord comes upon us, and the Spirit himself
- In the time or in the moment that we need
- Wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, or the fear of the Lord
- The Holy Spirit intervenes in our lives and helps us navigate through this life
- That is why Jesus said that when he left this world, he would send a helper

- That helper is the Holy Spirit
- The spirit of the living God
- He is not just here for us to experience him in a spiritual way
- The Holy Spirit is here to help us in our day-to-day lives
- That is why when we are speaking to the Holy Spirit
- We can ask him for wisdom
- We can ask him for understanding
- We can ask him for counsel
- We can ask him for strength
- We can ask him for knowledge
- We can ask him to show us how to fear the Lord
- When we acknowledge that we need the Holy Spirit
- In all of our day-to-day actions
- We can truly function as the church of the 1st century
- We should rely on the Holy Spirit every day
- No matter how tough a day we've had
- No matter if we are going through problem situations, persecution
- We can trust wholeheartedly that our God is with us
- He is not only with us, but he lives inside of us
- That means that I carry the identity of the father in my life
- I carry the anointing over my life and
- The mantle that God has placed over me is because the seven-fold spirit lives inside of me.
- This letter to the seven churches is not just John writing it
- It is Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Week 4

7 **Look, he is coming with the clouds,**
and **every eye will see him,**
even those who pierced him.
And all the tribes[d] of the earth[e]

will mourn over him.[f][g]
So it is to be. Amen.

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

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the affliction, kingdom, and endurance that are in
Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of
Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit[h] on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a
trumpet 11 saying, "Write on a scroll[i] what you see and send it to the seven churches:
Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."12 Then I
turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden
lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man,[j] dressed in a
robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. 14 The hair of his head was white as
wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. 15 His feet were like fine bronze as it is
fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading[k] waters. 16 He had seven stars
in his right hand; a sharp, double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was
shining like the sun at full strength.17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He
laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, **Revelation 1:7-17 CSB**

7 **Look, he is coming with the clouds,** and **every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. And all the tribes**[d] of the earth[e] **will mourn over him.**[f][g] So it is to be.
Amen. **Revelation 1:7 CSB**

- Look, he (Jesus) is coming in the clouds, Is19:1;

A pronouncement concerning Egypt: Look, the Lord rides on a swift cloud
and is coming to Egypt. Egypt's worthless idols will tremble before him, and Egypt will
lose heart. **Isaiah19:1CSB**

- Remember, it can't mean to us what it didn't mean to them
- John is writing from a Jewish perspective

- Pointing people back to the Old Testament
- The New Testament didn't exist back then
- John starts referencing Isaiah in Rev. 1:7
- What better way to tell Christians not to lose hope
- Egypt lost hope, and its idols trembled before him
- So how can Isaiah be referring to things that are already passed
- We must remember,
- Isaiah talks about the promise of HIS coming judgment
- Meaning, Isaiah is also a prophetic book

- The prophetic is described in 2 ways
- **Fourth telling**- It's about speaking God's truth to a specific situation. This involves calling people to repentance and warning against moral decay.
- **Foretelling**- At times, prophets revealed God's plan, such as predicting the coming of the Messiah (Jesus), the impending judgement, or the end-time
- When we see prophecy, it doesn't necessarily mean the future
- It could mean the correction of the heart
- So, when you call people repentance, or even warn them of their moral life
- You are being used in the prophetic
- John and most of the apostles had a habit
- They would use a certain number of words to refer to a passage
- Not to confuse you
- To bring revelation (unveiling) to you, the scriptures

26 An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: "Get up and go south to the road that goes
down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is the desert road.[a]) **27** So he got up and went.
There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the
Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in
Jerusalem **28** and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet
Isaiah aloud.**29** The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot."**30** When Philip ran up
to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what

you're reading?"[31] "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **Acts 8:26-31 CSB**

- Unless the Spirit reveals the scripture, we won't understand its real meaning
- This Ethiopian man had read this passage in Isaiah
- But it didn't make sense and bring conviction until it was revealed

- They will mourn for the pierced one Zch 12:10;

[10] "Then I will pour out a spirit[a] of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at[b] me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for him as one weeps for a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:10 CSB**

- Everyone who did not believe that Jesus died and was resurrected from the dead
- John is showing us that people
- Will weep bitterly as someone who weeps for a firstborn
- John is making this comparison to what happened to Pharaoh
- John is connecting the dots from Isaiah and Zachariah
- Showing them or showing us
- Jesus will come on the clouds and bring judgment, the way he did to the people of Egypt
- And that judgment will be as severe as what happened to Pharaoh when he lost his firstborn

[11] "I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire. [12] As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time. [13] I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. [14] He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that

will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed. **Daniel 7:11-14 CSB**

- In Revelation chapter 1: 7
- The people will see Jesus coming in the clouds
- That is, after the beast and his dominion are removed
- Now, as we look at the beast
- Daniel 7:10 says
- Thousands upon thousands served him
- 10,000 upon 10,000 stood before him
- Now, there's something I need to add to make you understand a little bit of how the Jewish people read the Bible or the Torah
- In our Western society, we tend to look at a storyline with the climax towards the end
- For Jewish people, the climax of a story is in the middle
- This is an eastern perspective
- Meaning that they mirror the beginning and the end of the book
- So, what John is trying to explain
- Is Jesus wins, it's that simple
- John takes us from Jesus coming in the clouds
- To the mourning of the tribes
- Since they had an opportunity to choose Jesus
- All within one verse
- Referencing what God is going to do as he judges over creation

All the tribes of the earth;

- Genesis 12:3; The descendants of Abram
- Genesis 28:14; The descendants of Jacob
- Zechariah 14:17; The chosen ones of the Lord

Will mourn over him (because of him)

- Daniel 7:13; Son of man coming on the cloud
- Zechariah 12:10; The scripture being used for mourning for the one pierced

V8. **I am the Alpha and Omega**

- Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet

This is what the Lord, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the Lord of Armies, says: I am the first, and I am the last. There is no God but me. **Isaiah 44:6 CSB**

- The Lord and His Redeemer (Jesus)

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the affliction, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- Affliction- is something all Christians will endure or are enduring
  (Jn 16:33; Ac: 14:22; Rm 5:3; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:9)
- Kingdom- The inheritance set before us
  (Mt 25:34; Jms 2:5)
- Endurance- The ability to remain steadfast in faith and patiently withstand hardship without losing hope (Rms 5:3-4; 8:25; 15:4; Col 1:11; 2 Th 1:4; Heb 10:36; 12:1; Jms 1:3-4; Rv 2:3; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12)

10 I was in the Spirit[h] on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet

- In the Spirit; (in spirit or I became in the spirit) (1 Kg 18:12; Ezk 3:12; 2Co 12:2; Rv 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)

11 saying, "Write on a scroll[i] what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

- Write (Ex 34:27; Dt 31:19; Is 8:1; 30:8; Jr 30:2; 36:2,28; Hab 2:2; Rv 2:1; 8,12,18; 3:1,7,14; 14:3;19:9;21:5)
- When the Spirit speaks, it is important to write down the dreams and visions
- Do not neglect the importance of writing the information

Week 5

> 12 Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man,[j] dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. 14 The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. 15 His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading[k] waters. 16 He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp, double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, **Revelation 1:12-17 CSB**

12 Then I turned to see whose (voice) it was that spoke to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, **Revelation 1:12 CSB**

- The voice that John was hearing was the voice of God (Exod. 20:18)
- More than likely, this is the same voice that Moses was hearing as he was receiving the 10 commandments
- When we look at Revelation, and we study Revelation
- The Bible gives a clear understanding of where we are going
- In the Eastern perspective, the Bible is just loops
- The Word is referencing everything that we've already read or heard
- That is why John is referencing this "whose voice is that spoke to me."
- The same voice the Israelites heard while Moses was coming down from the mountain is the same voice John was hearing during the writing of Revelation.
- John is given a command to view what is around him, which is why
- He starts giving us the example of what is being viewed before his eyes

- He starts with
- The 7 golden lampstands.
- This is found in many places in the Bible
- These golden lampstands stood in the Holy Place
- Of the tabernacle and at the temple
- (Exod. 25:31-37; 1 Kings 7:49)
- Revelation 1:20 tells us that the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches
- Something profound is happening in Revelation 1:12
- We can find the answer in Zachariah chapter 4
- In Zachariah chapter 4 verse 2, there is significance in the lampstand, and that is the 7th sprouts of each of the lamps
- The 7th sprouts can be known as the eyes of the Lord
- Something profound that we can understand about the lampstand
- According to Zachariah, we can conclude that the church should be shining its light across the region
- Having the seven eyes of the spirit of God
- Across the whole earth
- Giving us the expression or understanding that the Holy Spirit is with the church
- In Zachariah chapter 4 verse 6, the Lord tells Zerubbabel
- It's not by strength or by might but by my Spirit

4 The angel who was speaking with me then returned and roused me as one awakened
out of sleep. **2** He asked me, "What do you see? "I replied, "I see a solid gold lampstand
with a bowl at the top. The lampstand also has seven lamps at the top with seven spouts
for each of the lamps. **3** There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the
bowl and the other on its left."**4** Then I asked the angel who was speaking with me,
"What are these, my lord?"**5** "Don't you know what they are?" replied the angel who was
speaking with me. I said, "No, my lord."**6** So he answered me, "This is the word of
the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord of
Armies. **7** 'What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel, you will become a
plain. And he will bring out the capstone accompanied by shouts of: Grace, grace to
it!'"**8** Then the word of the Lord came to me: **9** "Zerubbabel's hands have laid the
foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that
the Lord of Armies has sent me to you. **10** For who despises the day of small
things? These seven eyes of the Lord, which scan throughout the whole earth, will

rejoice when they see the ceremonial stone[b] in Zerubbabel's hand. **Zechariah 4:1-10 CSB**

- John is encouraging the church
- That the church will prevail with the Holy Spirit

13 and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man,[a] dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. **Revelation 1:13 CSB**

- Among the lampstands
- Is Christ
- Jesus is next to his church
- John draws on the vision of Dan 7
- Giving us the picture of the Ancient of Days
- Describing his clothing and hair
- Telling us about the four beasts
- Describing the one world currency
- Describing how the beasts will try
- To create religious festivals
- Change laws
- And how the holy ones
- Meaning the believers will be handed over to him
- For a period of 3 1/2 years
- During Chapter 7 of Daniel, he describes the Ancient of Days dressed in a robe with his head white as wool
- And his eyes were like fiery flame
- Now, if we remember in Matthew Chapter 9, verse 6, Jesus is referencing himself as the Son of Man
- Telling us that he has authority on earth to forgive our sins
- He also mentions in Matthew chapter 10, verse 23
- That they will persecute us, that we will flee to another city until the son of man comes
- Now talking about how the Son of Man is dressed in a robe
- Some versions of the Bible even say that it goes all the way to his feet
- This could give us an understanding that Jesus is dressed as a high priest
- Exodus 20 gives us the perfect example of what the priests would wear
- With the ephod
- the breast piece
- The robe

- The turbine
- The tunic
- Daniel chapter 10 verse 5 even gives us the description of the golden belt that the Son of Man has on

14 The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. **Revelation 1:14 CSB**

- Now is as we see the comment of white as wool, the scripture refers us to Isaiah chapter one, verse 18, where it says
- Even though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; even though they are red like crimson, they will become like wool
- John is doing the comparison of the Ancient of Days clothing is white like snow, and the hair of his head is compared to pure wool
- His eyes are like a fiery flame, giving us the same comparison as Daniel chapter 10, verse 6

15 His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading[k] waters. **Revelation 1:15 CSB**

- In Daniel Chapter 7, verse 9, and Daniel Chapter 10, verse 6,
- We see the resemblance of his feet, like fine bronze, and
- When John mentions it is fired in a furnace
- He is more than likely talking about the wheels on the throne of the ancient of days, which were burning fire
- Now, where he says a voice like the sound of cascading waters
- John is taking us to the book of Ezekiel, chapter one, verse 24
- In Ezekiel, we see that the sound of the wings was like the sound of water
- The voice of El Shaddai
- Now, chapter 1 of Ezekiel is giving us the vision of the glory of the Lord, and it describes in chapter one verse 10

- That their faces look like something like the face of a human, and each of the four had the face of a lion, their face looked like something like the face of a human, and each of the four had a face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an angel, **Ezekiel 1:10 CSB**

- Now I want to give you some insight
- We are going to be seeing this in the near future

- Of the four living creatures
- We will see the lion's
- The ox
- The man's
- And the flying eagle
- I want you to pay attention to how the Lord is describing his glory descend in Ezekiel's
- He is describing how the wings I like the sound of many waters of the Almighty
- But in Ezekiel chapter 1, he starts describing the faces of these living creatures
- These living creatures portray the gospel
- In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is portrayed as a lion, meaning he is the king
- In the gospel of Mark, Jesus is portrayed as an ox, a faithful servant
- In the gospel of Luke, Jesus is portrayed as human
- In the gospel of John, Jesus is the eagle flying above all of it, in other words, being like a superhuman

Week 6

16 He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp, double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength. **Revelation 1:16 CSB**

- Now Jesus is holding the seven stars in his right hand
- The right hand represents strength and spiritual blessing
- Throughout scripture, every time someone would give their blessing to their son, it was mainly the oldest
- They would use the right hand as a representation of the strength and authority they carried
- It says that a double-edged sword came from his mouth
- This indicates the power of His words

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. **4** In him was life, [a] and that life was the light of men. **5** That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome [b] it. **John 1:1-5 CSB**

- The power to Create
- Give life
- Life is the light of men

Therefore repent! But if you do not, I am coming quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword from my mouth. **Revelation 2:16 CSB**

And out of his mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it he could strike the nations. And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the wine of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful **Revelation 19:15 CSB**

And the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse – the sword that comes out of his mouth – and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh **Revelation 19:21 CSB**

- Revelation 2:16 tells us
- that he will make war with the sword of his mouth
- Revelation 19:15 says that out of his mouth came a sharp sword to strike the nations
- Revelation 19:21 says that the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse, the sword that comes out of his mouth
- The authority and the power that Jesus has over what he speaks is important for us to understand
- Revelation 1:16 his face was shining like the sun at full strength
- He gives us the comparison of Daniel 10:6, where he says that it is an angelic figure like lightning
- John could also be giving us the description of the encounter he had in Matthew chapter 17, verse 2
- Of the transfiguration
- If we remember,
- The transfiguration is where Christ appeared in his splendor and divine glory

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, **Revelation 1:17 CSB**

- Now John falls like a dead man
- Because this was the common reaction that someone would have when they encountered the divine
- "Do not be afraid"
- These were the common words we see throughout scripture
- Genesis 15:1 Abraham, when he has a conversation with Yahweh
- Daniel 10:12, when God has a conversation with Daniel
- Luke 1:30, when an Angel visits Mary
- We don't normally talk about angels
- But throughout scripture in the Old and in the New Testament

- We find that the Lord uses them to speak
- I love this verse in Hebrews relating to angels

[2] Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this, some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it. **Hebrews 13:2 CSB**

- Many times, we forget that we should show hospitality to others
- This shows us that we might be even hosting or welcoming Angels Among Us without us even knowing
- John continues to write in Revelation chapter one, verse 18

[18] and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades. **Revelation 1:18 CSB**

- The living one
- Is Jesus Christ
- He is the one who conquered death through the resurrection
- KEYS OF DEATH
- We must understand that keys represent authority
- Christ has the authority to both confine and release from death
- John 5:25-29; God has given Jesus the ability to carry out judgment
- Matthew 16:19; God has also given him the ability to bind things on earth and in heaven and to release things on earth and in heaven
-

[19] Therefore, write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this. **Revelation 1:19 CSB**

- When we look at the word **write**
- **This verse is often viewed as the outline of the book**
- It contains what John saw in chapter 1
- What is in chapters 2 and 3
- And what will take place in chapters 4 through 22
- We must understand
- That in this Book of Revelation
- We see parts of the past
- Parts of the present
- And parts of the future
- Now John is writing the entire context of his vision
- to represent the present and the future

20 The mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels[a] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands[b] are the seven churches. **Revelation 1:20 CSB**

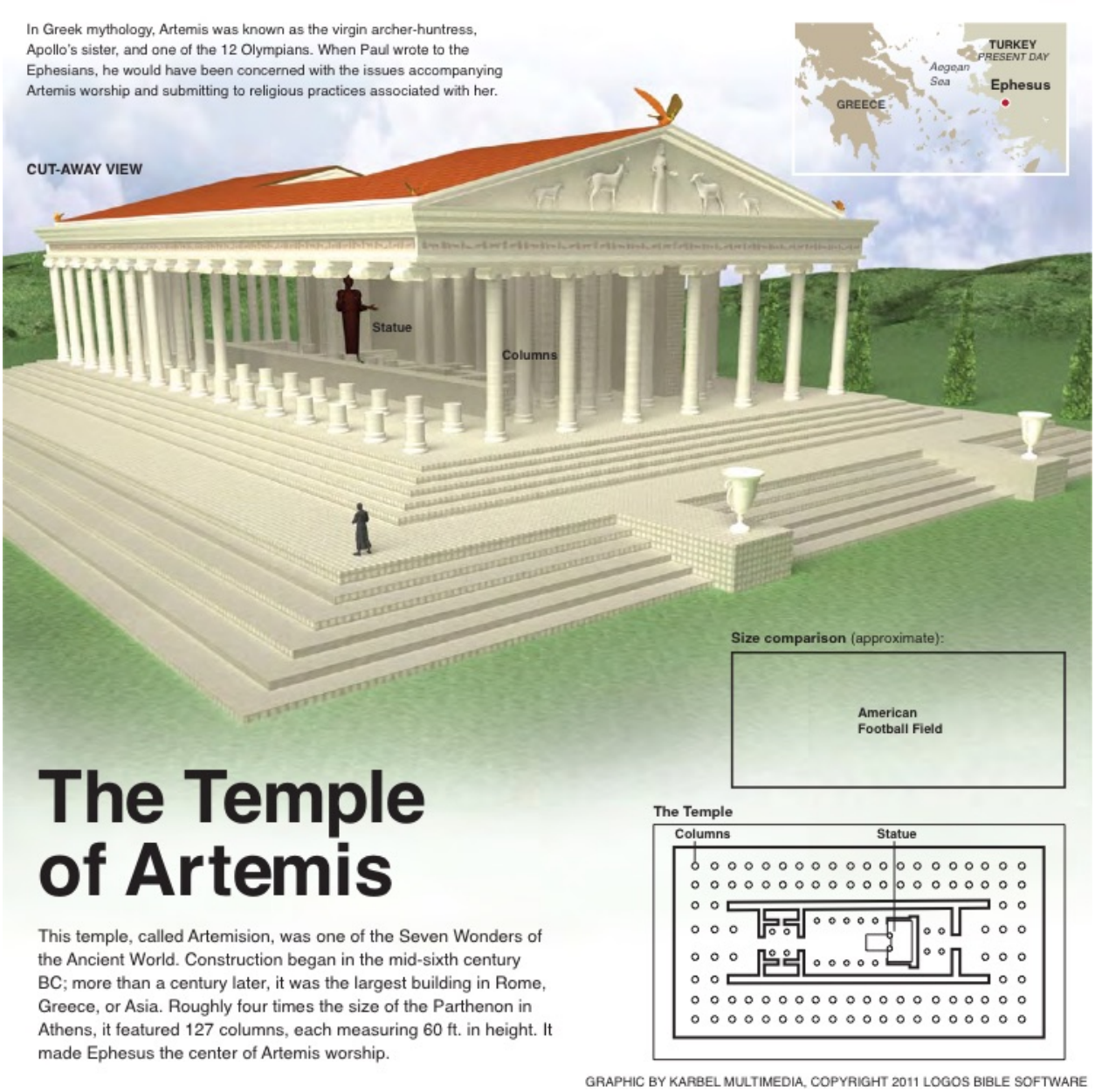
- Verse 20
- The angels of the seven churches could refer to an angelic being or human leaders
- In Greek, the word Angel is Angelos
- Matthew 11:10; Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face
- Luke 7:24; when the messengers of John had departed
- Luke 9:52; he sent messengers before him, and they went out into the village
- James 2:25 Rahab the prostitute, was also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers
- When John is writing, he mentions the seven churches, and this can represent
- The leaders or pastors of the seven churches
- However, the term is used about church leadership
- Which is a plural (Angeloi)
- These may be angelic representatives of the churches
- Another alternative is that this is a metaphor
- Speaking about the spirit of each church
- Since each letter is addressed to the Angel of that church

2 "Write to the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands **Revelation 2:1 CSB**

- We have made it to Revelation chapter 2
- Now we have to remember some things as we investigate revelation chapter 2
- The church in Ephesus
- Ephesus is the largest city in the Asian Minor
- Ephesus is also a major port city
- Meaning they had a lot of commercial industry
- It was a multicultural city
- Since it was a multicultural city, it was also known to have
- Multiple temples
- With multiple temples
- There were multiple gods
- One of the most common gods at the time there
- Is the goddess Artemis
- Artemis is the Greek goddess of fertility
- She was known for chastity and childbearing

- Her temple was one of the seven wonders of the world at the time
- The cult of Artemis preached A radical form of feminism
- Luke narrates a little bit of the goddess Artemis in acts chapter 19 verse 27

[27] Not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one all of Asia and the world worship." **Acts 19:27 CSB**



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- We must understand that the city took great pride in the temple
- For this to be discredited would be an enormous insult to the city
- It would also impact their economy

- Artemis was the local representation of the Greek goddess of the moon
- Who was called Diana by the Romans

Week 7

2 "Write to the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

2 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars.

3 I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary.

4 But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first.

5 Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you[b] and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

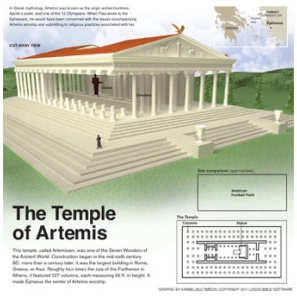
6 Yet you do have this: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in[c] the paradise of God. **Revelation 2:1-7 CSB**

- We have made it to the Book of Revelation, chapter 2
- Before we enter Revelation Ch 2
- I want to recap some of the things we have been learning
- The book of Revelation can be viewed with 3 different views
- Historical, Literal, and Prophetic
- John is the Author of Revelation
- This book is written to the 7 churches
- In Asia
- John was living in Ephesus at the time while writing the book of Revelation
- Revelation is an Apocalyptic book
- Meaning, its purpose is to unveil
- People read this book in 4 different ways
- Historical, Preterist, Futuristic, and Idealist

- Now, Ephesus is the second most important city in the Roman Empire
- Emphasis is also home to the largest gymnasium in the Roman Empire
- Ephesus is a port city
- The Church of Ephesus is in Asia Minor
- Ephesus had a lot of commercial industries
- Ephesus is a multicultural city
- Being a multicultural city
- This means that there are multiple temples
- Multiple temples mean multiple gods
- One of the most common gods in Ephesus
- Is the goddess Artemis
- Artemis is the Greek goddess of fertility
- Her temple at the time was one of the seven wonders of the world
- The cult of Artemis preached a radical form of feminism

Show temple



- The Romans called her Diana.
- Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and Leto. Her twin brother was Apollo. ...
- Artemis was unmarried and never had children. ...
- Artemis was worshipped throughout the Greek world.

- As we are entering the church of Ephesus, it is important to keep this in mind as we are reading these verses
- Now, there was a great conflict between the Christian Church and Ephesus, the city
- Since the temple would bring a lot of tourists
- With tours, there is money involved
- And when people lose money, they can do some wicked things
- As we are reading these next 7 verses
- There are 7 things that all the churches are going to have in common
- A greeting,
- I know
- praise

- Rebuke
- Command
- Warning
- The one who conquers

- As we are looking at the Book of Revelation
- Numbers have a lot of meaning to the Jews
- I think we are going to be looking at a lot of these numbers
- These will be the correlations of what the meaning is

1 - unity, uniqueness
2 - companionship, witness
3 - divine number
4 - creation, the world
6 - evil, fallenness
7 - completion, perfection
10 - humanity, human power
12 - religion, covenant

3 1/2 - half of time, yearning for completion, judgment
40 - generation, judgment
1000 - 10x10x10, godly human government, long period of time
12,000 - perfect religious government, perfect covenantal government
144,000 - 12,000x12,000, the above in witness or companionship

n

2 "Write to the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands: **Revelation 2:1 CSB**

- Last week, we clarified that when John is writing in chapter 2 write to the angel
- He is saying to either a physical Angel or a church leader/ pastor
- The seven stars are the angels
- And the seven golden lampstands are the churches

2 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. **Revelation 2:2 CSB**

- I know your works, your labor, and your endurance
- We must see that the Church of Ephesus
- Did not compromise the truth to be accepted in the general population
- They did not tolerate evil-doers
- Because they loved the truth
- At that time,
- There were a lot of false teachers threatening not only the church in Ephesus

13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:13 CSB**

- The Church of Ephesus was good at
- Determining if the people were false apostles
- Or even
- Deceitful workers

[3] I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary. **Revelation 2:3 CSB**

- Ephesus endured hardship
- During all the hardship, they persevered
- They didn't grow weary
- This is what they were facing

[9] "Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. **Matthew 24:9 CSB**

- The church in Ephesus was being persecuted
- They were being killed for standing firm on their belief
- While enduring all these things for not conforming to the patterns of the world
- Now, the Church of Ephesus was not perfect
- Even though they endured hardship
- Even though they were being persecuted
- Even though they were proving what was false doctrine
- There was a lot of opposition
- This could have led to a lot of social and political backlash
- causing a lot of tension in the commercial and family relationships
- All because of their belief in following Jesus
- Since they were having this opposition
- Jesus has this against them

[4] But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. **Revelation 2:4 CSB**

- Now, what is the word referring to
- What is Jesus telling the church
- You have abandoned the love you had at first

[2] "Go and announce directly to Jerusalem that this is what the Lord says:

I remember the loyalty of your youth, your love as a bride—
how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown **Jeremiah 2:2 CSB**

- I believe the love
- That Jesus is talking to the church in Ephesus about
- Is the same kind of love
- That the people of Israel had when they were in the wilderness
- Even though they didn't have their own land
- They depended on God
- The church was motivated by love
- Although they were motivated by love
- That love had diminished
- The love that had been diminished could have been
- The love for God, brothers, sisters, or even the love for the unbelievers in the city
- Due to the heavy persecution that was happening
- So, he starts to remind them of something

5 Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at
first. Otherwise, I will come to you[b] and remove your lampstand from its place, unless
you repent. **Revelation 2:5 CSB**

- Hebrews 10:32
- Hebrews 6:4
- Philippians 1:29-30
- Ephesus had been enlightened
- They understood the gospel
- They had received spiritual gifts
- The Holy Spirit would manifest in the place where they would gather
- Ephesus had a problem
- The problem they had was that they were not functioning as a church anymore
- And since they were not functioning as a church
- The church would then be subject to extinction

6 Yet you do have this: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
Revelation 2:6 CSB

- Jesus is telling the church, even though you have fallen
- There is still time for repentance
- Then Jesus says you do have this in common with me

- You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans
- Acts 15:20
- Numbers 31:16
- 1 Kings 18:19
- The teaching of the Nicolaitans
- Were identical to Balaam and Jezebel
- They are an early Christian sect
- They were criticized for teaching a doctrine of compromise
- They would blend the following things with Christianity
- They would practice eating food sacrificed to idols
- Sexual immorality
- The worship of Pagan gods
- Cult sacrifices

7 "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. **Revelation 2:7 CSB**

To the one who has an ear

- Matthew 13:9; 43
- Revelation 2:11,17,29; 3:6,13,22

To the one who conquers

- Revelation 21:7

Tree of Life

- Genesis 2:9
- Revelation 22:2
- Genesis 3:24

The paradise of God

- Revelation 22:1-2,14,19
- Genesis 2:8-10
- Luke 23:43
- 2 Corinthians 12:4

Week 8

To the Church in Smyrna

8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. **Revelation 2:8-11 CSB**

Place this on screen

- Smyrna is also an important exporting city
- It was known for its beauty
- Protected harbor
- It was also located on Rome's major road system
- Smyrna excelled in medicine and science
- The city population was over 100,000

2:8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

- The first and the last is Jesus
- Jesus is addressing the church

2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- One thing we must understand is
- The poverty in Smyrna is due to this
- There were a lot of craftsmen
- Their main employment was
- From large union groups
- Which encouraged you to participate in pagan activities
- So, the Christians
- Chose not to participate to honor God
- This led to a financial burden
- On the Christians since there was limited employment

I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not

- Not only was the church facing persecution
- By those who practice the pagan ways
- They were also being persecuted
- By the Jews
- Remember
- The Christians at that time
- Weren’t called Christians
- They were called the followers of the way
- A lot of them were still practicing all the Jews traditions
- While also following Christ
- In that moment
- There is a big conflict
- The followers of the way, which are the Christians
- Are sharing their faith in the synagogue
- So you can just imagine
- Just how all these things are happening
- How the high priest is trying to keep peace and order
- While having all these conflicts

Synagogue of Satan

- Now the reason why Jesus is saying
- The synagogue of Satan
- Is because there are a lot of people
- Jews that are opposing the activity of God
- They honestly believe that what these Christians are doing
- Is the work of Satan

2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Ten Days

- Now remember, John is relaying this to Christians who were also formerly Jews
- So, the number 10 would have automatically sent them to Daniel chapter one verse 12

12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Daniel 1:12 CSB

- If you have been around the church community
- Normally, at the beginning of January, the church does 21 days of fasting and praying
- Some people choose to do Daniel's fast
- which is eating nothing but vegetables and drinking water for 21 days
- Because the story shows us how they became stronger than the other soldiers
- So, John is telling the church in Smyrna
- Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer
- The devil
- Is about to do all he knows how to do
- Which is
- To steal, kill, and destroy
- If we see a little bit of the story of Daniel
- He is a young man without any physical defects
- Good-looking, suitable for instruction
- Who has the capability
- Of obtaining wisdom and knowledge and has great perspective
- Now some theologians
- Would say because he reports to the chief eunuch

- They would say that Daniel was a eunuch
- If you do not know what a eunuch is
- This is someone who has been castrated
- The hardships that Daniel had to endure
- To remain faithful
- Is something to really ponder on
- Because time and time again
- Daniel faced persecution to the point of death
- So, Jesus is reminding the Church of Smyrna
- Remain faithful
- Show those around you
- That even when persecution comes
- Even when opposition is around you
- The affliction you will endure is temporary
- And to give the church in Smyrna hope
- Jesus says for 10 days
- Not just because it was going to be 10 days
- Jesus is saying this to show them that this is temporary

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

- Being faithful
- Even to the point of death
- The Church of Smyrna
- Is receiving the opportunity
- To choose to remain faithful
- To obtain the victor's crown
- Some versions of the Bible are the crown of life
- This is the eternal life as a reward
- 1 Corinthians 9:25; James 1:12; Revelation 3:11
- All these verses that you see on the screen
- Are saying the same thing
- Endure to the end

Conclusion:

[11] Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. **Revelation 2:11 CSB**

- I believe this verse can sum up

- The entire 4 verses that we have just gone through
- The one who is victorious
- Will not be hurt at all by the second death
- This means yes, you will struggle
- Yes, you will encounter things that are beyond what you can handle
- Being a Christian will not be easy
- Following the gospel
- Is all worth it
- The Church of Smyrna
- Endured affliction and poverty
- For the sake of the gospel
- I wonder if today there is someone who needs to decide
- To let go of that career that is not pleasing God
- I wonder if there's someone today who is
- Is this all worth it
- Losing everything for Christ
- I am here to tell you it is

Week 9

12 "Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword: **Revelation 2:12 CSB**

- We are in the Book of Revelation 2:12-17
- We are studying the church of Pergamum
- Pergamum is the 3rd church Jesus addresses
- Pergamum was famous for its civilization and learning
- It was known for a lot of pagan cults
- Zeus, Athena, and many more

13 I know[a] where you live—where Satan's throne is. Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your faith in me, [b] even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives. **Revelation 2:13 CSB**

- Satan's throne
- Why would Jesus make this bold statement
- Some scholars believe
- This is where Zeus altar was located

- This was more than likely located
- On the highest hill of Pergamum
- In the ancient eastern world
- It was commonly known
- That gods would dwell in hills
- People would go to sacrifice on the hill
- As a sign to be closer to the gods
- It was more symbolic
- They believed that they would rule and reign in certain territories

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. **Ephesians 6:12 CSB**

- Although the church was in a pagan city
- They didn't deny their faith
- Even on the days of Antipas
-

- Antipas was more than likely sacrificed on a bull-shaped altar
- Antipas was a bishop of the church in Pergamum
- Pergamum remained faithful during this persecution
- But
- There was something Jesus had against them

[14] But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block[c] in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. **Revelation 2:14 CSB**

- The teachings of Balaam
- What are the teachings of Balaam
- Balaam's story is found in Numbers 25:1-2; 31:16
- Israel begins to worship
- Baal
- The way they worshiped Baal is through the form that Balaam showed them
- Balaam had this teaching
- To prostitute themselves with the women of Moab
- The women would then
- Invite them to offer sacrifice
- To their gods
- The people would eat and bow in worship
- To the gods of the Moabites
- Which would be Baal
- Baal was known as
- The god of fertility
- And the lord of the earth
- Which would control nature
- They would offer human sacrifices to Baal
- So why did the people of Israel
- Fall to the practices of Baal
- They didn't fall because offering human sacrifices was popular
- They fell due to sexual sin

[16] Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, **The two will become one flesh.**[a] **1 Corinthians 6:16 CSB**

- Paul teaches us that when you are joined with someone sexually
- You become one with them
- The fact that Balaam found a weakness
- Shows us that
- The enemy will do whatever he can to make you fall
- The church of Pergamum
- Didn't have a faith problem
- They had a sin problem
- As believers
- Not many deal with having faith
- Many deal with sin problems

- So, Pergamum wasn't just dealing with sexual sin
- They were practicing the practices of the Nicolaitans

15 In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **Revelation 2:15 CSB**

- The Nicolaitans were an early Christian sect,
- Teaching a doctrine of compromise,
- Including participating in pagan idolatry and sexual immorality.
- They advocated for a lifestyle that blended Christian freedom with pagan practices
- Likely encouraging believers to attend pagan festivals
- Eat food sacrificed to idols.
- Jesus is warning the church of Pergamum
- Not to blend Christianity with the practices of Baal

[d] **16** So repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth. **Revelation 2:16 CSB**

- Another version of this verse says
- I will make war
- Although not everyone in Pergamum
- Compromised
- The church was guilty

17 So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it. **James 4:17 CSB**

- The reason why judgement happened to everyone in Pergamum
- Was because the ones who didn't sin didn't speak up.
- That is something that still happens today
- How many opportunities do we get daily
- To share and correct those who you know are not living right
- When we stay quiet about these things
- We too are sinning before the Lord
- The only way to combat this
- Is through the word of God
- That is why it is important to know God's word
- The word of God is given to us as a tool
- As a weapon to fight off the desires of the flesh
- As a book of instructions to teach us what is right
- As a book of counsel and understanding
- The living word of God
- Isn't dead but alive

- This means
- Although the book was written directly to me
- It is for me
- So, I can learn
- What to do
- And
- What not to do

17 "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna. [e] I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it. **Revelation 2:17 CSB**

- This is the beauty of Christ
- Baal is requesting a sacrifice
- Christ became the ultimate sacrifice
- Baal is requesting you to eat the food they gave him
- Christ is offering you hidden Manna

31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**"[a] 32 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, Moses didn't give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. **John 6:31-35 CSB**

- What God did in the Old Testament
- Was to offer a temporary fix
- Something to make you recognize
- That your provision comes from God
- He will be your provider
- Now the mana from heaven
- Is Jesus
- He is the Bread of Life
- The hidden manna
- Is the contradiction of the food sacrificed to idols
- Now not only to those who conquer
- Will they receive the hidden manna
- They will also
- Be given a white stone
- With a new name

- Can you imagine
- Being in the banquet of the Lord
- As Rev. 19:19 says
- The banquet of the wedding celebration
- And before everyone
- Being presented
- A white precious stone
- For your efforts on earth
- For conquering
- The desires of the flesh
- And be given a new name
- I encourage you to set your eyes on the things above
- Focus your eyes on the eternal gift we will one day receive
- I know this life is tough
- It brings challenges and difficulties
- Just remember
- God has given you His word to overcome

Week 10

18 "Write to the angel of the church in Thyatira: Thus says the Son of God, the one whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like fine bronze:

- Thyatira is one of the least significant cities of Ch. 2 and 3 in Revelation
- Thyatira is in western Asia Minor
- Thyatira was significant for the wool trade
- Also known for involving purple dye
- Lydia from the book of Acts 16:14-15
- Was from Thyatira
- A merchant dealing in purple cloth
- Now the word Son of God
- Only comes out here in the book of Revelation

19 I know your works—your love, faithfulness, [a] service, and endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first.

- Now there is something we should understand
- Thyatira's works are greater at the end
- Not like the church of Ephesus
- That they had left their first love

[20] But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat meat sacrificed to idols.

- Many of us know the name Jezebel
- Here is some funny insight on what the writers did
- Hebrew biblical writers would change certain letters
- In the name of people who either won't follow God
- Or have committed something against God
- So, Jezebel's name was actually Jezebaal
- Jezebaal, which means exalted of Baal
- But the Hebrew writers changed the name to say
- Jezebel –
- Zebel in Hebrew means dung
- Which is poop
- So, her name would be Exalted of poop
- Jezebel would call herself a prophetess
- She was the wife of King Ahab
- She used her husband's authority to kill
- The prophets of Yahweh
- There is a comparison between Balaam and Jezebel
- They are considered villains of the Bible
- Jezebel would deceive the people to commit sexual immorality and
- Eat food sacrificed to idols

[22] When Joram saw Jehu he asked, "Do you come in peace, Jehu? "He answered, "What peace can there be as long as there is so much prostitution and sorcery from your mother Jezebel?" **2 Kings 9:22 CSB**

[29] that you abstain from food offered to idols, from blood, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. You will do well if you keep yourselves from these things. **Acts 15:29 CSB**

[20] No, but I do say that what they[a] sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! **1 Corinthians 10:20 CSB**

- Prostitution
- Sorcery
- Sexual immorality
- Food sacrificed to idols
- Sacrifices to demons
- All these things were common under Jezebels lifetime

21 I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Look, I will throw her into a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction. Unless they repent of her[b] works, 23 I will strike her children dead.[c] Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works. **Revelation 2:21-23 CSB**

- I find it so amazing how Jesus gave Jezebel time to repent
- She didn't repent
- Because she wanted to continue committing sexual sin
- Rev 9:20-21
- Tells us that the people who endured the plagues didn't repent
- Since they still wanted to worship demons
- Although those demons were made of
- Gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood
- They didn't see, hear, nor walk
- These people who endured the plagues
- Didn't repent of their murders
- Magic, spells, or their sexual immorality
- Their sexual immorality
- According to Revelation 16:9
- Says that they were burned up by the great heat
- They blasphemed the name of God
- Who had the authority to stop these plagues that they were enduring
- They still didn't repent
- Revelation 16:11
- They blasphemed God
- For their pain and sores
- And still didn't repent from their deeds
- One of the most addicting things
- That we face today is sexual sin
- This was a struggle that the early church dealt with
- It is a struggle that we deal with today
- How many people
- Have lost their jobs, families, or money
- Over this sin

Great affliction

- The great affliction that Jesus is speaking about that will happen to Jezebel
- Is Found in Matthew 24:21; Acts 7:11

- Such tribulation that hasn't happened before
- Famine like the days of Egypt
- The 7 years of famine
- All this would be avoided if they were to just repent

Her Children

- I will strike/ kill her children
- Could have been something that happened in 2 Kings 10:1-11
- Many of us might not know this, but the book of Kings
- Is really one book to the Hebrews
- Not only that, but
- The books of the prophets would probably fall
- In between the book of Kings
- Ahab had 70 sons in Samaria (the capital of Israel at the time)
- This passage in 2 Kings could be what Jesus was referencing
- Where Jehu kills the descendants of Ahab, Jezebel's husband

24 I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who haven't known "the so-called secrets[d] of Satan" —as they say—I am not putting any other burden on you. 25 Only hold on to what you have until I come. Revelation 2:24-25 CSB

- The secrets of Satan
- Are more than likely
- The secret knowledge Jezebel would claim to have
- Her teachings would come from
- Satan
- Which would result in death and destruction

26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works to the end: I will give him authority over the nations— 27 **and he will rule[e] them with an iron scepter;**
he will shatter them like pottery[f] —

Revelation 2:26-27 CSB

- Now this is something beautiful that is happening
- Although the church is facing Jezebel
- Jesus is calling for people to conquer and keep his works
- Rev. 20:6; 1 Cor 6:3; 2 Tim 2:11; Psa 2:8-9
- What does the authority over the nations look like?
- To be resurrected
- To be a priest of God and of Christ

- To reign for 1,000 years
- To judge angels, and ordinary matters
- To live for him
- To possess the ends of the earth
- To break the iron rod
- Which would be mainly our adversaries

[28] Just as I have received this from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.[29] "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. **Revelation 2:28-29 CSB**

- The morning star
- Refers to Jesus
- It is probably an allusion
- To Numbers 24:17 CSB

I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead[a] of Moab and strike down[b] all the Shethites.[c] Numbers 24:17 CSB

- This is where Balaam
- Gives a prophetic word of the Messiah
- Where Jesus would crush the foreheads of the Moabites
- This is also referenced in Daniel 7:27
- Where Jesus will have dominion and reign not only on earth
- But in all of heaven
- Where all the dominions and kingdoms will serve him

Conclusion:

- Our goal should be
- To remain faithful
- There is nothing that
- We can't overcome
- If God is on our side, we are more than overcomers
- I challenge you
- To walk worthy of the call
- Worthy to know that if temptation
- Is knocking at your door
- It's because you are
- Living worthy of the call
- And if you have failed, there is still time to repent

Week 11

Revelation 3:1-6

3 "Write to the angel[a] of the church in Sardis: Thus says the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works; you have a reputation[b] for being alive, but you are dead.

- The church of Sardis is the 5th church Jesus addresses
- Sardis is modern-day Sart, Turkey
- Sardis was a major trade center
- It was founded around 1400 B.C
- Abandoned by the 15th century
- Now, as we previously discussed
- The 7 Spirits of God are
- Found in Isaiah 11:2
- The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches
- Jesus makes a statement I know your works
- Sardis did not have a problem with working for the Lord
- In fact, the Church of Sardis even had a reputation
- In other words, it was famous for the works they would do
- I'm pretty sure we know many churches in America
- Maybe even across the world
- That we identify them by what they do in the communities
- Some of them give to the poor
- Some of them offer medical help
- Some of them are known for their active services around the community
- I want you to get a mental picture of how the Church of Sardis would have worked in its time
- It was well known for being alive
- Now, as we know
- you can claim to be alive
- function in the things of the church
- say the right words,
- Do the right thing
- even offer all the things materially that someone would need
- that does not make you alive before Christ
- So Jesus says, I know you by the work you're doing
- a matter of fact, everybody knows what you're doing
- and though you are portraying as a church that is alive and thriving
- Jesus says you are dead

- The word dead that Jesus uses here
- Is not physical death but spiritual death
- The Church of Sardis had a struggle with letting go of sin

11 So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Romans 6:11 CSB

- This must be one of the worst things that happened to the Church of Sardis
- For you to be working, doing God's plan, serving at the church
- And Jesus comes up and says, "Hey, man, you're dead
- No other church out of the seven did Jesus speak more harshly than this one

2 Be alert and strengthen[c] what remains, which is about to die,[d] for I have not found your works complete before my God.

- Matthew 25:13; 26:40-41; Acts 20:3; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:10
- All the scriptures that you see
- are just warnings after warnings
- Of the word of God saying Be alert
- don't drift off by what you may be seeing or thinking
- Remember the mission you have before you
- Jesus, in his compassion and love
- Is telling the Church of Sardis
- Repent and come back
- And strengthen
- other translations say guard
- what remains
- This shows me
- that not everything that they were doing was bad
- This shows me that there were still some things that the Lord found life in,
- even though those things were about to die

3 Remember, then, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come[e] like a thief, and you have no idea at what hour I will come upon you.

4 But you have a few people[f] in Sardis who have not defiled[g] their clothes, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy.

- I love how Jesus mentions that there are few people in Sardis
- Although Sardis was a community popular for its works

- Only a few people really lived Godly lives
- So, when Jesus says those who have not defiled their clothes
- It is those who did not compromise
- Those who, although the culture was leading them to do something a certain way
- They remained faithful
- And Jesus uses the imagery of clothing
- Because in Sardis it was known for its garment industry
- So, depending on the garment you were wearing
- Would determine the social status
- It would also determine the culture you were from
- Jesus says
- Now they will walk with me in white
- White is the language of purity
- That is why it is common
- Even today
- Women get married in white
- To show themselves as pure
- The color white also symbolizes
- Victory
- Now
- In Roman times
- If someone was wearing white
- It was for a Roman triumphal procession
- The white garment shows significance
- that they are victorious
- they have conquered in battle
- Now, for us believers, the white we wear
- Is demonstrating how we have overcome sin
- and they are now living and walking in freedom

5 "In the same way, the one who conquers will be dressed in white clothes, and I will never erase his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and before his angels. 6 "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Conquer

- 1 John 2:13-14; 4:4; 5:4-5; Revelation 2:7,11,17,26; 3:12,21
- We usually use the term more than conquers
- I know I've used it many times
- Now this is the thing
- When we accept Christ into our lives
- We are no longer a creation of God but heirs
- We become children of God
- Now, when we become children of God
- We receive the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is now our helper
- In this life
- We will not be able to overcome the sin and temptation of this world alone
- That is why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is our guide in life, showing us the correct way
- But how
- Through the reading of God's word
- It shows us how we should live
- What we should do
- How we should love
- Treat others
- Everything you will need is found in the word of God

Book of Life

Ex. 32:32-33; Psalms 69:28; Daniel12:1; John 3:16-17; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27;

- We don't often talk about the book of life
- But
- From the times of Moses,
- In the book of Exodus, we see that this Book of Life
- Has been with us
- If we pay close attention to what is happening
- Moses had just received the 10 Commandments
- written by the finger of God
- God himself wrote these commandments
- Since Moses had delayed
- The people of Israel made a Golden calf
- They wanted something to be able to worship

- Something they could see
- Now, it says it was because of Moses' delay
- But I don't think it was an accident
- I believe it was God verifying the faithfulness of his children
- Although they chose to fall and fail
- Moses, as a king, priest, and prophet
- Asked the Lord
- To forgive them
- Or to completely remove him from the Book of Life
- He was willing to not enter heaven for the sake of his fellow brothers
- But God denied his request
- There is only one more King, Priest, and Prophet
- His name is Jesus
- Now, because of Jesus
- My sin
- Your sin
- Is now covered by the blood of the Lamb
- Who went to Calvary for you and me
- How can I not
- Get happy that although I fail
- Although I fall
- Although I haven't been perfect
- There is one who is perfect
- There is one at this very moment in time
- Sitting at the right hand of the Father
- Ready to receive us with his arms wide open
- Accepts us in
- Still today, we can turn back to him
-

Week 12

The church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13 CSB

7 "Write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia: Thus says the Holy One, the true one, the one who has the key of David, who opens and no one will close, and who closes and no one opens:

- The church in Philadelphia
- Was known for
- Its commercial and agricultural importance
- Grape crops
- Wine

The true one

- 1 John 5:20; Rev 6:10; 19:11
- The Son of God
- Came down
- So we can know the one true Savior
- With Him (The Holy Spirit)
- We can abide with His Son Jesus
- Who can give us everlasting Life

One who has the key of David

- Jesus references
- Isaiah 22:22: And I will put the key of the house of David on his shoulder, and he shall open, and no one will be able to shut; and he shall shut, and no one will be able to open.
- Jesus Christ is the authority to admit or exclude
- This statement might mean that it is the keys to the New Jerusalem in Chapter 21

8 I know your works. Look, I have placed before you an open door that no one can close because you have but little power; yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

- Every church Jesus is referring to
- Jesus says this statement
- I know your works
- Rev 2:2, 19; 3:1,15
- The Door no one can close is the opportunity to spread the gospel to the Gentiles
- Because the synagogue of Satan had removed them from entering the temple
- Remember the first Christians
- Or followers of the way

- Would have been majority Jews who started believing in Jesus
- The fact that Jesus says you have little strength
- Is more than likely because they were a small church
- Either because of the size of the church
- Or
- They would not have been influential in the community
- Yet they remained faithful

Not denied my name

- When the church of Philadelphia
- Stayed firm in their beliefs to continue to speak the name of Jesus
- God opens a door now, not for the Jews but for the Gentiles
- Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3
- Those who did not deny the name
- They started spreading the gospel
- Now, just because they had the door open
- Doesn't mean that they didn't have opponents
- But when the Lord opens a door for you
- It's a promise that he will make a way
- When God opens a door for us
- Yes, it is for all kinds of benefits
- Spiritual, financial, new employment
- But most importantly
- It is for the gospel of Jesus to shine
- The opportunity God gives you is for you to demonstrate Christ in the new door
- At the new job
- In the new pay increase
- In the house
- God doesn't open a door without giving us a chance to show others of God's faithfulness

9 Note this: I will make those from the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you.

- Isaiah 45:14; 49:23; 60:14; 1 Corinthians 14:25
- The reason why Jesus mentions these lying Jews is for this reason

11 Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. **Isaiah 11:1 CSB**

- Although they had claimed they were real
- They had forgotten the prophetic words
- Isaiah had said
- That out of the stump of Jesse
- A branch from his root would / will bear fruit
- Meaning
- One day when Jesus comes
- He will show the world that
- He really was the messiah
- The one that they denied
- One day the Jews will bow down and confess Jesus is Lord
- One day everyone will confess Jesus is Lord

10 Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

The Hour of Testing

- We will soon be reading about the hour of testing in Chapter 6
- Where the Lamb opens the 7 seals
- And the 4 living creatures
- When we remain faithful
- To the mission God has for us
- He opens the correct doors
- Closes the ones that don't belong there
- And
- Keeps us away from things that we shouldn't endure
- As faithful believers
- We are covered and protected from various demonic attacks
- Plagues
- When we persevere
- We obtain eternal life
- Where we will have entrance to the New Jerusalem

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one takes your crown.

- Jesus is saying this season is only temporary
- It is not a season where you will have to endure forever
- So, make sure no one takes your crown

[12] "The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God—and my new name.[13] "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Pillar

- 1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chronicles 3:17; Jeremiah 1:18; Galatians 2:9
- Those who conquer will be pillars in the temple
- Pillars are used to sustain a roof
- To add weight to something that needs support
- What an amazing thing Jesus says
- I will make them a pillar
- Not just anything
- A pillar that can hold weight
- Not only a pillar but also
- He will write on him the name of God
- Story of Toy Story
- The boot with the name Andy
- When God names you
- You carry his identity
- Meaning you are not operating in your name
- Not what you've done
- But
- In what he has done
- The church of Philadelphia
- Operated faithfully
- Under a new name
- Carrying the mission of spreading the gospel of Christ till the end of the world
- You and I
- If we want to be pillars
- Must carry the weight of saving people
- In the Doors God opens for us
- Not in our strength
- Our past
- But in the identity of Christ
- So although people can label you
- You can say no that isn't me
- It used to be me
- Until I became adopted by Jesus

Weeks 13

14 "Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator[h] of God's creation:

- Laodicea was in the Lycus River valley
- Laodicea was known for its banking, medical, and clothing industries
- The angel of the church was more than likely a church leader, pastor, or angel
- Thus says the Amen
- The Amen is Jesus
- The faithful and true witness
- Now Jesus adds something
- The originator of God's creation
- Mk. 10:16; 13:19; Jn 1:1-5; Col 1:18; 2 Peter 3:4
- Now Christ is the one who created male and Female
- The creator of the heavens and the earth
- Everything came into existence through HIM
- The head of the church
- Christ lets the church know this

15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot.

- You are neither Hot nor Cold
- Now, I know we have heard this before
- Something we might not know is
- In Laodicea
- The water system they had
- Didn't come from the city
- Now 2 pipes would bring the source of water
- One from Colossae
- Or from the springs at Hierapolis
- When the water would arrive in the city
- It would become lukewarm
- One pipe would offer cold water
- The other would offer hot water
- Now one was known for refreshing
- The other was known for healing/ soothing the person drinking it
- Laodicea was neither refreshing nor healing
-

16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth.

- Now I don't know about you, but
- When I go to a restaurant or obtain a coffee
- I prefer for it to be served hot or cold
- Imagine on a hot summer day taking a sip of a nice tall lukewarm glass of water
- Now our reaction would either be
- I'm going to spit this out
- Or I'm never doing that again
- Now Laodicea was not your common city
- It was a successful city
- So that means that it generated wealth

17 For you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

- Thanks to the banking industry
- Laodicea was a wealthy city
- The church thought it was self-sufficient
- It didn't want to look at its spiritual state
- They honestly thought they didn't need anything
- From anybody
- Hosea 12:8 says Ephraim built wealth by themselves
- Ephraim was Israel
- Zechariah 11:5 says the ones selling the sheep were thanking God
- For the profit they made
- They didn't care if they ripped people off as long as they thanked God
- The purpose of the church of Laodicea wasn't to be wealthy
- It was to work alongside God's church with its wealth
- 1 Corinthians 4:8 says
- So that we might reign as kings with you
- In the process of building wealth, Laodicea forgot its purpose
- I believe God wants to bless you financially
- I believe he wants you to build generational wealth
- I also believe not at the cost of forgetting the source
- It must go hand in hand
- Generational wealth (Kingship), generational sonship (Priest)
- We need both
- Each is important in God's kingdom

[18] I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see. [19] As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent.

- Gold refined
- Shows us the true wealth
- Gold refined in fire
- Is the purification of Sin
- Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take; He test me I shall come out like gold
- Proverbs 27:21 A crucible is for the silver, and a furnace for the gold, but a man is tested by the mouth of him who praises him
- The church had the hardest decision to make
- Choose to stay the same or be refined
- The true richness
- Jesus had in mind is genuine faith
- 1 Peter 1:7
- When we allow God to refine us
- We allow him to show us what is important in his kingdom
- The result of being refined is praise
- This shows me that when we praise, we should praise from a point of being refined
- Being tested by fire
- The result is praise and glory to Jesus
- This means when I am struggling, I should praise
- When I am facing tribulation, I'm praising
- My praise is the reaction to the furnace

[20] See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

- Christ is telling the church in Laodicea
- I'm at the door
- I am knocking
- If you hear my voice, I will come in and eat with you
- Laodicea had locked Christ out
- They thought they had it all figured out
- They thought the success and money they would bring in was enough
- If we aren't careful, we can also lock Christ out of our lives
- We can be doing God's work

- Producing revenue to help causes
- But forgetting Christ in the middle of it all
- Christ is asking the church to
- Repent and ultimately to come back to partake in the banquet
- Which is the remembering of the Death and resurrection of Christ
- We can get so caught up in doing God's work we forget the reason why we do what we do.
- Being lukewarm doesn't mean
- One foot in and one foot out
- It can look like
- Doing the work
- and not really doing it for Christ

21 "To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.22"Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

- Every church that we have been seeing
- Jesus gives them this message
- Endure
- To gain and crown
- To obtain life
- To sit in his throne
- Jesus, in his forgiving nature
- Tells us
- I don't care what you've done
- Where you've been
- How far you have left me
- There is still time to come back
- Laodicea was just like the rest
- Caught up in the busyness of ministry that they forgot Christ in doing so
-

Revelation 3:14-22 CSB

Week14

Revelation 4:1-11 CSB

4 After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

- Now, after hearing Jesus address the churches
- Jesus tells John to come up to him
- To reveal the things that will take place
- When we see the book of Revelation
- We understand that this book
- Runs as 3
- Past, present, and future
- I have placed a timeline for you to see how
- Revelation is laid out

- John reminds the churches of the past
- Where God had delivered them
- The present
- Addressing the concerns the current churches are facing
- The future
- The things that haven’t taken place but in due season will
- This book is one of the most complicated books to understand
- Not because the wording is hard to read
- This book covers
- History, prophecy, and revelation of the messages the prophets would speak about
- There are some things I want you to understand as we read ch. 4
- The images of the throne and Lamb
- Are constant in the book of Revelation
- These images provide theological keys to the entire book
- These are the keys
- 1) Sovereignty and power

- 2) Sacrifice and vulnerability
- Chapters 4 and 5 are the theological center of the book
- The word throne appears 43 times from CH. 4- Ch. 22
- 19 times in Ch. 4&5
- Lamb referring to Christ 28 times

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven, and someone was seated on it.

- Immediately I was on the throne occurs two more times
- Revelation 17:3 & Revelation 21:10
- A throne in heaven
- Gives us the understanding
- That the throne has sovereignty and power
- We can find this in Ezekiel 1 & Isaiah 6

3 The one seated[a] there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

- This is how Ezekiel describes YHWH in Ch. 1:26-27
- Moses describes the divine presence of YHWH
- As precious stones
- Isaiah, Ezekiel and John don't attempt to give the precise stone
- To describe God
- Because everything can be described but not YHWH

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

- Many people give this to interpretation of the 24 elders as
- The 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles
- Now what I don't understand
- Is how can John be describing himself while being the person seeing the 24 elders
- There is another theory
- According to the Levitical division
- Found in 1 Chronicles 24

5 Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. 6 Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne.

Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side.

- Now the 7 spirits of God
- Are the sevenfold spirit of God
- Found in Isaiah 11:2
- Sea of glass
- Every time we see the word sea
- In the bible
- It normally describes chaos
- The sea of glass before the throne
- Show us that God can subdue the chaos and bring order
- John mirrors the same image as in Ezekiel Ch. 1 and Daniel CH. 7

7 The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third
living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying
eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around
and inside. Day and night they never stop, [b] saying,

- ***Keep image up ***
- Now why do we come to this conclusion
- In the ancient world
- Emperors would have chosen an animal
- To depict their power
- For example, Nebra
- Would have said
- I'm strong as an ox
- Or
- I rule like a lion
- Each one of these living creatures

- Would each sing a song
- Holy, holy, holy,
  Lord God, the Almighty,
  who was, who is, and who is to come.
- In the Romans time
- There was an imperial song that they would sing
- It would say holy, holy, holy
- Lord god almighty
- Who was, who is, and who is to come.
- They would do this because
- Ceasar would describe himself as a God
- Now the 4 living creatures shouldn't be mistaken by the 4 beasts
- Found in Daniel ch 7

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

11 Our Lord and God, [c] you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created

- The 24 elders cast their crowns before the throne
- Although they are wearing the crown
- The 24 elders recognize
- There is one on the throne
- Who has the ultimate power
- God himself, the great king
- Now Domitian more than likely was the ruler
- Around 81AD-96AD
- During the time John was in the Island of Patmos
- Now Domitian wanted to be called lord and god
- But John makes a true statement here
- There is only one Lord
- There is only one God
- Who is worthy
- To receive
- All the glory
- All the honor
- All the power

Conclusion:

- All these things are happening in heaven

- This is right before the 7 years of tribulation
- Ch. 4 & 5
- Take place in Heaven
- This shows us an image that this is what will take place
- Before the 7 years of tribulation
- This is where the church will be raptured up and meet with God
- You and I don't know the time
- The hour
- Or the date
- But
- What we do know is one day
- One day soon he will call the dead first and then us, and we will be
- Caught up with him in the clouds

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 CSB**

Week 15 Revelation Ch. 5

5 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

- Now, as we remember from last week, ch. 4 & ch. 5
- Are a combined end-time event where we see
- The church being raptured
- Now Ch. 4 ends with
- Our Lord and God
- You are worthy
- Christ is reintroduced

- As the Lamb slain
- Only He is worthy
- To have the scroll
- Now the scroll contains
- God's plan for history
- It is spelled out in the events that are about to take place
- In the ancient world
- The size of the scroll would determine
- The accolades of the ruler
- So, for John to narrate that the scroll is
- Written front and back
- Gives us the importance of the one who will open the scroll
- Now the number 7 indicates completion
- Isaiah made mention of this in Isaiah Ch. 29:11
- The vision became for you like the words of a sealed document
- Daniel also received these same words in Daniel Ch. 12:4
- Keep the words secret and seal the scroll
- Until the end of times
- Now this scroll had 7 seals
- Seals in history are indicators of authority
- Seals signify Authority, identity, and approval
- The earliest known seal dates to around the 4th millennium BC.
- The practice was
- They would take the form of necklaces or rings and guard it
- Then impress upon wet clay or hot wax
- The image of the seal was unique to their owners
- Served to identify property, safeguard
- Against fraudulent transactions and ratify official documents and rulings

2 I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

- Now we don't know the name of the mighty angel
- But we do get this proclamation
- Who is worthy
- To open the scroll and break its seal
- Now to the Jews
- The scroll means something significant
- The synagogues in the 1st century
- Would have the 5 scrolls of Moses, or books of Moses

- Then maybe 10-15 other scrolls that they would share with other synagogues
- The only person who is worthy to get the scrolls
- Would have been, in that time, the priest/respected leaders

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open[a] the scroll or even to look in it. **5** Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and[b] its seven seals."

- Now, if the scroll couldn't be opened
- John wouldn't be able to see the events that were to come
- But
- One of the elders says Don't weep
- There is one from the tribe of Judah
- The royal tribe
- From where Israel's ruler would come
- Someone from the root of David
- Not only the root but also
- One who has conquered
- The elder is mentioning the one who conquered death and was resurrected

6 Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

- John hears about a lion
- But turns to see the Lamb
- The lamb imagery relates to Jesus' death on the cross
- It is the most traditional way of viewing His death
- As a sacrifice
- Like the sheep sacrificed in the Old Testament
- Isaiah 53; John 1:29; 36:1; 1 Peter 1:19
- In the reading, Revelation responsibly
- The image of a slaughtered, self-sacrificial lamb
- Does not mean that the Lamb is powerless
- In fact, the contrary is the case

- The Lamb is indeed the messianic lion
- Who has 7 eyes of perfect perception/wisdom
- And 7 horns of perfect power
- Sacrificial isn't powerless

[7] He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

The Lamb Is Worthy

8 When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slaughtered,
and you purchased[c] people[d]
for God by your blood
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.

- The harp is a common musical instrument in the Israelites culture
- Golden bowls full of incense
- Symbolizes the prayer of God's people

[10] You made them a kingdom[e]
and priests to our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

- A kingdom and priests
- Shows how they will reign on the earth

[11] Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

- Their number
- Doesn't necessarily mean that this is the correct amount
- It is showing us the infinite amount of

- Angels, living creatures, and elders

12 They said with a loud voice,

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing!

13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say,

Blessing and honor and glory and power
be to the one seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

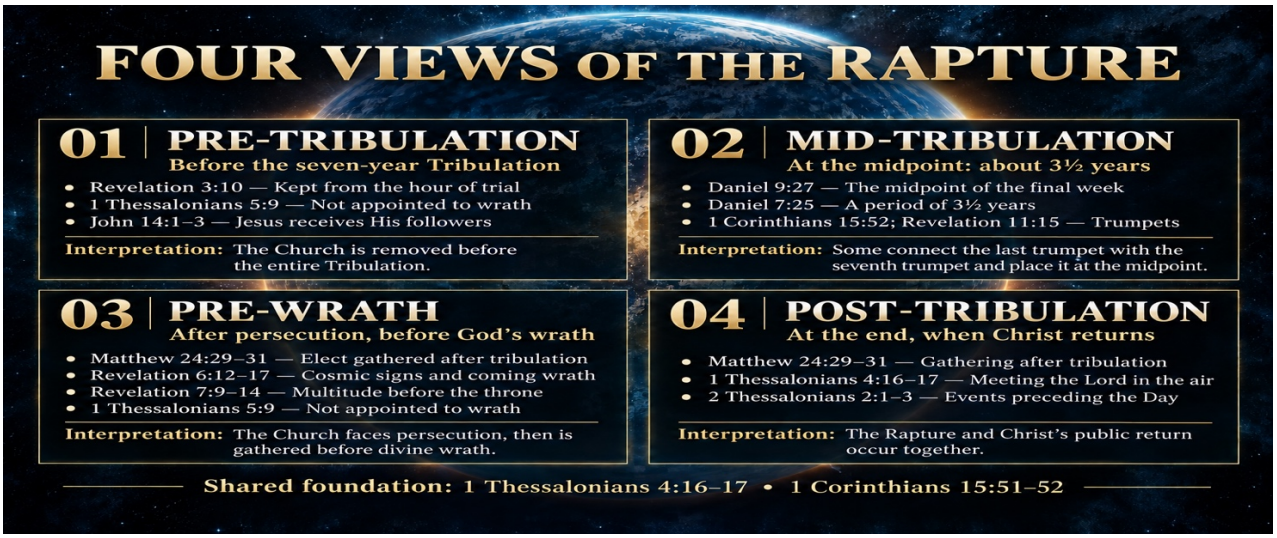
14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:1-14CSB

- There is only one worthy
- One who is worthy of our praise
- Worthy of our worship
- One day you and I will be caught up in heaven
- And we will witness this moment
- We will see this play out
- Right before the seals start
- Right before everything starts being revealed
-

Week 16

Revelation Ch. 6



6 Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven[a] seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"

- One of the four living creatures
- Summons one of the riders as the first four seals are broken

2 I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.[b]

- The white horse
- Some theologians identify it as
- Christ himself
- Who rides on a white horse according to Rev. 19:11-13
- This statement is argued
- That he is referred to here
- However, this rider
- Is more than likely
- A representation of evil
- It is a pale imitation of Christ
- Jesus writes in Mark 13:5-6
- Of one who would falsely come in His name
- The crown was given as a symbol of political power

- Rev. 13:1; 19:12; 5:6; 13:3

The Second Seal

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say,
"Come!" 4 Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take
peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword
was given to him.

- The fiery red horse
- Is suggested as the horse of warfare and bloodshed

The Third Seal

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I
looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand.

- The black horse with the scale in his hand
- Will aid in measuring out the food and drink
- At extremely high prices
- More than likely, the supplies left over after war
- Rev. 6:2
-

6 Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, "A quart of
wheat for a denarius,[c] and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil
and the wine."

- Someone is placed to
- Properly divide the correct amount of supplies
- More than likely like a government food line
- Selling them at inflated prices

24 Some time later, King Ben-hadad of Aram brought all his military units together and marched up and laid siege to Samaria. 25 So there was a severe famine in Samaria, and they continued the siege against it until a donkey's head sold for thirty-four ounces[a] of silver, and a cup[b] of dove's dung[c] sold for two ounces[d] of silver. 26 As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, "My lord the king, help!" 27 He answered, "If the Lord doesn't help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor or the winepress?" 28 Then the king asked her, "What's the matter?" She said, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son, and we will eat him today. Then we will eat my son tomorrow.' 29 So we boiled my son and ate him, and I said to her the next day, 'Give up your son, and we will eat him, but she has hidden her son." 2 Kings 6:24-29 CSB

- Because of the rebellion of Israel
- There was a great famine
- There is a section in Deuteronomy
- 28:53-58
- Where it talks about the blessings and curses
- This same scenario happened because of the rebellion of his people
- Now, the specific denarius
- Was around a day's worth of wages
- To only feed one person
- The command was
- Not to destroy the oil and wine
- Since they were expensive (luxury items)
-

The Fourth Seal

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and there was a pale green[d] horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were[e] given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

- The pale green horse
- Is identified as pestilence and death

- According to the plagues and death of
- Luke 21:11; Leviticus 26:25; Ezekiel 14:19
- The name death
- Is the contrary of life
- That is offered by the Lamb Jesus. Rev offers that. 7:14
- Hades followed right after him
- In Greek mythology, the place where people go after their bodily death
- This personification, along with the personification of death
- Is likely to evoke the idea that these two evil powers are at work in the world
- Physical death and the spiritual death that follows it Hosea 13:14

The Fifth Seal

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given.

- The fifth seal
- Is where the saints who passed
- Appeal for vengeance
- God forestalls His wrath
- More must be added to their numbers before He strikes back
- The souls of those who had been slaughtered
- Are under the altar
- They were sacrificed because of their faith in Christ

10They cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?"

-

11 So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

- Seals are a pouring out of God's wrath in verses 9-11
- This is a symbol of justice
- These people are crying out
- Because these people have faced persecutions
-

The Sixth Seal

12 Then I saw him open[h] the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon[i] became like blood;

- The great earthquake
- Is typically when referring to God's judgment
- It normally refers to the end of the age
- Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:10; Mark 13:8

13 the stars[j] of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind;

- The stars of heaven
- May refer to rock
- Debris thrown from a volcano
- To the point where the heavens are shaken

14 the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

- Smoke and lava spewing hundreds of feet into the air
- Causing vanishing skys

15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

- All kind of people
- Rich and poor
- Powerful and weak
- Slave and free
- Will seek refuge
- From the wrath of the lamb

16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, **17** because the great day of their[k] wrath has come! And who is able to stand?" **Revelation 6:1-17 CSB**

- The wrath of God
- And the Lamb
- This day
- Is the final outpouring of judgment
- On the world
- Those who have been bought by the Lamb are safe from this judgment
- They will be able to stand
-

Week 17

Revelation CH. 7

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

- Now there are 4 angels
- each one of the angels is standing at the four corners
- more than likely these 4 angels are being displayed
- as the whole world
- as a four-point compass
- now these 4 angels are restraining four winds

- Now the book of Zechariah chapter 6 verse 5 mentions
- these exact four horsemen

6 Then I looked up again and saw four chariots coming from between two mountains. The mountains were made of bronze. **2** The first chariot had chestnut[a] horses, the second chariot black horses, **3** the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all strong horses. **4** So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?" **5** The angel told me, "These are the four spirits[b] of heaven going out after presenting themselves to the Lord of the whole earth. **6** The one with the black horses is going to the land of the north, the white horses are going after them, but the dappled horses are going to the land of the south." **7** As the strong horses went out, they wanted to go patrol the earth, and the Lord said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth. **8** Then he summoned me, saying, "See, those going to the land of the north have pacified my Spirit in the northern land." Zechariah 6:1-8 CSB

- Now John is giving this comparison
- because back in the time when Zechariah existed
- kings and rulers would use Chariots or horses
- to send messages referring to kingdoms
- about plans or strategies that they had to do
- so, these 4 angels
- that are around the four corners of the earth
- could be the messengers that the Lord has sent out
- to patrol the earth
- so, these 4 angels were giving the command
- that no wind would blow on the earth, the sea, or any tree
- we don't know if this is natural wind or spiritual wind

2 Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea,

- Now verse 2 tells us that there is another Angel
- This specific Angel who is rising from the east
- has a seal of the living God
- This specific seal is contrary to the mark of the beast
- The seal that this Angel holds
- represents the authentic identity of the people of God
- The specific Angel cries out with a loud voice

- to the four angels that were allowed to harm the earth and the sea
- Now these 4 angels were given permission, but not by God
- They were permitted to damage the earth and the sea

3 "Don't harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads."

- Now, in the book of Ezekiel, chapter 9 verse 4
- Yahweh says Go to the midst of the city
- to the midst of Jerusalem
- place a mark on the forehead of the men
- who are lamenting about all the testable things that are being done
- Now if you have never read this particular part
- chapter 8 and 9 of the book of Ezekiel
- give us context to what is happening
- around September 17th 591 BC
- Ezekiel gets this vision
- where the hand of the Lord comes upon him
- and he shows them the Pagan practices that are happening in the temple
- This is where the temple had different kinds of images of jealousy
- Asherah goddess
- Manasseh had also set one up
- The elders of the church were offering incense to Baal
- women would worship Tammuz
- and men were worshipping the God Shamash
- Now, as the Lord is guiding Ezekiel through this vision
- he gives him this other vision that a slaughter is about to happen in Jerusalem
- This is right before the glory of the Lord leaves the temple
- Now, when we look at the word seal
- if we don't know the context or the meaning behind where John is trying to take us
- we will miss what God is trying to show us
- These people who were lamenting
- that were sealed by God
- we're living in an area or a moment
- where all chaos was happening around them
- where people were not following God
- where they would worship idols
- they would worship other gods
- to the point where the glory of the Lord had to leave the temple

[4] And I heard the number of the sealed:

144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:

[5] 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Judah,

12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,

12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

[6] 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,

12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,

12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

[7] 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,

12,000 from the tribe of Levi,

12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

[8] 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,

12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,

12,000 sealed from the tribe of Benjamin.

- John hears this number
- 144,000
- All these were being sealed
- Now there are many different views about the 144,000
- Some scholars or theologians say that it is the ethnic Jews
- who will eventually become Christians
- that will be kept from being killed
- during the seven-year tribulation
- Other theologians say that it could be the number of the redeemed
- 12 multiplied by 12 by 1000
- as a correlation of the 12 tribes of Israel
- and the 12 apostles

- representing the number of completion or perfection
- now there's something that I want you to notice
- the group of Dan
- or the tribe of Dan has been omitted from this 144,000
- and they were replaced by Manasseh
- Judges 17-18; Hosea 4:17-19;
- This is more than likely because of the sin that they had committed
- Now there is A certain sect
- that from the early 1900s all the way to the beginning of the 2000s
- would claim that they were the 144,000 written in Revelation Chapter 7
- This group got to the point where they had exceeded 144,000
- and caused a great concern within their own sect
- so, they had to alter their position from being 144,000 to being a great multitude
- This is the importance of knowing our word
- because if we do not closely pay attention to the scripture
- understand history
- we can easily be misguided to believe
- that just because someone stands behind a pulpit, they are speaking the truth

9 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

- John then takes a look
- He sees this vast multitude
- People from every nation, tribe and tongue
- And John is amazed
- with how beautiful it is
- to see the fulfillment of the gospel of Christ Jesus
- just to be able to see all the people who chose
- to come to Christ
- that after all the sacrifice
- after all the persecution
- after everything they've had to endure
- John sees a multitude
- whose eyes cannot comprehend how many people
- all these people are standing before the throne of the Lamb
- wearing white robes
- with palm branches in their hands
- because of the meaning of palm branches in their heads

- is an indication of victory
- in a royal or military procession
- the white robes would indicate salvation or victory
- you see the first time they were holding palm branches up
- just one week before Jesus' death on the cross
- believe me that this was the Messiah that was going to come
- and rule earthly over the Jewish Kingdom
- But after his death and resurrection
- here we have a vast multitude of people
- we're holding palm branches
- signifying he is victorious
- He is the victor

10 And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

- All of this vast multitude
- with one loud voice
- they cried out
- salvation belongs to our God
- who is seated on the throne
- and to the Lamb

11 All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God,

- All of the angels and the 24 elders
- fell face down before the throne and worshiped God

12 saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

- They all said, "Amen."
- Which is, "So be it "
- Now the word Amen appears twice
- after the angels and the elders fall face down
- after proclaiming that salvation comes from God
- they say Amen
- then they begin to praise

- the only one who is worthy to receive all honor, power, and strength
- and they close it off by saying Amen again

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?"

- Now one of the elders asked
- about the people who were in white robes

14 I said to him, "Sir,[a] you know." Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- Now the great tribulation
- This can be the intense persecution
- that will immediately happen at the end of the age
- this could be of all those who were persecuted between the time frames
- of when Jesus Christ ascended and returned
- now they were made white in the blood of the Lamb
- because the blood of the Lamb cleanses us from all our sins
- although the blood is red
- it makes us white
- This reminds me of Isaiah chapter one verse 18
- which says Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; though they are like crimson red, they will be like wool
- because the blood of the Lamb purifies all of our iniquities

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter[b] them:

- For this reason
- because of the sacrifice of the Lamb
- because they were washed
- they can enter the throne room
- and they can stand before the throne of God
- and they can abide in this temple day and night

16 They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat.

- The fact that they will no longer
- hunger thirst
- or even be attacked by the scorching heat
- it gives us the understanding that all of these elements
- will not be needed in heaven
- we will not have hunger
- we will not thirst
- we will not be exhausted by a heat wave
-

17 For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; he will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes

- This is so amazing
- The fact that the Lamb is the one
- who will be shepherding
- Religious and political leaders often are portrayed
- as either good or bad shepherds in the Bible
- and that still happens today
- Shepherds on earth are human
- and I believe
- that every single ministry we hold
- everything we do on this earth
- we are all interim
- meaning we are only here temporarily
- just as the church has been going for centuries
- there have been many pastors
- many children's church directors
- many youth leaders
- one day
- we will all pass on this earth
- if the Lord decides to prolong his coming
- and the next pastor will come in
- the next children's church director will come in
- the next ministry director will come in
- because we are here temporarily
- but one day
- the true pastor of pastors will come
- and he will wipe away every tear
- every single distress grief and pain

- everything we've ever had to endure
- and the true shepherd
- will guide us
- because he isn't only
- the shepherd
- He is also the Lamb
- which gives me the understanding that he also knows us
- He knows our heart
- he knows how we feel
- our emotions
- our day-to-day struggle
- he is not too far disconnected from us
- that he can't relate to us
- 'cause he is the Lamb and the Shepherd

Revelation 7: 1-17 CSB

Week 18

Revelation Ch.8

The Seventh Seal

8 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

- After Chapter 7
- The 7 seals are opened
- The 7 angels receive the 7 trumpets
- Now these trumpets
- Signal a further round of judgment
- Once the trumpets are blown
- Now
- There’s something I want to address
- When we look at the wrath of God
- His anger towards the people
- Is it because he doesn’t care about the people?
- Now let me give you an example
- If a robber were to come into my house

- Beat my wife and children
- And I was to react like
- Its ok
- Nothing happened
- You would assume
- That something is wrong with me
- Now if my reaction is
- Anger
- You would say that is just
- Why
- Because someone broke in
- And they hurt the people I love
- All these trumpets that we will study
- Come from a place of God's love towards the people
- Now
- There are over 700 illusions/ illustrations
- In the book of Revelation
- That are from the Old Testament
- When the 7th seal was opened
- There was silence in heaven
- Silence from God
- Is the impending judgment
- Hab 2:20; 3:3-6; Zech 2:13-3:2; Zph 1:7

2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them.

- Now the 7 angels
- More than likely are the archangels
- According to the Jewish religious novel
- The book of Tobit
- Since the only Archangel that is mentioned is Michael in the Book of Revelation

3 Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne.

- Now there was another Angel different from the seven angels
- This Angel had a golden incense burner
- This is a round vessel
- Where incense and burning coals were placed together

- The result of a sweet fragrance that often accompanied worship
- and religious rituals
- Incense in the Bible can be related to prayers Rev 5:8

[4] The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand.

- Now the smoke of the incense
- went up to the Lord
- from the angel's hand
- The fact that the Angel is presenting the incense to God
- can give us a clear understanding that this Angel
- is performing a priestly action
- Like Ezekiel 10:1; Leviticus 16:12; Numbers 16:46

[5] The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

- Now the Angel takes the incense
- which are the prayers of the Saints
- filled with the fire from the altar
- and they are hurled to the earth
- more than likely in response to Revelation chapter 6, verse 10
- which tells us that the people who were martyred
- Cried out with a loud voice
- asking God Until when will judgment happen
- Until when will their blood be avenged
- from those who killed them on the earth
- Not only was this curled into the earth
- but there were pearls of thunder, lightning, and earthquakes
- Now, in these next 7 verses that we are about to read
- This is the next wave of judgment that begins
- We are only going to be able to see four out of the seven trumpets
- All these are attacks that are going to come against nature
- The cosmos is intended to lead sinful humanity to repentance
- This is not meant to destroy them
- God's love and compassion towards the people
- show us how he is still wanting humanity to come to repentance

The Seven Trumpets

[6] And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

- Now the seven angels had the seven trumpets
- and they were prepared to blow them
- this means they are about to begin the judgment
- now the image that John uses
- recalls several of the plagues in the book of exodus
- throughout chapter 8 and 9
- John draws an Old Testament tradition
- relating to the exodus event
- he is making loose parallels between the trumpets
- and the plagues against Egypt
- kind of giving us the notion of the new exodus for the people of God
- now all this suffering and tribulation
- is not the promised land
- it is that the Kingdom of God
- that is to come at the end of the age

The First Trumpet

[7] The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

- Hail
- Fire mixed with blood
- Place image while I read the verse *****

Exodus 9:22-25 CSB

[22] Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be hail throughout the land of Egypt—on people and animals and every plant of the field in the land of Egypt." [23] So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail. Lightning struck the land, and the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. [24] The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. [25] Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the field, both people and animals. The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree in the field.

- Now, when we look at SETH
- The Egyptian God
- Seth is the God of deserts, storms
- disorder violence
- Seth is also known for
- having homosexual desires
- as well as a forceful and indiscriminate sexuality
- So, when we see the first trumpet blown
- this is automatically showing us
- that the hell and fire
- is bringing judgment over the homosexual desires of the people
- not only that but bringing destruction to 1/3 of the trees
- all the green grass was burned up
- because of this act of immorality

The Second Trumpet

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So, a third of the sea became blood, **9** a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- The sea is being plagued and attacked
- Now roughly around 79 AD
- The Jews viewed an unexpected eruption
- from Mount Vesuvius
- A lot of scholars correlate this to the divine punishment in Rome
- Emperor Titus around 70 AD let the Roman soldiers
- to burn down the temple in Jerusalem
- basically, ending the First Jewish war
- that happened four years earlier by Emperor Nero
- This war was because of religious tension and taxation

- Roughly around 1,000,000 Jews died during this siege
- Thousands of Jews starved to death
- According to Jewish legend
- God caused Mount Vesuvius to erupt
- destroying many Roman cities
- which Titus had jurisdiction over
- Now this 2nd trumpet also correlates with Exodus Chapter 7, verse 20 through 25
- where the water became blood due to the fiery mountain

Exodus 7:20-25 CSB

20 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded; in the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, he raised the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile was turned to blood. 21 The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad the Egyptians could not drink water from it. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt.

22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So, Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. 23 Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and didn't take even this to heart. 24 All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink because they could not drink the water from the river. 25 Seven days passed after the Lord struck the Nile.

- Now this was the first plague in the book of Exodus
- where water was turned into blood
- and this is the second trumpet that is blown in Revelation chapter 8, verse 8 through 9
- This person right here is the Nile god Hapi
- He was known for the annual flooding of the Nile
- The flood would deposit rich silt over the riverbank
- which would be used to fertilize the soil
- to allow the Egyptians to grow their crops
- He was known as the Lord of the fish
- Lord of the river bringing vegetation
- The Egyptians believed that that is where their source

- of great wealth came from
- Just like in the Book of Revelation
- Yahweh is declaring
- I am the God of nature
- I'm not just a God within nature
- but I am above nature

The Third Trumpet

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water.

11 The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood. So, many of the people died from the waters, because they had been made bitter.

- 1/3 of the water
- Now the great star burning like a torch
- is more than likely a meteor falling from heaven
- now just as the previous Nile god Hapi
- judgment is being placed over all the rivers and spring water
- This is a judgment against fresh water
- Now the water became Wormwood
- Wormwood is a leafy plant that causes water to become bitter
- It is not poisonous, but combined with other elements
- It can be
- The combination would be gall and Wormwood
- according to Deuteronomy 29:18 and lamentations 3:19

The Fourth Trumpet

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day was without light and also a third of the night.

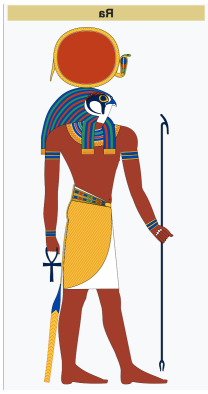
- Now a third of the sun was struck
- More likely, comparing Exodus chapter 10:21-23

Exodus 10:21-23 CSB

The Ninth Plague: Darkness

21 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there will be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt.” 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days. 23 One person could not see another, and for three days they did not move from where they were. Yet all the Israelites had light where they lived.

- Now this is the 9th plague in the book of Exodus
- which is the same as the 4th trumpet
- Now in the book of Exodus, judgment was on the sun God Ra



- Now, according to the Egyptian myth, when RA
- became too old and weary to reign on earth
- he relinquished and went to the skies
- It was known that he would travel to Duat, which is the underworld
- There he would sail the Nile through the 12 gates and regions
- Fighting every night in the underworld by Apophis
- to stop RA from returning
- RA is known for being the giver of life
- controlling the ripening of the crops

13 I looked and heard an eagle[a] flying high overhead, crying out in a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!”

- Now, the eagle that John sees and hears
- Some of our older manuscripts say the word " angel "
- is crying out with a voice saying woe three times
- This is communicating distress, pain, suffering, and displeasure
- All this is happening to those living on the earth
- In this particular phrase
- This is referring to the unbelievers

- I want you to take a moment and reflect on this
- Such a merciful God
- Who, even in judgment
- is seeking our repentance
- Psalms 105 verse 45
- says all this happened so that they might keep his statues and obey his instructions
- God's plan and purpose
- is not to condemn us to hell
- but it is to build a relationship with us
- where we can accept him as our Lord and Savior
- depend on him in every situation
- so as you are reflecting on chapter 8 of the Book of Revelation
- can you place your trust in the one who is still seeking you with mercy

Chapter 9, week 19

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key for the shaft to the abyss was given to him.

- As we get into these next trumpets
- There are 5 trumpets
- Which are also called the first woe
- John starts to describe from verses 1-12
- The terrifying locusts
- That are unleashed upon the unrepentant oppressor for 5 months
- As well as the 5 horses in the latter half of the chapter
- This is a warning meant to terrify the unrepentant

- Now vs. 1 starts with the angle/star falling from heaven
- This specific angel was given authority over the abyss
- The concept of a fallen star may suggest that the figure is Satan or one of his fallen angels
- Luke 10:18; Revlation 12:9
- The key is the same key Jesus had in Revelation 1:18
- Was given to him
- To open up the abyss
- Now the abyss is where the demons and fallen angels

- Were thought to be kept
- Basically the underworld
- According to 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6

2 He opened the shaft to the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great[a] furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

- Now smoke came up from the shaft
- This can show us that
- The underworld/abyss
- Is a place of burning and judgment
- Mark 9:47-48
- The smoke John saw could also be the
- Multitude of locusts hurrying out of the abyss

3 Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power[b] was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth.

- Now these locusts
- Are a swarming, leaping insect capable of causing great devastation
- To crops and other plant life
- Deuteronomy 28:38; Isaiah 33:4; Joel 1:4
- These locusts overran Egypt during the 8th plague in Exodus 10:4-15
- Locusts in the O.T
- Are also known as invading armies
- Jeremiah 51:27; Nahum 3:15
- Power was given to them
- They were commissioned as agents of judgment
- Possibly referring to their ability to inflict pain

4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green plant, or any tree, but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads.

- Now this is interesting
- The fact that
- They were told not to harm the grass or green plants
- Since they're a source of food and energy to the locusts
- They were specifically asked to attack all those who don't have the seal

[5] They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it stings someone.

- For 5 months
- They were permitted to harm
- A locust's life span is normally from springtime to the end of summer
- They would torment like a scorpion
- Scorpions in the Bible represent judgment
- 1 Kings 12:11; Revelation 9:10;
- Scorpions can also illustrate God's protection
- Deuteronomy 8:15; Ezekiel 2:6; Luke 10:19
- These specific torments would bring
- Widespread pain, swelling, restricted breathing

[6] In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

- For those 5 months, the people will be seeking to die
- The torment will be so unbearable that they will try to kill themselves
- The stings will not be fatal, though

Place this image as I read these next verses

7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces;

8 they had hair like women's hair; their teeth were like lions' teeth;

9 they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with horses rushing into battle;

10 and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months.

11 They had as their king[c] the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon,[d]and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.[e]

- Now the word Abaddon
- is a Hebrew name for a place of the dead
- in the Hebrew text; it is correlated with Sheol
- Job 26:6; Proverbs 15:11; 27:20
- Apollyon Means destroyer
- from the Greek God Apollo
- whom they used to use locusts as a symbol
- Domitian, who had been the emperor at that time
- had thought himself as Apollo reincarnated
- This was John's form of representing
- how the emperor would worship evil and demonic things

12 The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this.

- This was the first whoa on the 5th trumpet

The Sixth Trumpet

- From verses 13 to 21
- We see that the 6th trumpet releases 4 angels
- and they were tasked with killing 1/3 of the remaining population
- They bring an army of 2 million to assist them in the slaughter
- The outlook is for those who oppressed God's people

13 The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four[f] horns of the golden altar that is before God, I heard a voice

- Now the voice that they heard was perhaps those who had died
- the martyrs under the altar
- or perhaps the angels with the incense
- This is in response to the prayers of the Saints

14 say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates."

- Now the four angels
- Are not the four angels that are in Revelation 6 or 7
- These specific four were found in the Euphrates River
- This is the easternmost border of the Roman Empire
- The Euphrates was used to protect the Romans from their eastern enemies

15 So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race.

- They had been prepared for this specific time
- They were allowed to kill humanity
- This was in addition to the one-fourth already killed by death in hades in Revelation chapter 6
- The effects of the judgment start intensifying

16 The number of mounted troops was two hundred million; [g] I heard their number.

17 This is how I saw the horses and their riders in the vision: They had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.

- Now these horses
- I'm more than likely the description of the demonic horde

18 A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths.

- These three plagues
- where fire smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths

19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads that inflict injury.

[20] The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

- Now I find it so fascinating that although these plagues were happening for five months
- the remainder of the ones who were not killed
- did not repent
- they didn't want to turn to God
- they chose not to give him glory
- because they chose to worship the idols
-

[21] And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

- They chose to continue living the life that they wanted to live

[1] I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?

[2] My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalms 121:1-2 CSB

- Now I know we have either heard this song before
- or we have read it
- but I want to bring you some insight
- in the Old Testament
- when the psalmist is writing this
- verse one as it says I lift my eyes towards the heaven where will my help come from
- a lot of us assume that it is talking about God at that moment
- but back then the Jewish people would place idols and altars on those hills
- so as they are looking at the hills
- they are saying do I choose to go to those mountains
- Do I choose to go to those fake gods to find my help
- But I love what verse 2 says
- It says my help comes from the Lord
- Not from the mountains where the idols and the altars are made
- my help will come from the one who created the heavens and the earth
- and the story still goes on today

- We all have something that we've placed before God
- something that we've placed in our lives
- We must choose to tear down the altars
- that are hindering us from following Christ