
THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY
REVELATION PART ONE
READ
UNDERSTAND
HARVEST
SPREAD
RUSH
BIBLE STUDY
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST
DREAM
CITY CHURCH
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26
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A very special thank you to my wonderful wife and partner in crime for another great Bible Study year, the legendary Stacey Hobrath. DH

Revelation

John sees visions of things that have been, things that are, and things that are yet to unfold.

Author: John

In Revelation – Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, The Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning and the End, The First and The Last, The soon coming King, and the One who makes all things new.

Revelation 21:6 "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

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TEACHER: 22 CHAPTERS

John the Apostle, and disciple of Jesus. 1 of the 12. Living at this time in exile on the Island of Patmos. (see map)

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CH. 1

STUDENT:

This book is the record of the events that Jesus Christ revealed. God gave him this revelation in order to show to his servants what must happen very soon. Christ made these things known to his servant John by sending his angel to him, [2] and John has told all that he has seen. This is his report concerning the message from God and the truth revealed by Jesus Christ. [3] Happy is the one who reads this book, and happy are those who listen to the words of this prophetic message and obey what is written in this book! For the time is near when all these things will happen. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

This text we see, is a revelation from Jesus, to John, sent by an Angel, to inform the church what must happen soon. The reward is happiness, for those who read, listen, and obey this message. The vision starts with a message to the 7 churches in Asia Minor. All 7 church locations mentioned here, are today located in Turkey. But John first tells us what it was like to have the experience, and to see Jesus again.

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STUDENT:

[4] From John to the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace be yours from God, who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits in front of his throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first to be raised from death and who is also the ruler of the kings of the world.

He loves us, and by his sacrificial death he has freed us from our sins [6] and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father. To Jesus Christ be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

[7] Look, he is coming on the clouds! Everyone will see him, including those who pierced him. All peoples on earth will mourn over him. So shall it be!

[8] "I am the first and the last," says the Lord God Almighty, who is, who was, and who is to come. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Vision of Christ. Try to imagine yourself in the same position.

As for the 7 Spirits. This is tricky. The best I can come up with so far, is the picture John paints seems it may be the visual description of the Trinity. He says "from God, and the 7 Spirits, and from Jesus Christ." Nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Spirit described like this, but nowhere in the Bible did anyone see the Holy Spirit either, although when Jesus was baptized the Spirit appeared as a dove. It could be these are 7 different Spirits and The Holy Spirit is on Earth while Jesus is in Heaven, however, in Isaiah 11:2-3, there is a list of only 6 Spirits in Isaiah's version of this vision. But they are here listed as 7. Spirits 2-7 are the 6 mentioned in Isaiah. Here the 1st is added, "The Spirit of the Lord", this 1st must be The Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit of Wisdom
The Spirit of Understanding
The Spirit of Counsel
The Spirit of Might
The Spirit of Knowledge
The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

This is a layman's attempt at a few possible options, I feel comfortable thinking to myself that this could be the way a mortal may see the Holy Spirit. As several Spirits before the throne of God with the Holy Spirit over them. Another possibility is they are 7 spirits of untold number, or 1 here for each of the 7 churches described, and John saw them standing before God because they were giving their reports on the 7 churches. In chapter 8 we also will hear of 7 angels who stand before God, could these be a very special rank of angel?

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STUDENT:

9 I am John, your brother, and as a follower of Jesus I am your partner in patiently enduring the suffering that comes to those who belong to his Kingdom. I was put on the island of Patmos because I had proclaimed God's word and the truth that Jesus revealed. 10 On the Lord's Day the Spirit took control of me, and I heard a loud voice, that sounded like a trumpet, speaking behind me. 11 It said, "Write down what you see, and send the book to the churches in these seven cities: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

12 I turned around to see who was talking to me, and I saw seven gold lampstands, 13 and among them there was what looked like a human being, wearing a robe that reached to his feet, and a gold band around his chest. 14 His hair was white as wool, or as snow, and his eyes blazed like fire; 15 his feet shone like brass that has been refined and polished, and his voice sounded like a roaring waterfall. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth. His face was as bright as the midday sun.

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STUDENT:

17 When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the first and the last. 18 I am the living one! I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead. 19 Write, then, the things you see, both the things that are now and the things that will happen afterward. 20 Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars that you see in my right hand, and of the seven gold lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (GNT)

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THE SEVEN CHURCHES

TEACHER:

The 1st church is Ephesus. We will discuss each church as we go. Feel free to speak up. Many who study the bible believe this is a prophesy and a revelation. A prophesy of the next 2 thousand years of the church as it progresses through 7 stages ending in luke-warmness, and a revelation of the condition of the 7 existing churches as they were at that moment. I personally feel both viewpoints are correct and often overlap as well. You might also add 7 examples of individual Christians and what we should do specifically.

As we read each church note what is common among all 7 and is a command for us as well.

1. **They all have to "hear"**
2. **They all have to "overcome"**
3. **They all have to share in "hope"**

Historically I would like to add:

Ephesus is told to change or its lampstand will be moved in verse 5. The city was actually physically moved 3 miles from its location later in its history to its current location.

The 2 cities that today are still totally abandoned are the 2 churches dealt with the harshest. Sardis & Laodicea. The 2 best churches lasted the longest in the Turkish war. Smyrna & Philadelphia.

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TEACHER:

1st Church, Ephesus. Major Sea port on the Aegean Sea. Home of the Temple to Artemis (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world). Planted by Paul it was the most authoritative church in Asia Minor.

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CH. 2

STUDENT:

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

"This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven gold lampstands. 2 I know what you have done; I know how hard you have worked and how patient you have been. I know that you cannot tolerate evil people and that you have tested those who say they are apostles but are not, and have found out that they are liars. 3 You are patient, you have suffered for my sake, and you have not given up. 4 But this is what I have against you: you do not love me now as you did at first. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

5 Think how far you have fallen! Turn from your sins and do what you did at first. If you don't turn from your sins, I will come to you and take your lampstand from its place. 6 But this is what you have in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do, as much as I do. 7 "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! "To those who win the victory I will give the right to eat the fruit of the tree of life that grows in the Garden of God. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Nicolaitans came from a certain deacon who lived in Jerusalem, named Nicolas. Isadore of Seville, who wrote "Etymologies and Origins," claimed they had open and plural marriages. Next church, Smyrna.

Smyrna was the home of Homer, (a Greek poet who wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey), the Temple of Athena. It was a costal Sea port like Ephesus eventually being ministry headquarters to Polycarp, John's disciple.

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STUDENT:

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

"This is the message from the one who is the first and the last, who died and lived again. 9 I know your troubles; I know that you are poor—but really you are rich! I know the evil things said against you by those who claim to be Jews but are not; they are a group that belongs to Satan! 10 Don't be afraid of anything you are about to suffer. Listen! The Devil will put you to the test by having some of you thrown into prison, and your troubles will last ten days. Be faithful to me, even if it means death, and I will give you life as your prize of victory.

11 "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! "Those who win the victory will not be hurt by the second death. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Notice this church had no faults, yet they were being attacked by Satan, had troubles and were poor. They also were slandered and about to enter an even deeper suffering. Next church, Pergamum, also called Pergamos. Rome's provincial capital and seat of culture housing the world's finest library.

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STUDENT:

[12] "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

"This is the message from the one who has the sharp two-edged sword. [13] I know where you live, there where Satan has his throne. You are true to me, and you did not abandon your faith in me even during the time when Antipas, my faithful witness, was killed there where Satan lives. [14] But there are a few things I have against you: there are some among you who follow the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak how to lead the people of Israel into sin by persuading them to eat food that had been offered to idols and to practice sexual immorality.

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STUDENT:

[15] In the same way you have people among you who follow the teaching of the Nicolaitans. [16] Now turn from your sins! If you don't, I will come to you soon and fight against those people with the sword that comes out of my mouth.

[17] "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches!

"To those who win the victory I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give each of them a white stone on which is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

2 complaints. Doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and teaching of Balaam who taught Balak to miss-lead Israel. You can study Balak in Numbers and Joshua, and read about him and his talking donkey. He was mixing the worship of God, with devil worship. We see this today in the Baha'i faith among others. Mixing Christianity with other religions. The Devils mantra, "all roads lead to God." Or "you decide how to find the divine."



Next church, Thyatira. A city founded by Alexander the Great for trade, most notably purple dye used for fabrics. Purple being the official color of royalty. Lydia from Paul's ministry was originally from Thyatira.

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STUDENT:

18 "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

"This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes blaze like fire, whose feet shine like polished brass. 19 I know what you do. I know your love, your faithfulness, your service, and your patience. I know that you are doing more now than you did at first. 20 But this is what I have against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a messenger of God. By her teaching she misleads my servants into practicing sexual immorality and eating food that has been offered to idols.

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STUDENT:

21 I have given her time to repent of her sins, but she does not want to turn from her immorality. 22 And so I will throw her on a bed where she and those who committed adultery with her will suffer terribly. I will do this now unless they repent of the wicked things they did with her. 23 I will also kill her followers, and then all the churches will know that I am the one who knows everyone's thoughts and wishes. I will repay each of you according to what you have done. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

24 "But the rest of you in Thyatira have not followed this evil teaching; you have not learned what the others call 'the deep secrets of Satan.' I say to you that I will not put any other burden on you. 25 But until I come, you must hold firmly to what you have. 26-28 To those who win the victory, who continue to the end to do what I want,
I will give the same authority that I received from my Father: I will give them authority over the nations, to rule them with an iron rod and to break them to pieces like clay pots. I will also give them the morning star.
29 "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Once again, some in the church were teaching free sexuality. Next church, Sardis. This city was built on top of a mesa or plateau. This made them very difficult to siege, and they survived many attempts at overthrow.

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STUDENT:

CH. 3

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

"This is the message from the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know what you are doing; I know that you have the reputation of being alive, even though you are dead! [2] So wake up, and strengthen what you still have before it dies completely. For I find that what you have done is not yet perfect in the sight of my God. [3] Remember, then, what you were taught and what you heard; obey it and turn from your sins. If you do not wake up, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not even know the time when I will come.

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STUDENT:

[4] But a few of you there in Sardis have kept your clothes clean. You will walk with me, clothed in white, because you are worthy to do so. [5] Those who win the victory will be clothed like this in white, and I will not remove their names from the book of the living. In the presence of my Father and of his angels I will declare openly that they belong to me.

[6] "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The problem here was a church, now in its 2nd generation. They are living off of their parent's testimony.

Next church, Philadelphia. This city was (and is) the "Gateway to the East." Rich in commerce.

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STUDENT:

[7] "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

"This is the message from the one who is holy and true. He has the key that belonged to David, and when he opens a door, no one can close it, and when he closes it, no one can open it. [8] I know what you do; I know that you have

a little power; you have followed my teaching and have been faithful to me. I have opened a door in front of you, which no one can close. [9] Listen! As for that group that belongs to Satan, those liars who claim that they are Jews but are not, I will make them come and bow down at your feet. They will all know that I love you.

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STUDENT:

[10] Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you safe from the time of trouble which is coming upon the world to test all the people on earth. [11] I am coming soon. Keep safe what you have, so that no one will rob you of your victory prize. [12] I will make those who are victorious pillars in the temple of my God, and they will never leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from my God. I will also write on them my new name.

[13] "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Philadelphia is the best church of the 7. Many (including myself) feel the exhortation to Philadelphia in verse 10 reveals support for a "pre-trib." rapture. Final message to the 7 churches, Laodicea.

Laodicea was wealthy. Very wealthy. Known for trade and banking. They had a world famous medical school and were very famous for their fashions and high standard of design and quality of clothes. Laodicea was Paris.

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STUDENT:

[14] "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

"This is the message from the Amen, the faithful and true witness, who is the origin of all that God has created. [15] I know what you have done; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! [16] But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am going to spit you out of my mouth! [17] You say, 'I am rich and well off; I have all I need.' But you do not know how miserable and pitiful you are! You are poor, naked, and blind. [18] I advise you, then, to buy gold from me, pure gold, in order to be rich. Buy also white clothing to dress yourself and cover up your shameful nakedness. Buy also some ointment to put on your eyes, so that you may see.

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STUDENT:

[19] I rebuke and punish all whom I love. Be in earnest, then, and turn from your sins. [20] Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me. [21] To those who win the victory I will give the right to sit beside me on my throne, just as I have been victorious and now sit by my Father on his throne.

[22] "If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

"I am going to spit you out of my mouth." A Lukewarm church. The positive note? Jesus says "I stand at the door and knock." If you are lukewarm, Jesus is knocking. Chapter 4 shows us what worship in Heaven is like.

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STUDENT:

CH. 4

At this point I had another vision and saw an open door in heaven.

And the voice that sounded like a trumpet, which I had heard speaking to me before, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." [2] At once the Spirit took control of me. There in heaven was a throne with someone sitting on it. [3] His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper and carnelian, and all around the throne there was a rainbow the color of an emerald. [4] In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, on which were seated twenty-four elders dressed in white and wearing crowns of gold. [5] From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. In front of the throne seven lighted torches were burning, which are the seven spirits of God. [6] Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

This is my take, but only mine. Pray, teach and learn for yourselves, and between us maybe something good can come from the effort. 1st the voice says I must show you what happens "after this." I ask myself after what? The obvious answer is what was just witnessed by John. And what was that? The messages to the 7 churches.

So if what is to be shown happens after the 7 messages to the churches, then I conclude (with my human mind) that this will happen after the church age.
Then instantly John is taken to the throne of God. So if my logic is Godly, and I don't know that it is, it would mean that after the church age is complete we will be face to face with God at His throne. Around this throne are 24 other thrones, I would assume smaller, and the only thing I can think of is that 12 would be the 12 disciples of Christ, ruling over the saved Jews, and 12 Apostles to the Gentiles, ruling over the saved non-Jews or Gentiles. I also must assume that this is after the rapture, and not the second coming, because the voice in verse 1 calls to him saying "come up here." He doesn't come down to John, he calls him and John is instantly there. Does that make sense to you?

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STUDENT:

Surrounding the throne on each of its sides, were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and behind. [7] The first one looked like a lion; the second looked like a bull; the third had a face like a human face; and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight. [8] Each one of the four living creatures had six wings, and they were covered with eyes, inside and out. Day and night they never stop singing:

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

4 creatures covered with eyes, front and back. I will assume these are actual and not symbolic only. Being covered with eyes would indicate that they take in visual information, and discern. Jesus said the eye is the light of the body in the Sermon on the Mount. If there are 4, once again I would assume since God is a God of order, they would be arrayed in the 4 corners, perhaps stationed near the 4 legs of God's throne. Each 1 also had 6 wings. This would match the seraphim from Isaiah 6:2-6 which also had 6 wings. It could be that John saw the same creatures Isaiah saw. Having 6 wings would make them very maneuverable in flight. Nothing living on earth has 6 wings so we can't know for sure, but I would think it would make them more maneuverable in flight than anything on Earth. Next unique thing is the heads of the 4 creatures each had a different structure, a lion, a bull, a human face, and an eagle in flight. The Lion's skill set is to protect its pride (family), the Bulls skill set is brute strength, the Human's is rational thought and communication, and the Eagle in flight is the fastest of the 4 in its skill set, with the best pair of eyes by far.
In very early Christianity, 1 take of this scene is, they are symbolic of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

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STUDENT:

[9] The four living creatures sing songs of glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. When they do so, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They throw their crowns down in front of the throne and say,

[11] "Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power.
For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

So with all that set of skills, they are a choir. Think for a moment, why a choir with those skills?
Because evil attacks worship. Let's move to Chapter 5 and the scroll that God is holding in His right hand.



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CH. 5

STUDENT:

I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sits on the throne; it was covered with writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. [2] And I saw a mighty angel, who announced in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" [3] But there was no one in heaven or on earth or in the world below who could open the scroll and look inside it. [4] I cried bitterly because no one could be found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. [5] Then one of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look! The Lion from Judah's tribe, the great descendant of David, has won the victory, and he can break the seven seals and open the scroll." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

[6] Then I saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb appeared to have been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that have been sent through the whole earth. [7] The Lamb went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sits on the throne. [8] As he did so, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each had a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. [9] They sang a new song: (GNT)

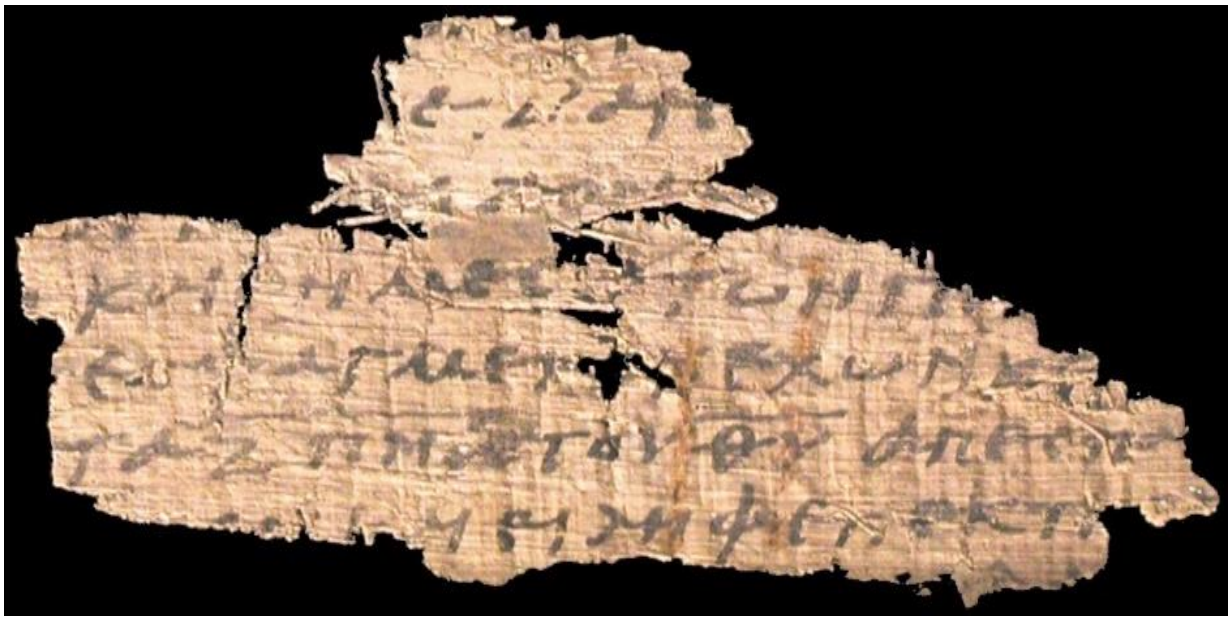
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TEACHER:

The picture John Paints is this. God is on the throne, holding a scroll sealed with 7 seals.
No one can open the scroll. One of the elders says The Lion of the Tribe of Judah can open it.
Next John sees the Lamb standing in the center of the throne, surrounded by the 4 creatures with the eyes and wings. It looked like the Lamb had been killed. The Lamb had 7 horns, and 7 eyes, symbolizing the 7 Spirits.
The lamb takes the scroll and the choir breaks out in song.
Here is the song.

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A very old papyrus of Revelation 5:5-8



STUDENT:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals.
For you were killed, and by your sacrificial death you bought for God
people from every tribe, language, nation, and race.
[10] You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God,
and they shall rule on earth."
[11] Again I looked, and I heard angels,
thousands and millions of them!
They stood around the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders,
[12] and sang in a loud voice: "The Lamb who was killed is worthy
to receive power, wealth, wisdom, and strength, honor, glory, and praise!"
[13] And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, in the world below, and in the sea
—all living beings in the universe—
and they were singing:
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb,
be praise and honor, glory and might, forever and ever!"
[14] The four living creatures answered, "Amen!"
And the elders fell down and worshiped. (GNT)

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CH. 6

TEACHER: The 7 Seals.



1st seal	**The White Horse.**	**The conqueror is the rider.**
2nd seal	**The Red Horse.**	**The power to wage war was the rider.**
3rd seal	**The Black Horse.**	**The rider with a set of scales, to control the markets.**
4th seal	**The Pale or Green Horse.**	**The rider was death, and hell followed close behind him.**

These 4 riders were given authority to over ¼ of the Earth, to kill by war, famine, disease, and wild animals.

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STUDENT:

Then I saw the Lamb break open the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!" [2] I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown. He rode out as a conqueror to conquer. [3] Then the Lamb broke open the second seal; and I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" [4] Another horse came out, a red one. Its rider was given the power to bring war on the earth, so that people should kill each other. He was given a large sword. [5] Then the Lamb broke open the third seal; and I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand.

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STUDENT:

[6] I heard what sounded like a voice coming from among the four living creatures, which said, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages. But do not damage the olive trees and the vineyards!"
[7] Then the Lamb broke open the fourth seal; and I heard the fourth living creature say, "Come!" [8] I looked, and there was a pale-colored horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades[a] followed close behind. They were given authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill by means of war, famine, disease, and wild animals.

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STUDENT:

[9] Then the Lamb broke open the fifth seal. I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because they had proclaimed God's word and had been faithful in their witnessing. [10] They shouted in a loud voice, "Almighty Lord, holy and true! How long will it be until you judge the people on earth and punish them for killing us?" [11] Each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the complete number of other servants and believers were killed, as they had been. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

It appears to me since this is another seal, that the souls of all those martyred will be moved to the altar in the throne room, and dressed in attire fit for the throne room. Then seal 6.

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STUDENT:

[12] And I saw the Lamb break open the sixth seal. There was a violent earthquake, and the sun became black like coarse black cloth, and the moon turned completely red like blood. [13] The stars fell down to the earth, like unripe figs falling from the tree when a strong wind shakes it. [14] The sky disappeared like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. [15] Then the kings of the earth, the rulers and the military chiefs, the rich and the powerful, and all other people, slave and free, hid themselves in caves and under rocks on the mountains. [16] They called out to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the eyes of the one who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb! [17] The terrible day of their anger is here, and who can stand up against it?" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Seal 6 begins with an Earth Quake. A big one. Here you see the anger of God is so kindled by the presence of the Martyrs and their prayers that He begins a universe wide, top to bottom accounting of the shed blood His children, who were martyred in His service. He is going to make the entire universe pay for it. The laws of physics will now obey the will of the God who established them. He allows the Earth to survive this so that all creation can feel the fullness of His wrath. In 1 motion He wipes out the night sky, and causes the stars to pummel the Earth. Our Sun alone can house 1,300,000 Earth-size planets and there are trillions of them, many times larger than that. It's as if he literally will walk back the Big Bang to collapse the mass of stars all over the universe onto itself turning this continuum into trillions of singularities, gather up the pebbles that they have become, and throw them at Earth in disgust. That is the wrath of God, and He isn't done yet. So now, with a universe missing many of its stars, the night sky much darker, the Earth suspended in space waits God's next move.

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CH. 7

STUDENT:

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so that no wind should blow on the earth or the sea or against any tree. [2] And I saw another angel coming up from the east with the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels to whom God had given the power to damage the earth and the sea. [3] The angel said, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees, until we mark the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

[4] And I was told that the number of those who were marked with God's seal on their foreheads was 144,000. They were from the twelve tribes of Israel, [5-8] twelve thousand from each tribe: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

So 6 of the 7 seals have been opened, but not seal 7. This chapter seems to slow the succession of calamity. A pause in the action. Preparations must be made before seal 7. The chapter starts, "after this" ("this" being the 4 Horsemen) John sees 4 angels at the 4 corners of the Earth have appeared whose duty is to stop the destruction that was happening on Earth, I would guess caused by the cosmic shift of the laws of physics in chapter 6. They even halted the wind. A 5th angel appears from the east, and stops the 4 horsemen who John now calls angels. This 5th angel from the east, tells the 4 horsemen to stop the terror until all the servants of God are marked on their foreheads with a seal. This seems like a type of a Passover ritual, marking God's children. The number marked were 144,000 people. 12,000 each from the 12 tribes of Israel. In the meantime, back to Heaven.

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STUDENT:

9 After this I looked, and there was an enormous crowd—no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. 10 They called out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. Then they threw themselves face downward in front of the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!" 13 One of the elders asked me, "Who are these people dressed in white robes, and where do they come from?" 14 "I don't know, sir. You do," I answered. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

While the trouble on Earth is occurring John's focus switches back to the Throne Room. All of a sudden there appears a multitude. They are dressed in white robes holding palm branches, and worshipping God. 1 of the elders sitting on 1 of the 24 thrones around God's throne asks John who they were, and he says he "doesn't know, you do."

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STUDENT:

He said to me, "These are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. 15 That is why they stand before God's throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence. 16 Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them, 17 because the Lamb, who is in the center of the throne, will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

These people it would seem, are the people who have come from "the" great persecution. Sticking with context I conclude that they have survived the persecution occurring during the 4 horsemen's reign of terror. They have a very special relationship with the lord. The questions we might have, looking at all of scripture, is this then a mid-trib rapture? People who were backslidden at the point of a pre-trib rapture, that now appear? It's possible. Another possibility is they were raptured with everybody else, but then afterword, brought up to snuff and just now are appearing in the throne room. But that raises other doctrinal concerns such as we have once to die, and then the judgement. Another thought is could this be all the righteous people from Adam to the end that were raptured, and now is the 1st time John sees them in this room where the throne of God is? 1 last possibility, could this be the people "under the altar" brought out now to watch God's 7th seal? Food for thought. I'm just glad they are there, and also why I believe there could be several raptures, pre, mid and post.

On to chapter 8 and the 7th seal.

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CH. 8

STUDENT:

When the Lamb broke open the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets.

3 Another angel, who had a gold incense container, came and stood at the altar. He was given a lot of incense to add to the prayers of all God's people and to offer it on the gold altar that stands before the throne. 4 The smoke of the burning incense went up with the prayers of God's people from the hands of the angel standing before God. 5 Then the angel took the incense container, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it on the earth. There were rumblings and peals of thunder, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Everyone is gathered around the throne of God, God is on the throne, and the 7th seal is opened. ½ hour of silence. A clearing of the minds and hearts. There are as many guesses on this ½ hour as people who have read this passage. My take is everyone must be awestruck. The sight so overwhelming as to take your breath away. It takes us, on occasion, a few moments when we 1st get to church, to clear our minds. To prepare for worship, and the word. This ½ hour, may be for the newly arrived to catch up to those who are already there. Simple statement, take it or leave it, no harm no foul. Then 7 angels receive 7 trumpets, and an 8th angel approaches the altar with incense, symbolizing the prayers of God's people. He sets the incense on fire using the fire on the altar, and throws it onto the Earth. This sets off an earthquake and thundering etc. Next the trumpets play.

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STUDENT: *1st Angel*

6 Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

7 The first angel blew his trumpet. Hail and fire, mixed with blood, came pouring down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees, and every blade of green grass. (GNT)

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STUDENT: *2n Angel*

8 Then the second angel blew his trumpet. Something that looked like a huge mountain on fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea was turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (GNT)

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STUDENT: *3rd Angel*

10 Then the third angel blew his trumpet. A large star, burning like a torch, dropped from the sky and fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 (The name of the star is "Bitterness.") A third of the water turned bitter, and many people died from drinking the water, because it had turned bitter. (GNT)

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STUDENT: *4th Angel*

12 Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet. A third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that their light lost a third of its brightness; there was no light during a third of the day and a third of the night also.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle that was flying high in the air say in a loud voice, "O horror! horror! How horrible it will be for all who live on earth when the sound comes from the trumpets that the other three angels must blow!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

So here we are in Heaven, God on the throne, 24 elders around the throne, 4 creatures with eyes fore and back, and 6 wings each at 4 corners near the throne, a great multitude of believers, having just finished a worship service, and 7 angels step up, are handed 7 trumpets and one by one they start to sound a trumpet blast that has huge ramifications on Earth.

1st trumpet **Hail and fire mixed with blood. 1/3 of the Earth burned, 1/3 of the trees, and all the grass.**

2nd trumpet **Something like a huge mountain on fire was thrown into the sea. (a meteor?) 1/3 of the seas turned to blood, 1/3 of everything in the seas killed, 1/3 of all naval vessels destroyed.**

3rd trumpet **A large star, burning, falls and turns 1/3 of all fresh water bitter, and as a result, killing many.**

4th trumpet **1/3 of the Sun, moon and stars are struck diminishing 1/3 of sunlight and starlight.**

As if that wasn't enough, a flying, talking eagle, say's something like "you haven't seen anything yet."

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CH. 9

STUDENT: *5th Angel*

Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet. I saw a star which had fallen down to the earth, and it was given the key to the abyss. [2] The star opened the abyss, and smoke poured out of it, like the smoke from a large furnace; the sunlight and the air were darkened by the smoke from the abyss. [3] Locusts came down out of the smoke upon the earth, and they were given the same kind of power that scorpions have. [4] They were told not to harm the grass or the trees or any other plant; they could harm only the people who did not have the mark of God's seal on their foreheads. [5] The locusts were not allowed to kill these people, but only to torture them for five months. The pain caused by the torture is like the pain caused by a scorpion's sting. [6] During those five months they will seek death, but will not find it; they will want to die, but death will flee from them.

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STUDENT: *continued*

[7] The locusts looked like horses ready for battle; on their heads they had what seemed to be crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. [8] Their hair was like women's hair, their teeth were like lions' teeth. [9] Their chests were covered with what looked like iron breastplates, and the sound made by their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle. [10] They have tails and stings like those of a scorpion, and it is with their tails that they have the power to hurt people for five months. [11] They have a king ruling over them, who is the angel in charge of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon; in Greek the name is Apollyon (meaning "The Destroyer").

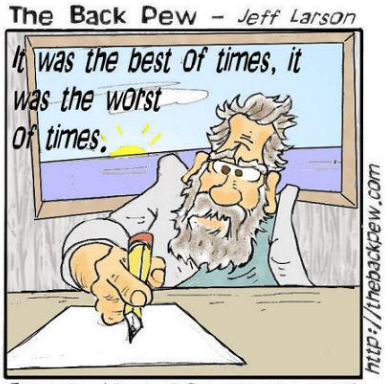
[12] The first horror is over; after this there are still two more horrors to come. (GNT)

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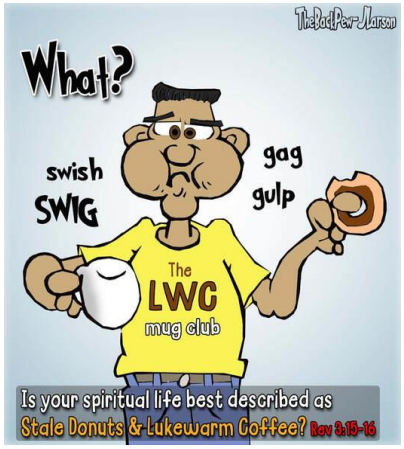
STUDENT: *6th Angel*

[13] Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet. I heard a voice coming from the four corners of the gold altar standing before God. [14] The voice said to the sixth angel, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River!" [15] The four angels were released; for this very hour of this very day of this very month and year they had been kept ready to kill a third of all the human race. [16] I was told the number of the mounted troops: it was two hundred million. (GNT)

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From the Island of Patmos, the apostle John pens his first draft of the book of Revelations. **Revelations 1:1–2**





Jesus sends an angel to John with a 'Revelation'. **Rev 1:1**

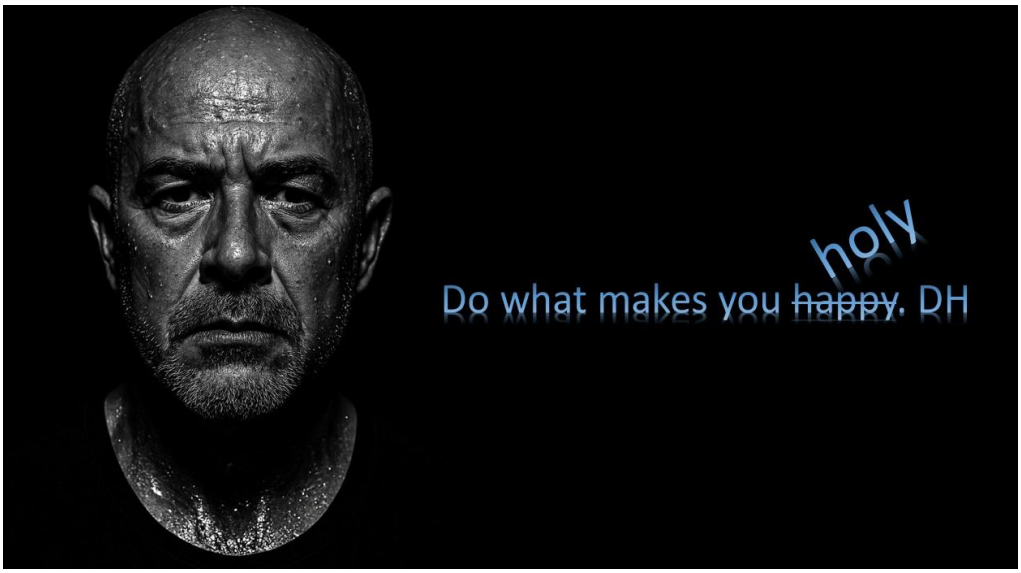


Since the ACLU believes so strongly in the separation of church and state, they never read **Rev 21:4**

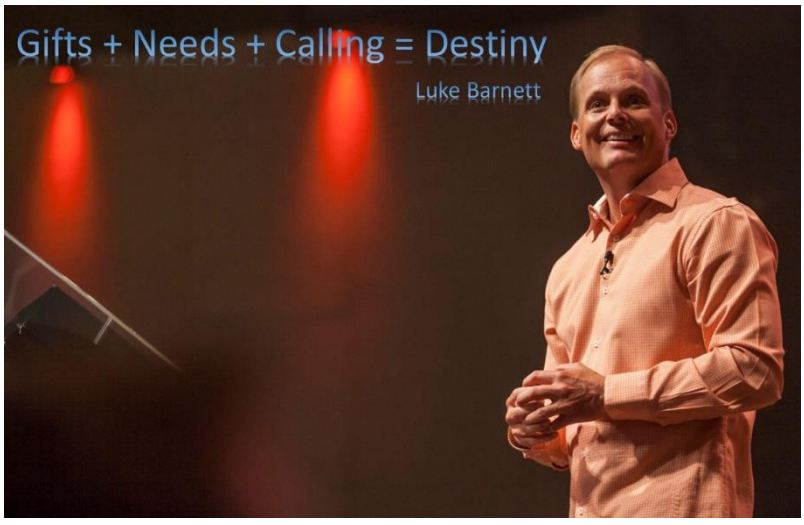


Then the second angel blew his trumpet,, and something like a burning mountain fell into the sea. **Rev 8:8**




holy
Do what makes you ~~happy~~. DH


Vision is Vital to Victory
Todd Matchett


Gifts + Needs + Calling = Destiny
Luke Barnett