

ABOV- Session 12: Letters and the Revelation
Script Facilitator

Slide: A Bible Overview- Session 12- Letters and the Revelation

Slide- What's the Bible about?

Everything in creation and everything in redemption history is centered in Jesus Christ

Creation -> Rebellion -> Redemption -> Re-creation

Slide: Why Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ did not come into the world to make bad people good.

Jesus Christ came into the world to make dead people alive.

Start video (SR-12a) Letters & Revelation

Welcome to Session 12 of A Bible OverView called: Letters and the "Revelation"

We are now to the last session of A Bible OverView. We've been through the Old Testament and the New Testament, through the four Gospels, and the book of Acts. Now we'll look at subjects addressed in the twenty-one letters written by Peter, James, John, and Paul. We will finish with the last Bible book, called *Revelation*.

There are many issues addressed in the letters to the new churches. Within them is doctrine - or Christian beliefs-, encouragement to believers, and instructions for Christian living. Indeed, it was because of the distinct way believers lived that they were first called "Followers of the Way."

I'll summarize the letters using our twelve themes. You will see other themes integrated within the verses.

The first theme was: "Creator/Sovereign God." From Genesis 1:1 we have seen that God is eternal, holy, the Creator of the universe and life, and the only true God. That makes Him sovereign, having all power and authority. Humans are His special creation because they are made in God's image. Thus, God knows what is the right way for people to live.

Romans 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

End Video- (SR-12a) Creator/Sovereign God)

Slide: Theme: Creator/Sovereign God

- God is eternal, perfect, holy, the **Creator** of the universe. The only true God.
- Thus, He is **sovereign** having all power and authority over all things.

Slide: Creator/Sovereign God

Paul: *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.* Romans 1:20

- What does Paul tell us about God?
 - He is the Creator
 - His invisible qualities are clearly seen in His creation.
- What does Paul tell us about people?
 - People who choose not to believe- what is obvious in creation about God- are without excuse.

Start video (SR-12b) Relationships

The second theme, "Relationships (with God and others)," deals with God desiring a relationship with people and that He wants people to live in right relationships with each other and the world.

1 John 5:11-13-

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Ephesians 4:17-31-

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus...

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

End video- (SR-12b) (Relationships)

Slide: Theme: Relationships

- God is a relational God who desires a relationship with people who, alone, are made in the image of God.

- God desires that people live in right **relationships** with each other and with the created world.

Slide: Restored Relationship (with God)

Paul: ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Romans 5:10-11

- What does Paul tell us about the **relationship** between God and people?
 - Even though we were God's enemies, we can have a wonderful new friendship with God which is restored by the death of Jesus.

Slide: Relationship (with God)

John: ¹¹...God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13

- How would you answer someone who says all beliefs lead to God?
 - Eternal life is only through Jesus. No other god or religion offers the assurance of eternal life.
- What difference does it make that you can "know" you have eternal life?
 - We don't have to worry about or wonder if we've been good enough or done enough to have eternal life- we can KNOW!

Slide: Relationships (with others)

Paul: *There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Galatians 3:28

- How is this statement radical compared to other worldviews?
 - The biblical God includes all people in His offer of salvation and new life. No one is regarded as superior to anyone else.

Slide: Relationships (with God and others)

Paul: ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:29-30

- How does "talk" affect your **relationship with others**?
 - If it is unwholesome it tears people down and hurts them (this includes gossip)
 - Our talk is to build others up according to their needs
- How does "talk" affect your **relationship with God**?
 - We can grieve God's Spirit.

Start Video (SR-12c) Spiritual Conflict

Spiritual Conflict is the third theme and started when Satan brought destruction and death to God's creation when Adam and Eve gave into his lies and deceptions. With sin now in every unholy human heart, the secure relationship with the holy God was broken. Relationships between people were, thus, broken. But God provided a way to rescue us in the conflict.

Note, the first century church was dealing with the spiritual conflict of "false apostles" just as we do today. Thus, not all who say they're Christians really are and not all who think they are right with God are, as we saw with the Pharisees.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 & 13-15-

3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Ephesians 6:10-13 and 17-

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when

the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand...

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

End video- (SR-12c) Spiritual Conflict (10:52) (info above: spiritual conflict)

Slide: Theme: **Spiritual Conflict**

- We are in a spiritual battle between self and God.
- We have a choice: to obey God or follow Satan, the world, or inner desires.

Slide: **Spiritual Conflict- Desires**

Paul: The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians 5:17

- How do you see this conflict in your life?

Slide: Spiritual Conflict

Paul: *6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News 7 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.* Galatians 1:6-7

- How can you keep from being fooled?
 - Know the truth. Study and know God's Word so you can discern lies/deceptions. Attend a Bible believing church. Through biblical preaching, teaching, books, etc...
 - Example of bankers: they first study genuine bills so as to detect false bills. They don't initially study lots of fake bills in order to know what a genuine one looks like.

Slide: Spiritual conflict

Paul: *10 Finally, be strong in the Lord... 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10-12,17

- How might you better use your one offensive weapon?
 - Learn, understand, and apply the Bible so well in your life you can fight off lies and deceptions.

Start Video (SR-12d) Human Heart

It is obvious from the prior verses, that **the fourth theme- the human heart-** is sinful, that Satan is out to deceive and destroy people, and that we need to know the Word of God so as to discern Satan's lies. Because our hearts are self-centered and go against God's ways, we need to repent: turn away from our sin and to God and His ways for living.

James 4:1-10-

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

End video SR-12d Human Heart

Slide: Theme: **Human Heart**

- The **human heart** encompasses our mind, will and emotions. It's from our heart that we make choices.
- Since the Fall, the **human heart** is rebellious, self-centered, deceitful, and a "slave to sin".
- The **human heart** is alive to God through Christ Jesus and dead to the power of sin.

Slide: **Human Heart**

James: *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire...covet... quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.3 When you ask...you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* James 4:1-3

- What does James tell us about the **human heart**?
 - From the desires that battle within us comes fights and quarrels because we covet
 - When we ask God for something it can be with the wrong motives to spend on our pleasures so we don't get what we ask for

Slide: **Human Heart**

Paul: *17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...* 1 Corinthians 5:17-18

- What does Paul tell us is the fix for the **human heart**?
 - Coming to Christ who reconciles us to God. Then, we can become new creations.

Slide: **Human Heart**

Paul: *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.* Colossians 3:1-2

- If you "have been raised with Christ", how should the way you live change?
 - It should set our hearts and minds on things above, not earthly things.
 - Since our actions come out of what our minds think first, it's crucial we fill our minds with God's Word and know His perspective for how to think and live.

Start video (SR-12e) Judgment

The fifth theme, judgment, is the consequence of the sinful nature of the human heart. God must judge sin because He is just.

Romans 2:5-

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Hebrews 9:27-28-

27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

End video (SR-12e) Judgment

Slide: Theme: Judgment

- God is holy and the human heart is self-centered and rebellious (sin), thus we are separated from God. God is righteous and must judge sin.
- God will judge everyone.

Slide: Judgment

Author of Hebrews: *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...* Hebrews 9:27

- What do you find significant about this statement?
 - People only die once and then they will face God's judgment
- Is reincarnation possible?
 - No- not according to the Bible

Slide: Judgment

Paul: *But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.* Romans 2:5

- What does this tell us about people?
 - They can have stubborn unrepentant hearts
- What does this tell us about God?
 - There will be a day of His righteous judgment and then His wrath will fall upon those who did not repent

Slide: Judgment

John: *16...God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.* 1 John 4:16-17

- What does this tell us about God?
 - God is a God of love
 - There will be a day of judgment
- What does it take to have confidence on the day of judgment?
 - Live in love/God so our love grows more perfectly.

Start video (SR-12f) Blood Sacrifice

In order to avoid judgment, we've learned why and how God established the **sixth theme of blood sacrifice**, as the way to have our sins covered.

Hebrews 9:22-

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Romans 5:6-11-

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

End video (SR-12f) Blood Sacrifice

Slide: Theme: Blood Sacrifice

- Sin (disobedience) separates unholy people from the Holy Creator God. God judges sin.
- God, out of love, established a system by which sins could be forgiven: the blood from the sacrifice of an unblemished, innocent animal.
- Jesus' blood provided: atonement for one's life, redemption, justification and forgiveness of sin.
- There is power in Jesus' blood.

Slide: Blood Sacrifice

God: For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Leviticus 17:11

Author of Hebrews: In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22

- What is required so God does not see our sin?
 - A blood sacrifice (from an unblemished animal)

Slide: Blood Sacrifice

Author of Hebrews: 11 But when Christ came as high priest...12 ... he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:11-12

Paul: *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Corinthians 5:21

- What does this tell us about Jesus' actions?
 - Jesus lived without sin so could be the perfect and final high priest able to obtain eternal life for us.

Start video (SR-12g) Grace

Such a sacrifice reveals the seventh theme: grace. Although we deserve judgment and eternal death for our sin, God offers His grace: a pardon from judgment through an amazing free gift of forgiveness.

Romans 6:23-

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-10-

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 8:1-2-

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Titus 3:3-7-

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

End video SR-12g Grace (18:22) (info above: grace)

Slide: Theme: Grace

- Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense. Grace cannot be earned; it is a gift to be received.
- The Creator God was born into the world to redeem us from the power of death and Satan by ransoming us with His blood so we may have a relationship with Him.

Slide: Grace

Paul: *8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—... it is the gift of God— 9 not by works...* Ephesians 2:8-9

- Is there any other way to obtain eternal life than by **grace**?
 - No- only through the **blood** of Christ who was God's gift to us.

Slide: Grace

Paul: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:23

Key: the little word "but"

- What do you find significant in the words "wages" verses "gift"?
 - What we deserve and earn because we sin is death BUT God's gift is eternal life
- What do you find significant in the words "sin" verses "Jesus"
 - Sin causes death and Jesus brings life
- What do you find significant in the words "death" verses "eternal life"?
 - Death brings destruction of who we are and is the opposite of eternal life (with God).

Start Video (SR-12h) Redeemer

As just read, "Jesus Christ our Savior" is the eight theme: Redeemer. Jesus redeemed us from judgment so we can have a right relationship with God.

1 Timothy 2:5-6-

5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people...

Romans 3:21-24-

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1:17-21-

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

End video (SR-12h) Redeemer

Slide: Theme: Redeemer

- **Redeem** means to buy back something that was lost.

- Sin separates humans from relationship with God.
- Jesus, the God-Man, redeemed us from the consequences of sin with His blood so we may have relationship with God.

Slide: Redeemer

Paul: *22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* Romans 3:22-24

- Why do people need a Redeemer?
 - We are not righteous; we all fall short of the glory of God. We all need justification and redemption
- What has the Redeemer done for all who believe?
 - He gives us right standing before God because through Jesus' grace of redemption we are justified

Slide: Redeemer

Paul: *5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people...* I Timothy 2:5-6

- What does this tell us about people?
 - We need a mediator to get us to God
- What does this tell us about God?
 - A mediator is required to get us to God and it is Jesus Christ
 - Jesus gave Himself to ransom all people

Start video (SR-12i) Covenant

The ninth theme is: Covenant. Although God made many covenants- or agreements- with His people, we focused on the Abrahamic Covenant and the covenant of law between God and Israel which He gave through Moses. But the new and better way was the covenant of grace. In our last session we read how Jesus established the New Covenant at "Communion."

I Cor. 11:23-27-

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Hebrews 9:15-

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

End video (SR-12i) Covenant

Slide: Theme: **Covenant**

- God made seven **covenants**- or promises- with His people that may be either conditional or unconditional.
- The **New Covenant** is the promise that God makes with humanity that, by His **grace**, He will forgive sin and restore **relationship with God** with those whose **hearts** are turned toward Him.
- One may only enter the **New Covenant** by **faith** in Christ, who shed His **blood** to take away the sins of the world.

Slide: **Covenant**

Paul: ²³... *The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread...and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."* ²⁵*In the same way... "This cup is the new covenant in my blood..."* I Corinthians 11:23-25

- What was the basis of the new **covenant**?
 - The **blood sacrifice** of Jesus Christ
- What does Jesus ask of us and why is it important?
 - He asks us to remember His sacrifice by using the elements of bread and wine to represent His sacrifice
 - If we don't remind ourselves of what Jesus' sacrifice cost Him and what it meant for securing our salvation, we can take it for granted, be ungrateful, and forget how unholy we are and in need of Jesus' life in our lives.

Start Video (SR-12j) Faith

The tenth theme, faith, is what each of us must have to take advantage of all God offers us.

Romans 5:1-2-

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 3:28-

²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Hebrews. 11:1-3 and 6-

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

End Video (SR-12j) Faith

Slide: Theme: Faith

- Faith is a gift from God to trust in, rely on, and adhere to Jesus Christ and God's Word.
- Faith includes intellectual assent about who Jesus is and trusting in what Jesus accomplished for our salvation.
- Biblical faith is always accompanied by heart repentance.
- Without faith it is impossible to please God, to be saved, or to live in obedience to what the Bible says.

Slide: Faith

Author of Hebrews: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible...*

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

- How many key components of faith can you find?
 - It gives us confidence in what we hope for
 - It gives us assurance about what we do not see
 - It helps us understand that God is the Creator
 - Without faith, you can't please God
 - Must believe that God exists
 - Must believe that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him

Slide: Faith

Paul: *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2*

- What is the reward for those who have faith in Him?
 - Justification
 - Peace with God
 - Gained access into God's grace where we then stand
 - Hope in the glory of God

Slide: Heroes of Faith by Author of Hebrews (chapter 11)

"By faith...":

- Abel – brought God a better sacrifice
- Enoch - pleased God
- Noah - in holy fear built an ark
- Abraham – called, obeyed, and went
- Sarah – considered God faithful

- Abraham – offered Isaac as a sacrifice
- Isaac - blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future
- Jacob – blessed each of Joseph’s sons
- Joseph -spoke about the exodus
- Moses’ parents - hid Moses
- Moses - obeyed God
- Moses - left Egypt
- Israelites - passed thru Red Sea
- Walls of Jericho fell
- Rahab - not killed
- Many more listed

Start Video (SR-12k) Obedience

Theme 11 is: obedience. Out of gratefulness for all we have through Jesus Christ, we are to apply God's words to our lives.

James 1:22-

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Colossians 3:1-17-

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. {fyi: we end at v12 instead}

I John 1:5-2:6-

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Just a note regarding **1 John 1:9 which says:** *9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* This is written to believers so obviously they need to admit their sins and confess them to God. We must not rationalize or make excuses for what we do wrong.

End Video (SR-12k) Obedience

Slide: Theme: Obedience

- For the Christian, **obedience** means complying with everything God has commanded.
- We **obey** him because we love Him.
- **Obedience** is surrender to God’s will and trusting Him for what happens in our lives.

Slide: Obedience

Jesus: *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* John 14:15

James: *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* James 1:22

Paul: *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, ... 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ... 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...:* Colossians 3:1,2,5

- What do these passages tell us about the **relationship between people and God?**
 - God gives us directions
 - He tells us true love for Him shows itself in how we **obey** Him
 - God tells us to do what He says and not just listen to His word and think we’re OK with Him
 - God wants our hearts/minds to be set on “things above” and for us to choose to “put to death” what is of our earthly nature.

Slide: Obedience

John: *4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar... 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them...: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.* 1 John 2:4-6

- How should this change how you personally live life?
 - We should be serious about our faith. God takes what we say seriously and holds us accountable.
 - We have Jesus’ life as an example of how to live.

Start video (SR-12L) Remember

Remembering who God is and what He has done for us- our twelfth theme- is vital to living in obedience. Throughout the Bible, God told His people to "remember" what He'd done for them and to pass their history and God's commands on to the next generation. Through His written Word, memorials, annual festivals, and eventually Communion, "remembering" helps us refocus on what is important.

2 Timothy 2:8-

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,...

2 Peter 3:2-9-

2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

End video (SR-12L) Remember

Slide: Theme: Remember

- God wants us to **remember** who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do.
- We **remember** through His Word, Psalms, memorials, annual festivals and Communion.
- **Remembering** helps us trust, **obey** and rely on Him and focus on what is important

Slide: Remember

Peter: *2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers... will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised... 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water... 8 But do not forget... 2 Peter 3:2-8*

- Why is it important to **remember** God's redemption account?
 - Starting with creation to the Flood to what God's prophets said, by recalling what happened and was prophesied you can stay firm in faith waiting for Jesus' second coming while unbelievers scoff at our faith.

Start Video (SR-12m) Revelation

Now that we've gotten an idea of what subjects are in the twenty-one letters, we come to the last book in the Bible: *Revelation*.

This is a book of prophecy as it reveals events that are coming. Only a **sovereign God** could reveal and be in control of such future events. *Revelation* gives warning and hope to believers who lived at the time of its writing and to us living now. Let's read the opening verses which introduce us to the author and to whom it is written. **Revelation 1:1-6-**

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which 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 testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. ⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

So, Jesus is giving this revelation to the apostle John- the same John who wrote the Gospel and the first, second, and third John letters. He was the only disciple not martyred but as an older man he was exiled to an island called Patmos. It was here he wrote down the *Revelation* in about 95 AD.

There is lots of symbolism in Revelation. Thus, people don't agree on the interpretation and order of events. But there is agreement on three main points: 1) that Jesus will come again and then defeat evil, 2) that there will be a final judgment, and 3) that God will create a new Heaven and a New earth

Here is a brief summary of this book.

In chapter 1 there is a description of Jesus and He states the reason for the *Revelation*.

Chapters 2 and 3 are letters to seven churches. Jesus both commends them for their strengths and warns them about their weaknesses.

Chapter 4 describes God's throne in Heaven and the worship of God that takes place there.

Revelation 4:11 says:

" You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Chapter 5 is about Jesus Christ and a scroll. The scroll reveals the **human heart's** depravity and describes **God's sovereignty** over the coming events of human history. Let's read a few verses that give us an idea of what's in chapter five. **Verses 1-10 say-**

⁵ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or

under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

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

When we read that *"with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation,"* it makes us think of the **Covenant** promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. There he was told he'd be the father of a great nation through whom *"all peoples on the earth"* would be blessed.

Chapters 6-18 describe three seven-part horrific judgments that will come upon the earth near the end of time. It is called the Tribulation and is about our theme of **spiritual conflict**. Those who live during this historical time will live in terrible difficulties. It is interesting to note how unbelievers respond to the Tribulation horrors. **Revelation 9:20-21 says-**

20 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

End Video (SR-12m) Revelation (info above: summary chapters 1-5 & Jesus described, cpt-6-18 tribulation & heart response)

Slide: Revelation 5: Jesus and the Scroll

5...See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.

6Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain...

9... "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." vs. 5,6,9

Abrahamic **Covenant**: *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* Genesis 12:3

- What do these passages tell us about Jesus?
 - As the Lion (kingly, powerful, majestic) of the Line of promise (the tribe of Judah) and the root of David, Jesus fulfills prophecy.
 - As the Lamb, He is the perfect **blood sacrifice** to purchase salvation for all people.

Slide: Revelation chapters 6-18: Spiritual Conflict (Tribulation)

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. Revelation 9:20-21

- What does this tell us about people?
 - Even while experiencing the fulfillment of prophecy in the horrors of the tribulation, people don't take responsibility for their idol worship and wicked deeds and refuse to repent.

Start Video (SR-12n) Jesus Defeats Evil

Finally, in chapter 19, Jesus returns to defeat evil. It is described like this in **verses 11-16-**

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

By the end of chapter 19, Jesus defeats those who fight against Him.

As I mentioned before, although the symbolism in *Revelation* can be interpreted in different ways, **the first point** on which believers agree is that Jesus will return and defeat evil, of which we just read.

End Video (SR-12n) Jesus Defeats Evil (Info above: Jesus rides on white horse, crowned, with sword in mouth, defeats devil)

Slide: Jesus Will Return and Defeat Evil

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. Revelation 19:11a

On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. 19:16

With justice he judges and wages war. 19:11b

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 19:13

- What do these passages tell us about Jesus?
 - He is Faithful, True, King of Kings and Lord of lords, the Word of God who wages war against evil
 - He comes from Heaven on a white horse
 - He will judge with justice
 - His robe is dipped in blood

Video (SR-12o) Final Judgment

The **second** is that there will be a **final judgment**. **Revelation 20:10-15** says-

10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

When Satan is finally "*thrown into the lake of burning sulfur..*" the prophecy in Genesis 3:15- that Satan's head would be "crushed" - is completely fulfilled. **Spiritual conflict** is then over!

End Video (SR-12o) Final Judgment

Slide: Final Judgment

In Genesis 3:15, we learned the promised **Redeemer** would "*crush*" Satan's head.

...And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur... tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20:10

- From what you have learned in this study, do you think this will actually happen?
 - Since we have the Old Testament historical accounts, over a thousand prophecies have already come true, and we have Jesus' teachings and His life, death, and resurrection to know about as factual, we can trust in the **sovereignty of God** to bring forth the rest if what He said would happen.

Slide: Final Judgment

11 Then I saw a great white throne... 12 And I saw the dead... standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done... 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15

- Whose names are written in the book of life?
 - Those who were followers of Jesus Christ
- What happens to those whose name is in the other books?
 - They are thrown into the lake of fire.

Start Video (SR-12p) New Heaven, New Earth

The **third point** of agreement is that God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth. This is described in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. We'll read the introductory verses in Revelation **21:1-8-**

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The rest of chapter 21 describes the Holy City.

End Video (SR-12p) New Heaven & New Earth

Slide: New Heaven and New Earth

²¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth” ... the Holy City, the new Jerusalem... ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people... ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:1-5

- If this passage is true, what do you imagine the new creation will be like?
- How does God “making everything new” encourage your **faith**?

Slide: New Heaven and New Earth

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Revelation 21:22-23

- What might be the significance of no temple building?
 - God Himself and the Lamb are the temple.
- What might be the significance of no sun or moon?
 - Just like before God created the sun and moon on day 4, God was the Light.
 - Now Jesus, the Lamb, is the Light in Heaven.
 - This description is so comforting when we think of where we will be for eternity and those we love who followed Jesus.

Video (SR-12q) Final Chapter

Chapter 22 is the final chapter in the Bible. Upon reading the last verses, your overview of the Bible will be completed. Thank you for giving me the privilege of sharing with you this truly unique book. Now, we end with Scripture speaking for itself in **verses 12-21-**

12 “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

End Video (SR-12n) Final Chapter

[Slide- The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. Revelation 22:21](#)

[Slide: A Bible OverView](#)

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