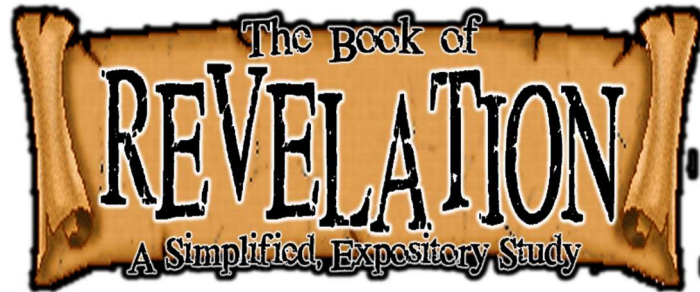




The Book of **REVELATION** A Simplified, Expository Study

Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)

2021-2022



Lesson 1 – September 5, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- We are not looking to figure out everything that is going to happen before Jesus returns and after he has returned.
- We are not going to read Revelation with a newspaper in the other hand.
- We are going to get to know Jesus better and strengthen our faith in the process.

Revelation 1:1–3

¹ 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.

- Revelation was written by the Apostle John (1:4a) *to the seven churches in the province of Asia* (1:4b) in A.D. 95-96.
 - He was exiled to *the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus* (1:9).
 - He wrote this *revelation was from Jesus Christ*.
 - The book was written to reveal events which will take place immediately before, during, and following the second coming of Christ. These are, *what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later* (1:19).
- *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.*
 - This verse described the dynamic that takes place when Christians study Revelation together as *one reads* and others *hear*.
 - We will be *blessed* by our study of Revelation.
 - Ok, we are always blessed by studying God's word because, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).
 - But a study of Revelation will bring about particular blessings:
 - *Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy...*
 - *...blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it because the end is near.*
 - There are actually seven blessings recorded in Revelation:
 - The one we just read (1:3).

- *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. “Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them’” (14:13).*
- *Behold, I come like a thief. Blessed [are those] who stay awake and keeps [their] clothes with [them], so that [they] may not go naked and be shamefully exposed (16:15).*
- *Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb (19:9).*
- *Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years (20:6).*
- *Blessed is [the one] who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book (22:7).*
- *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 (22:14).*

Revelation 1:4–8

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. ⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- Remember, this is a letter written by John *to the seven churches in the province of Asia*.
 - Verse 4 is the ‘dear so & so,’ section of the letter, .
 - It tells us who wrote the letter and who it was addressed to.
- John’s Trinitarian wish to the seven churches:
 - *Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come ...*
 - God the Father.
 - *grace* = God’s attitude toward believers.
 - *peace* = a Christian’s standing before God.
 - *from the seven spirits before the throne...*
 - God the Holy Spirit.
 - *“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:2-3).*
 - *wisdom* - spiritual wisdom.
 - *understanding* - application of spiritual wisdom in day-to-day life.

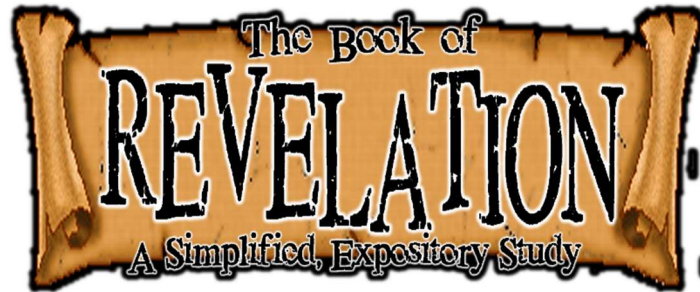
- *counsel* - spiritual insight in various situations like the men of Issachar, “*who understood the times and knew what [to] do*” ([1 Chronicles 12:32](#)).
- *might* - spiritual strength
- *knowledge of the Lord* - understanding of Scripture.
- *fear of the Lord* - faith.
- *delight in the fear of the Lord* - joy in the spiritual life.
- *from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*
 - God the Son.
 - John described Jesus as:
 - *the faithful witness* - Jesus is truth, the Word ([John 1:1](#)) who became flesh.
 - *the firstborn from the dead*
 - Omnipotent - *the ruler of the kings of the earth.*
 - Then John worshiped Jesus with more descriptions:
 - *him who loves us*
 - *him who has freed us from our sins by his blood*
 - *him who has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father*
 - In addition, John alluded to what was coming:
 - “*Look, he is coming with the clouds,*” and “*every eye will see him, even those who pierced him*”; and *all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.*
 - This is actually a reference to prophecies written by Daniel, Zechariah, and Jesus himself.
 - Finally, John quoted Jesus, *I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.* Jesus says this later in Revelation and John wrote this letter after he saw everything he saw.

Revelation 1:9–11

⁹ *I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.* ¹⁰ *On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,* ¹¹ *which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”*

- John set the scene for his readers.
- *on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*
- *On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit* - he was worshipping.
- *...and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”* (1:10)
 - John was careful to describe what he heard as *a loud voice* so his readers would know he wasn’t crazy!

- The voice gave John specific instructions, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches...*



Lesson 2 – September 15, 2021

REVIEW

- Revelation was written by the Apostle John (1:4a) *to the seven churches in the province of Asia* (1:4b) in A.D. 95-96.
 - He was exiled to *the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus* (1:9).
 - He wrote this revelation was from *Jesus Christ*.
- ...and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.” (1:10)

Revelation 1:12–20

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. ¹⁹ “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

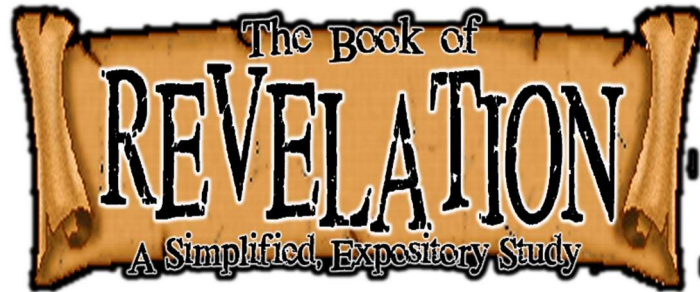
- The seven golden lampstands are the first of many images we will come across in Revelation so, here are some fundamental principles to remember when studying Revelation or any other book of the Bible:
 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding.
 - Never make assumptions about what you think you know.
 - Take the Bible literally until you can’t.
 - Always study and interpret the Bible in context.
 - Remember, there are 66 books, and they go together.
 - If there seems to be a contradiction keep studying.
 - Bear in mind there are about 100 different authors and several different literary styles in the Bible.
 - Go slow and read everything in order without skipping ahead.
- John saw *someone like a son of man among the seven golden lampstands*.
 - *like a son of man* = the person looked like a human being.

- This person was *dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*
 - A lot of people try to assign spiritual or mystical meaning to this description, but this is a mistake because John did not go that way - he was just trying to describe what he saw.
 - *someone like a son of man*
 - *dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.*
 - *hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow*
 - *his eyes were like blazing fire*
 - *His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace*
 - *his voice was like the sound of rushing waters*
 - *In his right hand he held seven stars*
 - *coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword*
 - *His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*
- John fell at his feet as though dead - he may have passed out, or he may have laid out in worship because he knew who this person was.
- Now we find out who this is because his self-description can only be one person, *Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*
 - Of course, this can only be Jesus!
 - Jesus repeated his instructions. Maybe John needed a little convincing?
 - He also explained the meaning of the *lampstands* and the *stars*. *The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS:

- While the nature of the Trinity dictates all three aspects (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) are all one God and therefore, possess all the attributes that any of them have, we will limit this list to descriptions specifically about Jesus:
 - *firstborn from the dead* (1:5)
 - *the ruler of the kings of the earth* (1:5)
 - *him who loves us* (1:5)
 - *him who has freed us from our sins by his blood* (1:5)
 - *him who has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.* (1:6)
 - *Alpha and Omega* (1:8)
 - *the Almighty* (1:8)
 - *the First and the last* (1:17)
 - *the Living one who was dead and now is alive for ever and ever.* (1:18)
 - *the holder of the keys of death and Hades.* (1:18)

- *him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands” (2:1).*
- *him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again (2:8).*
- *him who has the sharp, double-edged sword (2:12)*
- *the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze (2:18).*
- *him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars (3:1).*
- *him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open (3:7).*
- *the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation (3:14).*



Lesson 3 – September 22, 2021

Revelation 4:1

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

- *After what?*
 - After Jesus told John, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea (1:11); and, Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later (1:19).*
 - After John’s amazing vision of Jesus, *“and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance (1:13-16).*
 - After Jesus explained, *The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches (1:20).*
 - After the letters to the seven churches and the descriptions Jesus gave of himself.
- Jesus invited John to, *Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.*
 - This seems to be a second vision following that which John saw in chapters 1-3.
 - Notice the slight contrast between 1:19 and 4:1.
 - *Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later (1:19).*
 - *I will show you what must take place after this.*
 - Jesus is not just showing John what *will* take place, like a fortune teller predicting the future, he is show him what *must* take place because God’s will always gets done.

Revelation 4:2–3

² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

- *What does in the Spirit mean?*
- John tries to describe what he saw:
 - *there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.*
 - *the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby.*

- *A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.*
- ***Who do you think is seated on the throne?***
- So, John saw a throne and someone was sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was surrounded by a bright rainbow. We are not told who the one on the throne is ...yet.

Revelation 4:4

⁴ ***Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.***

- John saw *twenty-four other thrones... surrounding the first throne.*
- *seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads.*
- ***Who do you think the twenty-four elders are?***
- There is a LOT of speculation regarding the *twenty-four elders*!
 - Some believe they are angels.
 - Some believe they are priests because there were 24 priests chosen during the days of King David (1 Chronicles 24).
 - Some believe they represent the 12 tribes of Israel (God's chosen people) and the 12 Apostles (representing the Church).
 - Let's just say we do not know for sure ...for now.

Revelation 4:5

⁵ ***From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.***

- John saw *flashes of lightning* and heard *rumblings and peals of thunder* come from the first throne.
 - He saw *seven lamps ...blazing... in front of the throne.*
 - He tells us *these are the seven spirits of God.*
 - ***Remember who the seven spirits of God is?***
 - He used that same phrase in 1:4 in describing the Holy Spirit.
 - *"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD."* ([Isaiah 11:2-3](#)).
 - *wisdom* - spiritual wisdom.
 - *understanding* - application of spiritual wisdom in day-to-day life.
 - *counsel* - spiritual insight in various situations like the men of Issachar, *"who understood the times and knew what [to] do"* ([1 Chronicles 12:32](#)).
 - *might* - spiritual strength
 - *knowledge of the Lord* - understanding of Scripture.
 - *fear of the Lord* - faith.
 - *delight in the fear of the Lord* - joy in the spiritual life.
- So we have a throne and someone was sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne had a bright appearance. The throne was surrounded by a bright rainbow. There are 24 other thrones surrounding the first throne and those sitting on them were wearing white robes and golden crowns. Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit is in front of it.

Revelation 4:6–8

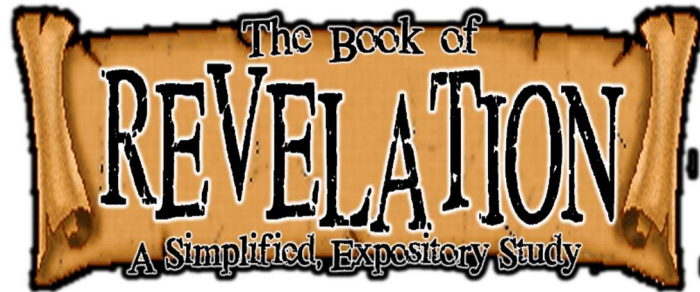
⁶ *Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.* ⁷ *The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.* ⁸ *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”*

- *Also, in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.*
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures...*
 - *...covered with eyes in front and in back.*
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes.*
- *Day and night they never stop saying ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’ (This is where my favorite hymn comes from)*
- ***Who do you think the four living creatures are, or what do they represent?***
 - What if they do not represent anything, but are actual creatures?
 - ***Do you think there might be things in heaven we have never seen on earth?***
- Their only purpose seems to be circling the throne worshiping in worshiping God (yes, we can now say it is God who is seated on the first throne - they are worshiping him!).

Revelation 4:9–11

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ “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.”

- John gives us a beautiful picture of worship in heaven.
 - The *four living creatures* are circling the throne, worshiping God.
 - As they do *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...*
 - *they lay their crowns before the throne...*
- This must have been an amazing sight!



Lesson 4 – September 29, 2021

REVIEW

*Because of the technical problems we had last Wednesday we are going to start with a quick review of chapter 4.

Revelation 4:1

¹ *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”*

- After what?
 - After Jesus told John, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea* (1:11); and, *Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later* (1:19).
 - After John’s amazing vision of Jesus (1:13-16) and after Jesus explained, *The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches* (1:20).
 - After the letters to the seven churches and the descriptions Jesus gave of himself.
- Jesus invited John to, *Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.*

Revelation 4:2–3

² *At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.* ³ *And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.*

- ...*in the Spirit* indicates John was still physically on the Island of Patmos, but was spiritual transported to see what Jesus wanted to show him.
- John tried to describe what he saw:
 - *there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.*
 - *the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby.*
 - *A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.*
- John saw a throne and someone was sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was surrounded by a bright rainbow. We are not told who the one on the throne is ...yet.

Revelation 4:4

⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

- John saw *twenty-four other thrones... surrounding the first throne.*
- *seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads.*
- There is a LOT of speculation regarding the *twenty-four elders!*
 - Some believe they are angels.
 - Some believe they are priests because there were 24 priests chosen during the days of King David (1 Chronicles 24).
 - Some believe they represent the 12 tribes of Israel (God's chosen people) and the 12 Apostles (representing the Church).

Revelation 4:5

⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

- John saw *flashes of lightning* and heard *rumblings and peals of thunder* come from the first throne.
 - He saw *seven lamps ...blazing... in front of the throne.*
 - He tells us *these are the seven spirits of God* – the Holy Spirit.
- So, we have a throne and someone was sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne had a bright appearance. The throne was surrounded by a bright rainbow. There are 24 other thrones surrounding the first throne and those sitting on them were wearing white robes and golden crowns. Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit is in front of it.

Revelation 4:6–8

⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty," who was, and is, and is to come."

- *Also, in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.*
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures...*
 - *...covered with eyes in front and in back.*
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes.*
- *Day and night they never stop saying 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'* (This is where my favorite hymn comes from)
 - While there are several other explanations that have been offered by scholars over the generations, it is quite possible the *four living creatures* do not represent anything but are actual creatures.
 - It is certainly possible there are things in heaven that do not exist on earth – things we have not seen in this life.

- The purpose of the *four living creatures* is circling the throne worshipping God (yes, we can now say it is God who is seated on the first throne - they are worshipping him!).

Revelation 4:9–11

⁹ *Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ “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.”*

- John gives us a beautiful picture of worship in heaven.
 - The *four living creatures* are circling the throne, worshipping God.
 - As they do *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...*
 - *they lay their crowns before the throne...*
- This must have been an amazing sight!
- Listen to what *the twenty-four elders* say, *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.*

Revelation 5:1–2

¹ *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?”*

- Remember, we learned last Wednesday, *him who sat on the throne* is God the Father.
- God the Father is holding *a scroll ...in his right hand.*
- There is *writing on both sides* of the scroll and it is *sealed with seven seals.*
- An angel shouted, *Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?*
- **Do you think this is all to be taken literally or figuratively?**

Revelation 5:3–5

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.”*

- In answer to the angel’s question, *no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.*
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.*
 - Remember who is there:
 - God the Father.
 - God the Holy Spirit.
 - Angels.
 - The *four living creatures.*
 - The *twenty-four elders.*
 - John
 - ...and NO ONE is worthy to *open the scroll or look inside?!*
 - **So, what do you think the problem is?**
- *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.”*

- **Based on the description given by the elder, who do you think he is talking about?**
- Let's go back to go forward:
 - Jesus' geneology is traced from Abraham to Judah to David to his earthly father, Joseph ([Matthew 1:1-16](#); [Luke 3:23-37](#)).
 - Jacob's prophesy - *"Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his"* ([Genesis 49:8-10](#)).
 - Isaiah's prophesy - *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.* ([Isaiah 11:1-5, 10](#))
 - Only Jesus Christ can be *the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, who has triumphed.*
 - Only he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.

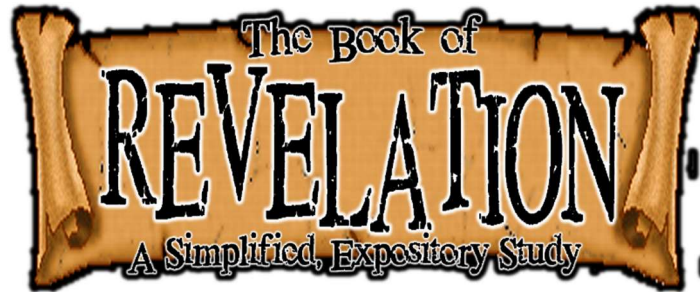
Revelation 5:6

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.

- **Who do you think the Lamb is?**
 - Notice Lamb is capitolized.
 - Remember also what John the Baptist said about Jesus. *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'"* ([John 1:29](#))! *"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God'"* ([John 1:35-36](#)).
 - Remember also, Isaiah's prophesy: *"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by humanity, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he*

was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed... he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth... He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer... After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities... For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. ([Isaiah 53:2-12](#))

- So Jesus is both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb - all powerful AND sacrificial.
- *The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth* speaks to the perfect unity of the Trinity.



Lesson 5 – October 6, 2021

REVIEW

- John saw a throne, and God the Father was sitting on it. He had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was surrounded by a bright rainbow. It was surrounded by 24 other thrones on which were *seated ...twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads.*
- Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit is in front of it, represented by *seven lamps. In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.*
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures... covered with eyes in front and in back.*
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'*
- The *four living creatures* are circling the throne, worshiping God. As they do the *twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...they lay their crowns before the throne...*
- God the Father is holding a *scroll ...in his right hand.* There is writing on both sides of the scroll, and it is *sealed with seven seals.*
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.*
- *Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*
- The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth speaks to the perfect unity of the Trinity.

Revelation 5:7–10

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."*

- Jesus took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

- When he did, *the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before him and worshiped.*
 - Remember what Paul wrote, “*Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” ([Philippians 2:5-11](#)).
 - Look at what the creatures and elders had - each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.
- Now they sang a new song - *You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.*
 - **Of course, they are singing to Jesus, but who are they singing about?**
 - We are a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:11–12

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

- Now the angels join in.
- *thousands upon thousands.*
- Notice what the angels sang, *Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!*

Revelation 5:13–14 NIV

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- **Now who is worshiping?**
- *every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them*

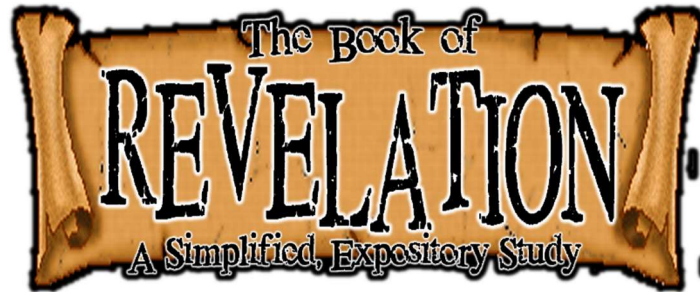
Revelation 6:1–2

¹ I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” ² I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

- As we begin this section with the opening of the first of *seven seals*, we have to ask the question scholars have pondered for generations, ***Are the events associated with the opening of the seven seals past or future?***
 - Because Jesus told John, *Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later* (1:19), some try to place the events associated with the seven seals in the past.
 - However, remember the phrase, *After this...* (4:1), which is after the letters to the seven churches. The scroll is sealed and not opened until after chapter 5 — the breaking of the seals and the events associated with them are *what will take place later*.
- When *the Lamb opened the first ...seal*, John heard *one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, ‘Come!’* In other words, pay attention, John! You need to see this.
- John saw *a white horse... its rider held a bow and was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest*.
 - While the *rider on the white horse* should be taken literally because it seems to be what John actually saw, its meaning and application must be figurative because what is one *rider on a white horse* going to conquer all on his own?
 - **Who do you think the rider is and what does he represent?**
 - This is NOT Jesus!
 - Why would he ride in on a white horse, a traditional symbol of victory before the Tribulation?
 - He held a bow, and he was given a crown...
 - He has no arrows!
 - No one gives Jesus authority — he is omnipotent.
 - This rider who *rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest* is most likely the world ruler some refer to as *The Antichrist*, although that term does not appear anywhere in the Bible.
- Since he has no arrows, it seems his *conquest* takes place without a battle — perhaps politically? This might explain the *crown* that was given to him.
- This seems to be the beginning of the Tribulation period that Paul wrote about. *Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

- *the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night... But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*
- *So, a Tribulation is coming, but only after the Church, the Body of Christ has been Raptured.*
- *Paul also wrote, Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*



Lesson 6 – October 13, 2021

REVIEW

Chapter 1

- John wrote the Book of Revelation while living on *the island of Patmos* (v. 9) as, *the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place* (v. 1).
- *On the Lord's Day* John was in the Spirit and heard a loud voice like a trumpet (v. 10). The voice told him, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea* (v. 11).
- John had a vision of Jesus *among the seven lampstands... dressed in a long robe... and with a golden sash around his chest. His hair was like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance* (vv. 13-15, 16). *In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword* (v. 16).
- Jesus told John, *Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches* (vv. 17-20).

Chapters 2-3

- Descriptions of Jesus:
 - *...him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands* (2:1).
 - *...him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again* (2:8).
 - *...who has the sharp, double-edged sword* (2:12).
 - *...the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze* (2:18).
 - *...him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars* (3:1).
 - *...him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open* (3:7).
 - *...the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation* (3:14).
- As instructed, John addressed the Book of Revelation to each of the seven churches located in Asia Minor. Each of the seven sections in chapters 2-3 contains specific statements from Jesus to the individual churches
 - **EPHESUS:** *I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have*

endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (2:2-6)

- *SMYRNA: I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (2:9-10)*
- *PERGAMUM: I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (2:13-16)*
- *THYATIRA: I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.' (2:19-25)*
- *SARDIS: To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. (3:1-4)*
- *PHILADELPHIA: I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make*

them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (3:8-11)

- *LAODICEA: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (3:15-20)*

Chapter 4

- John saw *a throne in heaven*, and God the Father was sitting on it. He had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was encircled by a bright rainbow (v. 3). It was surrounded by *twenty-four other thrones* on which were seated *...twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads* (vv. 4-5).
*While there are many interpretations as to the identity of the *twenty-four elders*, many scholars believe they represent the 12 tribes of Israel - God’s Chosen People, and the 12 Apostles - the redeemed Body of Christ.
- Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit was in front of it, represented by *seven lamps. In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.* (vv. 5-6)
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures... covered with eyes in front and in back* (v. 6).
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’* (vv. 6-7)
 - The *four living creatures* were circling the throne, worshiping God. As they did *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...they lay their crowns before the throne...* (vv. 8-11)
*While many have tried to assign metaphorical or prophetic meaning to the *four living creatures*, it is quite possible they are literal creatures that exist only in heaven.

Chapter 5

- God the Father is holding *a scroll ...in his right hand*. There is *writing on both sides* of the scroll, and it is *sealed with seven seals.* (v. 1)
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.* (v. 4)

- *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.”* (v. 5)
*This can only be Jesus Christ!
- *The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth* (v. 6).
*This speaks to the perfect unity of the Trinity as God the Father is on the throne, the Holy Spirit is in front, and Jesus, the Son, is there ready to open the scroll.

Wait a minute...

Before we get into the *seven seals* (Revelation 6:1-8:1), the *seven trumpets* (Revelation 8:6-11:19), the *dragon and the beasts* (Revelation 12:1-15:8), and the *seven bowls* (Revelation 15:1-18:24), all of which make up the period known as the Tribulation, we have to consider the question, *Where is the Body of Christ, the church (us!), during all of this?*

- For an answer to this important question consider the following:
 - The Body of Christ, Christians who follow Jesus, are not mentioned anywhere after Revelation 1-3 until Revelation 19, unless of course we count 12 of the *twenty-four elders* gathered around God’s throne as Christians represented by the 12 Apostles (Revelation 4:4). Could this be because the Church is no longer on the earth, having been raptured?
 - Remember what Jesus told the *church in Philadelphia*, “*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth*” (Revelation 3:10).
- Now consider these New Testament descriptions of the Rapture:
 - “*That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him*” (Matthew 24:39-44).
 - “*Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night*” (1 Thessalonians 5:1).
 - “*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed*” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
 - “*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

- **CONCLUSIONS:**

- Jesus promised to *keep us from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world* — not just to protect us from it, or to help us through it, but to *keep us from it*. That indicates Christians will not go through the Tribulation period on earth.
- Yes, Christians do suffer trials in this life, but a trial is not the same as the Tribulation described in Revelation 4-18!
- The fact that the Christian church, the Body of Christ is not mentioned anywhere during the Tribulation period on earth is strong evidence that it is already gone.
- The Rapture, what Jesus called *the coming of the son of man* will be sudden, *in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye*, and unexpected, *like a thief in the night*.
 - The Rapture is not what we commonly refer to as ‘the second coming.’ Notice Jesus does not come to the earth, but *we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*.
 - The second coming of Christ describes a time when Jesus will *rule them with an iron scepter* (19:15), which he alluded to when he told the church in Thyatira, *“To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter...’ (2:26-27).*
 - When the Rapture occurs those who are left will be confused as to what happened. When the second coming takes place, *“every knee will bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”* (Philippians 2:10-11).
 - Even so, some will have to be forced to bow (hence, the iron scepter).
 - *...every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the people on earth will mourn because of him* (1:7).

The Seals

Revelation 6:1–2

¹ I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” ² I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

- When the Lamb opened the first ...seal, John heard *one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, ‘Come!’*
- * This horse rode out with permission!
 - John saw *a white horse... its rider held a bow and was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest*.
 - While the *rider on the white horse* should be taken literally because it is what John actually saw, its meaning and application must be figurative because what is *one rider on a white horse* going to conquer all on his own?
 - This is NOT Jesus!
 - Why would he ride in on a white horse, a traditional symbol of victory before the Tribulation?
 - *He held a bow, and he was given a crown...*

- He has no arrows!
- No one gives Jesus' authority — he is omnipotent.
- This rider who *rode out as a conquerer bent on conquest* is most likely the world ruler some refer to as *The Antichrist*, although that term does not appear anywhere in the Bible.
 - Since he has no arrows, it seems his *conquest* takes place without a battle — perhaps politically? This might explain the *crown* that was given to him.
 - This is the beginning of the Tribulation period.

Revelation 6:3–4

³ *When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”*

⁴ *Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.*

- Jesus *opened the second seal* and the second living creature said, *come!*
- Again, this is all happening with permission. The horses are released according to a plan.
- This second horse is *a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other.*
 - ***Who or what do you think this rider represents?***
 - Notice the rider *was given a large sword.*
 - Where the white horse's rider represented the antichrist, who gained power politically without a battle, the red horse's rider would seem to represent armed conflict — perhaps a world war?

Revelation 6:5–6

⁵ *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.* ⁶ *Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”*

- Jesus *opened the third seal* and the third living creature said, *come!*
- Again, permission is given as the third horse is released.
- This third horse is *black* and *its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”*
- ***Who or what do you think this rider represents?***
- With the antichrist in charge (represented by the white horse) a world war (represented by the red horse) breaks out and *people kill each other*. Now, as a natural result of turning the whole world into a battlefield, a terrible famine begins (represented by this black horse).
 - *two pounds of wheat* and *six pounds of barley* can also be translated *two measures* and *six measures*, which represented enough to feed one person for one day — it takes a whole day's wages to buy enough food for one person!
 - Many of those who survive the world war to this point will perish because of the worldwide famine.

Revelation 6:7–8

⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” ⁸ I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

- Jesus opened the fourth seal the fourth living creature said, come!
- We keep repeating it, but this is important — all of this is happening with permission, the horses are released.
- This fourth horse was *pale* and *its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him*. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.
- **Who or what do you think this horse represents?**
 - The disasters overlap one another — the war is still going on as the famine spreads and all of this leads to plague and disease.
 - Even *the wild beasts of the earth* are a problem as a lack of food causes them to turn on people.
 - *a fourth of the earth* will die in addition to those already killed in the war and because of the famine.

Revelation 6:9–11

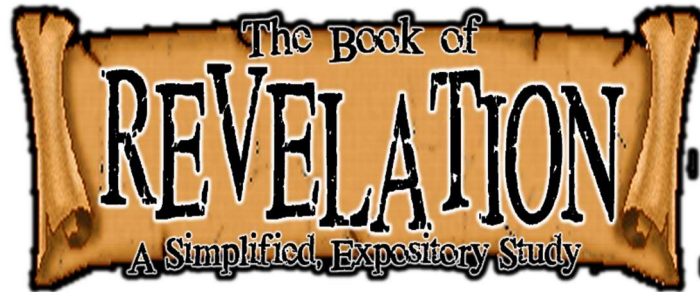
⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

- When Jesus opened the fifth seal John saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
 - **While these are obviously martyrs, what martyrs? Are these all the martyrs or just those who died during the Tribulation represented by the first four seals?**
 - These martyrs expect God to avenge them. *How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?*
 - Is this ‘Christian’?
 - “It is mine to avenge; I will repay” (Deuteronomy 32:35).
 - Paul wrote, “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head’” (Romans 12:17-20).
- *Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.*

Revelation 6:12–17

¹² I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³ and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

- When Jesus opened the sixth seal all kinds of things happened:
 - *There was a great earthquake.*
 - *The sun turned black...*
 - *The whole moon turned blood red...*
 - *the stars in the sky fell to earth...*
 - *The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up...*
 - *every mountain and island was removed from its place.*
- At that point, everyone hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains...
 - They actually wanted the mountains and the rocks... to fall on them and hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!
 - The people thought this was the great day of God's wrath, but it isn't even close yet.



Lesson 7 – October 20, 2021

REVIEW

The Seals

- * This is the beginning of the Tribulation, that period which follows the Rapture described in Matthew 24:39-44; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:1.
 - * Because Christians will be raptured or *taken up* before these events and because Jesus promised, *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth* (3:10), we do not have to fear the Tribulation.
1. The First Seal (6:1-2) – When the first seal was opened *one of the four living creatures released a white horse with the word, come! The rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.* This is not Jesus! This is the antichrist.
 2. The Second Seal (6:3-4) – When Jesus *opened the second seal... the second living creature released a fiery red ...horse. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other.* This represents a terrible, unprecedented world war.
 3. The Third Seal (6:5-6) – When Jesus *opened the third seal... the third living creature released a black horse. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.* John heard a voice that said, *two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!* This represents a worldwide famine, the inevitable result of war, during which a day's wages will only buy enough food to feed one person.
 4. The Fourth Seal (6:7-8) – When Jesus *opened the fourth seal... the fourth living creature released a pale horse. Its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.* This represents the chaos of the antichrist's oppressive government, world war, famine, disease, and desperate people and animals turning on one another as 25% of those still alive when the fourth seal is opened die.
 5. The Fifth Seal (6:9-11) – When Jesus *opened the fifth seal... John saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.* These are Christian martyrs who are being protected *under the altar* until the time when their number was complete.

Revelation 6:12–17

¹² *I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³ and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”*

- When Jesus opened the sixth seal all kinds of things happened:
 - *There was a great earthquake.*
 - *The sun turned black...*
 - *The whole moon turned blood red...*
 - *the stars in the sky fell to earth...*
 - *The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up...*
 - *every mountain and island was removed from its place.*
- At that point, *everyone hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains...*
 - They wanted the *mountains and the rocks...* to fall on them and *hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*
 - This is the great day of God’s wrath.
 - Notice, *God’s wrath* was not yet delivered, it was just about to be.
 - Notice also, this *wrath* includes Jesus, *the wrath of the Lamb*.
 - **What does this do to the argument that God is a God of love and would never judge a wicked world?**
 - *Who can withstand... their wrath?* No one. That is why everything pauses here, as we move into chapter 7.

Revelation 7:1

¹ *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.*

- John saw *four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth...*
 - Of course, we know the earth does not have corners, regardless of what those flat earth people think.
 - four corners of the earth is a term usually used to describe the totality of the world.
 - four winds are almost always used to describe a terrible destructive force.
- So, what do you think the angels are holding back?

Revelation 7:2–8 NIV

² *Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from*

the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

- A fifth angel came up from the east carrying the seal of the living God. He told the other angels they could not *harm the land or the sea or the trees until ...the servants of ...God ...were sealed.*
- **Who are the 144,000 who were sealed?**
- Of course, the 144,000 are Israelites, but why are they sealed?
 - It certainly seems to be for their protection.
 - Even in Tribulation, God will keep his promises to Israel.
 - He promised Abram (Abraham), *“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 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 12:2-3); and, *“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me”* (Genesis 22:17-18).
 - Paul wrote, *“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory”* (Ephesians 1:11-14).
- Sealing and protecting a remnant of Israel has been part of God’s plan since he made the covenant with Abraham!
- This is not political! It is God working out his plans as he always does.

Revelation 7:9–10 NIV

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

- John’s attention turned back to the throne where he saw *a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*
 - Notice, they were wearing *white robes* like those *under the altar* (6:11).
 - They were holding palm branches in their hands — where have we seen those before?
 - *they cried out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’*
- **Who do you think this multitude is?**

- Option 1: This is a glimpse ahead to the moment when the martyrs under the altar (6:11) are rewarded as promised with all those martyred during the Tribulation. Because they are martyrs, they are given special recognition.
- Option 2: This is a glimpse ahead to the moment when everyone who followed Christ in this life gathers around the throne.

Revelation 7:11–12 NIV

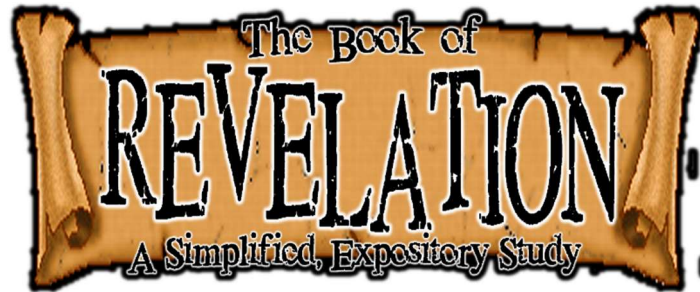
¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

- All the *angels* (that’s a lot of angels!)... *the elders and the four living creatures ...were standing around the throne...*
 - If twelve of the elders (remember, there are 24 of them), represent the Christian church that was raptured prior to the opening of the first seal (the beginning of the Tribulation Period) then they can’t be the great multitude because they are in a separate group.
 - The elders are part of the group who says, *Amen* (a term of agreement) to what the multitude cried out.
- Ok, we should have just kept reading...

Revelation 7:13–17

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

- So, the multitude is made of those who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- The elder told John, *they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.*
 - they will never be hungry again
 - they will never be thirsty again
 - they will never be stuck out in the elements again
 - they will never deal with scorching heat again
 - God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.



Lesson 8 – October 27, 2021

REVIEW – Chapter 7

- John saw *four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth...* *Four corners of the earth* is a term usually used to describe the totality of the world. *Four winds* are almost always used to describe a terrible destructive force.
- A fifth angel came up from the east carrying the seal of the living God. He told the other angels they could not *harm the land or the sea or the trees until ...the servants of ...God ...were sealed.*
- The 144,000 who are sealed are Israelites.
- John's attention turned back to the throne where he saw *a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.* This is a glimpse ahead to the moment when the martyrs under the altar (6:11) are rewarded as promised with all those martyred during the Tribulation. Because they are martyrs, they are given special recognition.
- The multitude around the throne is made of those who have come out of the great tribulation. *They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* The elder told John, *they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.*

Revelation 8:1–6

¹ *When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.* ² *And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.* ³ *Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.* ⁴ *The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.* ⁵ *Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.* ⁶ *Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.*

- When Jesus opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
 - Note the contrast:
 - *There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.* (6:12-14)
 - *I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were*

holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" (7:9-12)

- *silence in heaven for about half an hour* (v. 1).
- ***Why do you think it was silent in heaven?***
 - Awe — Perhaps because the seventh seal was open and God's whole plan was laid open, or because God's wrath was about to be released on the earth.
 - Kind of a 'calm before the storm.'
- *I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them* (2).
 - *the seven angels*, not just seven angels seems to indicate seven specific angels *who stand before God*.
 - Some scholars believe these to be Archangels, but this is based on the apocryphal book of Enoch, which listed Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel as archangels and became part of Jewish tradition during the Babylonian captivity.
 - We are safe in saying these are seven specific angels, possibly archangels, who have a specific place and role in heaven.
- John saw *another angel who had a golden censer stand at the altar*.
 - A *censer* is a container used to hold burning incense while allowing the smoke to escape.
 - *The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.* (4-5)
- *Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them* (6)

THE TRUMPETS

Revelation 8:7

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

- When the first angel sounded his trumpet ...hail and fire mixed with blood ...was hurled down on the earth.
- A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Revelation 8:8–9

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- Notice how things seem to be moving much faster with the trumpets than they did with the seals.

- When the second angel sounded his trumpet ...something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea.
- ***What does this seem like to you?***
- A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Revelation 8:10–11

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water — ¹¹ the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

- When the third angel sounded his trumpet,,, a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water ...the name of the star is Wormwood... a third of the waters turned bitter and many people died from the contaminated water.
- Wormwood is a bitter desert plant in the Middle East. In the Old Testament it represents sorrow and bitter judgement (Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Jeremiah 9:15, 23:15; Lamentations 3:15; Amos 5:7).

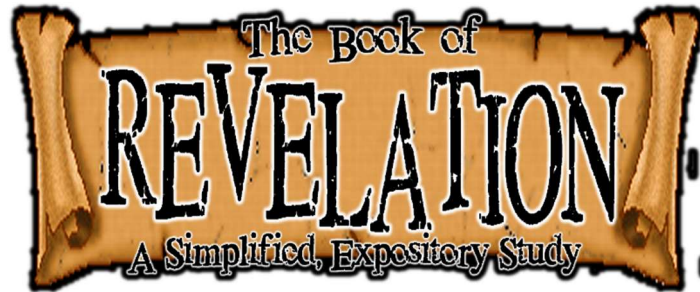
Revelation 8:12–13

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. ¹³ As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

- When the fourth angel sounded his trumpet... a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark.
- A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.
- Then John heard an eagle flying over call out in a loud voice, ‘Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!’

RECAP

- There are 7.9 billion people in the world today.
 - Of those, 2.3 billion claim to be Christian.
 - Let’s just say 2 billion people are taken in The Rapture, leaving 5.9 billion on the earth when the Tribulation begins.
- We have no way of knowing how many will die in the war represented by the rider on the red horse (6:3-4), but 75 million people died in WW2, so twice as many deaths in this war is probably very low.
- Death is allowed to kill 25% of those remaining, somewhere around 2 billion people with the war that is still going on. That leaves around 3 billion people on the earth – about half of those who started the Tribulation.
- During the first four trumpets...
 - a third of the earth was burned up, as well as a third of the trees and all the grass.
 - a meteor crashing into the sea killed a third of the sea creatures and destroyed a third of the ships.
 - With all of these catastrophes thousands and thousands of people would die.
- ...and it is going to get worse!



Lesson 9 – November 3, 2021

REVIEW (Chapter 8)

- The Seventh Seal (8:1-6) When Jesus *opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*
 - This seems to be a ‘calm before the storm’ kind of thing, a sad response to what was to come, or perhaps it is simply a sense of awe that silenced everyone.
 - During the *silence in heaven* John saw the seven angels who stand before God, and the seven trumpets were given to them. These seven angels could possibly be archangels. Jewish apocryphal tradition from the Babylonian captivity listed Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel as archangels.
 - The *silence* ended when another angel ...hurled ...the golden censor... filled with fire from the altar ...to the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightening, and an earthquake.
- The First Trumpet (8:7) When the first angel sounded his trumpet ...hail and fire mixed with blood ...was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.
- The Second Trumpet (8:8-9) When the second angel sounded his trumpet ...something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. *Could this be a volcano?
- The Third Trumpet (8:10-11) When the third angel sounded his trumpet,, a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water ...the name of the star is Wormwood... a third of the waters turned bitter and many people died from the contaminated water. *Could this be a meteor?
 - Wormwood is a bitter desert plant in the Middle East.
 - In the Old Testament it represents sorrow and bitter judgement (Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Jeremiah 9:15, 23:15; Lamentations 3:15; Amos 5:7).
- The Fourth Trumpet (8:12-13) When the fourth angel sounded his trumpet... a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.
- Then John heard an eagle that was flying over call out in a loud voice, ‘Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!’

Revelation 9:1–12

¹ *The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.* ² *When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.* ³ *And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.* ⁴ *They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.* ⁵ *They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes.* ⁶ *During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.* ⁷ *The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.* ⁸ *Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.* ⁹ *They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.* ¹⁰ *They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.* ¹¹ *They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).* ¹² *The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

- Notice how long the description of the fifth trumpet is!
- When *the fifth angel sounded his trumpet*, John saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.
 - **Who do you think the star represents?**
 - Many, if not most scholars believe the *star* to be the devil or Lucifer.
 - After the seventy-two evangelists he sent out returned, Jesus told them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:18-20).
 - In addition, Isaiah wrote, “How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - *the star* used the key he was given to open *the Abyss*.
 - **What is the Abyss?**
 - It is mentioned several times in Scripture:
 - When Jesus cast the demons *Legion* into the herd of pigs it was because “they begged him not to order them to go into the Abyss (Luke 8:27).”
 - We have not studied it yet, but *the Abyss* is mentioned four more times in Revelation:

- “the beast ...comes up from the Abyss to attack the two witnesses” (11:3-7).
- “the beast ...will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction” (17:8).
- “the devil or Satan... is bound... and thrown into the Abyss ...for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:1-3).
- So, the Abyss is a bottomless pit, a kind of holding cell in hell, where the beast and the worst of the demons are currently held.
- When Lucifer opened *the Abyss*, *smoke rose from it...* so much so *the sun and sky were darkened*.
 - Remember, the sun is already diminished from the fourth trumpet (8:10-11).
 - ...out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions...
 - They looked like horses prepared for battle.
 - On their heads they wore sometime like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.
 - Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth.
 - They had breastplates like breastplates of iron...
 - ...the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
 - They had tails with stingers like scorpions...
- Since they came from *the Abyss*, and have *tails like... scorpions*, some scholars believe the *locusts* are demons, but John does not say that. There is also the fact they are organized under a king ...*the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer)*.
- they were forbidden to *harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree* — there were that many left by now!
- they were specifically told to *torture ...those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months... they will long to die, but death will elude them.*
- *The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

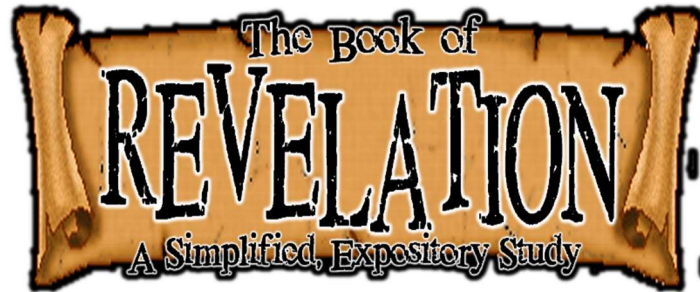
Revelation 9:13–21

¹³ *The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God.* ¹⁴ *It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”* ¹⁵ *And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.* ¹⁶ *The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.* ¹⁷ *The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.* ¹⁸ *A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and*

sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

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.

- When the sixth angel sounded his trumpet John heard a voice coming from the altar that is before God.
 - This is the same altar John saw in 6:9-12 protecting the martyrs, and 8:3-4 sitting in front of God's throne.
 - The voice said to the sixth angel ...release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates and the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of humanity.
 - These are not the four angels from 7:1 (those angels were not bound) — these are demonic (fallen angels).
 - There is no point in trying to set a location based on the modern Euphrates River because much has changed on planet Earth. Remember the description of the Garden of Eden, “A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates” (Genesis 2:10-14).
 - These angels have a specific assignment for a specific time which has come — they will kill a third of humanity.
 - Releasing them releases an army of 200 million mounted troops (twice ten thousand times ten thousand).
 - The riders and their horses wore brightly colored breastplates
 - the horses had heads ...that resembled the heads of lions
 - fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths
 - their tails were like snakes having heads with which they inflict injury.
- 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. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.



Lesson 10 – November 10, 2021

REVIEW (Chapter 9)

- The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12) When the fifth angel sounded his trumpet John saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.
 - This is the devil or Lucifer (Luke 10:18-20; Isaiah 14:12-15) who was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.
 - The abyss is a bottomless pit, a kind of holding cell in hell, where the beast and the worst of the demons are currently held (Luke 8:27; Revelation 11:3-7, 17:8, 20:1-3).
 - When Lucifer opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it... so much so the sun and sky were darkened.
 - ...out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions...
 - They looked like horses prepared for battle and wore something like crowns of gold.
 - ...their faces resembled human faces, their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
 - They had breastplates like breastplates of iron...
 - ...the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
 - They had tails with stingers like scorpions...
 - The locusts most likely represent demons who were organized under a king ...the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). They were forbidden to harm the grass of the earth, or any plant or tree and they were specifically told to torture ...those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months... the people will long to die, but death will elude them.
- The Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21) When the sixth angel sounded his trumpet John heard a voice coming from the altar that is before God.
 - This is the same altar John saw in 6:9-12 protecting the martyrs, and 8:3-4 sitting in front of God's throne.
 - The voice said to the sixth angel ...release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates and the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of humanity.
 - These are not the four angels from 7:1 (those angels were not bound) — these are demonic (fallen angels).

- There is no point in trying to set a location based on the modern Euphrates River because much has changed on planet Earth.
- These angels have a specific assignment for a specific time which has come — they will *kill a third of humanity*.
 - Releasing them releases an army of 200 million *mounted troops (twice ten thousand times ten thousand)*.
 - The riders and their horses wore brightly colored *breastplates*
 - the horses had heads ...that resembled the heads of lions
 - fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths
 - their tails were like snakes having heads with which they inflict injury.
- 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. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

Revelation 10:1–4

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ² He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”

- Many of the scholars I read (John Walvoord, Warren Wiersbe, Charles Swindoll) believe chapter 10 marks the middle of the period we call The Tribulation.
 - Some scholars try to make the Tribulation a seven-year period based on [Daniel 9](#), “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” ([Daniel 9:24-27](#))
 - In order for this to work, we first have to make the *sevens* (*sabua* = seven days, weeks, or years).
 - If we do that *seventy sevens* = 490 years, *seven sevens* = 49 years, and *sixty-two sevens* = 434 years.

- The decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem ([Ezra 7:11-28](#)) was issued around 458 BC and Jesus was crucified around 30 AD. Therefore, it was 488 years from the decree to the crucifixion. Very close to the *seven sevens and sixty-two sevens* which add up to 483.
- The specific reference to seven years is found in v. 27, “*He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*”
- Here’s why this falls apart:
 - First, all of these calculations should have been done using the Jewish calendar, not the Gregorian calendar we are all used to. Remember, John was Jewish, so was Jesus.
 - The Jewish calendar has 12 months unless it is a leap year, which has 13 months.
 - A year in the Hebrew calendar can have 353, 354, 355, 383, 384, or 385 days.
- Second, Jesus said, “*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father*” ([Mark 13:32](#)).
- The *mighty angel*.
 - *He was robed in a cloud with a rainbow about his head...*
 - *...his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.*
 - *He was holding a little scroll that was open in his hand.*
 - *He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.*
 - *he gave a loud sound like the roar of a lion.*
 - *When the mighty angel spoke ...the voices of the seven thunders spoke.*
 - John was about to write down what *the seven thunders* said, but was told, *Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.*
 - **Ok, not only do we not know anything about *the seven thunders*, we are not permitted to know what they said. What are your thoughts about that?**
 - Some get really frustrated by this kind of thing.
 - This is an excellent example of how we are to read the Bible!

Revelation 10:5–7

⁵ *Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.* ⁶ *And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!”* ⁷ *But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”*

- The *angel... raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by God himself:*
 - *...him who lives for ever and ever...*
 - *...who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it...*
- *There will be no more delay!*

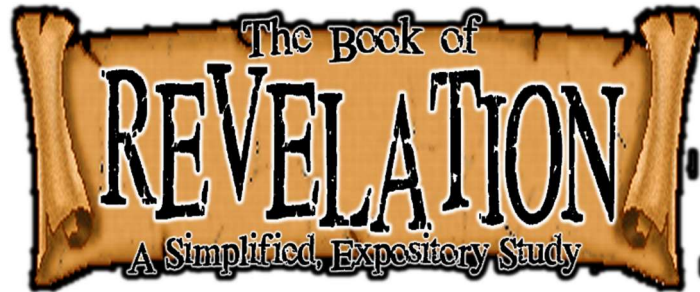
- ...in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.
 - *the mystery of God* is NOT a reference to hidden truth, but that which the prophets ...announced thousands of years ago!
 - Think about some of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the return of Jesus:
 - “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this” ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)).
 - “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor” ([Isaiah 61:1-3](#)).
 - “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed” ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)).
 - “The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name” ([Zechariah 14:9](#)).

Revelation 10:8–11

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” ⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’” ¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. ¹¹ Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

- The Scroll.
 - John was told to Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel...

- The angel told him, *Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.*
 - **What do you think the scroll represents?**
 - Most scholars compare the scroll to Scripture, the Bible’
 - David wrote, *“The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb”* ([Psalm 19:9-10](#)); and, *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”* ([Psalm 119:103](#)).
 - However, there are times when it goes sour — the truth can be hard sometimes.
 - Nonetheless, we are to take the whole counsel of the Word of God INTO ourselves.
 - In his duel with the devil Jesus said, *“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* ([Matthew 4:4](#)).
 - Peter wrote, *“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good”* ([1 Peter 2:2-3](#)).
 - Paul chastised the Corinthians, *“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready”* ([1 Corinthians 3:1-2](#)).
- John did as he was told and his *stomach turned sour*.



Lesson 11 – November 17, 2021

REVIEW

Revelation 10

- Many scholars believe chapter 10 marks the middle of the period we call The Tribulation.
- The *mighty angel*.
 - *He was robed in a cloud with a rainbow about his head... his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll that was open in his hand. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ...he gave a loud sound like the roar of a lion.*
 - *When the mighty angel spoke ...the voices of the seven thunders spoke.*
 - *John was about to write down what the seven thunders said, but was told, Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.*
- The *angel... raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by God himself ...There will be no more delay!*
- The Scroll.
 - *John was told to Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel...*
 - *The angel told him, Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.*
 - *John did as he was told and his stomach turned sour*

Revelation 10:10-11

I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

- John obeyed the angel's instruction to *eat the scroll*, and though it was *sweet as honey* in his *mouth*, it soured in his *stomach*.
 - This seemed to symbolize the *two-edged* nature of the Word of God, "*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12).
 - John was not the first to experience this type of vision.
 - Ezekiel. "*Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe. (Ezekiel 2:9-10) And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. (Ezekiel 3:1-4)*

But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. (Ezekiel 3:7)

Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says,' whether they listen or fail to listen.' (Ezekiel 3:11)

- The Word of God, which David called, “*sweeter than honey*” (Psalm 19:10) is sometimes difficult to digest.
- John was told, *You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.*
 - In other words, John was obligated to deliver this difficult message – the Book of Revelation.
 - **How do you think the seven churches in Asia Minor reacted when they received their letters?**
 - It is likely this message was received like other messages are received even today – some would receive it and take appropriate action, some would be terrified by it, and others would reject it and John entirely.

Revelation 11:1–2

¹ I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

- Remember, we are still waiting for the seventh trumpet. The sixth trumpet sounded all the way back at 9:13. 10:1-11:14 are parenthetically placed between the trumpets.
- Chapter 11 is one of the more difficult sections to interpret in the whole Book of Revelation. Our best strategy is, as it has been, to take everything literally unless the text leads us to do otherwise.
 - John was given a ruler and told, *Go measure the temple of God and the altar... but exclude the outer court... because it has been given to the Gentiles.*
 - This seems to refer to an actual Temple, more specifically the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, rebuilt in the city of Jerusalem in fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy, “*Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place*” (Daniel 9:24).
 - Once the Temple was rebuilt, orthodox Jews would have started worshiping and offering sacrifices according to Mosaic Law, probably for most of the first half of the Tribulation.
 - However, the Temple court and the city of Jerusalem were *given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.*
 - Rather than trying to put an exact time frame on this (42 months = 3 1/2 years) take it as half of the Tribulation. If the Tribulation is a 7-year period as some believe then 3 1/2 years is half of it. If it is some other length of time, 42 months still symbolizes half.
 - This likely refers to the second half of Tribulation — note the tense.

- John was told to *measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers* because they all still belonged to God.

Revelation 11:3–6

3 *And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.* **4** *They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”* **5** *If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.* **6** *They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*

- The one speaking here is still the *voice* John heard in 10:4, 8. Since this voice has authority in heaven we can assume it is God.
- The *two witnesses*...
 - Some scholars try very hard to identify these *witnesses* as historical people like Moses and Elijah, or Elijah and Enoch. While they do seem to be actual people, there is no definitive textual evidence to identify them.
 - ...*they will prophesy for 1,260 days*... 1,260 days = 42 months, or 3 1/2 years = half of the Tribulation, probably the first half.
 - ...*clothed in sackcloth* — a symbol of sorrow and mourning.
 - The description, *They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands* refers to Zechariah’s prophecy, “Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” I asked the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” He answered, “Do you not know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I replied. So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty... Then I asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?” Again I asked him, “What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?” He replied, “Do you not know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I said. So he said, “These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.” (Zechariah 4:1-6, 11-14).
 - They are protected with *fire coming from their mouths* and they have power to shut off the rain and *strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want*.

Revelation 11:7–10

7 *Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.* **8** *Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.* **9** *For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.* **10** *The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.*

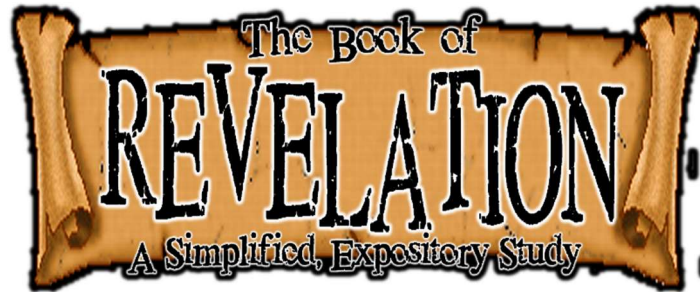
- ...when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.
 - Wait a minute. Who is this *beast that comes up from the Abyss*?
 - Actually, we already met him, *I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. (6:1-2)*
 - He was held in the Abyss until he was released with the opening of the first of the seven seals.
 - the beast is not the devil. By the way, there is also a *false prophet* coming, but I don’t want to spoil the story.
- Notice how much people hate the two witnesses.
 - Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city — which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt — where also their Lord was crucified.
 - Their bodies will be laid out in Jerusalem, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt... **Why do you think it is called that?**
 - How bad do things have to be for the former City of David to be known as Sodom and Egypt?
 - Sodom was destroyed because it was so wicked ([Genesis 19:1-26](#)).
 - Egypt was the place Israel was held in slavery for generations ([Genesis 1-12](#)).
- For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.
 - The time will come when people will not tolerate biblical teaching. In fact, it will make them angry and violent.
 - Paul told Timothy, “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

Revelation 11:11–14

11 But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. 13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

- after three and a half days the two witnesses will be resurrected. However, they do not prophesy anymore — they are taken up to heaven in a cloud.
- a severe earthquake wiped out a tenth of the city and killed 7,000 people.

- It won't last long, but *the survivors were terrified and gave glory to God*.
- This is the end of *the second woe*.



Lesson 12 – December 1, 2021

REVIEW

Chapter 1 – Do not be afraid.

- *On the Lord's Day John was in the Spirit and heard a loud voice like a trumpet (v. 10). The voice told him, Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea (v. 11).*
- *John had a vision of Jesus among the seven lampstands... dressed in a long robe... and with a golden sash around his chest. His hair was like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance (vv. 13-15, 16). In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword (v. 16).*
- *Jesus told John, Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches (vv. 17-20).*

Chapters 2-3 – Letters to the Seven Churches (and to us)

- Descriptions of Jesus:
 - *...him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands (2:1).*
 - *...him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again (2:8).*
 - *...who has the sharp, double-edged sword (2:12).*
 - *...the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze (2:18).*
 - *...him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars (3:1).*
 - *...him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open (3:7).*
 - *...the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation (3:14).*
- Each of the seven sections in chapters 2-3 contains specific statements from Jesus to the individual churches
 - *EPHESUS: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.*
 - *SMYRNA: Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.*
 - *PERGAMUM: You tolerate sin! Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (2:13-16)*
 - *THYATIRA: Some of you tolerate false prophets. I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come. (2:19-25)*

- SARDIS: *...you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! ...I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.*
- PHILADELPHIA: *I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.*
- LAODICEA: *...you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*

Chapter 4 – The Throne in Heaven.

- John saw *a throne in heaven*, and God the Father was sitting on it. The throne was encircled by a bright rainbow (v. 3) and surrounded by *twenty-four other thrones* on which were seated *...twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads* (vv. 4-5).
- Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit was in front of it, represented by *seven lamps. In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.* (vv. 5-6)
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures... covered with eyes in front and in back* (v. 6).
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'* (vv. 6-7)
 - The *four living creatures* were circling the throne, worshiping God. As they did *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...they lay their crowns before the throne...* (vv. 8-11)
 *While many have tried to assign metaphorical or prophetic meaning to the *four living creatures*, it is quite possible they are literal creatures that exist only in heaven.

Chapter 5 – The Scroll and the Lamb.

- God the Father is holding *a scroll ...in his right hand*. There is *writing on both sides* of the scroll, and it is *sealed with seven seals*. (v. 1)
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside*. (v. 4)
- *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."* (v. 5)
 *This can only be Jesus Christ!

Chapter 6 – The Seals.

The Seals

NOTE: This is the beginning of the Tribulation, that period which follows the Rapture described in Matthew 24:39-44; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:1. Because Christians will be raptured or taken up before these events and because Jesus promised, *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth* (3:10), we do not have to fear the Tribulation.

- The First Seal (6:1-2) The rider on a white horse ...held a bow, and he was given a crown, and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.
- The Second Seal (6:3-4) The rider on a fiery red ...horse... was given power to take pace from the earth and to make people kill each other.
- The Third Seal (6:5-6) The rider on a black horse... holding a pair of scales in his hand. ...two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!
- The Fourth Seal (6:7-8) The rider on a pale horse... named Death and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.
- The Fifth Seal (6:9-11) Revealed the the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.
- The Sixth Seal (6:12-17) There was a great earthquake... The sun turned black... The whole moon turned blood red... the stars in the sky fell to earth... The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up... every mountain and island was removed from its place. The people hid in caves and... the mountains and the rocks... to fall on them and hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Chapter 7 – The Remnant of Israel and the Martyrs.

- John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth...
- A fifth angel sealed 144,000 Israelites.
- ,,a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, stood before the throne and before the Lamb. This is the moment when the martyrs under the altar (6:11) are rewarded as promised with all those martyred during the Tribulation. Because they are martyrs, they are given special recognition.

Chapter 8 – The Trumpets begin.

- The Seventh Seal (continued from c. 7) ...there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
- The silence ended when another angel ...hurled ...the golden censor... filled with fire from the altar ...to the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightening, and an earthquake.
- The First Trumpet (8:7) ...hail and fire mixed with blood ...was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.
- The Second Trumpet (8:8-9) ...something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.
- The Third Trumpet (8:10-11) ...a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water ...the name of the star is Wormwood... a third of the waters turned bitter and many people died from the contaminated water.
- The Fourth Trumpet (8:12-13) ...a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

- John heard an eagle that was flying over call out in a loud voice, 'Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!

Chapter 9 – The remaining trumpets.

- The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12) John saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.
 - This is the devil or Lucifer (Luke 10:18-20; Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - *the star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.* This is a bottomless pit, a kind of holding cell in hell, where the beast and the worst of the demons are currently held (Luke 8:27; Revelation 11:3-7, 17:8, 20:1-3).
 - When Lucifer opened *the Abyss, smoke rose from it...* so much so *the sun and sky were darkened* and locusts came out of the smoke.
 - They looked like horses prepared for battle,
 - They wore something like crowns of gold
 - ...their faces resembled human faces, their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
 - They had breastplates like breastplates of iron...
 - ...the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
 - They had tails with stingers like scorpions...
 - The locusts might be demons. They are organized under a king ...the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).
 - they were forbidden to harm the grass of the earth, or any plant or tree and they were specifically told to torture ...those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months... the people will long to die, but death will elude them.
- The Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21) John heard a voice coming from the altar that is before God.
 - The voice said to the sixth angel ...release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates and the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of humanity.
 - These are fallen angels.
 - There is no point in trying to set a location based on the modern Euphrates River because much has changed on planet Earth since the Garden of Eden and the Fall.
 - These angels will kill a third of humanity and lead an army of 200 million mounted troops (twice ten thousand times ten thousand) riding horses with heads ...that resembled the heads of lions... fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths and their tails were like snakes having heads with which they inflict injury.
 - The rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent...

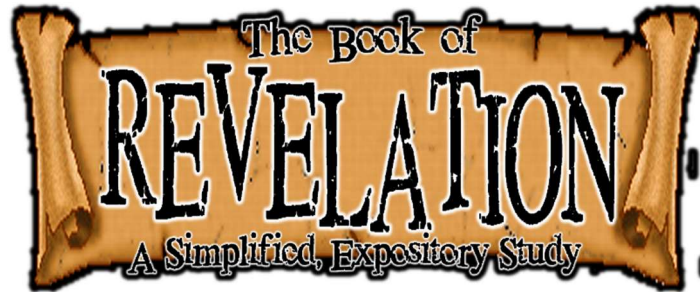
Chapter 10 – The halfway point

- Many scholars believe chapter 10 marks the middle of the period we call The Tribulation.
- The mighty angel.
 - *He was robed in a cloud with a rainbow about his head... his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll that was open in his hand. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ...he gave a loud sound like the roar of a lion.*
 - *When the mighty angel spoke ...the voices of the seven thunders spoke.*
 - *John was about to write down what the seven thunders said, but was told, Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.*
- The Scroll.
 - *John was told to Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel...*
 - *The angel told him, Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.*

Chapter 11 – The Temple and the Two Witnesses.

- NOTE: We are still waiting for the seventh trumpet. The sixth trumpet sounded all the way back at 9:13. 10:1-11:14 are parenthetically placed between the trumpets.
- Chapter 11 is one of the more difficult sections to interpret in the whole Book of Revelation.
- John was given a ruler and told, *Go measure the temple of God and the altar... but exclude the outer court... because it has been given to the Gentiles.*
 - This seems to refer to an actual Temple, specifically the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, in the city of Jerusalem.
 - Once the Temple is rebuilt, orthodox Jews will reestablish Mosaic worship and sacrifices, probably for most of the first half of the Tribulation.
 - The Temple court and the city of Jerusalem will be *given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.* This likely refers to the second half of Tribulation — note the tense.
 - John was told to *measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers* because they all still belonged to God.
- The two witnesses...
 - While they do seem to be actual people, there is no definitive textual evidence to identify them.
 - *...they will prophesy for 1,260 days...* 1,260 days = 42 months, or 3 1/2 years = half of the Tribulation, probably the first half.
 - *...clothed in sackcloth* — a symbol of sorrow and mourning.
 - They are protected with *fire coming from their mouths* and they have power to shut off the rain and *strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*
 - *...when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.*
 - *People hate the two witnesses.*
 - *Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city — which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt — where also their Lord was crucified.*

- Sodom was destroyed because it was so wicked ([Genesis 19:1-26](#)).
- Egypt was the place Israel was held in slavery for generations ([Genesis 1-12](#)).
- ...*after three and a half days* the two witnesses will be resurrected. However, they do not prophesy anymore — they are taken *up to heaven in a cloud*.
- *a severe earthquake* wiped out *a tenth of the city* and killed 7,000 people.
- It won't last long, but *the survivors were terrified and gave glory to God*.
- This is the end of *the second woe*.



Lesson 13 – December 8, 2021

Revelation 12:1–2

¹ *A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.* ² *She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.*

- NOTE: This is *a great sign*, therefore it is not to be taken literally, but interpreted figuratively. This is the first of five *signs* we will see in chapters 12-19.
- There is nearly universal consensus among biblical scholars that this *woman* represents Israel.
 - This parallels [Genesis 37:9-11](#) where the sun and the moon referred to Jacob and Rachel, Joseph's parents.
 - The *crown of twelve stars* represent the 12 sons of Jacob who became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Revelation 12:3–4

³ *Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.* ⁴ *Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.*

- NOTE: This is *another sign*, therefore we are still interpreting figuratively.
- **Who is the enormous red dragon?**
 - “I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns” ([Daniel 7:7-8](#)).
 - The *dragon* is Lucifer or the devil.
 - We will discuss the *ten horns and seven crowns* a little later, but it has to do with the *beast* from [Daniel 7](#) and [Revelation 13](#).
 - To understand vv. 3-4 we need vv. 7-9, *Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*
 - This seems best understood as a flashback to a time when Satan was *in heaven* and a *war broke out* there.
 - Isaiah wrote about Lucifer's fall, “How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to the

heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit" ([Isaiah 14:12-15](#)).

- Jesus also spoke about it when he told his followers, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" ([Luke 10:18](#)).
- Peter wrote about where the dragon is now, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings" ([1 Peter 5:8-9](#)).
- The dragon's tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth...
- ...the woman ...was about to give birth and the dragon wanted to devour her child the moment he was born.

Revelation 12:5-6

5 *She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.*

- The woman gave birth to a son ...who 'will rule all the nations with an iron scepter...
- **Who do you think this male child is?**
 - Remember, Jesus said, *To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father (2:26-27).*
 - Later in Revelation, John wrote, *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True... He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God... Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." ...On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (19:11-16).*
 - *And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.*
 - This references Jesus' ascension.
 - "When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God" ([Luke 24:50-53](#)).
 - "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God" ([Mark 16:19](#)).
- The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God...

Revelation 12:10-12

10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you*

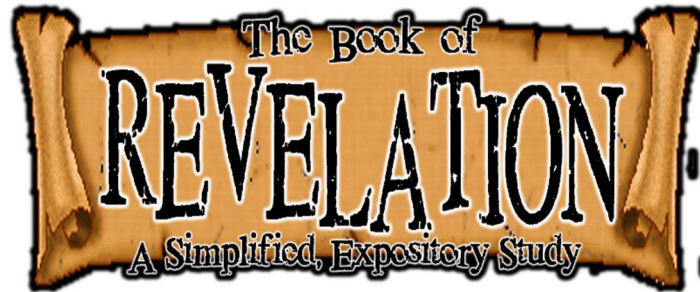
who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

- John heard a voice:
 - *the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah... have come.*
 - *the accuser ...has been hurled down.*
 - **Where is the devil?**
 - *He is filled with fury because he knows his time is short.*
- If you hear nothing else during this study, hear this: the devil is defeated. The time will come when he is put down once and for all and *he knows that his time is short*, but he has already lost.

Revelation 12:13–17

13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. 15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

- *the dragon... pursued the woman ...but, she was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness...*
- *the serpent... tried to overtake the woman and sweep her away with a torrential flood. but the earth prevented it.*
- *the dragon was enraged... and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring...*
 - *“In the whole land,” declares the LORD, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God’” ([Zechariah 13:8-9](#)).*
 - Remember, *Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. (7:4)*
 - These are the ones *who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus* — the 144,000 are Messianic Jews!
 - These are the ones who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus — the 144,000 are Messianic Jews!



Lesson 15 – December 15, 2021

Revelation 13:1–2

¹ *The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.*

² *The beast I saw resembled a leopard but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.*

- **WHO REMEMBERS WHO THE DRAGON IS?**

- *Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (12:7-9)*
- *... an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. (12:3-4)*
- *When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child... (12:13) Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus. (12:17)*

- **The Beast:**

- *...coming out of the sea...*
- *It had ten horns and seven heads...*
 - *ten crowns on its horns...*
 - *a blasphemous name... on each head.*
- *The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne with great authority...*
 - This is anti-Christ coming into power.
 - Remember, I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. (6:1-2)
 - Anti-Christ had influence, but no real power until now.
 - Notice, he held a bow, but no arrows, and was given a crown...
 - he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest, but did not conquer anything (until now).
 - Many scholars believe the anti-Christ will rule 10 gentile (possibly European) nations based on Daniel 7:23-24, “The fourth beast is a fourth

kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time” (Daniel 7:23-25).

Revelation 13:3–4

³ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. ⁴ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

- The seven could represent the remaining rulers, one of which seemed to have a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed.
- The whole world was filled with wonder (because of the healed ruler, which the beast probably healed) and followed the beast...
- People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast...

Revelation 13:5–10 NIV

⁵ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷ It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. ⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear. ¹⁰ “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

- *The beast uttered proud words and blasphemies and exercised authority for forty-two months — that’s the last half of Tribulation.*
- *...was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them... as well as every tribe, people, language, and nation.*
- *All the inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast... everyone whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life...*
- *This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.*

Revelation 13:11–14

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

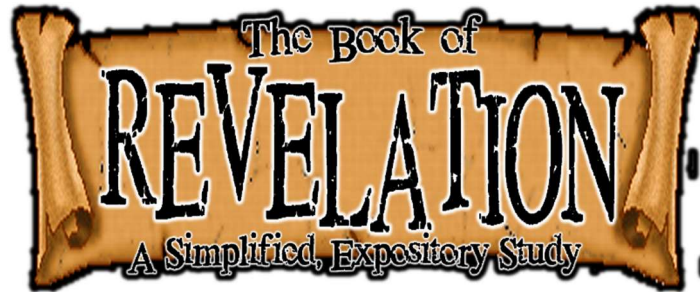
- a second beast came out of the earth...
 - it had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon...

- *It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf...*
- *it made the inhabitants of the earth worship the first beast and performed great signs...*
- *It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast...*
- **WHO IS THIS GUY?!**
 - *But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf... (Revelation 19:20)*
 - *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown... (Revelation 20:10).*
 - *Think of this as an unholy trinity.*

Revelation 13:15–18

15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

- *The second beast brought the image of the first beast to life, even making it speak... and caused all who refused to worship the image to be killed.*
- *...it forced all people... to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name or the beast or the number of its name.*
- *That number is 666.*



Lesson 16 – January 5, 2022

REVIEW – Chapter 13

First, let's be sure we keep everyone straight:

- *The dragon* is satan, the devil, Lucifer.
 - He was thrown out of heaven after a failed rebellion in which he sought to sit on God's throne.
 - A third of the angels in heaven followed him and were also thrown down.
 - After he was thrown out of heaven, he pursued God's people and attempted to prevent the Messiah from coming.
- *The Beast* – the antichrist.
 - He received power from satan.
 - As a world ruler, he set up an economic and political system on earth.
- The false prophet – the *second beast*.
 - He performed miracles and propagated the beast's message.
 - He gave a voice to the image of the beast so that it could speak.
 - He forced those who worshiped the image of the beast to receive the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:1

¹ Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

- As we begin with chapter 14, we can accurately interpret this as 'the beginning of the end' on earth.
- Chapters 14-20 describe the events that will bring about final judgement and ultimate destruction on earth.
- There are two important players in the drama that is developing:
 - Of course, *the Lamb* is Jesus himself.
 - This has been a description of Jesus since John the Baptist declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)!
 - He was described that way in chapter 5 as well, "*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... He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. ...And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and*

people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth'" (Revelation 5:6-10).

- We know who the 144,000 are as well because we met them in chapter 7, *"After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.*
- John saw the 144,000 and Jesus *standing on Mount Zion.*
 - This is probably referring to a location on earth because Mount Zion is a hill **in Jerusalem**, located just outside the walls of the Old City. It is the closest accessible site to the ancient Jewish Temple.
 - It could also be a vision of a scene in heaven as Jesus and the 144,000 prepare for battle because John will write later, *"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. 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. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 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"* (19:11-15).
 - Whether on earth or in heaven, Jesus and the 144,000 are preparing for battle — a battle whose outcome is certain.

Revelation 14:2–5

² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

- Now John heard an amazing sound from heaven...
 - *like the roar of rushing waters*
 - *like a loud peal of thunder*
 - *like that of harpists playing their harps*
- This passage is focused on the 144,000.
 - *they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders*
 - No one else can sing this song
 - The 144,000 are pure, *they remained virgins*
 - *they follow the Lamb wherever he goes*
 - *they are blameless*

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

- The First Angel
 - he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth
 - Remember, there has always only been one gospel.
 - The angel shouted, *Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgement has come...*
 - Paul wrote, “*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 1:18-20).
- This is it — the last presentation of the gospel and the last opportunity people have to follow God.

Revelation 14:8

⁸ A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

- The Second Angel
 - What is he talking about?
 - *Babylon* is a biblical description of the world of the beast. The economic and political system he uses to rule the world.
- In context, this seems to be a prophetic description of the impending fall of the beast and his system.

Revelation 14:9–12

⁹ A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ¹⁰ they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” ¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

- The Third Angel
 - “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath...”
 - Notice God’s fury has not yet been released — it is coming — it has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath, but the cup has not been poured out ...yet.
- the people of God who are still on earth will need patient endurance...

Revelation 14:13

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

- Notice the contrast between, *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on ...they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them* in this passage; and, *“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath...”*
- We are talking about a difference of *they will rest from their labor*, and *they will drink the wine of God’s fury...*

Revelation 14:14–16

¹⁴ I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

- John saw *one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand*.
 - Some see this figure as Jesus because he often referred to himself as the son of man.
 - Others see this figure as an angel because John wrote, *like a son of man...*
- Regardless of who is swinging the sickle judgement is coming.

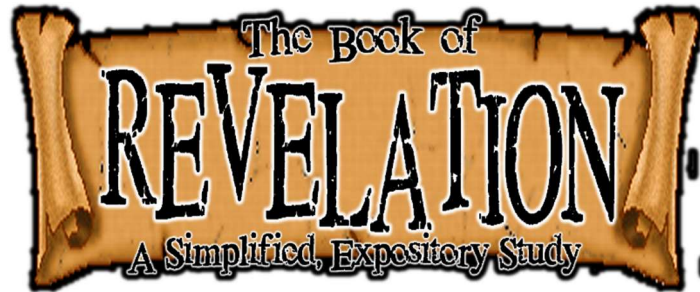
Revelation 14:17–20

¹⁷ Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. ²⁰ They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

- Where the previous harvest seems to be one of judgement, this one appears to be punishment.
- *The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.*
- Again, this seems to be speaking of judgement and punishment that is coming because chapter 16 records the seven bowls of God’s final wrath.

SUMMARY

1. Jesus and the 144,000 — God’s remnant of Israel.
2. The last invitation.
3. The fall of the beast and his system.
4. The doom of those who worshiped the beast and took his mark.
5. Judgement and punishment.



Lesson 17 – January 12, 2022

REVIEW

- John had a vision of heaven where the 144,000 Israelites sang a song no one else could sing. They were with Jesus and the four living creatures.
- He saw an angel who proclaimed *the eternal gospel to those who live on the earth* and warned *the hour of his judgement has come*.
- A *second angel* announced the fall of *Babylon the Great*, the economic and political system through which the beast ruled the world.
- A *third angel* warned *anyone who worship the beast and its image and receives its mark* will be punished with the *full strength ...of God's fury*.

SUMMARY

1. Jesus and the 144,000 — God's remnant of Israel.
2. The last invitation.
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4. The doom of those who worshiped the beast and took his mark.
5. Judgement and punishment.

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- Where the previous harvest seems to be one of judgement, this one appears to be punishment.
- *The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.*
- Again, this seems to be speaking of judgement and punishment that is coming because chapter 16 records the seven bowls of God’s final wrath.

Revelation 15:1–4

¹ I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God ³ and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. ⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

- As the events of chapter 14 are taking place, John saw in heaven another marvelous sign...
 - He saw *seven angels with the seven last plagues...*
 - He saw *what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire...*
 - He saw *those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name...*
 - *They held harps... and sang the son of... Moses and of the Lamb...*
 - *They worshiped God.*
- God is holy and everyone will worship him.

Revelation 15:5–8

⁵ After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. ⁶ Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. ⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

- John saw the temple ...in heaven
- the seven angels with the seven plagues came out of the temple...
- one of the four living creatures gave the angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God...

- God filled ...the temple so no one could enter ...until the seven plagues ...were completed.

Revelation 16:1–2

¹ *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”* ² *The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.*

- Everything speeds up and gets more intense because this is the completion of God’s wrath.
- The Angels were instructed to *pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth...*
- The First angel - *poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast...*

Revelation 16:3

³ *The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.*

- The second angel - *poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood... and every living thing in the sea died.*
- Is this starting to sound familiar? Remember the plagues God inflicted on Egypt (Exodus 8-11) - water turning to blood was the first of 10 (Exodus 8:14-24).

Revelation 16:4–7

⁴ *The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.* ⁵ *Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; ⁶ for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”* ⁷ *and I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”*

- the third angel - *poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood...*
- What do you think the angel meant when he said, *‘You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.’?*

Revelation 16:8–9

⁸ *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire.* ⁹ *They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.*

- the fourth angel - *poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire...*
- *they cursed the name of God ...and refused to repent and glorify him...*

Revelation 16:10–11

¹⁰ *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony* ¹¹ *and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.*

- the fifth angel - *poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness...*
- *People gnawed their tongues in agony...*
- These folks are suffering!
- Still, *they cursed the God of heaven... and refused to repent...*

Revelation 16:12–14

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. ¹³ Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

- *the sixth angel* - poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water dried up...
- This was done to *prepare the way for the kings from the East...*
 - The Euphrates is a natural barrier between Israel and the surrounding area, and Asia.
 - This is not China! Note the word kings is plural. This is everyone.

Revelation 16:15

¹⁵ ***“Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”***

- This is a warning directly from Jesus.
- Pay attention!