

7-15-2026 – HEAVEN – Week 6

Conclude study of Rev. - Jesus showed John heaven; messages to 7 churches.

Purposes: 1 - to **tell us God wins! He's the victor.** We have an enemy.

2 - to **urge believers to be a witness. Judgment day is coming.**

3 - to **encourage believers to live holy lives.**

Jesus is watching. He sees. He knows.

Already covered 5: **1 – Ephesus; 2 – Smyrna; 3 – Pergamum 4 – Thyatira
5 – Sardis** (Rev. 3:1-6)

Rewards: Crowns; Hidden Manna; white stone w/New Name; to Rule;

Morning star (be w/ Jesus); Dressed in white; Name in Book of Life

6 – Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) Only remains are left. Philadelphia: history of earthquakes; strong buildings crucial to survival. So Jesus uses their value for physical stability for encouraging spiritual endurance. Yes He sees us. Knows!

⁷ “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ I am coming soon. **Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.** ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Message to us – First, Jesus affirms for us He is the Son of God.

“who holds / key of David” – Keys signify authority & responsibility over Kingdom

Jesus has access to God & control over all; from royal lineage of David.

Then, **praise** for their deeds. Active Faith; active service. Knows our **deeds**.

- Our actions are seen & valued by Jesus. What we do matters.

⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

Isaiah 22:22 – “I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David.

What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”

- **“Open door”** symbolizes opportunities that God provides.
- Paul referred to open doors as opportunities for spreading the Gospel
 - **Colossians 4:3** – “pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ....”
 - **1 Corinthians 16:9** – “because a great door for effective work has opened to me, even though many oppose me.”

“No one can shut” – Assurance for us. God is sovereign. Absolute control.

He creates our opportunities; He opens our door to Heaven. Nobody/shut it.

“I know that U have little strength... yet you kept my word & haven’t denied my name.”

- Held tight to faith even w/ “little strength” . . . power/few resources.
 - Our witness for Jesus isn’t dependent on power/\$.
 - **2 Corinthians 12:9** – “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.”

“I will make them come & fall down at your feet & acknowledge that I have loved you.”

- **God is on the Throne; His Justice is sure & certain!**
 - **Psm 23:5** – “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” There will be a **day of Vindication**.
 - **Those who have not loved you will see that God does!**
 - Pauper will be the prince. Joseph: from the Pit to the Palace.

Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

We can lose crowns . . . but not salvation.

Crowns are rewards... depends on what we do... Hold on, don't give up.

- Bible lists at least **five crowns** that will be awarded in heaven:
 - **Victor's Crown** - awarded to those who discipline their minds through the study of God's Word and prayer (1 Corinthians 9:25–27).
 - **Crown of Rejoicing** - given to those who have led others to Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
 - **Crown of Righteousness** - given to those who have a longing for the Lord Jesus—who look for Jesus' return (2 Timothy 4:8).
 - **Crown of Life** – given to those who have endured & triumphed over trial & temptation & persecution (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
 - **Crown of Glory** - awarded to the faithful shepherds of God's people and to Christian leaders (1 Peter 5:4).

I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

- Pillar symbolizes strength, stability, and permanence.
- Old Testament image – temple: dwelling place of God among His people
- So this promise suggests that an **overcomer** will have a **permanent place** in God's presence; eternal security & honor. **Unbroken fellowship**

7 – Laodicea (Rev. 3:14) - City had a real-life water issue. **Colossae**, 10 miles to E, had a good supply of cold, mountain water. **Hierapolis**, 6 miles to N, was famous for its therapeutic hot springs. **Laodicea** had to import water via aqueduct from a source **6 miles** to the **S**, resulting in mineral-ridden, tepid, lukewarm water that was neither cold & refreshing nor hot & therapeutic.

¹⁴ “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to

spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to **sit with me on my throne**, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Message to us – notice – no praise. **neither cold nor hot. No in between w/ J**

- This is spiritual complacency /indifference; lack passion for Jesus, life.
- Have no desire "(hot") & aren't "cold" – see need for awakening
- [Matthew 24:12](#) - Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold." Yes, we've entered the Last Days.
- [Romans 12:11](#) – Paul urges not to lack zeal or "be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."

○ Jesus wants **wholehearted devotion**. **Love God w/ all heart/mind**

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'

They've relied on their own wealth. Ignorant, and don't know it.

○ True wealth is Heavenly wealth. What lasts... not our \$.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent."

- Jesus wants better for us. He **doesn't give up** on us. **Still knocking**.
- Rebuke & discipline are tools used by God to correct and guide us.
- He loves us. He wants us w/ Him & rewarded. He wants us making a difference here – helping others realize their need for Jesus.

²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.

- Repent. It's not too late. Never too late.

- Jesus gives that invitation to us . . . and to share with others.
 - It requires a response. We have to open the door. Be open.
 - He wants us at His banquet table. Our choice.

Heaven. Our future home, our forever home.

Rev. 17 – Wage war against the Lamb. Brief. Might last one hour.

- ¹² “The ten horns you saw are **ten kings** who have not yet received a kingdom, but who **for one hour** will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will **wage war** against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—**and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.**”
- **Rev 18:17** – “In **one hour** such great wealth has been brought to ruin!”
- **Rev. 19** - after the battle – Jesus will ride a white horse, on his head are **many crowns**.
 - ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. – **Rev. 19:14.**
 - We’re w/ Jesus at the 1-hr battle.
 - Beast was captured & the false prophet who had performed signs on its behalf & deluded people to receive mark / beast.
- **Rev. 20** – Next comes the 1,000 yr reign of Jesus.

Rev. 20 – Christ’s millennial reign, then Devil’s end.

Vs 4 – “They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison (short time!) He’ll again gather for battle -many, “like the sand on the seashore”.

⁹ But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown.

Rev. 20 – Judgment v.11-14

- ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were

opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.”

- There is a judgment day coming. Always know that.

Rev. 21 - Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^(b) or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

- The Holy City comes down, shining w/ the Glory of God.
- City has 12 gates (3 on ea side). Gates have names of 12 tribes of Israel; gates are made from a single pearl. Streets of gold (^{vs 21})

¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated w/ every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

There is no need for sun/moon . . . Glory of God gives light, Lamb is its lamp.

Rev. 22 – Eden Restored. Crystal clear water flows in the River of Life. River flows from God’s throne thru middle of City. Each side of River is Tree of Life.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”