

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

Introduction—Lesson#1

1. Revelation is a “Picture Book.”

—*Revelation 1:1-2* “Saw”

2. Revelation is an “Apocalyptic” book.

—Apocalypse = to unveil or reveal something

—Purpose:

1. Symbols were already understood in that day
 2. Symbols draw a more dramatic picture than words
 3. People remember what they “see” longer than what they’ve “heard”
 4. Picture makes a point quicker than an essay.
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3. Revelation is an “Imminent” book.

—*Revelation 1:1-3; 22:6, 12, 20-21*

—“soon” = speed, haste, it is to happen quickly

—“near” = “in your hand”, present

—Ephesians 2:13, 17 “brought near through the blood of Christ”

—“Sealed” VS “Unsealed” book

—*Daniel 12:4,9,12 (sealed) VS Revelation 22:10*

—*Matthew 24:15 / Luke 21:20*

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

Introduction—Lesson#2

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES:

1. Remember that Revelation is written primarily for the encouragement and edification of Christians during the 1st Century.
2. Remember that the book is primarily in SYMBOLS rather than ordinary speech.
3. Remember that the book uses Old Testament terminology to present a New Testament meaning.
4. Remember that the series of visions need to be seen as a WHOLE without picking apart all the details to find unnecessary symbolism.
5. Remember that Revelation was written to appeal to man's imagination.

(Rev. 1:12-13; 1:20; 13:1; 17:9-10, 12)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

* **The author:** John

* **The recipients:** Christians of Asai Minor

(Rev. 1:1,4, 9)

THE PROPHETIC PRINCIPLE:

*The book of Revelation is a book of prophecy that can ONLY be explained by God.

*The biblical view of prophecy is more about FORTH-TELLING—telling the judgment of God in the immediate or sometimes the distant future. It is not always FORETELLING what is going to happen.

*Prophecy is not to be PRIVATELY explained.

*Allow SCRIPTURE to interpret SCRIPTURE.

(Exodus 4:12, 16; 7:1; Micah 3:8; Rev. 1:19; 7:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:19; Ezekiel 9:1-9; 2:8-3:3, 14)

THE DATE OF THE BOOK

*78-96 AD

(See Daniel 7 as compared to Revelation 13 & 17)

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

*The purpose of the Revelation was to cause and maintain faithfulness unto death.

*To demonstrate the ultimate victory of Christ.

*To demonstrate the victory of the saints undergoing persecution.

(Rev. 19-22; Rev. 7:13-17; 6:9-10; Hebrews 12:22-23a; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 22:1; 20:14-15)

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Jewish Numerology—Lesson#3

NUMEROLOGY:

ONE = Unity and Singularity (*Gen. 2:24; Deut. 6:4; John 17:20-22*)

TWO = Capability, Reliability, Sufficiency (*Gen. 7:9; Ex. 31:18; Deut. 17:1-7; Ecc. 4:9-12*)

THREE = God’s number (Father, Son, Spirit)

- 3 Major feasts
- “These three men” Noah, Daniel, Job (*Ezek. 14:14-20*)
- Amos’ eight “3 transgressions”
- Jonah and the fish
- Jesus in the tomb
- Jesus temptations

FOUR = Man’s world—denotes completeness in man’s world

- 4 rivers flowing from Eden
- 4 corners of the earth (*Isaiah 11:12*)
- 4 winds (*Jer. 49:36; Ezek. 37:9; Dan. 7:2*)
- God’s 4 judgments (*Ezek. 14:21ff*)
- 4 gospels

*Note also multiples of 4 x 10:

- 40 days and nights in the flood
- 40 days of spying out Canaan
- 40 days at Sinai
- 40 years in the wilderness
- 40 stripes (*Deut. 25:1-3*)
- 40 days of Jesus’ fasting
- Jesus seen for 40 days after resurrection (*Acts 1:3*)

FIVE = Represents human completeness

- Five fingers / five toes

SEVEN = Perfect Completion— combination of the perfect divine number “3” and the perfect world number “4”— God and man in harmony

- 7 days of the week
- 7 lamps on the tabernacle lamp stand (*Ex. 25:37*)
- Feast held for 7 days (*Passover - Lev. 23:4-8 / Tabernacles - Lev. 23:33-43*)
- 7th year as the Sabbatical year (*Deut. 15*)
- Blood of the sin offering sprinkled 7 times (*Lev. 4:6; 17*)
- Leper cleansed 7 days and sprinkled 7 times (*Lev. 14:1-9*)
- Naaman dipped 7 times (*2 Kings 5:10-14*)
- Jericho circled 7 times on the 7th day (*Joshua 6*)

* Multiples of 7 x 10:

- 70 helpers for Moses
- 70 members of the Sanhedrin
- 70 years in exile
- 70 sent out by Jesus

SIX = Imperfect, short of perfect, closely associated with man (created on the 6th day), sinister, Best understood in relation to “7”, doom, failure (much like our “13” today)

THREE & HALF = A time when evil has been allowed to take control; representative of an “incomplete” period of time (half of “7” which is perfect)

- Variations:
 - 42 months (3 1/2 years) (*Rev. 11:2; 13:5*)
 - 1260 days (3 1/2 years) (*Rev. 11:3; 12:6*)
 - 3 1/2 days (*Rev. 11:9*)
 - "Time and times and half a time" (*Rev. 12:14; Dan. 7:25; 12:7*)

EIGHT = A new beginning (you have come to 7 (perfect) and begun again

- 8 saved in the flood
- Circumcision on the 8th day (*Lev. 12:1-3*)
- Priests make offering on the 8th day (*Ezek. 43:27*)
- Pentecost is 1st day following 7 sevens (Feast of Weeks), beginning of 8th week

TEN = Absolute human completeness (5 doubled), ten fingers and toes. Spiritually: the law of Moses had 10 commandments. Any multiples of 10 stand for completeness along with the meaning of the number used.

TWELVE = Organized religion of the world.

- 12 tribes of Israel
- 12 gates of the Holy City (both Jerusalem and the heavenly city pictured in Rev.)
- 12 Apostles

144,000 = God’s Spiritual Kingdom

- 12 x 12 x 1000
 - These are multiples of perfect numbers to equal all the “perfect” or “sealed” Christians in the day of judgement—the Church! (Rev. 14:3)

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Introduction / Rev. 1:1-20—Lesson#4

THE INTRODUCTION

A. Pronouncement of Blessing (Rev. 1:1-3)

1. The **NATURE** of the book...
 - a. **Uncovering = Apocalyptic**
—“**Apocalypse**” = “**Apo**” —from; “**Calypsos**” —cover / literally means to take the cover off.
 - b. **Immediate** = “must soon take place
 - c. **Symbolic** - by the Angel

2. The **SOURCE** of the book...
 - a. Word of God
 - b. Testimony of Jesus

3. The **OUTCOME** of the book...
To make one to be a:
 - a. **Lector**—Read loud
 - b. **Auditor**—Understand
 - c. **Disciple**—Treasure and follow

B. The Message (Rev. 1:4-7)

1. **Destination—v4a**
 - a. 7 real churches of that day
 - b. Typical of all churches in the world, even today.

2. **Content—v4b**
 - a. Blessings come **BEFORE** visions
 - b. Grace (*Romans 3:21-31; Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-12, 3:4-7*)
 - c. Peace (*Romans 5:1-5; Eph. 2:12-22; Romans 8:1-39*)

3. **Source—v4c-5**

- a. Eternal God (*Exodus 3*)
- b. Holy Spirit (*Isaiah 11:2; 1 Cor. 3:16*)
- c. Jesus Christ (*Psalms 2, 89, 110*)

***Rule of Nations:**

- Appointment (*Dan. 2:20-21*)
- Nations (*Isaiah 10:5-7; Jer. 5:51; Hab. 1*)
- Sword, Famine, Wild beasts, Plague (*Ezek. 14:21*)
- Prayers of the saints (*1 Tim. 2:1-2*)

4. **Effect—v5-6**

- a. Love
- b. Freedom from sin
- c. Service
- d. Praise

5. **Judgment—v7**

- a. Visible
- b. Sorrowful
- c. Certain

C. Admonition to Trust God (Rev. 1:8)

- 1. **Alpha & Omega**—Absolute completeness
- 2. **Lord**—Master of the Universe
- 3. **God**—Creator
- 4. **Eternally Self-Existent**—Who is, who was, who is to come
- 5. **The Almighty**—Ruler of all rulers
 - “**Almighty**” = **PANTOKRATOR**—describes the one who is in dominion over all things, controls all things, and holds all things in his grasp.

THE INTRODUCTORY VISION—THE SON OF MAN (Rev. 1:9-20)

A. Greeting from the Writer (Rev. 1:9)

1. Right to speak
2. Concern
 - a. Tribulation
 - b. Kingdom
 - c. Patience
3. Location

B. Power Base of the Writer (Rev. 1:10-11)

1. “in the Spirit” (*Ezek. 3:12, 8:3*)
2. “on the Lord’s day”

C. The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-18)

1. His **place**
2. His **dress**
 - a. Long garment/robe (*1 Sam. 18:4; 24:5, 11; Ezek. 26:16*)
 - b. Golden sash / ephod of High Priest (*Ex. 28:4; 29:5*)
3. His **Titles**
 - a. The **Eternal One**—v14a (*Dan. 7:9*)
 - b. The **Omniscient One**—v14b (*Dan. 10:6; John 2:25*)
 - c. The **Judge**—v15a (*Ezek. 1:7*)
 - d. The **Word of Jehovah**—v15 (*Ezek. 43:2*)
 - e. The **Provident One**—v16a (*Job 38:31*)
 - f. The **Vindicator**—v16b (*Isaiah 11:4; 49:2*)
 - g. The **Glorious One**—v16c (*Judges 5:31*)
 - h. The **One to Be Worshipped**—v17a (*Ezek. 1:28; 3:23*)
 - i. The **Comforter**—v17b (*Matt. 14:27; 17:6-7*)
 - j. The **Omnipresent One**—v17c (*Isaiah 44:6; 48:12*)
 - k. The **Ever-Living One**—v18a (*Josh. 3:10; Ps. 42:2; Hebrews 1:10*)
 - l. The **Conqueror of Death**—v18b (*Ps. 9:13; 107:18; Isaiah 38:10*)

D. Explanation of the Vision (Rev. 1: 19-20)

1. Commission to write—v19
 2. Lampstands & Stars—v20
 - a. Outer manifestation (appearance)
 - b. Inner manifestation (reality)
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REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Seven Churches (Ephesus, Smyrna & Pergamum)—Lesson#5

Theme characteristic of ALL seven letters:

- 1). Salutation**
- 2). Self-Designation**
- 3). Commendation**
- 4). Condemnation**
- 5). Warning**
- 6). Exhortation**
- 7). Promise**

The Church at Ephesus (2:1-7)

A. The City—Characteristics: Great City of Asia Minor

1. Largest harbor in Asia; caravans heading to Rome; wealthiest in Asia Minor
2. Three political distinctions:
 - a. Free city (miniature Rome)
 - b. Judicial city
 - c. Fun city
3. Center of worship of Diana (Artemis)
4. Mixed population ethnically
5. In ruins today—nothing on the ancient site

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

1. The Church at first (Acts 19-20; Ephesians 1:15)

- a. Great Faith—Burned their magic books / refused worship of Artemis
- b. Deep love for:
 1. God (Acts 19:1-41)
 2. Paul (Acts 20:17-38)
 3. Each other (Ephesians 1:15)
 4. The lost (Ephesians 4:1-16)

2. The Church in Revelation

- a. **Salutation:** v1a “*the angel*”
- b. **Self-Designation:** v1b “*him who*”:
 1. “*hold 7 stars*”—In control of their spirits
 2. “*walks...among lamp stands*”—In control of their world
- c. **Commendation:** v2-3,6
 1. Active—“*I know your deeds...*”
 2. Working—“*I know your toil...*”
 3. Persistent—“*your patient endurance*”
 4. Intolerant—“*cannot tolerate wicked men...*”

5. Consistent—“*bearing up for my name’s sake...*”
 - d. **Condemnation:** v4 “*you have abandoned the love you had at first...*”
 1. Acts 20:36-38; Ephesians 1:15
 2. Doctrinally correct—but no fire!
 - e. **Warning:** v5 Revival or Removal—the advice:
 1. Remember—when love on fire
 2. Repent—of allowing world to cool them off
 3. Repeat—the things that love caused and that caused love
 - f. **Exhortation:** v7a Listen to the Spirit
 - g. **Promise:** v7b Eternal life in God’s garden
 1. “*to the one who conquers*”—overcomes, keeping unto death
 2. “*tree of life*”—eternal life (Gen. 3:22)
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The Church at Smyrna (2:8-11)

A. The City—Characteristics

1. Center of Emperor Worship
2. Center of Jewish people and influence
 - a. Polycarp

B. The Church and Jesus’ Message

1. **Salutation:** v8a “*the angel of the church*”
2. **Self-Designation:** v8b “*him who...*”
 - a. “*is the first and the last*”—Always present
 - b. “*died and came to life*”—Un-threatened by anything!
3. **Commendation:** v9-10a—You are rich! In spite of...
 - a. Afflictions
 - b. Poverty
 - c. Slander
 - d. Coming persecution
 - e. Coming imprisonment
 - f. Certain death
 - g. “*but you are rich*”—**plutocrat** = filthy rich
4. **Condemnation:** NONE
5. **Warning:** v10a “*be faithful unto death*”
6. **Exhortation:** v11a Continue to listen to the Spirit
7. **Promise:** v 10b, 11b
 - a. Crown of life v10b—the Stephanos—victor’s crown
 - b. Eternal life 11b “*not be hurt by the second death*”

The Church at Pergamum (2:12-17)

A. The City—Characteristics

1. Capitol of Roman province / center of emperor worship (Satan's power)
2. Intellectual center of the province (Satan's mind)
3. Medical center of the province (Satan's sign)

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

1. **Salutation:** v12a *"the angel of the church"*
2. **Self-Designation:** v12b *"him who has...the sharp two-edged sword"*
 - a. Judge and make war
 - b. Ephesians 6:17 / Hebrews 4:12
 - c. Sword = judgment
3. **Commendation:** v13 In spite of living where Satan's throne is...
 - a. *"you hold fast my name"* = **LOYALTY**
 - b. *"did not deny my faith"* = **FAITHFULNESS**
 - c. *"who was killed among you"* = **ENDURANCE**
4. **Condemnation:** v14 Tolerant of Compromise
 - a. Teachings of Balaam (Numbers 25:1-4; 31:16)
 1. Eat food sacrifice to idols
 2. Sexual immorality
 - b. Teachings of the Nicolaitans—Gentile sect—taught compromise to further material safety.
5. **Warning:** v16 Repent or face Jesus and His sword!
6. **Exhortation:** v17a Listen to the Spirit
7. **Promise:** v 17b
 - a. Hidden manna (John 6:3, 38)—needs supplied from above
 - b. White stone
 1. Given to a man tried and acquitted of a crime
 2. Given to a man freed of slavery and made a citizen
 3. Given to a winner of a contest as one who overcame
 4. Given to a victorious warrior after a battle
 - a. To the Christian:
—**ACQUITTAL / FREEDOM / ACCEPTANCE**

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***Video: The Seven Churches
(Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia & Laodicea)**

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Seven Churches (Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)—Lesson#6

The Church at Thyatira (2:18-29)

A. The City—Characteristics:

1. Gateway to Pergamum—on the trade route
2. Dealt primarily in royal purple dye & purple cloth
3. Trade guilds (unions) / each guild had its own god / to get ahead you had to belong to one of the guilds (ie. A polytheistic idolater)

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

- a. **Salutation:** v18a *“the angel”*
 - b. **Self-Designation:** v18b *“the words of...”*:
 1. *“Son of God”*—the Infallible One
 2. *“who has eyes like a flame of fire”*—The Omniscient One
 3. *“feel are like burnished bronze”*—The Omnipotent Judge
 - c. **Commendation:** v19 *“I know..”*:
 1. Working—*“...your deeds...”*
 2. Caring—*“...your love...”*
 3. Daring—*“...your faith...”*
 4. Ministering—*“...your service...”*
 5. Steadfast—*“...patient endurance...”*
 6. Growing—*“...your latter works exceed your first...”*
 - d. **Condemnation:** v20-23. Tolerant of evil in their midst
 1. 2nd church in a row condemned for tolerating wickedness within
 2. Jezebel (1 Kings 16:29-33; 21:7-16, 25-26; 2 Kings 9:7)
 3. Ie. In order to defeat Satan, you need to know and experience the things of Satan.
 - e. **Warning:** v24-25 Repent of tolerance and be faithful
 1. Do not hold to her teaching
 2. Do not learn Satan's deep secrets
 3. Wait for me—hold on to what you have
 - f. **Promise:** v26-28 (notice the exhortation & promise are flipped here)
 1. Authority over the nations—joint rulership with God
 2. The Morning Star—new day dawning and Jesus
 - g. **Exhortation:** v29 Keep listening to God
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The Church at Sardis (3:1-6)

A. The City—Characteristics

1. Located on an inaccessible hill / proud, arrogant & overconfident
2. Commercial center / everyone had plenty—in fact too much
3. Center of Immorality—recognized as such by heathens
4. Worshipped the goddess of frenzy—Cybele

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

1. **Salutation:** v1a “*the angel of the church*”
 2. **Self-Designation:** v1b “*...the words of him who...*”
 - a. “*the seven spirits of God...*”—Eternal help
 - b. “*the seven stars*”—Controls destiny
 3. **Commendation:** —None
 - a. Establish the little good remaining
 - b. Remember what you received in the past
 - c. Repent
 - d. I am coming to judge you
 4. **Condemnation:** v1c
 - a. Their false reputation: Alive
 - b. Their reality: Dead
 5. **Warning:** v2-3 “*wake up*”
 6. **Promise:** v4-5
 - a. To the living remnant—v 4
 1. White robes—purity
 2. Recognition—worthiness
 - b. To those who overcome—v 5
 1. White robes—purity
 2. Name in book—eternal life
 3. Acknowledge to God & angels—honor
 7. **Exhortation:** v6. Keep listening to God
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The Church at Philadelphia (3:7-13)

A. The City—Characteristics

1. A poor, un-noted city
2. Built to spread Greek culture into that area
3. Declared a disaster area again and again
 - a. Became dependent upon government aid to exist
4. It was out-of-the-way, off the trade routes

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

1. **Salutation:** v7a "*the angel of the church*"
 2. **Self-Designation:** v7b "...words of him who..."
 - a. "*Is holy and true*"—His character
 - b. "*Holds the keys of David*"—His royalty
 - c. "*Opens and shuts*"—His finality
 3. **Commendation:** v8-11
 - a. Working—"I know your deeds"
 - b. They have kept his word, though strength was little
 - c. They didn't deny his name—thus opened door for them
 - d. They were persecuted v9
 - e. They were protected v10
 - f. They were crowned v11
 4. **Condemnation:** None
 5. **Warning:** None
 6. **Promise:** v12
 - a. Eternal life "pillar in the temple of God"
 - b. Honor "will write upon him the name..."
 1. Of God
 2. Of the Church (New Jerusalem / City of God)
 3. Of Jesus
 7. **Exhortation:** v 13. Keep listening to God
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The Church at Laodicea (3:14-22)

A. The City—Characteristics

1. On same earthquake fault as Philadelphia / always refused aid
2. Health resort—lukewarm mineral (sulfurous) water
3. Medical center—specializing in the eyes
4. Clothing and fashion center
5. Banking and finance center

B. The Church and Jesus' Message

1. **Salutation:** v14a "*the angel of the church*"
2. **Self-Designation:** v12b
 - a. The Amen—establishing the last word
 - b. The faithful and true witness
 - c. Ruler of God's creation—Jesus rules; Caesar is ruled by him.
3. **Commendation:** v15a I know your deeds
4. **Condemnation:** v15b-17
 - a. Lukewarm church members—make Jesus vomit!
 - b. Proudful worldliness—basis of their lukewarmness

- c. Boast—don't need anything!
 - d. Realities—“*wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, miserable*”
5. **Warning:** v18-20
- a. Come buy from me...
 - 1. Refined gold—so you WILL be rich
 - 2. White clothes—so you WILL be covered
 - 3. Eye salve—so you WILL see clearly
 - b. Come receive my love
 - 1. Accept rebuke and discipline
 - 2. Repent of worldly pride
 - c. Let me in to become your host
6. **Exhortation:** v17a Listen to the Spirit
7. **Promise:** v21 Co-rulership with God
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Final Note on the 7 Churches:

Three tools Satan uses to attack the church are introduced here to be discussed later:

- 1. **Anti-Christian Persecution** (Sea Beast in 13:1-10 / Rome 2:10,13 / Jews (2:9; 3:9))
 - 2. **Anti-Christian Religion** (Earth-Beast in 13:11-18; 2:13)
 - 3. **Anti-Christian Seduction** (Worldliness—The Harlot in ch. 17)
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REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Magnificent Throne (Rev. 4:1-11 / Ezek. 1, 10 / Isaiah 6)

Lesson#7

1. The Throne & It's Occupant (Vs. 1-2a)

A. John & the Voice (vs. 1-2a)

1. In the flesh on Patmos
2. In the spirit, before the throne (*vs. 2a*)

B. God & the Throne (Vs. 2b-3)

1. The **Throne**—center of the vision—“**throne**” 10 times in ch. 4
 2. The Throne **Occupant**;
 - a. Jasper stone—clear as crystal; precious—denotes purity and costliness
 - b. Sardius stone—blood red stone—denotes the judgement of the throne occupant
 3. Emerald-colored **Rainbow**—sureness of the covenant of peace (in the midst of judgment there is mercy (see *Gen. 9:12-17*)—green = peaceful (*Psalms 23:2*—green pastures). The picture is “Don’t worry—God Rules!”
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2. The Scene Around the Throne (Vs. 4:4-8)

A. 24 Elders on 24 Thrones (v. 4)

1. The **Overcomers** from ch. 2 & 3—
 - a. Sit on thrones—**rulership** (3:21)
 - b. White robes—**purity** (3:5)
 - c. Crowns of gold—**victory** (2:10 / 2 *Tim. 4:8*)
 - d. Where they were promised to be—**Before the Throne** (2:7; 3:12, 21)
2. **Representatives** for the redeemed persecuted on the earth—they have won, they have been crowned, they are before the throne.

3. Significance of “24”
 - a. **24 courses of priests** in the temple (*1 Chron. 23:6-23*)—representative of all the saints who fro life to greater life—from service to greater service—from an earthly temple to a heavenly temple.
 - b. **12 rulers** in the Old Covenant people (tribes of Israel) and **12 “rulers”** in the New Covenant people (apostles of Jesus)—added together they could be representative of the redeemed of both covenants.

B. Decrees from the Throne (v. 5a)

1. “*lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder*”
 - a. Indicates the presence and power of God (*Ex. 19:16 / Ps. 29:1*)
 - b. More often it indicates the manifestation of **DIVINE WRATH** proceeding from heaven (*Rev. 8:5 / 1 Sam. 2:10; 7:10 / Ps. 18:13-14 / Job 37:4*)

C. The Holy Spirit (v. 5b)

1. “**Lamps**” are suggestive of the Spirit’s workin bringing the light of God into the world made dark by Satan and sin. His first workin bringing order to the chaos of the original creation was to bring light (*Gen. 1:3*)
2. Why **7 lamps** representing 7 Spirits of God? Clearly “one” Spirit (*Eph. 4:4*)...
 - a. “**7**” denotes perfection—the **PERFECT** Spirit of God
 - b. Seven manifestations of the Spirit in Isaiah 11:2—**wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, reverence, judgement**

D. The Sea of Glass (v. 6a)

1. Two possible interpretations—
 - a. John was separated from this brethren by the Aegean Sea—a clear, glassy see. God’s throne is so holy that there is a sea—a separating sea—between Him and his most holy of his creations, his redeemed children.
 - b. The word “**sea**” cam easily also be translated as “**laver**” or “**basin**”. In the tabernacle and temple the laver was used by the priests to wash themselves before entering the Holy Place to serve Jehovah. So, the 24 elders (priests) have washed their garments and made them white in the blood of the Lamb to qualify them to serve God (see *ch. 7:9-17*)

E. The Four Living Creature (v. 6b-9)

1. These verses should be compared with *Ezekiel ch. 1 & 10*.
 - a. “**the living ones**” (*Ez. 1:5 / Rev. 4:6*)
 - b. Their number is **4** (*Ez. 1:5 / Rev. 4:6*)
 - c. Face—**man, lion, ox, eagle** (*Ez. 1:10 / Rev. 4:7*)
 - d. Associated with the throne (*Ez. 1:26 / Rev. 4:6*)

- e. **Fire** moves among them (*Ez. 1:13 / Rev. 4:5*)
- f. Studded all over with **eyes** (*Ez. 1:18, 21; 10:12 / Rev. 4:8*)
- g. Encircled by **rainbow** (*Ez. 1:28 / Rev. 4:3*)

2. Defined as “**Cherubim**” (*Ez. 10:20*)—angelic forces of the highest order that guard the holy things of God (*Gen. 3:24 / Ex. 25:20*) and bring Him and his judgment to earth (*2 Sam. 22:8-16 / Ps. 80:1; 99:1*)

3. Described...

- a. “**lion**”—power of strength (an angelic quality—*Ps. 103:20-21*)
- b. “**ox**”—service (an angelic quality—*Ps. 103:20-21; Heb. 1:14*)
- c. “**man**”—intelligence (an angelic quality—*Luke 12:18; 15:10 / 1 Pet. 1:12 / Eph. 3:10-11*)
- d. “**eagle**”—swiftness (an angelic quality—*Dan. 9:21*)
- e. **6 wings** each (*Isaiah 6:2*)
 - 1. Two to cover face—**reverence**
 - 2. Two to cover feet—**humility**
 - 3. Two to fly with—**service**
- f. Covered in **eyes**—awareness of all that is around them
- g. Their song—“*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was and is, and is to come*”—they never stop singing the song!

3. The Climax—PRAISE to the Throne Occupant (Vs. 9-11)

A. Glory, Honor, Thanks from the Angels (v. 9)

- 1. Because He reigns!
- 2. Because He is eternal!

B. Worship from the Redeemed (v. 10-11)

- 1. Because He is eternal
- 2. Because He created all things and sustains all things (Psalm 148)

***Things to watch for moving forward—**

*Ch. 4 ends with all eyes and attention towards the throne and the One sitting on it

*The song in verse 11 is “*the song of creation*”

*The significance of “*by your will they existed and were created*” (v. 11)

Lesson for the 7 churches and for us today—

*Caesar may appear to be on the throne that controls their destiny—NOT SO! **God rules on His throne—the ENTIRE UNIVERSAL CREATION!**

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Sealed Book & The Worthy Lamb (5:1-14)

Lesson #8

1. The Sealed Book (V. 1-5)

A. The Book Itself (v. 1)

1. Attention shifts from the One on the throne to the book (scroll)
 - a. Could not be read—rolled & sealed—7 seals
 - b. Written on both sides—full of meaning & importance
2. Destiny of mankind—particularly of the persecuted of God
 - a. The fate of the suffering saints
 - b. The final end of Rome’s move against the church
 - c. Outcome of the struggle between Christ & Satan

B. The Futile Search (v. 2-3)

—No angel, prophet or saint in the present or past, on earth or in heaven, could be found that was worthy to even touch the scroll, much less to open it and reveal its contents to others.

C. The Sorrowful Response (v. 4). “I began to weep loudly”

1. Perhaps he felt he wasn’t going to learn the contents
2. Perhaps he felt it was somehow connected to the Book of Life
3. God’s plans for mankind would not be fulfilled
4. He knew progression in this vision would be halted until it was revealed

D. The Cheering Answer (v. 5) “Weep no more...Behold!!!”

1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-12)

- a. “lion” = dignity, sovereignty, courage, victory
 1. (Num. 24:8-9 / Psalms 7:1-2 / Micah 5:8-9)

2. The Root of David (Isaiah 11:1,10)

- a. Humanity—descent from David (Rom. 1:3 / Matt.1:1)
- b. David grew out of Him (Matt. 22:41-46)
- c. Rev. 22:6—“root and offspring” of David

3. The Triumphant One

- a. His victory was accomplished on the cross—when death was challenged and defeated, Jesus became worthy to open the scroll!

2. The Worthy Lamb (V. 6-7)

A. The Victor Described (v. 6)

1. **A Slaughtered Lamb**—Jesus is referred to as the “**Lamb**” 28 times in Rev.
 - a. God’s wrath is “the wrath of the Lamb”—6:16
 - b. Cleansing is by “the blood of the Lamb”—7:14
 - c. Church is “the bride of the Lamb”—19:7 / 21:9
2. **A Living Lamb**
 - a. Has the marks of death still on him (*John 20:20, 25, 27*)
 - b. He is not dead—standing and quite alive (*Rev. 1:18 / John 1:29*)
3. **An Accepted Lamb**
 - a. In the “center” of the throne scene...
 - b. He is at the “center” of the Universe...
4. **A Powerful Lamb**
 - a. “**horn**” = power / 7 = perfection—perfect power
 - b. Lamb has gone head to head with the evil power these churches are now facing—He Won!! So can THEY!
5. **An All-Knowing Lamb**
 - a. “**eye**” = knowledge / 7 = perfection—perfect knowledge
 - b. *2 Chron. 16:9* (vigilance)

B. The Book Taken (v. 7)

—When the Lamb emerges onto the scene, there is no struggle between him and the Father. They are united in purpose and action. The Son receives the scroll from the Father’s hand in order to carry on the revelation of the things to come to pass that been promised John.

2. The Worship of the Lamb (V. 4:8-14)—By all the hosts of heaven & every created thing!

A. The Elders and the Living Creatures (v. 8-10)

1. **Attitude** (v. 8)
 - a. Reverence—“*fell down before...*”
 - b. Praise—“*Each one had a harp...*”
 - c. Dependence—“*bowls of incense*”—prayers of the saints
2. **Their Concept of the Lamb** (v. 9-10) “*Worthy are you...*”
 - a. “*to take the scroll and to open its seals...*”
 - b. “*for you were slain...*”
 - c. “*you ransomed people...*”
 - 1) For God
 - 2) From every place and kind

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The First Six Seals Opened (6:1-17)

Lesson #9

1. The First Seal: The White Horse & It's Rider (6:1-2)

***This seal reveals Christ, riding a white horse, the conquering warrior!**

A. The Command: “Come” (vs 1)

B. The Horse (vs 2)

—White, purity, holiness, victory (only one other white horse in Revelation which is singled out—the horse Jesus rides in *19:11*. “White” is used 16 times in the book and always point to something holy and pure.

C. The Rider: A Warrior (vs 2b)

1. He has a **BOW** (*Psalms 45:2-7 / Hebrews 3:8-13*)
2. He wears a **CROWN**—not royalty but victory—a conqueror!
3. He rides out as a **CONQUEROR** bent on **CONQUEST!**

***NOTE**—The picture is plain in the 1st century. Here is the image of a Parthian warrior. Coins depicting Parthian victors are common—astride a horse, with a crown and a box in Hand. Jesus is here depicted as the enemy of Rome. In the battle of Carrhae (53AD), 20,000 Romans died and 10,000 were taken captive by the Parthians. Rome never forgot the Parthian enemy!

2. The Second Seal: The Red Horse & It's Rider (6:3-4)

***This seal reveals the enemy, the persecutor, riding a red horse!**

A. The Command: “Come” (vs 3)

B. The Horse (vs 4a)—red = danger, blood, war (*12:3; 17:3*)

C. The Rider (vs 4b) WAR

1. Given power to take peace from the earth.
2. Given power to make men kill each other.
3. Given a great sword.

***NOTE**—This is a picture of wanton bloodshed. War has been a part of man’s experience since Cain killed Abel, so this image could speak to believers in every age, reminding them that God is ultimately in control, even of man’s warlike nature and action.

3. The Third Seal: The Black Horse & It’s Rider (6:5-6)

***This seal reveals economic discrimination in a time of plenty**

A. The Command: “Come” (vs 5a)

B. The Horse (v. 4a)—black = mourning & distress

C. The Rider (v. 5c-6)—Famine & Economic hardship

1. Scales to measure food (*Ezekiel 4:10, 16*)
 2. “A quart of wheat for a days wage”—a quart would equal support for a man of moderate appetite for one day.
 3. 3 quarts of barley for a day’s wage—barley usually reserved to feed animals
 4. “Oil and wine” are still available to the rich—remember this is a “seal” not a “bowls”. Seals are not FINAL—bowls ARE!
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4. The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse & It’s Rider (6:7-8)

***This seal reveals Death riding a pale horse followed by Hades.**

A. The Command: “Come” (vs 7)

B. The Horse (8a)—pale = yellowish green—death’s pallid look

C. The Rider (8b)—Death

1. His footman—Hades—the abode of disembodied spirits. (Both death and Hades are regarded in this book as defeated enemies. This being true, they would have to submit to any service the Lamb would lay on them.)
2. His power—sword, famine, plague, wild beasts (*Ezek. 14:12-23*)

***NOTE**—Conquering tyrants bring the world war; famine and pestilence are noting knew. Suffering people from the days of the Roman Empire can receive encouragement in two facts:

1. The Lamb opens the seals
 2. Death is only 4 of 7 seals—there is life beyond physical death.
-
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5. The Fifth Seal: The Souls Under the Altar (6:9-11)

***This seals reveals souls under the altar crying for vindication of their cause.**

A. Description: “Slain” (vs 9)

B. Location: “Under the altar” (cf. 8:5; 14:18; 16:7)

1. Souls / Slain (*Lev. 4:7-8, 25, 30*)—blood poured out at the base of the brazen altar. In Old Testament imagery, blood represents life (*Lev. 17:11*). These represent those who have given their LIFE for the glory of God (*Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6*)
2. Basis of their sacrificial death—Word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ. The word “martyr” simply meant “witness”. But these saints have died for their witness.

C. The Important Question: “How long?” (vs 10)

1. A call for retribution, not vengeance or vindictiveness. Compare Paul’s statement about Alexander the Coppersmith (*2 Tim. 4:14*)
2. The great question, however, was not whether their enemies would be judged, but WHEN? This has been the cry of God’s suffering people throughout the ages: (*Psalms 74:9-11; 79:5; 94:1-3; Habakkuk 1:2*)

D. The Comforting Answer: “Wait” (vs 11)

1. **Reward—White robe (the overcomers—3:4; 19:8)**
2. **Rest—Vindication is coming**
3. **Rely—Persecution is not over, others will die also**

CONSIDER: In the fifth seal, we see the souls of martyred saints crying, “How long?” Their cry for vindication shows that 1) their death to be unjust and wrong, while 2) their cause was just and right. God’s answer was simple: “I will, but wait a while.” While waiting, they were to continue to cry out (Luke 18:7)

***NOTE:**

1). The enemy was given a position of power over the saints until God was through With him. (*Isaiah 33:1; Daniel 11:36, 45*).

2). The servants of Jesus have a course to fulfill. We don't live for nothing! There are two important days in a man's life. The first is the day he was born and the second, the day he learns why he was born. Christians have a course to fulfill. It is almost too good to be true! God made clear to these martyrs that their sacrifice was an appointment not an accident! And that others would also join them. **Even in the death of His people, God is in control so there is nothing to fear (Psalms 116:15).**

6. The Sixth Seal: The Day of Jehovah (6:12-17)

***This seal reveals an announcement of judgment in time.**

A. Description of the Coming Judgements (vs 12-14)

(Joel 1:15; 2:1-2, 10-11, 28-32; Zeph. 1:14-15; Isa. 13:6-11; 34:1-4; Jer. 4:23-25)

1. Earthquake—Jerusalem (*Isa. 29:6*)
2. Sun became black—Babylon (*Isa. 13:10*); Edom (*Isa. 34:4*)
3. Moon turned red—Israel (*Joel 2:31*)
4. Stars fall—Edom (*Isa. 34:4*)
5. Sky recedes—Edom (*Isa. 34:4*)
6. Mountain & island removed—Judah (*Jer. 4:24*); Gog (*Eze. 38:20*); Nineveh (*Neh. 1:5*)

Consider:

1). The Day of Jehovah in every prophetic passage is **IMMINENT** (close at hand)

2). The language of **Revelation 6:12-17** is the language of judgment on wicked nations in the Old Testament—not just the end of time!

Note: All of this language denotes in God's mind the certainty of **COMING JUDGMENT** upon those who have opposed Him and His people!

B. The Fear of Those To Be Judged (vs 15-16)

1. Every class of mankind was involved and tried to hide from the wrath of God.
2. Even being buried beneath mountains of rock was preferable to facing God and the Lamb's wrath (*Isa. 2:10-11; 19-22*)

C. The Great Question (vs 17)

- “**Who can stand?**” (*Joel 2:22; Nahum 1:6; Malachi 3:2*).
- Chapter 7 answers that question!

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Church Militant & Victorious

Lesson #10

THE SEALED 144,000 (7:1-8)

The sealed servants of God on earth are protected against judgment.

A. **Four Angels Holding Back the Four Winds (vs. 1-3)**

1. Angels are, in this book, always associated with the forces of nature.
 - a. **Wind** (*Revelation 7:1*).
 - b. **Fire** (*Revelation 14:18*).
 - c. **Water** (*Revelation 16:5*).
2. **The “winds” are often used to indicate the activity of God.** Check this out in a concordance. Read especially *Isaiah 57:13* and *Jeremiah 18:17* when God uses the wind as a symbol of His actions against His enemies, the nations that afflict the righteous. Read also *Psalms 104:4* quoted in *Hebrews 1:7*. Then, read *John 3:7-8*.
3. **The four corners of the earth** – Indicating again the universal nature of the judgment announced already to be at hand by the sixth seal. This phrase is no more unscientific here than in *Isaiah 11:2* or the local newspaper.
4. **“To prevent any wind from blowing on the land, or the sea, or on any tree.”** Without the restraining influence of God in these four messengers of His, this judgment on all the earth would have already been accomplished.
5. **“Do not harm . . . until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.”**
 - This clearly indicates that God is in total control of worldly affairs, and, therefore, that his people have absolutely nothing to fear.

- This also shows, beyond doubt, that this judgment and the 144,000 that will be sealed are on earth, not in Heaven.
- **Note that a fifth angel, from the east (i.e. the sun rising), comes to further the work of the first four.**
 - 1) The sun symbolizes the attributes and goodness of God. Check for yourself. Read such passages as *Psalm 84:11* (God is a sun and shield) *Malachi 4:2* (Jesus is the sun of righteousness), *Revelation 22:16; 16:12*.
 - 2) Light is a good thing (*Genesis 1:3*). Christ is the true light. God is light. This angel from the east brings good news. The angel comes from where light originates. The judgment in the preceding chapter promised the blacking-out of the sun – this angel comes from the rising of the sun and is the bearer of a glad message for those who will go through gloom.
 - 3) This angel also calls for a delay. Here, as in *Ezekiel 9*, all the righteous are marked or sealed. The vision is very specific. The tribulation cannot come till all the servants of God are sealed!
- **What is the seal of the living God?**
 - 1) It cannot be the Holy Spirit. All servants of God have the Holy Spirit within them, *Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9*, and many others. These are sealed, because they are already servants (v. 3).
 - 2) It is nothing tangible. It is simply part of the vision. In ancient times, as today, people put marks on things that belong exclusively to them. God, by marking his servants with this seal, says, **“These, my People, will be protected. They are exempt from harm. Don’t touch them.”**

- 3) Read *Ezekiel 9*. The righteous are marked. Were they literally marked? Why would we have to have something tangible here?

Here, as in *Ezekiel 9*, the seal is neither the Holy Spirit or a literal mark, but a token of assurance given in a picture. Does this Sealing Assure the Saints of Physical Preservation? No! Many of them died in God's judgment on Rome, but, since they were sealed, they would go to their owner.

- **The Sealing Accomplished (vs 4-8)**

1. **The number of the sealed – “144,000.”** The number 12 is ever associated with the people of God – 12 Patriarchs, 12 Apostles, 12 tribes, 12 gates, 12 foundations. To raise a number to a higher power is to emphasize its inner quality. “**Twelve**” speaks of the completeness of God's people. All of God's saints who are to undergo this period of trial are assured of God's protection. 12x12x1000 simply underscores this assurance. 144,000 means “**All of my people are under my protection and care.**” “*. . . Not a pebble will fall to the ground*” (*Amos 9:9*).
2. **The identity of the sealed** – All God's servants on earth. Some would restrict this group to Jewish Christians. Several things mitigate against that view.
 - There is nowhere else in this book that such a distinction is drawn.
 - It is the custom of the writer to use Old Testament names with New Testament meaning.
 - 1) The **temple** becomes the **church**.
 - 2) The **Lamb** becomes **Jesus**.
 - 3) The **altar** becomes **worship**.
 - 4) The **incense** becomes **prayer**.

- 5) The **tribes of Israel**, then, would become members of the **New Testament kingdom**.
- The listing of the Tribes in this chapter is different than found anywhere else.
- The seal is placed on their foreheads and in chapter 22:4 all believers are so marked.
- We will find this same number in chapter 14 where it is undoubtedly all of God's servants.

NOTE: We are not suggesting that “**Israel**” in the rest of the New Testament does not refer to fleshly Israelites. We believe it does. But, in this highly figurative book, it shouldn't surprise us that it is used figuratively.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. The Christian will be able to stand – the Christian will not be judged (con- demned) and therefore will be able to stand (cf. *John 5:24*).
2. The sealed ones:
 - These are not sealed in order to be Christians.
 - These are Christians sealed in order to escape the judgment (*Ezekiel 9:1-6; 2 Timothy 2:19*).
3. Chapter seven has two paragraphs:
 - Verses 1-8 – the church **militant**.
 - Verses 9-16 – the church **triumphant**.

The point of these two paragraphs is one – the faithful Christian stands in the midst of judgment.

THE INNUMERABLE MULTITUDE (7:9-14)

Although the Christian may be killed when God's judgment comes, he escapes the judgment and stands victorious before the throne.

A. This Entire Vision Is Based in the Old Testament Feast of Tabernacles

This feast had the following characteristics:

1. It was the last, the highest, and the most joyful feast of the year.
2. All the labors of the year were past. All the crops, grain, wine, oil, were gathered.
3. It was preceded by the Day of Atonement. Sin had been carried away into the wilderness.
4. The feelings of Israel were of the most triumphant kind.
5. The “**booths**” which represented freedom from bondage, were made from the branches of their most prized and most fruit-bearing trees.
6. Their songs were only those of thanksgiving.
7. A priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam and, in the presence of all, pour it on the altar. The people would wave small palm branches (cf. *Revelation 7:9*) and fill the temple with joyful singing.
8. The temple would be glowing all that night with many lights.

B. The Vision of the Great Multitude

1. **Their number** (v. 9) – No man could count.
2. **Their origin** (v. 9) – From every nation, tribe, people, and language. Compare *Revelation 5:9-10; 10:11; 13:7; 17:5*.
3. **Their position** (v. 9) – Standing before the throne . . . in front of the Lamb.
4. **Their appearance** (v. 9) – Wearing white robes – overcomers – cf. *3:4-5, 18*. Holding palm branches – Joy in work done.

5. **Their song** (v. 10) – Salvation belongs to God. . . and the Lamb. cf. *John 12:12-13*. Heavenly response (vs. 11-12) – Worship and “Amen”
6. **Their identity** (vs. 13-14) – Have come out of great tribulation – Died, cf. *John 16:33*.
7. **Their state** (vs. 15-17):
 - They are before the throne.
 - They serve in the temple.
 - They serve day and night.
 - They live in God’s tent.
 - They have no need which is not filled.
 - They have no discomfort.
 - They are led by the Lamb.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. This multitude consist of those who are coming out of the great tribulation.
 - The tribulation is on earth in Jesus. (cf. *Revelation 1:9*).
 - There are only two ways out of the great tribulation:
 - 1) Get out of Jesus.
 - 2) Or, get out of the earth.
2. The requirement for leaving this world with a white robe is to walk in the light (*1 John 1:7*).
3. Day and night (v. 15) indicates that this is during the period called time because eternity is one day (cf. *2 Peter 3:18*).

CONCLUSION:

What we saw in chapter 7: A message of comfort to the servants in the face of the coming storm. God’s people are sealed against punishment and will be ultimately victorious and joyfully delivered from all tribulation. They joyfully worship at a great Feast of Tabernacles and then become a flock of well-shepherded sheep. Assurance is the key throughout this chapter.

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The First Four Trumpets

Lesson #11

I. PREPARATION: Opening the 7th Seal (8:1-6)

A. A Period of Silence (v. 1)

1. sounds vs silence
2. Why? (*Zeph. 1:7, 14-18 / Zech. 2:13 / Hab. 2:20*)
 - a. To gain attention
 - b. Calm before the storm
 - c. Delay is over; judgement is come
 - d. Angels are awestruck by silence

B. Prayers of the Saints (v. 2-5)

1. Special angel at the altar (*Rev. 9:13 / 14:18 / 16:7*)
 - a. Tabernacle—altar was before the veil (burning incense)
—see *Exodus 30:1-10*
 - b. Incense on the altar symbolic of saint's prayers (*Psa. 141:1-2*)
2. "Saints" = all of God's people (not some special group in heaven)—those set apart through faith (*2 Cor. 1:1; 9:1, 12; 13:13*)
3. Day of Atonement (*Lev. 16:11-14*)
 - a. In Revelation, coals are thrown to the earth
—*Ezekiel 10* (symbolizes God's judgement)
4. Gradual escalation with each announcement of judgement
 - a. Lightning, rumblings, thunder & earthquake (v. 8:5)
 - b. ...hailstorm added (v. 11:19)
 - c. ...each stone weighed 100 lbs (v. 16:18-21)

II. DESOLATION: The First Four Trumpets (8:6-13)

*The first four trumpets represent natural calamities—for more on “trumpets” and their significance see also *Joel 2:1,15 / Nehemiah 4:18 / Jeremiah 4:5; 6:1-5 / Hosea 5:8-9; 8:1 / Amos 3:6*

A. On the earth (v. 7)

1. Hail & fire, mingled with blood (*Exodus 9:24*)
2. 1/3 of trees and green things—Food attacked
3. The gods of the oppressor is exposed (as was Egypt’s gods)

B. In the seas (v. 8-9) 3-fold judgment

1. 1/3 of sea became blood (*Exodus 7:19-21*)
2. 1/3 of sea creatures died
3. 1/3 of ships destroyed

C. In the fresh waters (v. 10-11)

1. A great star
 - a. Notable individuals (*Isaiah 14:12*)
 - b. People of God (*Daniel 8:10; 12:3 / Genesis 15:5*)
 - c. Divine visitation (*Rev. 6:13 / Matt. 24:29*)—here a mark of divine punishment.
 - d. A bitter star
 - e. “Wormwood” = undrinkable & poisonous (*Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15 / Lamentations 3:15, 19 / Amos 5:7 / Deut. 29:18 / Proverbs 5:4*)
2. A destructive star
 - a. 1/3 of water made bitter
 - b. People died from drinking the water

D. In the heavens (v. 12) (*Compare Exodus 10:21-23*)

1. Unthinkable universal disaster
2. *Isaiah 34:4-5 / Joel 2:10*

E. The eagle of warning (v. 13)

1. Bird of prey—not a noble bird—lonely, fierce predator
2. “The inhabitants of the earth” = used in Revelation to speak of the wicked on the earth—stands opposed to those who dwell in heaven (v. 13:6). Even the saints living on the earth as seen as dwellers in heaven (v. 12:12; 13:6)

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

Trumpet 5 & 6

Lesson #12

Review of the 1st Four Trumpets:

Trumpet #1 Land Disaster (trees and green grass)

Trumpet #2 Maritime Disaster (seas)

Trumpet #3 Land-Water Disaster (fresh water)

Trumpet #4 Cosmic Disaster (sun, moon, stars)

I. TRUMPET #5: “The horde of locusts” Internal Decay (9:1-12)

A. The Horde of Locusts (v. 1-10)

1. The Star—Satan (v. 1-2)

- a. Fallen—not falling (*Luke 10:18*)
- b. Given the key to the shaft of the abyss (*Luke 8:30-32 / Rev. 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3; Contrast 1:18*)

2. “Darkened the sun and the sky” (Joel 2:2,10 / Contrast 1:18; 22:16)

- a. The **Locusts** (v. 3-10) (*Exodus 10:1-20 / Book of Joel*)
- b. Their **source** (v. 3)—from smoke from abyss
 - From Hell comes the deception of Satan—from deception comes the weakening influence of internal corruption
- c. Their **limitation** (v. 4-5)
 - not to hurt earth on ungodly
 - Torture for 5 months
- d. Their **effect** (v. 6)—cause men to seek death
- e. Their **description** (v. 7-9)
 - Horse prepared for battle—**Armed**
 - Crowns of gold—**Victorious**
 - Human-like faces—**Intelligence or beauty**
 - Woman-like hair—**Strength & glory**
 - Teeth of lions—**Power**
 - Breastplate of iron—**Protection**
 - Sound of wings—**Great number**
 - Tails like scorpions—**Tormenting power**

B. Their Head (v. 11)

1. Authority—the Abyss

2. Character—Destroyer (*Job 26:6; 28:2; 31:12 / Psa. 88:11*)

Analysis of the Picture:

1. The star (angel-king) is Satan
 2. He loosens smoke from the Abyss—false doctrine that holds man in darkness (*2 Cor. 4:4 / Eph. 2:1-4 / Colossians 1:12-13*)
 3. Locust come out of the smoke—when man swallows the lies of false doctrine, hurting or weakening those who do not have the protective seal.
 4. Rome fell for the Devil’s lies and thus fell into internal decay
 5. Remember, this is one of God’s trumpets. God even uses the the work of Satan to punish and warn the wicked (*Romans 1*)
 6. God has shown us two instruments he uses to cut down our enemies: **NATURAL CALAMITY** and **INTERNAL DECAY**. The third instrument follows in the next vision. Most nations weaken internally, but it is external forces that bring about their final destruction. Thus the 6th trumpet.
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II. TRUMPET #6: “The Hellish Army” External Forces (9:13-19)

Moral and spiritual blindness tear a nation down and wars exhaust her altogether. It is said by some that war made Rome. But the Romans, in general, had no love of war. War torments all sensitive souls.

A. The Voice from the Altar (v. 13-14)

1. The altar (v. 13)

- a. The source of the prayers—judgments are in response to them
- b. The “horns” of anything are the strong parts of it

2. The charge (v. 14) “Loose the angels.” (*Rev. 7:1-3*)

- a. These stand for the armies appointed to attack Rome—whom God uses to do his bidding
- b. The “Euphrates” stands for the threat of military might (*Is. 8:7-8*)

B. The Amazing Host (v. 15-19)

- 1. Their appointment (v. 15a)**—the saints need to know these armies are under the control of God. The angels stand for the armies. They move only when God says move. They have their place in the divine program. The saints need to know this. We need to know this. The Lord is Lord!
 - 2. Their assignment (v. 15b)** “to kill 1/3 of men”
 - 3. Their number (v.16)** 200 million— Why such a large number?
 - a. To scare the life out of the enemy
 - b. To make the saints rejoice their Father has such an army at His disposal
 - c. To stress the staggering control possessed by God
 - 4. Their description (v. 17-19)**
 - a. **Armored**—red, blue, yellow, breastplates
 - b. **Devouring**—head like lions
 - c. **Totally destructive**—fire, smoke, sulfur (brimstone—*Gen. 19:24-28 / Psalm 11:6 / Job 18:15*)
 - d. **Effective**—killed 1/3 of mankind
 - e. **Powerful**—mouth to destroy —tails that kill
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III. The Incurable Rest (9:20-21)

A. They Did Not Repent

—This level of hardness of heart is staggering. We should know that there those who are bent on evil.

B. Their list of sins—

1. The work of their hands (the oppression of the righteous)
2. The worship of demons and idols
3. Murders
4. Magic arts
5. Sexual immorality
6. Thefts

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

No More Warning

Lesson #13

THE STRONG ANGEL & THE 7 THUNDERS: THE 1ST VISION (10:1-7)

**The significance of these unrecorded thunders is—NO MORE WARNING!*

OUTLINE OF THE INTERLUDE: *four words of comfort* (Rev. 10:1-11:14). 4 pictures.

1. The seven unrecorded thunders (10:1-7)

—**Significance:** No more warning!

2. The bitter-sweet booklet (10:8-11)

—**Significance:** John must continue to preach a sorrowful message

3. Measuring the temple (11:1-2)

—**Significance:** God knows and protects his people

4. The two witnesses (11:3-13)

—**Significance:** Gospel preaching, though seemingly put down, will ultimately triumph.

A. The Description of the Angel (vs. 3-4)

1. Mighty
2. Coming down from heaven
3. Garment: a cloud
4. Crown: a rainbow
5. Face: Like the sun
6. Legs: Pillars of fire
7. Hands: Holding a little scroll
8. Feet: Astride land and sea
9. Voice: Like a lion

**He caused 7 thunders to speak (thunders also warn), but, Heaven said, 'Seal the up.'*
NO MORE WARNING!!

B. Heaven's Prohibition (vs. 5-7)

1. Angel's authority = God himself
 2. Explanation of the thunders: "No more delay"
 3. The 7th trumpet will be the end of all things
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THE STRONG ANGEL & JOHN: THE 2ND VISION (10:8-11)

NOTE: (1) the word "book" in verse 8 is literally "booklet" (small book). (2) The bitter sweetness of the book in every occasion it is mentioned (Ezekiel, Jeremiah and here) was made so by the **idolatry** of a people. (3). The *bitterness* is in the *delivery*—the *sweetness* is in the *reception*.

A. The Instruction (v. 8)

1. Take the book and go!
2. Signifies the preaching of the Gospel

B. The Little Book (vs. 8-10)

1. Open—easy to understand
2. Bitter, sweet (*Ezekiel 2:8-3:14*)

C. The Explanation (v. 11)

1. Must continue to preach
 2. Message will be sorrowful
 3. Message will be universal
 4. The key word is **TELL**. "Go **TELL**"
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THE TEMPLE AND THE CITY: THE 3RD VISION (11:1-2)

A. The Standard: A Reed, like a Measuring Rod (v. 1)

*Measurement is to make a distinction between the holy and the common (unholy)

—(*Ezekiel 40:3-5; 42:20*)

1. Whatever is measured is set apart—sanctified—made holy (*Ezek. 42:20*)
2. The idea of protection is implied in this passage because God regards the measured portion as belonging to him.

B. The Things to be Measured (v. 1)

1. **Temple**—one temple = CHURCH (*1 Cor. 3:16-17 / Eph. 2:19-22 / Rev. 21*)

a. Not **HIERON** = the temple as a whole

b. Is **NAOS** = the Holy of Holies (sanctuary)

2. **Altar**—worship of the priests (*1 Pet. 2:5,9 / Heb. 13:15-16*)

3. **Worshipers**—the priests (*see above*)

C. The Things Left Unmeasured (v. 2)

*God is saying, though the city of God will undergo abuse from the profaning forces of Rome, yet they cannot get to her heart. He will permit the suffering but will not permit the annihilation; the inner sanctuary will be kept by him.

NOTE: Time period of 42 months, 1260 days, 3 1/2 days (Hebrew lunar calendar had 360 days)

1. Period of the Beast's Authority (*13:5*)—a broken period of time
2. Period holy city being trodden underfoot (*11:2*)
3. Period during which the witnesses prophesy (*11:3*)
4. Period the woman is in the wilderness (*12:6, 14*)
5. Period the little horn persecutes the church (*Daniel 7:25*)

*What is the overall thrust of 11:1-2? The city of God (the church) will undergo persecution from Rome. Despite this the church will all the while be sustained by the Lord.

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious
Fourth Vision: Two Witnesses (11:3-19)
Lesson #14

THE FOURTH VISION: TWO STRONG & POWERFUL WITNESSES

A. The Witnesses & Their Conflict (11:3-13)

1. The power of their witness (*v. 3-6*)
 - a. Work = prophesy (*v.3*). Power = Spirit of God (*Zech. 14*)
 1. Prophecy = not always predicting future
 2. Speak the Word of God to the people of that day
 - b. Length of time = 1260 days
 1. 42 months / 3 1/2 years
 2. Short period of time—not forever
 - c. Demeanor—sack cloth (mourning)
2. Their identity (*v. 4*) The Church of God
 - a. Two Olive Trees (*Zech. 4:12-14*)
 1. Prophet & Priest = Zerubbabel & Joshua
 2. “church” = prophet & priests (*1 Pet. 2:5, 9*)
 - b. Two Candlesticks (*Rev. 2 & 3* = the church)
 1. Powerful (cannot be defeated)
 2. Confirmed by witness of the Godhead
3. Their ability (*v. 5-6*) Power is that of Elijah & Moses
 - a. Fire = Elijah on Mount Carmel
 - b. Shut sky & rain = Elijah and Ahab
 - c. Water to blood = Moses in Egypt
 - d. Plagues = Moses in Egypt

*Whatever the church needs to be victorious will be provided! Whatever they need, they get!

B. The Human Response to Their Witness (11:7-10)

1. Their success. Finished their testimony—cannot be stopped until completed
 - a. Their seeming defeat (*v. 7b-10*)—appears they have been defeated
 - b. Attacked, overpowered, killed
 - c. Bodies exposed for ridicule for 3 1/2 days
2. City has three names
 - a. **Sodom**—symbolic of the world’s seduction
 - b. **Egypt**—symbolic of the world’s persecution
 - c. **Jerusalem**—symbolic of the world’s religion
 1. 3 tools Satan uses to try and destroy the church
 2. Power of Rome = **persecution** / Religion of Rome = **emperor worship**
 - d. Why did the enemy rejoice over the death of the witnesses?
 1. Witnesses tormented them
 2. Gospel torments the unrepentant wicked
 3. Upright living torments those who do not
 4. If our lives do not offend the wicked, something wrong
 5. Dark hates light (an eternal truth)

C. The Divine Vindication (v. 11-13)

1. Witnesses resurrected / enemies terrified! (*v. 11*)
 - a. Divinely vindicated
 - b. Christian’s victory
 - c. May appear dead, but rises from ashes of defeat to defeat all foes
 - d. Terrifying to see one you killed rise up to defeat you!
2. Witnesses are carried to Heaven while enemies watch (*v. 12*)
 - a. Victorious over their enemies
 - b. Utterly destroy their enemies
 1. Not literally—symbolically. Symbolic of what?
 2. Victory of the church of God—of the witnesses

3. And earthquake destroys many of their enemies (v. 13)

a. Earthquake symbolizes judgement

b. Lesson to be learned

1. Keep on preaching! Keep on telling! Keep on witnessing the power of God.
2. What appears to be defeat is not real! Be faithful—don't give up!
3. The witness of God will win—Just Be Patient!
4. The second “Woe” is past!

* Now, as a member of one of those 7 churches, I am ready for the 7th trumpet no matter what it is because I have been told that God is in control. I have been told that the 7 thunders will finally come in their judgment of Rome.

* I have been told that there is a book, a little book, that contains what is going to happen to the saints of God. I have been told that no matter how bad it appears, though the “holy city” is trodden underfoot, they can't get to the sanctuary, they can't get to where the people of God really live. I have been told that no matter how much it looks like gospel preaching is not winning, it actually is winning. The witness of God will ultimately be triumphant! So I am prepared for the 7th trumpet to blow!

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (11:14-19)

A. Preparation (v. 14)

1. Judgement is so bad, wicked cry out “Woe, Woe”
 - a. Later depicted as 7 bowls of wrath
 - b. 7th seal—>7 trumpets / 7th trumpet—>7 bowls
 - c. God's judgment is absolute, total, complete

B. The 7th Trumpet is Blown (v. 15-18)

1. God is **SEEN** to rule (v.15)

2. God is **SAID** to rule (*v. 16-18 / Daniel 7:27*)

a. Over the nations (*v. 17-18a*)

b. Over his people (*v. 18 / Isaiah 26:9*)—When God comes in judgment he not only comes in judgement on the enemy. He comes in judgment for his people.

1) His **servants** the prophets (They speak for God)

2) The **saints** (They are separated)

3) Those who **revere** His name

4) Therefore God honors them

C. The Temple in Heaven (*v. 19*)

1. Opened to show Ark of Covenant—He is faithful!

2. Opened to show His judgment is HOLY—He is Holy!

a. Lightning, thunder & voices proceed from the throne of God (*Rev. 4:5*)

b. Fire from altar cast to the earth and there were noises, thunder, lightning & an earthquake (*Rev. 8:5*)

c. A GREAT earthquake added (*Rev. 11:13*)

D. Now a Pause—another Interlude

1. God said, “**I will judge the enemy and I will do it now!**”

2. What is the basis of this judgement?

a. The proven, sacrificed, resurrected ascended **Messiah!**

b. The faithful, persecuted, victorious **church!**

c. All of which have been viciously attacked by Satan

1) The victorious are those who serve God

2) The defeated and destroyed are those who serve Satan

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

The Great Battle (12:1-13)

Lesson #15

THE FIRST ACT OF THE DRAMA: ON EARTH (12:1-6)

A. The Pregnant Woman (Vs. 1-2)

1. Her clothing (v. 1)—Light from head to foot
 - a. see also *John 1:1-5* / *1 John 1:1-7*
2. Her condition (Vs. 2)
 - a. Pregnant (been so since *Gen. 3:15*)
 - b. About to give birth (*Isaiah 50:1; 54:1* / *Hosea 2* / *Micah 4:9-13*)

**Note: This is God's covenant people, laboring to bring forth the Messiah. But she is the people God views as being victorious, hence the victory wreath of twelve stars. Although she is mentioned first and is mentioned again in this text where she plays a prominent part—she is NOT the central figure!*

B. The Blood Red Dragon (Vs. 3-4)

1. Description (v. 3)
 - a. Enormous—the power he possesses.
 1. Blood-red—ferocity to destroy men
 2. “murderer from the beginning” (*John 8:44*)
 - b. Seven heads—possesses everything (completely) to enable him to execute plan
 - c. Ten horns
 1. Rules over worldly kingdoms (*Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4*)
 2. Ten = worldly completion vs 7 for divine completion
 - d. Seven crowns
 - 1). Ruling crowns (diadem) nor Victory crown (stephanos in vs 1)
 - 2). Satan's diadem will go down in defeat
 - e. Destructive tail—similar to the tail of the locust in the 5th trumpet and the horses of the 6th trumpet—it is the instrument which which he destroys

**Note—again 1/3 (*Daniel 8:10*—a powerful enemy)*

2. Dragon's Function (v 4)
 - a. Position—in front of the woman (*Gen. 3:15* & onward)

b. Purpose—to devour baby when born—Coward!!

**Note—Satan has always been trying to destroy the woman’s seed (Gen. 3:15). Throughout Old Testament history, Satan tried to prevent the birth of the Redeemer. There was always a dragon standing by. Pharaoh is called a monster, a “dragon” in Ezekiel 29:3. Nebuchadnezzar is called a devouring serpent, a dragon in Jeremiah 51:34. At one critical moment, the seed-line is limited to one little boy (2 Kings 11:1-3). When Jesus was born, Satan used King Herod to try to destroy Him (Matt. 2). Satan thought he had succeeded when he used Judas to betray the Lord and hand Him over to be crucified. But the cross was actually Satan’s defeat! Notice Revelation 12:11.*

C. The Man-Child (V. 5) (the central figure of the vision)

1. Description

a. A real man; a son; a male child (**John 16:23**)—in the original language she forgets her anguish in the joy that a man is born in to the world.

b. Truly God—“rules the nations with a rod of iron” (**Psalm 2:6-9 / Numbers 24:1a, 17 / Hebrews 1:15 / Rev. 19:15**)

2. Destiny—God and His throne!

**Note—The defenseless woman is protected and cared for by God in the desert for 1, 260 days—(Gen. 16:7-13; 21:8-21). This was not the first woman God cared for in a desert.*

Note—The devil loses his attempt to devour that man-child. **THIS IS DEFEAT #1 IN THIS CHAPTER!

ACT TWO OF THE DRAMA: WAR IN HEAVEN (12:7-12)

A. The Conflict (Vs. 7-9)

1. The sides are drawn (v. 7)—**Michael** and his angels (**Jude 9 / Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1**) **VS** the **dragon** and his angels (**Matt. 25:41 / 2 Peter 2:4**)

2. The victory declared (v. 8-9)

a. Not strong enough—his heads, horns, & crowns were not enough—his tail couldn't touch Michael and his angels.

b. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him. Note the five-fold description of our enemy:

1. **Dragon**—he is a devourer
2. **Serpent**—he is a trickster
3. **Devil**—he is an accuser
4. **Satan**—he is an adversary
5. **Deceiver**—he is a liar

**Note—The devil loses to Michael—THIS IS DEFEAT #2 IN THIS CHAPTER!*

B. The Heavenly Chorus (Vs. 10-12)

1. The judicial declaration (v. 10)

- a. God's activity—*“the salvation and power of our Lord has come”*
- b. Satan's activity—Unceasing accusation against the brethren

2. The overcoming described (v. 11). What is necessary in overcoming?

- a. The blood of the Lamb (*1 Pet. 1:18-20 / Rev. 1:5 / Acts 22:16 / Rom. 6:3-5 / 1 John 1:6-7*)
- b. The word of our testimony—telling others about the Lamb (*2 Tim. 2:2 / Rom. 1:14-17*)
- c. Love not your life—even unto death (*Rom. 12:1-2 / Luke 9:23; 14:25-27*)

3. Response demanded (v. 12)

- a. By the heaven-dwellers—Rejoice because the devil has lost—expelled from heaven!
- b. By the earth-dwellers—Mourn—reason for mourning...
 1. Satan is living among you now!
 2. Satan is mad!
 3. Satan knows his time is short!

**Note—The devil is unable to defeat the brothers and sisters. THAT IS DEFEAT #3 IN THIS CHAPTER!*

ACT THREE OF THIS DRAMA: RENEWED CONFLICT ON EARTH (12:13-13:1)

A. The Attempt on the Woman (vs. 13-16)

1. The dragon's pursuit (v. 13)
2. The woman's protection (v. 14)
 - a. 2 wings of eagle (*Ex. 19:4-6 / Isaiah 40:31*)—her strength is God
 - b. Place prepared in desert (*Rev. 12:6; 14*)-nourished & protected
 - c. 3 1/2 times (years) (*1 Kings 12:1-19:21*)
 1. Time of persecution (*1 Kings 18:10-13*)
 2. Time of protection (*1 Kings 18:25, 30*)
3. The dragon's weapons (v. 15)—river to sweep woman away...OT "river"
 - a. *Psalms 18:4*—symbol of ungodliness
 - b. *Psalms 124:4-5*—symbol of destruction by ungodly men
 - c. *Isaiah 8:5-8*—symbol of destruction by Assyria
 - d. *Isaiah 57:19-20*—symbol of wickedness
4. The help (v. 16)—“*The earth...swallowed up the river*”

**Note—the dragon fails in his attempt upon the woman. THAT IS DEFEAT #4 IN THIS CHAPTER!*

B. His Plans for Future Attack (vs. 12:17-13:1a)

1. Dragon is furious at the woman (v. 17a)
2. He plans war against her offspring (v. 17b). Who are “offspring”?
 - a. Those who are obedient to God
 - b. Those who hold to the testimony of Jesus (the overcomes of v. 11). He is going to fight those who have already been declared victorious over him!
3. The source of Satan's first help (*13:1a*)...”the Sea...” (see *Rev. 17:1, 15*). That “sea” represents the **wicked world!**

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious The Forces of Evil (13:1-18)

Lesson #16

THE SEA BEAST—The Civil Persecuting Power of Rome (13:1-10)

A. The Description of the Beast (vs. 1-3)

1. **Origin:** “out of the sea” (*Isaiah 17:12 / Rev. 17:1,15*)
2. **Nature:** “beast”—brutal, savage, ferocious
3. **Power:** “ten horns”—total power & might (*Deut. 33:17 / 2 Sam. 2:1 / 1 Kings 22:11 / Luke 1:69*)
4. **Authority:** “seven heads”—perfect authority (*Gen. 3:15 / Eph 5:22-31 / Col. 1:18*)
—this power is GIVEN to him (vs 5,7)—compare *Rom. 13:1-7 / John 19:8-11*
5. **Reign:** “seven crowns (diadems)”—signifies a kingly nature, rule or reign
6. **Opposes God:** “names of blasphemy”—see also vs. 5-6
7. **Fearsome:** “leopard”—sudden, swift, cruel “bear”—slow, relentless, crushing
8. **Satanic:** “dragon gave him power, a throne and authority”—Satan’s vice-regent
9. **Hard to Kill:** “fatal wound...but healed”
10. **World-wide:** “whole world astonished and followed the beast”

B. The Power of the Beast (vs. 4-8)

1. Worshipped equally with the dragon (v. 4)
2. Thought to be unique and indestructible (v. 4b)
3. Thought to be superior to God (v. 5-6)
4. Seemed victorious over the saints (v. 7a)
5. Ruled over entire earth (v. 7b)
6. All but the saints submitted to him (v. 8)

C. The Destiny of the Beast (vs. 9-10)

1. Need to continue to listen to God (v. 9) “He who has an ear, let him hear.”
2. Simple conclusion: Since the enemy is for making others captive and killing them with the sword, he must go captive and die by the sword.

3. The saints need:
 - a. Patient endurance under trials
 - b. Faithfulness to God and His purpose

***NOTE:** A comparison of Daniel 7 and Rev. 13 makes it plain that this beast is the Roman Empire, embodying the other three beasts which preceded it (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece). We will discuss this further in chapter 17:8-14

THE EARTH BEAST—The Anti-Christian Religion (of Rome) (13:11-18)

A. The Description of the Beast (vs. 11-12)

- 1. Origin:** “the earth”—human origin, not divine
- 2. Nature:** “two horns like a lamb”—hypocrite, putting on an innocent, even religious looking appearance
- 3. Character:** “spoke like a dragon”—if the lie doesn’t take you in, his power threatened you with death
- 4. Function:** “made all on earth worship the first beast”—the first beast was Rome, the **military-civil power (Rome / Egypt)** The second beast is Rome, the **perverted religious power (Romans / Egypt)**

B. The Power of the Beast (vs. 13-15)

- 1. Deception:** “great and miraculous signs...wonders”—By reasons of the great and miraculous signs done in everyone’s view. We do not have to believe those were actual miracles, but if they were they lying wonders (*Acts 8:2 / 2 Thess. 2:5-12*)

***NOTE:** The record left about these Romish priests make it clear that they were professional con men. They could perform all kinds of tricks and were experts at ventriloquism. We do not need to accept their miracles as real anymore than we accept the resurrection of the first beast as real.

- 2. Enforcement:** This power was used to force all the world to bow down before Caesar.
- 3. Enrollment:** They forced everyone to wear the name and / or number of the beast in order to function within the empire (*Lev. 7:22ff*)

C. The True Nature of the Beast (v. 16)

—To anyone with any insight, he is not GOD! He is only man Three-time loser!

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious
The Lamb & the 144,000
Lesson #17

I. THE LAMB & THE 144,000

A. Their Place (v. 1a)

1. With the Lamb (the victorious one from ch. 5 onward)
 - a. Rides conquering all who oppose him
 - b. 144,000 are with him—they are also victorious
2. On Mount Zion (maybe THE most holy place in God’s Word)
 - a. Historically (*2 Sam. 5:6-10; 6:12-13; 1 Kings 8:1*)
 - b. Symbolic of Jerusalem (*Psa. 2:5-15; 15:1; 48:1-2; 132:13-14*)
 - c. Prophetic of Church (*Zech. 8:1-3; Dan. 2:24-35; Isa. 2:2-4; Heb. 12:22-23*)
 - d. God still dwells there (*Psa. 110:1-2; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:21-22*)

B. Their Name (v.1b)—Jesus & Jehovah—On their foreheads

1. Not a mark—but a name
2. Not property—but children

C. Their Song (v. 2-3)

1. Loud: *rushing waters...loud peals of thunder*
2. Melodious: *harpers harping*
3. New: *only 144,000 new it*
4. Heavenly: *Before God...four living creatures...elders*
5. Spiritual: *Only the redeemed could understand the song*

D. Their Description (vs. 4-5)

1. Redeemed—purchased (*1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9-10; Acts 20:28*)
2. Pure—Virgins (*2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-26*)
3. Followers of the Lamb (*1 Pet. 2:20-21*)
4. Firstfruits of God (*James 1:18; Heb. 12: 22-23*)
5. Without Blemish (*Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:21-23*)
6. Sealed Servants on Earth (*Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:21-23*)

They are the sealed servants of God on earth. They are the church, the bride of Christ, the body of Jesus, those who follow the Lamb. They are those who believe in Jesus, who are sorrowful for their sins, who by their immersion in water have been added to the body of Christ and who are now walking in the light of God’s word. They are those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. They are those who like pure virgins have kept themselves holy unto one husband, who is Jesus. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They are the first fruits who belong to God and are offered unto God. They are without spot or blemish. They are the sealed, protected, holy servants of God on earth. They stand with Him on Mount Zion!

**THIS IS THE CHURCH OF THE LAMB—
THIS IS US!!!**

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious
FOUR BANNER HEADLINES

Lesson #18

I. FOUR BANNER HEADLINES—Coming Attractions (14:6-14)

A. First Banner—“Judgment Has Come!” (vs. 6-7)

1. *“Fear God and give Him glory for the hour of His judgment is come.”*
2. The story will be told and discussed in Rev. 15-16

B. Second Banner—“Babylon Has Fallen!” (vs.8)

1. She is a known, evil, destructive immoral, adulteress who is fallen
2. The story will be told and discussed in Rev. 17-18

C. Third Banner—“Emporer Worshippers Judged!” (vs. 9-12)

1. The way to escape wrath is to NOT be judged.
2. The story will be told and discussed in Rev. 19-20

**NOTE—we need to identify God’s enemies and get away from them to escape judgment!*

D. Fourth Banner—“The Dead Saints Are Blessed” (vs. 13)

1. The destiny of the saints—death is defeated by eternal life!
2. The story will be told and discussed in Rev. 21-22

**Note—*

- 1) *Notice two things about this Babylon in verse 8. She is:*
 - a) *A fornicating woman*
 - b) *A fallen woman*
- 2) *The fact of never-ending punishment awaiting those who persecute the church and hate the Lord serves as an incentive for us to continue in faithfulness (see v. 12)*
- 3) *Dead saints rest (v. 13)—others have no rest day or night (v. 11). Death in the seven seals, was but the 4th seal, not the 7th seal—not the last. Death is not the end for man or woman of God. To die is to go to a better place. Death itself is not a blessing, death is an enemy, but it is an enemy that has been defeated and that enemy actually ushers us to a better place.*

II. JUDGMENT FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN (14:14-20)

A. Judgement from the Saint’s point of view (vs. 14-16)

- 1. Done by God (*Psa. 18:7 / Isa. 19:1 / Psa. 104:30*)
- 2. Done one time (*Jn. 4:35 / Matt. 3:11-12; 13:20; Amos 9:9-10*)

B. Judgment from the Wicked’s point of view (vs. 17-20)

- 1. Done by an angel of God (*v. 17*)
- 2. Helped by angel with fire (*v. 18a*)—fire = destruction

*NOTE—fire is usually always a symbol of destruction—God’s judgment on the wicked

- 3. Comes because iniquity is full (*Ge. 15:16, 49:10-12 / Isa. 63:1 / Joel 3:12 / Lam. 1:15*)
- 4. Done in God’s winepress (*Isa. 63:1 / Ex. 15:3 / 1 Sam. 16:18 / 1 Sam. 17:33*)
- 5. Done outside the city (*Heb. 13:12-13*)
- 6. Enormous amounts of blood—
 - a. 4-5 feet deep
 - b. 200 miles long
- 7. God’s wrathful judgment
 - a. Judgment is full
 - b. God’s kingdom, not Rome, continues today.

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious GOD'S JUDGMENT ANNOUNCED

Lesson #19

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT (15:1-8)

A. Judgment is COMPLETE (*vs. 1*)

B. Judgment is PURPOSEFUL (*vs. 2-4*)

1. On behalf of persecuted saints (*vs. 2-3*). Judgments to come are:

- a. Works and ways of God (*v. 3*)
- b. Cause fear and glory (*v. 4a*)
- c. Prove the holiness of God (*v. 4b*)
- d. Result: worship

2. Background of Judgment

- a. God is still transcendent
- b. Overcomers can draw near to God
- c. Symbolic of praise to God (*Psa. 33:2; 99:1-5*)
- d. Praises God (*Ex. 15:1ff / Isa. 26:9*)

— works, ways, name, deeds

C. Judgment is EVERLASTING (*vs. 5-7*) Character of Judgment:

1. Judgment's origin (*v. 5*)
2. Judgment's ministers (*vs. 6-7a*)—Dress (*Ex. 28:4*)
3. Judgment's nature (*v. 7b*):
 - a. Full
 - b. Wrathful
 - c. Eternal

Note: 1) It is God's judgment; 2) It is unmitigated in its character; 3) It is everlasting in its extent; 4) It is irrevocable.

D. No Mediation (*v. 8*)

1. Old Testament examples of "smoke"
 - a. *Ex. 19:18*—Mountain / *Ex. 40:34*—Tabernacle
 - b. *1 Kings 8:10-11*—Temple

II. THE EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT (16:1-21)

A. The Command (vs. 1)—“pour out”

B. Bowl #1 (v. 2)—“on the land”—sores on the wicked

C. Bowl #2 (v. 3)—“on the sea”—blood and death

D. Bowl #3 (v. 4-7)—“on the rivers”—blood

1. The angel’s praise (v. 5-6)
2. The altar’s praise (v. 7)

E. Bowl #4 (vs. 8-9)—“on the sun”

1. Scorched the wicked
2. Wicked would not repent

NOTE: These 4 bowls parallel to the first 4 trumpets in chapter 8, but now destruction is complete and not partial. Trumpets warn. Bowls destroy!

F. Bowl #5 (vs. 10-11)—“on Rome’s throne”—collapse due to internal decay.

Results:

1. Wicked kingdom darkened
2. Wicked endure great pain
3. Wicked curse God because of pain
4. Wicked refuse to repent

G. Bowl #6 (vs. 12-16) “on the Euphrates”—destruction from invading armies

1. River dries up (*Ex. 14:21-22 / Joshua 3:15-17 / 2 Kings 2:7-14 / Isa. 11:15-16; 51:10*)
2. To make ready for kings from east (battle described in *Rev. 19:11-21*)
3. Evil spirits gather wicked kings
4. Warning to the righteous to stay alert and faithful
5. The battle in a place called “Armageddon”—this is Megiddo
 - a. *Judges 5:19*—against overwhelming odds
 - b. *2 Kings 23:28-29*—enemies totally defeated
 - c. *2 Kings 23:28-29*—Josiah rebelled against God and died

H. Bowl #7 (vs. 17-21) “into the air”—Final judgment on Rome!

1. God’s “at last” is done (v. 17)
2. Never before (v. 18)—earthquake
3. Unmixed cup of wrath (v. 19)—great hailstones

4. Islands and mountains dissolved (v. 20). (*Micah 1:2-4 / Nahum 1:5 / Psa. 97:4-5 / 18:7-15*)

5. 100 lb hailstones—no water in the oceans, rivers or springs—no mountains or islands—boils on every living thing—the sun boiling their brains—and now 100 lb hailstones—And what is their response? Repentance? **THEY BLASPHEME GOD!**

The word is “it is done!” God has buried Rome and her allies. Some of the elements of the bowls are yet to be developed in the book, but they are all introduced. The city fell under the 7th bowl, but that fall will be described in chapters 17-18. The battle of Armageddon is previewed here, but it will be defeated “in the air”, but his defeat will be developed in chapter 20.

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

THE GREAT HARLOT

Lesson #20

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE HARLOT (17:1-6)

A. The Object of Coming Judgment (vs. 1-2)

1. Great Prostitute (Isa. 23:16-17)
2. Sits on many waters (Jer. 51:13)
3. The world's "party" girl (14:8)

B. The Queen of Wickedness (vs. 3-6)

1. Sitting on the Sea-Beast (v.3)
 2. Regally robed (v. 4a)
 3. Royally drunk (v. 4)—see also Jer. 51:7
 4. Abominably named (v.5)
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-
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II. EXPLANATION OF THE BEAST SHE RIDES UPON (17:7-14)

A. The Beast's Three-fold History (vs. 7-8)

1. WAS—Probably in Nero's time
2. IS NOT—During Vespasian's and Titus' rule
3. WILL COME UP OUT—In Domitian's rule

B. The meaning of the “seven heads” (vs. 9-11)—Daniel 7:7-8; 19-23

<u>In Daniel</u>	<u>In Revelation</u>
1. Augustus	1. Augustus
2. Tiberius	2. Tiberius
3. Caligula	3. Caligula
4. Claudius	4. Claudius
5. Nero	5. Nero
6. Galba*	
7. Otho*	
8. Vitellius*	
9. Vespasian	6. Vespasian
10. Titus	7. Titus
11. Domitian	8. Domitian

C. The Explanation of the Ten Horns (vs. 12-14)—client / vassal kings of Rome

1. Sub-rulers—not independent (Herod) (v. 12)
2. Voluntarily submit to Rome (v.13)
3. Make war with the Lamb—but lose (v. 14)
 - a. Those who are with Jesus:
 1. Called
 2. Chosen
 3. Faithful

III. THE DESTINY OF THE HARLOT

A. The Waters (v. 15)—the wicked world

B. Her Fate (vs. 16-17)—cooked and eaten by...

1. The Beast—civil, military might
2. The Ten Horns—client kingdoms

C. Her Judge (v. 17a)—God

D. Her Identity (v. 18a)—Rome

IV. THE ANGEL'S VOICE AGAINST THE HARLOT (18:1-3)

A. The Angel (vs. 1-2)

1. Great authority
2. Great splendor
3. Great voice

B. The Fall and its Certainty (v. 2b)

1. It is fallen—not it WILL fall (Romans 4:17)
2. A home for demons...evil spirits (Isa. 13:17-22)

C. The Fall and its Reasons (v. 3)

1. Her adulteries (Nahum 3:4 / Isa. 10:12-14)
 2. Her merchandising (Eze. 27:9-25)
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V. THE APPEAL (18:4-5)

*Jer. 50:8; 51:6,9, 45 / Isa. 52:11

A. Come Out (2 Cor, 6:17-17:7)

B. So That: You will have...

1. No share in her sins (Eph. 5:11)
2. No reception of her plagues

C. For—Her Sins and Crimes (Gal. 6:7 / Hosea 10:12-13)

VI. THE HARLOT'S JUDGMENT (18:6-24)

A. Nature of Her Judgment (vs. 6-23a) Her fall is...

1. Due to her deeds (vs. 6-7a)
2. Due to her arrogance (vs. 7b-8) (Isa. 48:8ff / Zeph. 2:15)
3. Thorough and complete (vs. 9-19)
 - a. No help from her lover—King (vs. 9-10)
 - b. No help from her lover—Merchants (vs. 11-13a)
 - c. No help from her lover—Mariners (vs. 17b-19)
4. A Cause for Righteous Rejoicing (v. 20)
5. Final (vs. 21-23). Read Jeremiah 51:63....NEVER...
 - a. Found again (v. 21)
 - b. Music heard again (v. 22a)
 - c. Workman found (v. 22b)
 - d. Lamp shine again (v. 23a)
 - e. Voice of the bride and groom heard (v. 23b)

B. Its Reason (vs. 23b-24)—Sorcery & the blood of the Saints

1. Her wantonness—Merchant's great men
 2. Her deceptions—Nations were led astray
 3. Her persecution—The blood of the prophets and saints
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***Videos: The Great Harlot & The Bowls of Wrath & The Bowls of Wrath Pt. 2**

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

THE BOWLS OF WRATH

Lesson #21

I. THE SONGS (19:1-10)—The Hallelujah Chorus

A. The Heaven Dwellers (vs. 1-3)—see also (7:9; 14:1; 15:2)—all ransomed

1. Message (v. 1a): Praise the Lord! Hallelujah
2. Reasons (vs. 1b-2)
 - a. God's estate—salvation, glory, power
 - b. God's action—judgment, true and just
 - c. God's vengeance—avenged the blood of His servants
3. The 2nd Verse—Amen! The prostitute is gone forever!

**NOTE: For a picture of smoke going up “forever and ever”, see Isaiah 34:10; Rev. 14:10-11*

B. The 24 Elders and the Four Living Creatures (v. 4)—(servants near the throne)

1. Their activity—fell down and worshipped
2. The words—Amen! Agreement with preceding verses

C. The Great Multitude (vs. 6-8)

1. Their voice (v. 6a)
 - a. Rushing waters (*Eze. 43:2 / Rev. 1:15; 14:2*)
 - b. Loud peals of thunder (*Ex. 19:16 / Isa. 29:4-6*)
2. Their message (v. 6b)—Praise the Lord! Hallelujah
 - a. Basis—The Lord God Almighty Reigns!
3. Their offer (v. 7a)—Come to the feast—the wedding invite
4. Their description of the bride (vs. 7b-8)—fine linen, bright and clean
 - a. “fine linen” stand for the righteous acts of the saints. This is NOT the imputed righteousness of Christ (Romans 4) but the good and benevolent deeds of the saints as in James 1:27.

D. The Angels (vs. 9-10)

1. Commission (v. 9a)—write
2. Message (v. 9b)
 - a. The beatitude—blessed are those invited to the feast
 - b. The assurance—the true words of God

3. The Rebuke (v. 10)—“See thou do it not!” Worship the angel...
 - a. Understandable awe
 - b. Angel’s humble refusal
 - c. Angel’s urgent advice
 - d. Angel’s anxious fellowship

II. THE BATTLE (19:11-21)

A. Rider On The White Horse (vs. 11-16)—not a “door” but heaven “opened”

1. Description of the Rider:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Faithful and true (v. 11a) | f. Eternal judge (v. 13a) |
| b. Just warrior (v. 11b) | g. Eternal word (v.13b) |
| c. Fiery eyes (v. 12a) | h. Valiant leader (v. 14) |
| d. Ruler of many (v. 12b) | i. Judge of all (v. 15) |
| e. Uniquely named (v. 12c) | j. King of Kings (v. 16) |

B. The Supper of God (vs. 17-18)—see also (*Eze. 39:17-20 / Job 15:23 / Prov. 30:17 / Matt. 24:28*)

1. This is the opposite of the “marriage supper”—wicked are food for the birds of heaven
2. The menu:
 - a. Kings, generals, mighty men
 - b. Horses and their riders
 - c. All people: free and slave, small and great

**NOTE: The choice that is given: Eat at the marriage feast—or be eaten at God’s great supper.*

C. The Judgment of the Two Beasts (vs. 19-21)

1. The alliance (v. 19): Read again *16:12-15*
2. The fire (v. 20)—see also *14:10-11; 19:3; Jude 3; Isa. 39:8-10*
3. The rest (v. 21)—allies of the enemies are killed and the birds eat them

REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

THE BINDING OF SATAN

Lesson #22

I. THE BINDING OF SATAN (20:1-3)

A. The Binding Itself (vs. 1-2)

1. Viewpoint is from the earth (“down from heaven”)—Satan—had the key to the Abyss in ch.9 is a defeated foe now.
2. Bound for “**1,000 years**”—What is the picture?
 - a. Satan is totally, perfectly, and flawlessly defeated and bound
 - b. In reference to his use of Rome against the saints
3. “**1,000 years**”
 - a. “**Years**” can be understood to convey the thought of “**totality**” and/or “**perfection**” (*Ezekiel 39:9, 12*)
 - b. “**1,000**” is used biblically to signify “**totality**” or “**perfection**” as well
 1. *Psalms 50:10*—“cattle on a 1,000 hills...”
 2. *Deut. 7:9*—“keeps covenant...1,000 generations”
 3. *Ex. 20:6, 1 / 1 Chron. 16:15 / Psa. 105:8*

B. The Outcome of the Binding (v. 3)

1. The bound devil is locked and sealed in the abyss until the “*1,000 years*” are over.
2. Why—to keep him from deceiving the nations any more! In the defeat of Rome, those who wished to see could see that, the God of the saints had defeated Satan and way truly King. Rome was no longer to be feared!

II. THE THRONES OF THE RIGHTEOUS (20:4-6)

A. Who Are They? (v.4a)

1. Martyred saints (“*beheaded*”)
 - a. Because of their message...
 - b. Because of their faithfulness
2. Given authority to judge

B. What Are They Doing?

1. Seated on thrones (*Daniel 7:9 / Rev. 4:4*)
2. Living life (“*came to life*”)
3. Reigning with Christ (v. 4b)—(*Rev. 3:21; 22:5*)
4. The rest of the dead? (v. 5a)—they are dead for 1,000 years

C. Benefitting from the 1st Resurrection (v. 5b-6) “Blessed and Holy”

1. Not hurt or controlled by 2nd death (*Rev. 20:14*)
 2. Serve as priests (*1 Pet. 2:5 / Rev. 1:6; 5:10*)
 3. Share God’s rule for 1, 000 yrs. (*Rev. 20:4; 22:5; 5:9-10*)
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III. THE DEVIL’S FUTURE ATTACK (20:7-10)

A. Satan was COMPLETELY bound, not PERMANENTLY bound (v.7)

B. Satan’s Work (v. 8)

1. To deceive nations again
2. To gather new helpers to attack the saints “**Gog and Magog**” (*Ez. 38-39*)
 - a. Ezek. 1-24: Jerusalem must fall!
 - b. Ezek. 25-32: Foreign nations must fall!
 - c. Ezek. 3-38: Jerusalem must be comforted!
 1. 38 &39—“Gog and Magog”—destroyed by God to prove God is God! 7 months to bury the dead!

*The FUTURE message—The devil will still not be able to gather an army large enough to threaten the city of God! (David and Goliath)

C. Satan’s Invasion & Total Defeat (vs. 9-10)

1. Defeated without “firing a shot” (v. 9)
 2. Satan judged forever (v. 10)
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-
-
-

IV. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE (20:11-15)

A. The Judge (v. 11)—see also (Dan. 7:9-12)

1. Seated on throne (v. 11a)—(*Rev. 4:2-6, 9-10 / Isaiah 6:1 / Ezek. 1:26-28*)
2. Creation flees from His presence (v. 11b)—(*Rev. 6:14; 16:20 / Jer. 4:24 / Ezek. 38:20 / Nahum 1:5*)—these are all passages of God sitting in judgment of some wicked nation that has been hurting his people.

B. The Judged and Their Judgement (vs. 12-15)

1. The Judged
 - a. The dead (vs. 12-13)—“Great and small”
 - b. Death & Hades (v. 14)
 - c. Anyone NOT in the Book of Life (v. 15)
 2. The Standard: Books—particularly the Book of Life (v. 12)
see also—(*Ex. 32:32 / Deut. 29:20 / Daniel 12:1 / Malachi 3:16 / Luke 10:20 / Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 21:27*)—in the final analysis the question that matters is “Is your name written there !?”
 3. The Judgment—“**Lake of fire**”—The beast, the false prophet, the dragon, and ALL who followed them—whose names are NOT in God’s Family book!
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REVELATION: Kingdom Victorious

THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Lesson #23

I. THE CITIZENS OF THE GREAT CITY (21:1-8)

A. They Are God's People (vs. 1-5)

1. "New heavens and a new earth..."(v. 1) (*Isaiah 13:6-22; 34:1-17; 65:17-25 / 2 Peter 2:2; 3:6 / Nahum 1:1-5 / Micah 1:3-6*)
2. "The Holy City, the NEW Jerusalem..."(v. 2) (*Hebrews 12:18-29*)
3. "Prepared as a bride..."(v. 2) (*Rev. 19:7-9 / Eph. 5:22-33*)
4. "God dwells in this city with the saints..."(v. 3) (*1 Cor. 3:16 / 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1 / Ephesians 2:20-22 / 1 Peter 2:5*)
5. "There is only happiness there..." (v. 4) (*Isaiah 14:3; 25:8; 30:19; 35:19; 65:14, 19*)
6. "Everything there is new..." (v. 5)—the oppressor is gone and the future is secure, come what may!

B. They Are Satisfied People (v. 6)

1. In God's judgment (v. 6)—It is done!
2. In God's eternal character (v. 6)—Alpha & Omega—beginning and end!
3. In God's supply (v. 6)—Drink without COST the water of life!

C. They Are An Overcoming People (vs. 7-8)

1. "Overcoming"—key phrase of the book (*Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:11, and others...*)
2. Verse 8 describes the OPPOSITE of "those who overcome" ...
 - a. The cowardly—cannot be trusted
 - b. The unbelieving—do not trust
 - c. The vile—the polluted
 - d. The murderers—desire evil for others
 - e. The sexually immoral—look in lust
 - f. The practicers of magic—follow the occult
 - g. The idolaters—the covetous
 - h. The liars—live by deceit

II. THE CHARACTER OF THE CITY (21:9-22:5)

A. It Is A Beautiful, Glorious City (vs. 21:9-11)

1. Bride...wife..."coming down out of heaven (vs. 9-10)—not earthly, but heavenly, spiritual (*Phil. 3:20-21*)
2. Glorious in appearance (v. 11)—the very glory of God (*Isaiah 60:2 / Ezekiel 43:2 / Rev. 15:8; 22:5*)

B. It Is A Secure City (vs. 21:12-14)

1. A Great Wall—protection
2. Twelve Gates—access & security (*Rev. 21:15, 25; 22:14*)
3. Twelve Foundations—permanence (*Ephesians 2:20*)

C. It Is A Measured City (21:15-17)

1. Measured: 1,500 x 1,500 x 1,500 miles—room for all!
2. Wall: 216 ft. wide—impossible to storm!

D. It Is A Precious, Costly City (21:18-21)

1. Wall is jasper, ie. Diamond (v. 18; 11)
2. Foundations—each a precious jewel (v. 19-20)
3. Gates—one a huge pearl (v. 21)

E. It Is God's City (21:22-27)—see Isaiah 60 for background of this section

1. No exclusive claim to access to God (v. 22)
2. Lord is the sole light (v. 23-24)
3. An abundant entrance (v. 25-26)
4. Completely holy (v. 27)
 - a. Nothing unclean
 - b. No one unholy

F. It Is An "Edenic" City (22:1-5)

1. It's provisions (vs. 1-2)—see also *Ezekiel 47:1-12*
 - a. River of Life (*Ezekiel 47:1-5*)

b. Tree of Life

1. Fruit (*Ezekiel 47:6-12a*)
2. Healing (*Ezekiel 47:12b*)

2. It's privileges (*vs. 3-5*)

- a. No more curse (*v. 3a*) (*Isaiah 52:11 / Ezekiel 20:34, 41 / Leviticus 26:12 / Jeremiah 32:28 / 2 Samuel 7:14 / 2 Corinthians 6:16-18*)
- b. Service to God (*v. 3b*)—*Rev. 7:15*
- c. Close communion with God (*v. 4*) (*Job 42:5 / Deut. 34:10 / Numbers 12:1-8 / Psalms 11:7; 17:5; 140:13 / 1 Cor. 13:8-13*)
- d. Reign forever with God in light (*v. 5—3:21; 5:10; 20:4*)
—Live or die—the saints reign! Now and for always! The saints reign! WE reign because HE reigns!

III. THE CHALLENGE OF THE CITY (22:6-21)

A. Keep God's Word (*vs. 6-11, 18-19*)

1. Trustworthy and true (*v. 6*)
2. Bestows blessings (*v. 7*)
3. Calls for endurance (*vs. 8-11*)
4. Allows no tampering (*vs. 18-19*)
5. These words are faithful and true—
 - a. Testimony of the angel (*v. 6*)
 - b. Testimony of John (*v. 8*)
 - c. Testimony of Jesus (*v. 16*)
 - d. Testimony of the Spirit and the Bride (*v. 17*)

B. Service to the Lord (*vs. 12-14*)

1. Incentive (*vs. 12-13*)—the nearness of Jesus
 - a. The certainty of reward
 - b. The eternal nature of God

2. Outcome (v. 14)—eat of the tree—inside the city walls

NOTE: 5 times in the conclusion, the things in this book are said to have an immediate fulfillment in view and not the end time!

- a. 22:6—“Must shortly come to pass...”
- b. 22:7—“I come quickly...”
- c. 22:10—“The time is at hand...”
- d. 22:12—“I come quickly...”
- e. 22:20—“I come quickly...”

C. Keep Life Clean (vs. 15-16)

- 1. Wicked are outside (v. 15)
- 2. Jesus is the key to clean living (v. 16)
 - a. The root and offspring of David—God and man
 - b. The bright Morning Star (*Rev. 2:28 / 2 Peter 1:19*)

D. Keep Trusting Jesus (vs. 17, 20-21)

- 1. The continual invitation of the thirsty to drink (v. 17). The only requirement to come to Jesus is thirst for Him (*John 4:10; 7:37-38 / Isaiah 44:3; 55:1 / Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13*)
- 2. The “always” nearness of Christ (vs. 20-21)
 - a. Promise—“I am coming soon...”
 - b. Response—Yes! Hurry!
 - c. Request—Grace be to you.

AMEN!!
