

REVELATION

for growing believers

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Bible Study Guide

From the leadership development ministry of

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS

Acknowledgments

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Progression Toward Maturity

- **Phase 1 – Relationship with God** – (Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 1:9) – Call of God is first to Himself - “Creation to Christ” - (Foundation for salvation)
- **Phase 2 – Position with Christ** (1 Cor. 1:30a) New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17) – “Positioned in Christ” and “New Birth Explained” – (Foundation for Sanctification)
- **Phase 3 – Dependence upon the Spirit** – (2 Cor. 3:17-18) – (Holy Spirit is the Spirit-of-Truth – John 16:13-14) – **Introduction of the Church** - (Church is the Pillar and foundation of Truth – 1 Tim. 3:15) - “Acts for Growing Believers”
- **Phase 4 – Practical sanctification** - **Identification with Christ/Co-crucified with Christ/ Conformed to image of Christ** – (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:28-29) – Romans to Revelation for Growing Believers, “Principles of Spiritual Growth”, God’s Masterpiece the Cross,” and “Looking unto Jesus” lessons
- **Conclusion** – **Recommended order of study**

Detailed Explanation of Each Phase

Phase 1 – Foundation for Salvation - (“Creation to Christ”)

The Christian life is a relationship; therefore our desire is to lead our readers into a deep and intimate relationship with God. In order to grow into that level of relationship with God, there are foundational truths that must be clearly taught and understood. These foundational truths include the following;

- The attributes of God - His love, power, grace, omniscience, omnipotence, justice, immutability, hatred of sin, faithfulness.
- The sinfulness of man, his helplessness to save himself, and his need for a Savior.
- Only God can provide a way of salvation
- The Gospel.

Phase 2 – Foundation for Sanctification - (“Positioned in Christ” and “The New Birth Explained”)

The moment someone is born again, there is an immediate change of position that takes place in his or her life. At that very moment, one becomes a child of God, and is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. All that Christ is, and all that Christ has, becomes ours. Therefore, before service to God is considered, one must be grounded in an understanding of who we are in Christ. Some important foundational truths that should be emphasized in phase 2 teaching, includes the following;

- Placed into Christ
- Justified (declared righteous) and accepted in Christ.
- Child of God
- Restored to oneness with God
- Eternally secure in Christ
- His Divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through His finished work on the cross.
- Our part is to believe.

Phase 3 – Dependence upon the Spirit and introduction of the church – (“Acts for Growing Believers”)

The position change that takes place in every believer's life at salvation, is immediate and complete. The daily "living out" of that position, on the other hand, is a growth process. It is the progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is working all believers through in His process of conforming us to the image of Christ.

In order for believers to move on to maturity, we must learn to walk and depend upon the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our purpose in phase 3 teaching is to reveal the Holy Spirit's ministry, and His faithfulness to lead, guide, feed, and protect God's children, as well as to introduce the church. Some of the important foundational truths that should be emphasized include the following.

- The Holy Spirit's ministry to lead, guide, feed, protect, and establish us in truth.
- To emphasize the FAITHFULNESS of the Spirit to fulfill all that Jesus promised.
- To reveal the early church's dependence upon the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is as faithful in our lives today, as He was to the early church in the book of Acts.
- Introduction of the church and her role.

Phase 4 – Practical sanctification; Identification with Christ; Conformed to the image of Christ – (“Romans to Revelation for Growing Believers,” Principles of Spiritual Growth, God’s Masterpiece the Cross of Christ,” and “Looking Unto Jesus” lessons.)

The Holy Spirit is teaching us to walk less in the flesh and more in the Spirit, with Christ becoming more and more the object of our hearts.

In phase 4, we will study through the epistles with the purpose of learning to rest in our identification with Christ and His finished work. As we, by faith, begin to appropriate identification truths, our co-crucifixion with Christ, our lives will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

Some of the important truths that will be emphasized in Phase 4 includes the following.

- The believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Crucified with Him, and raised to newness of life)
- Sanctification is the process of walking less and less in the flesh and more and more in the Spirit.
- Our part in the process is faith in the finished work of Christ, and our identification with it.
- What it means to truly walk in the Spirit
- Putting off the old and putting on the new.
- Manifesting the life of Christ/ fruit of the Spirit.

Conclusion: Recommended Order of Study:

Being that there truly is a progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is taking all believers through, therefore our Bible lessons have been developed and arranged to line up with that work of the Spirit in our lives. Each set of lessons contain the foundational truths that must be in place in a person's heart in order to facilitate their growth unto the next stage of spiritual growth. Therefore, we believe that it is important to teach the lessons in the following order:

1. Creation to Christ
2. Positioned in Christ
3. Acts for growing believers

4. Romans for growing believers
5. Ephesians for growing believers
6. 1 Corinthians for growing believers
7. 1 Timothy for growing believers
8. Titus for growing believers
9. 1 & 2 Thessalonians for growing believers
10. Revelation for growing believers
11. Galatians for growing believers
12. Colossians for growing believers
13. 2 Corinthians for growing believers
14. Philippians for growing believers
15. Philemon for growing believers
16. 2 Timothy for growing believers
17. 1 & 2 Peter for growing believers
18. 1, 2 & 3 John for growing believers
19. Hebrews for growing believers
20. James for growing believers
21. Jude for growing believers
22. The Old Testament for mature believers
23. Acts through Revelation, verse by verse for mature believers

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 1

A. Introduction

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:” Revelation 1:1

- This book is called the Revelation, for in it God reveals future events.
- God had not revealed to any other person what John wrote in the book of Revelation.
- If God had not revealed these things to John, then no one could have known them. God desires that His children know what will take place in the future (**Ephesians 1:9**).
- Notice John writes in verse 1 that these things were revealed so that God’s children can know what will “shortly come to pass”.
- From the time these things were revealed to John, until now, it has been approximately 2000 years. That does not seem like a short time to us.
- But the Bible states that to God one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day (**2 Peter 3:8**).
- God is able to look at history as a whole; past, present, and future. Everything that has in the past happened, that which is presently happening, and that which will happen in the future, God sees all at once.
- But we only know what is presently happening as well as a short past history. We don’t see the big picture as God does. Therefore, our knowledge is limited by time.
- From the time that Jesus came, died, and ascended to heaven, we have been in the final days that are leading up to His return for His Church.
- We should realize that at any moment the Lord Jesus could come and take us to be with Him forever.
- Once He does come back, much of what is written in the book of Revelation will begin to take place.

“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 1:9

- John states, “I am your brother and companion in tribulation.” Obviously he was writing to believers who were enduring persecution.
- In those days, Christians were hated and persecuted; John himself was enduring persecution. Because of his belief and preaching of the gospel, he was sent to live on a small, isolated island called Patmos.
- In **Acts 4:18**, Peter and John were commanded to stop preaching the gospel; in verses 19 and 20, they responded that they could not stop speaking the things that they had seen and heard.
- The authorities probably thought that if they sent John to a small island, he wouldn’t be able to continue preaching the gospel.
- But they did not know the power and sovereignty of God; when God wants to use someone for His purposes, nothing or no one can stop Him.
- Even though the authorities isolated John, that did not thwart God’s plan; God is sovereign and will use anyone, anywhere, to do anything that He wants them to do.



“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,” Revelation 1:10

- John writes that he was in the Spirit, or we could say that his soul (mind, will, emotions) was under the control of the Spirit.
- It was very important that John reveal to his readers that he was under the influence and control of the Spirit, so they would know all that he was writing had been revealed by the Spirit, and therefore, was truth.
- John was making clear that he was under the control of the Spirit, and while under the Spirit’s control, the Spirit gave to John a vision of what was to come. In this vision, it was the “Lord’s day;” the day that Jesus had come back for His Church.
- Then John wrote, “Behind me, I heard a voice that was as loud as a trumpet.”

“Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto

Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.” Revelation 1:11

- The voice that trumpeted out the words, “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last,” was the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. No other person could say that about himself.
- Jesus was making the statement that all things begin with Him, and it will be He that brings all things to their final end. He has always and will always be in control of all things.
- As God, He never had a beginning, will never have an ending, and will never change; He knows all things, is everywhere, and is all powerful. None is greater than He (**Colossians 1:16-17**).
- Jesus, who is the beginning and the end of all things, told John to write down everything that he saw and to send it to the seven churches that were in Asia.

B. A Vision

“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.” Revelation 1:12-16

- John writes that he turned to see who had spoken with him, and saw Jesus standing in the midst of seven lampstands.
- This vision was so great, bright, and glorious, that it may have been difficult for John to communicate what he had actually seen.
- Therefore, he likened Jesus’ appearance to those things which people could understand.
- This description may sound frightening to some, but



remember, this vision was portraying Jesus as the Almighty Judge, who will be returning to judge all those who refuse to believe the gospel.

- For those of us who are God's children, Jesus is not our judge, but rather our brother, Savior, and friend. For us, His appearance will generate thoughts, desires and emotions of love and praise for Him, rather than fear.
- Let's look again at John's description of Jesus' appearing to the unbelieving world.
- John began by saying that Jesus' head and hair were as white as wool or snow.
- In the Bible, white often refers to holiness. Because the Lord Jesus is perfectly holy, He has the right to judge the world.
- Next, John wrote that Jesus' eyes were like a flame of fire (ponder **I Corinthians 3:13-15**).
- When Jesus, the Almighty Judge returns to judge unbelievers, just as fire consumes everything in its path, so there won't be anything left in anyone's life that will go unjudged. He sees all things at all times.
- John also wrote that Jesus' feet were like glowing hot brass that was being heated in a furnace.
- The brazen altar that was inside the tabernacle entrance was covered with brass and was where the Israelites made their sin offerings. This was a constant reminder to the Israelites that God is Judge, and that He requires death for the payment of sin.
- The fact that Jesus' feet looked like glowing brass is a physical picture of the spiritual truth that He is mankind's payment for sin, and to reject Him is to reject His payment, leaving man judged as guilty and having to pay the penalty of death Himself.
- The One who would have been our Savior has now become the judge.
- Next, John said that Jesus' voice was like the sound of many rushing waters.
- Rushing water is loud and very powerful. It destroys and washes away whatever is in its path.
- When the Lord Jesus' voice sounds forth in judgment, unbelievers will be washed away into eternal punishment by the power of Jesus' words.
- And now John writes that out of His mouth came a two-edged sword.
- Good communicators are fast thinkers; their words are often sharp and it is difficult to respond to them.
- There are many examples of this in the gospels when the Pharisees were attempting to trap Jesus. He often asked them questions they could not answer.

- John is telling us that when Jesus speaks judgment against the unbelieving world, His words will be as sharp as a two-edged sword; no one will be able to answer and justify themselves.
- Lastly, John said that His countenance was as the sun when it shines in its strength.
- Have you ever tried looking into the sun? It is not possible because it is too bright. If we force ourselves to look at it, we could go blind.
- This is what Paul meant in **2 Thessalonians 2:8** when he said that the brightness of Christ's coming will be so bright that it will destroy the antichrist.
- Just as the brightness of Jesus' glory knocked Paul to the ground on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-4**), when Jesus comes as the Almighty Judge, there won't be anyone left standing.

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:” Revelation 1:17

- John was overwhelmed by Jesus' appearance as Judge and he fell at His feet. When Jesus returns as the Almighty Judge, the unbelieving world will respond in a similar way.
- But Jesus, in love and gentleness, put His hand on John and told him not to fear.
- As children of God, we are Jesus' brothers, sisters, and friends. His response to us will be one of acceptance, love, and mercy; not judgment and punishment.

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Revelation 1:18

- Because Jesus died for our sins and rose again, He now has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, and under the earth. He holds the keys to Hades and death.
- In all of our teaching until now, we have said that all unbelievers go to hell. This is true, for after Jesus comes back to judge the world, all will be sent to hell forever.

- However, in **Luke 16:19-31**, we read of a place called Hades. This is a story of the rich man and Lazarus. In this scripture, Abraham could look across and see the rich man in Hades, but could not go to him.
- Hades is divided into two sections. One section is a place of fire and torment much like hell, and is where all unbelievers, who have died, go.
- The other section is paradise, and is like heaven. Before Jesus came, died and rose again, it was where all believers went.
- But when Jesus ascended to heaven after being raised from the dead, all those who were in paradise as well as all believers who have died after Christ's ascension go to heaven to be with Him.
- When Jesus told John that He had the key to Hades, He meant that He has authority over all unbelievers in Hades, and that when He returns as Judge, they will be let out to be judged and then sent to everlasting punishment in hell.
- Jesus also said that he has the key to death.
- When the time is right, all bodies of those who have died will be resurrected.
- Those who have died being unbelievers will be raised, judged and sent to everlasting punishment in hell.
- The believing dead will be raised and re-united with their soul and spirit and will live forever in heaven with Jesus.

C. Three Things

“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;.” Revelation 1:19

- Jesus told John to write down three things: (1) that which he had seen; we read this in **Revelation 1:10-18**. (2) things which are; John wrote this in **chapters 2-3**; which is a message to each of the seven churches that were present during that time in Asia; (3) things which shall happen in the future; **chapter 4 to the end of Revelation**.

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” Revelation 1:20

- Jesus spoke to John regarding the meaning of the seven stars as well as the seven candlesticks.
- The seven stars are angels and the seven candlesticks, the seven churches in Asia.
- This picture of Jesus standing in the middle of the churches reminds us that all believers are united in Christ and make up the Church. It also reminds us that Jesus is always with us, watching over and protecting His Church; angels are servants of God and they are under Jesus' authority and He uses them to minister to His children as he sees fit (**Psalm 103:20**).

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 2

A. The Future

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” Revelation 4:1-2

- Jesus now speaks to John saying that He will show him what will take place in the future after the rapture of the Church.
- The first thing that John saw was a throne in heaven with God sitting on it. A throne is a special place where kings sit.
- God, who sits on the throne in heaven, has authority over heaven and earth; there is none greater than He.
- All other earthly kings are under His authority, and we are children of the King of kings.
- We may go through some very difficult times in this life, but we must never forget that our Heavenly Father is sitting on the throne and we are under His care.



“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.” Revelation 5:1

- John saw a scroll in God’s right hand that had seven seals on it.
- If we were to send a letter to someone, we would put it in an envelope and seal it. Then we would address it and send it off.
- No one else has the authority to open that letter, but the one to whom it is sent.

B. The Scroll

“And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?” Revelation 5:2

- The angel asked, “Who has the authority to open the book and break the seals?”
- Here we are not told what is written in this scroll, but later we will see that it is a scroll containing the terrible judgments that God will bring upon the earth.
- And so the angel asks, “Who has the authority to break the seals, open the scroll, and bring about God’s judgment.”

“And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” Revelation 5:3-5

- Jesus is the only one in heaven or on earth who has the authority to open the seven seals and bring God’s judgment on those who have rejected Christ.
- It was Christ who died, took our punishment, and overcame death, hell, and the grave, making it possible for us to be saved.
- Because it is He who has made a way for us to be saved from judgment, it is He who has the authority to judge those who have rejected His provision.
- To reject Christ as Savior is to make Him judge.
- At first it looked to John as if there was no one who could open the scroll, so he began to weep.
- To John, having no one worthy to open the scroll and bring God’s judgment on the unbelieving meant two things: 1) We don’t have a Savior yet; 2) Sin would continue on unjudged. This deeply grieved John
- As we walk in the Spirit, we will hate sin and long for Christ’s return.
- But in the flesh, we will be much more tolerant, and even enjoy the passing pleasure of sin (**Hebrews 11:25**).

“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.” Revelation 5:6

- John said that he saw four beasts, as well as some elders, and in their midst, one like a lamb that had been slain.
- John the Baptist said this of Jesus when he saw Him walking by the Jordan River? “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” **(John 1:29)**
- In John’s first vision of Jesus in Revelation 1, he saw Jesus as Judge.
- But here the picture is much different; the vision is Jesus as Savior.
- This description of Jesus, being a lamb with seven horns and seven eyes, is a picture to help understand more about Jesus.
- John said that he saw Jesus as a lamb that had been slain, which would clearly indicate that He was still bearing the marks of death.
- John mentioned the fact that Jesus had seven horns.
- In the Bible, numbers have meaning and seven means perfect or complete. Animal horns stand for authority or power.
- Thus we may conclude that Jesus has complete power and authority over all things.
- John also saw that Jesus had seven eyes, which the Lord revealed to him are seven spirits that Jesus sent throughout the earth.
- Again, seven means perfect and complete, and it is in reference to the complete and perfect knowledge that Jesus has of all things in our lives, thereby making Him capable of passing perfect and complete judgment on all people.

“And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth”. Revelation 5:7-10

- When Jesus came forth and took the scroll out of God’s hand, the four beasts and twenty-four elders began to sing a new song.
- They were praising Jesus because He had been slain; because He has redeemed all believers, and because He alone is worthy to take the book, open it, and bring forth the judgments therein.

- This is a time to which all of heaven is greatly looking forward; the time that all sin and sinners will be judged and Christ will take over as the rightful Ruler of the world.
- When Jesus finally comes forth, takes the scroll, and begins to open its seals, all of heaven will break forth in praise and worship.
- John also wrote that the elders were carrying bowls that were full of the prayers of the saints.
- From the day of Pentecost until the rapture of the Church, all of God’s children have been greatly anticipating Jesus’ return for His children and judgment of all sin.
- We live in a fallen world in cursed bodies, and for most of us, life is hard here on earth. We often find ourselves looking to God in dependent prayer, trusting in our only hope Jesus Christ. John describes those prayers as “golden vials full of odors” in **Psalm 141:2**. David asks that his prayers be as “incense to God.”
- John goes on to say that the four beasts and 24 elders fell down before the Lamb and sang, “thou art worthy to redeem us out of every kindred (tribal group) tongue (language group), people (ethnic group), and nation (political group).”

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever.” Revelation 5:11-14

- It’s worth noting in verse 13 that when Jesus comes forth to take the scroll, every single creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea will break forth in praise and acknowledgment that God the Father and Jesus the Lamb deserve all praise and worship.

- All those who mock, ridicule, and persecute Christians, whether they be Satan, demons, or any and all creatures, will acknowledge the glory and power of God.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 3

A. The First Seal is Opened

- In our last lesson John wrote that there is One Who is worthy to take the scroll from God, open it, and cause God's judgments to come forth upon all unbelievers.
- That One is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Now in Revelation 6 John reveals what will take place on earth after Jesus returns to receive the Church.

“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.” Revelation 6:1

- John wrote that when Jesus took the scroll and opened the first seal, he heard one of the beasts give a powerful shout to come and see.
- This is the beginning of God's judgment on the unbelieving world, after which time Christ's rule will be established on earth. This is a time that all of heaven has looked forward to.

“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” Revelation 6:2

- When Jesus begins to open the seals to bring about God's judgments on the earth, this will be the start of a new period of time.
- No longer will we be in the dispensation of grace; judgment will now prevail.
- This picture is symbolizing the fact that man's rule and authority on earth is being taken away and it will be given over to Christ.

B. The Second Seal is Opened

“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given

to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.” Revelation 6:3-4

- John now reveals what will to happen when Jesus opens the second seal. John said that peace will be taken from the earth and that men will kill one other.
- To say that peace is going to be taken away means that it is still present.
- With all the fighting and killing that is taking place with peace still present, how bad will it be once peace is taken away? This is a very sobering thought to ponder.
- This also clearly communicates that we are presently enjoying some level of peace and order in the world only because God continues to maintain it (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7).

C. The Third Seal is Opened

- Once peace is gone, life on earth will become worse than anyone has ever seen.

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” Revelation 6:5-6

- The next seal that Jesus opens will bring forth great famine. The famine will be so severe that one day’s meal will cost a whole day’s wage.
- But at that rate, a man won’t be able to provide enough food for his family. The result will be mass starvation.

D. The Fourth Seal is Opened

“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.” Revelation 6:7-8

- Jesus opens the fourth seal which brings forth the next judgment; this judgment will kill ¼ of all people who are left on the earth.
- They will be killed by the sword (fighting, murder, etc.), by starvation, by disease, and by wild animals.
- More deaths will take place at this time than the world has ever known.

E. The Fifth Seal is Opened

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” Revelation 6:9-11

- It often appears like those who persecute Christians for their faith get away with it and justice is not served, however (**Psalm 73:1, 12**); God clearly states that this is not true. Once all those who will be martyred have been killed, God will bring about judgment and revenge upon those who have persecuted His children.
- It also appears from this scripture that there will be some who will be saved during the tribulation.
- By the grace of God, these folks are given an opportunity during the tribulation period, to hear and believe the gospel and be saved.

F. The Sixth Seal is Opened

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.” Revelation 6:12-14

- And now, John writes that when Jesus opens the sixth seal, a great earthquake will shake the universe. The sun will turn black; stars will fall to the earth; the sky will disappear; islands and mountains will be moved out of their places.
- What effect will this have on man?

“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Revelation 6:15-17

- John tells us that all of the kings, leaders, rich and great men of the earth will be running to the mountains to hide under rocks and in caves, and will be wishing that it would just cave in on them so they might hide from the wrath of God.
- The hardships and difficulties of this time will be so great and terrible that men will be gripped with fear.
- It will be apparent to them that the end of the world has come and that God’s wrath and judgment are at hand. They will cry out, “Who will be able to stand against God’s judgment?”
- The answer, no one will be able to stand. All will be judged and condemned. No one will escape.
- Had it not been for the grace of God, we all would be in the same predicament of living in fear of God’s wrath.
- But, what a totally different situation for we believers. We look forward to God’s love, grace, mercy, acceptance, and forgiveness when we know we are unworthy.
- We are His children. He is our Heavenly Father.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 4

A. Believers During the Tribulation

- In studying Revelation 6, we learned of six terrible judgments that God will bring on the world during the great tribulation. In this lesson, we will discover more about those who will put their faith and trust in Christ as Savior during the tribulation.

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Revelation 7:1-4

- John writes that there will be four angels turned loose to “hurt” the earth, and given authority to disrupt the laws of nature.
- As the laws of nature are disrupted, there will be chaos and hardship on the earth.
- But before the angels are turned loose, another angel will come and tell them to wait and do nothing until the “servants of God” have been sealed in their foreheads.
- These “servants” are 144,000 Israelites who will accept Christ as their Savior.
- This is another testimony of God’s grace.
- Just as God did not bring on the flood until Noah had a refuge, neither will God bring on the great tribulation until His Church is safe in heaven. Therefore, the four angels who have authority to hurt the earth are commanded to wait until God’s chosen 144,000 Israelites are sealed and protected from the coming tribulation.
- We saw a similar situation in the Old Testament when the Israelites were in Egypt; God only brought the plagues on the Egyptians; the Israelites were protected.

- In Romans 11, Paul writes that one day, God will set aside the Gentiles and once again turn to the Israelites to be His special witnesses here on earth.

B. 144,000 Israelites

- After writing about the Israelites who will be saved, John went on to mention another group he saw in heaven.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.” Revelation 7:9-12

- After seeing the 144,000 Israelites, John then writes that he saw a great multitude of people which no man could number.
- He explains that this multitude was comprised of people from all nations (political groups), kindreds (tribal groups), peoples (ethnic groups), and tongues (language groups).
- John wrote that this multitude was clothed in white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- The white robes indicate that their sins have been washed away and that they have been made righteous and holy in God’s sight.
- The palm branches symbolized victory and Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- The fact that this multitude will be carrying palm branches implies that they have been made victorious over sin and judgment, and have been delivered from the great tribulation and are now finding themselves in the presence of Jesus and God.
- When this day finally arrives, it will give cause for great praising and worship of God.

“And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:13-14

- John tells us who these people are; they are those who were saved during the great tribulation.
- This brings to mind an interesting question: many churches today, as well as mission organizations, have made it their goal to reach all peoples with the gospel. Is this a biblical goal?
- John writes that it is during the great tribulation when all nations, kindreds, peoples and tongues will be reached; notice that it is after the Church has been removed.
- This would imply that it is the 144,000 who will evangelize all nations, peoples, kindreds, and tongues.
- Obviously, God desires for the Church to preach and teach the gospel, but we must be careful that we don't set goals that aren't biblical.
- In the flesh, we oftentimes predetermine what God's will is for us, and then set out to make it happen.
- On the outside it looks spiritual and of the Lord, but on the inside, it is being fueled by the desires of the flesh.

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Revelation 7:15-17

- This multitude who will be saved during the great tribulation, have endured the hardships of God's judgments, as well as severe persecution from the antichrist and his followers.
- While still on earth, John implies that they were without food, water, and shelter, and their lives were so difficult that they wept.
- However, John goes on to say that upon entering heaven, they will no longer hunger, thirst, be without shelter or weep, for the Lamb, our gracious Savior

will feed them, lead them to living fountains of waters, and wipe away all tears.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 5

A. The Seventh Seal

- In Revelation 6, we studied about the scroll with the seven seals. As Jesus opened each of the first six seals, a terrible calamity was released upon the world. Now John reveals that the seventh seal brings on more hardship than the others.

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.” Revelation 8:1

- Picture this scene in heaven: around the throne where God the Father is sitting, is the Lamb, the 24 elders, the 4 beasts, an innumerable number of angels, and the Church.
- All praising and worshiping God for the salvation of souls from every kindred, people, tongue, and nation.
- Then, Jesus opens the seventh seal, and all of heaven becomes silent for about half an hour.
- With the opening of the seventh seal, God is moving from mercy to judgment. It will be a very solemn time.

“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” Revelation 8:2, 6

- After Jesus broke the seventh seal, John saw seven angels each receive a trumpet. The angels then prepared themselves to sound the trumpets. As each trumpet sounded, it brought on a new judgment.

“The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it

were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!” Revelation 8:7-13

- It’s interesting to note that these first four judgments destroy 1/3 of all things that God created: sun, moon, stars, and all that is on the earth, except for man.
- In the beginning, God created all of these things out of His love and care for man.
- But because man turned away from God and has chosen to worship the things created more than the Creator, and to take all of the wonderful things that God created for granted, therefore, God’s first four judgments will take away 1/3 of all God had originally created for man.
- And after these four judgments, John writes that an angel will fly over telling the world that the worst is yet to come.

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.” Revelation 9:1

- John is not talking of a real star here, but rather an angelic being. Some say it is Satan, for he used to be called the “morning star” and he did fall from heaven. Others believe it could be one of his fallen angels.
- Regardless of whom it is, this being is given the authority to open the bottomless pit and bring about more calamities.
- The bottomless pit would appear to be part of Hades.

“And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the

earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.” Revelation 9:2-12

- The first four judgments affected God’s creation, but the fifth was one that directly affected man.
- John makes it clear that these locusts will only sting those who don’t have God’s seal on their foreheads.
- Once again, this is similar to the way God orchestrated events in Egypt, when God’s plagues only came upon the Egyptians.
- God, by His grace, will spare His children from this judgment.
- John wrote that the torment from these locusts will be so severe that men will want to die, but God will not permit it.

“And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their

mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.”

Revelation 9:13-19

- After being tormented by locusts for five months, the sixth angel will then sound forth his trumpet.
- John now writes that four angels, which were bound in the Euphrates River, will be loosed and given the authority to kill a third of all mankind.

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” Revelation 9:20-21

- It is amazing that man’s heart could become so hardened; after seeing a third of the earth destroyed, being tormented by stinging locusts for five months, and then seeing a third of all mankind killed, those who are left still will not repent of their sin and turn to God for mercy!

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 6

A. The Nation of Israel

- In Revelation 12, John makes clear that Satan will persecute and attempt to destroy the nation of Israel during the great tribulation.

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days”.

Revelation 12:1-6

- John does not specifically tell us who the woman is, however she appears to represent the nation of Israel.
- It was through the nation of Israel that Jesus came.
- The great red dragon would appear to be Satan.
- From the time that God promised in the Garden of Eden to send a Deliverer, until He actually came, lived, died and ascended to heaven, Satan continually tried to destroy Him.
- Satan hates God and hates the One who will one day end Satan’s reign here on earth.
- As we studied through the life of Christ, we saw over and over how Satan desired to kill Jesus so that He could not deliver mankind.
- Satan will never destroy Jesus, but he will try to persecute and destroy those whom God loves and desires to use as His ambassadors; during the tribulation this will be Israel.
- Israel will suffer greatly.

- Keep in mind that Satan can only do that which God permits. God will permit Satan to persecute Israel, but it will be for the purpose of turning them back to God.
- We have seen God do this numerous times throughout the Old Testament. Whenever Israel turned away from God, He would use hardship to turn them back again (**Hosea 5:15-6:1**).

B. The Antichrist

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” Revelation 13:1

- This beast that John mentions is the antichrist. In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** we read: *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”* The antichrist will rise to power and will set himself up as God, sitting in the temple where people will come and worship him.
- But, as we read on in 2 Thessalonians 2., when Jesus returns again, Satan’s plans and the antichrist’s reign will all come to an end.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:5-8

- John writes what Paul also wrote in 2 Thessalonians; that the antichrist will say many blasphemous things about God and His followers, and that he will set himself up to be worshipped.
- John said that power will be given to the antichrist for 42 months or 3.5 years; half of the seven year tribulation period.
- This power to reign may have come through Satan, but keep in mind that Satan is not free to work at will and accomplish all that he desires.
- All that he does is under the sovereign control of God, and in accordance with God's plan and will for this world.
- John also wrote that the antichrist will be permitted to fight against, and kill many Christians.
- This may sound cruel that God would permit this, however, when the antichrist kills a Christian, he will ultimately be helping to deliver that Christian from the great tribulation and send him on to eternal life and peace in heaven.
- John also said that all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life, will be deceived by the antichrist and will follow and worship him.
- Those who are believers will not be deceived; however, they will be persecuted.

C. The Second Beast

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the

beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” Revelation 13:11-18

- This second beast that John saw is later referred to as the false prophet.
- This man will have power to do many miracles, which in turn will deceive people into following the antichrist.
- Those who follow and worship the antichrist will be branded on the right hand or forehead with the number, “666.” This number will mark them as followers of the antichrist, and only those who have the number will be permitted to buy or sell.
- The false prophet will kill those who refuse the mark of the beast and refuse to worship the antichrist.
- We must always keep in mind that the antichrist and the false prophet will get their supernatural powers from Satan, but only as our sovereign God permits.
- While the unbelieving world is reaping the suffering and hardship that their rejection of God has brought upon them, Christians will be enjoying the very presence of the Lord God Almighty and our merciful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as all the grace, love, mercy, and glory that His presence brings.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 7

A. The Last Judgments

- As we begin Revelation 15, John said that he saw another great sign in heaven.

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.” Revelation 15:1

- Notice John said that these seven judgments will be the last.
- After these plagues come to pass, the Lord Jesus will return to judge the world and to begin His rule on the earth (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**).
- While these last judgments are taking place, the Church of Jesus Christ will be with Him in heaven.
- Then after the judgments, Jesus will return to the earth and we, the Church, will return with Him.

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” Revelation 15:2

- John now speaks of those, who during the tribulation, have come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- These new believers had refused to worship the antichrist or his image and had also rejected his mark, and therefore were murdered during the tribulation because of their faith.
- When believers are martyred during this time, the antichrist and his followers will most likely think that they have won a great victory.
- It’s interesting to notice how John refers to these martyrs. He speaks of them as having won the victory over the beast.
- Their lives on earth during the tribulation will be more miserable than anyone can imagine, but they will win the most important victory; they receive Christ as Savior and are set free from all sin, sorrow, sickness and persecution.

- Similarly, when Jesus was arrested and crucified, Satan and his demons surely thought they had won the victory.
- But, little did they know that through His crucifixion He would become the Deliverer.

B. The Songs

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.” Revelation 15:3-4

- These believers who had been killed by the antichrist and his followers were singing praises and worshipping God.
- John writes that they were singing two songs. The first was called the *Song of Moses*. It may have been the song that Moses sang after being delivered through the Red Sea (**Exodus 15:1-4**).
- The next song is called the *Song of the Lamb*. This could possibly be the song that was sung in **Revelation 5:9-14**.
- Now we read in chapter 16 the rest of the judgments that God will bring on the world before Jesus returns.

“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power

over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.” Revelation 16:1-21

- It’s amazing that people would be blaspheming God rather than be crying out for mercy.
- But fleshly, self-righteous, hard-hearted unbelievers view God as being unfair and see themselves as undeserving of such judgments.

“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” Revelation 19:6-7

- This great multitude is praising and worshipping God because the time has finally arrived, that everyone has been waiting for.
- It is time for Jesus to return to the earth to judge the antichrist, the false prophet, and all their followers and establish His reign. It will be a great time of praise and worship.
- John writes that everyone will be praising God, for the marriage of the Lamb will now take place.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27

- Jesus is the Lamb and we, the Church, are His bride.
- This will be that time in heaven when Jesus will present His bride, holy and without blemish, because of her standing in Him.

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:8

- And so we, the bride of Christ, are clothed in pure, clean, white linen which is the righteousness of Christ; for it is Jesus’ righteousness that gives us our perfect standing before God.
- In **I Corinthians 1:30**, Paul writes that Christ is our righteousness. As the Holy Spirit reproduces the life of Christ in us, we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ; we put on the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 13:14**).
- This will be yet another testimony to the grace of God, for it is only through what He has done on our behalf that it is possible for us to stand before Him in white linen.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 8

A. Jesus, the Judge

- We have been studying what will happen during the great tribulation, after the rapture of the Church. Now in chapter 19, John reveals what will take place after the great tribulation when Jesus returns to judge all nations.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.” Revelation 19:11-13

- This is the way that Jesus will appear when He returns as Judge after the tribulation.
- His appearing at this coming will be different from the first time that He came.
- When Jesus came the first time, He came as the servant of all and to give His life as the payment for sin (**John 3:16-17**).
- Mary, a poor carpenter’s wife was chosen to be His mother and He was born in a stable.
- And when He was living on the earth, He had no home of His own.
- But when He comes again, He will come as the mighty Son of God who will judge all who refused to repent and trust in Him as Savior.
- John writes that Jesus is called “Faithful and True” for He came to earth and completely fulfilled His Father’s will. He left nothing undone that His Father gave Him to do.
- John also wrote that, “in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”
- It was Jesus who first came as our humble Savior, but now He is coming to judge all those who will not accept Him as Savior. His judgment will be just and right.
- John also tells us that “His eyes will be a flame of fire.”
- This description points to the fact that Jesus is an Omniscient (all knowing) Judge, and therefore His judgment is just.

- John also mentions that, “on His head were many crowns.”
- When John wrote about the antichrist coming, he said that he will have ten crowns on his head; however, he also wrote that Jesus will have many crowns.
- This is referring to the fact that when Jesus returns as Judge and to rule on earth, His rule will be total and complete over all nations.
- Next, John said that He had a name written that no one knew, but He Himself.
- As we study through the Word, we see that Jesus has many names. Each name reveals something about Him.
- The fact that He had a name written that no one knew clearly communicates that He is so great that humanly speaking we will never be able to fully know and understand Him. He is just too magnificent.
- However, John does mention another well known name of Jesus, “The Word of God.”
- The Bible is the “written” Word of God and Jesus is the “living” Word of God (**John 1:1 & 14**).
- Jesus is given this name because all that the Bible teaches about God, He came to live and reveal to us through His life; He is the exact image of God (**Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3**).

B. The Armies

“And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Revelation 19:14-15

- When Jesus returns, He will not be returning alone, for the armies of heaven will accompany Him.
- This may be referring to myriads of angels, as well as His Church.
- The sharp sword coming out of His mouth is referring to His words, His voice (**Psalms 29:3-4**).
- Jesus is God, and as God He is omnipotent (all powerful). With His voice He spoke all of creation into being and with His voice; He will judge and smite the nations.
- John also said that, “He will rule with the rod of iron.”

- His rule over all nations will be absolute; all nations must completely submit to His authority.

“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:16

- This clearly states His absolute authority and supremacy over all. He is the Head and Ruler; there is none greater than He.

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.” Revelation 19:19

- The antichrist’s response to the heavenly host will be to rally together all the leaders of the earth and their armies for the purpose of waging war against Jesus and all who are with Him.
- Once again, we see the incurable insanity of sin; in spite of defeat after defeat, they continue to fight against God rather than submit to Him.

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.” Revelation 19:20-21

- Today, Christians talk a lot about Satan and consider him to be a formidable foe.
- In this scripture, John clearly reveals how well his power measures up to the power of God.
- It is interesting to note that there isn’t even a battle! Upon Jesus’ arrival, the antichrist and false prophet are immediately taken and cast alive into the lake of fire.
- With His “sword” (the Word of God), all unbelieving humanity is instantly slain.

- When it's time for God's will to be done, it will be done. Satan may appear to be a capable foe, but this is only because it's not yet time for him to be cast into the Lake of Fire.
- Jesus will be coming as Judge, but before judgment, God first offers grace. When man rejects God's grace, he condemns himself.

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 9

A. Satan is Bound

- When Jesus returns as Judge and Ruler over all the earth, the antichrist and false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire and then all of their followers will be slain by Jesus' words.

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.” Revelation 20:1-3

- Have you ever heard anything that had more of a ring of relief to it than these verses? Since the Garden of Eden, there has never been a time in the history of man that Satan wasn't free to deceive the nations; it's hard to imagine what it will be like.
- Notice that Satan will be thrown into the place that was opened and out came the stinging locusts to afflict man.
- Please note that it is God's angel that binds Satan and throws him into the bottomless pit.
- This clearly reveals that Satan is not equal in power to God.
- It only takes one of God's angels to defeat him; and apparently there will be no struggle.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years .But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection .Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4-6

- The thrones that John saw are thrones that believers will sit upon. We will be given the privilege to judge and rule with Christ during the 1000 years that Satan is bound up in the bottomless pit.
- Exactly what we will be judging and ruling over is not clear, but what is clear, is that He will give us the awesome privilege of ruling with Him.
- This may be referring to all believers; Old Testament saints, Church-age believers, as well as those who are saved during the tribulation.
- But all unbelievers who have physically died will remain in Hades for the duration of the 1000 years awaiting their final judgment.
- At the end of the 1000 year reign, their bodies will be resurrected and reunited with their souls in order to be judged.
- This resurrection of the unbelievers is the second resurrection; the first being the resurrection of believers.
- Those who are a part of the first resurrection are extremely blessed, for we will not experience the second death (eternal separation from the presence of God).
- Believers experience two births (physical and spiritual), but one death (physical).
- Unbelievers experience one (physical) birth but two deaths (physical and spiritual).

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea”. Revelation 20:7-8

- Notice that as soon as Satan is released from the bottomless pit, the first thing he does is to rush back out and begin deceiving the nations again.
- Releasing Satan does two things: (1) it shows that Satan is incurably wicked; (2) unless man is born again, he will always be deceived.

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:9

- During the 1000 year reign, Israel will return to God, accept Christ as Savior, and once again become the nation through which God works to make Himself known to the rest of the world.
- Because Israel will become God's people once again, they will become Satan's target and he will lead the nations to surround Israel and seek to destroy Jerusalem.
- The outcome is always the same for Satan; there won't even be a battle, for fire will rain from Heaven and devour them all.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:10

- This is God's final judgment on Satan.
- Once he is cast into the lake of fire, he will never be set free again to deceive the nations; he will be tormented night and day forever.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” Revelation 20:11

- And now, the time has come for all unbelievers to be judged.
- It's interesting to note that since the earth has been cursed because of sin, after the great white throne judgment is over, God will destroy the heavens and the earth and create it anew for Himself and all of His children.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:12-15

- Once Satan is cast into the lake of fire forever and the heavens and earth are destroyed, all unbelieving physically dead will be raised back to life in order to receive their final judgment.
- John wrote that some books will be opened, which appears to be the 66 books of the Bible, as well as the book of life that will contain the names of all believers.
- Notice that John tells us that the unbelieving dead (spiritually dead), will be “judged out of those things which were written in the books (66 books of the Bible), according to their works.” At the great white throne judgment, unbelievers will be judged according to their works to show that their punishment is deserved.
- Ultimately, they will all be cast into the lake of fire for having rejected Christ, and therefore their name is not found in the book of life.
- However, at the great white throne judgment, as the 66 books of the Bible are opened and man’s works are compared to God’s will for man, every mouth will be shut and all will stand guilty before God (**Romans 3:18**).

REVELATION FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 10

A. New Heaven and New Earth

- In this lesson we will briefly touch on the last two chapters of Revelation.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

- We know that in the beginning, God prepared the earth for man and then created Adam and Eve. God told Adam to take control and watch over all things.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:27-28

- However, through sin, Adam lost this position and Satan became the god of this world.
- Because sin had entered into the world, God cursed the earth and it became a place of trouble, sickness, death, and sorrow, and has remained so since that time.
- However, we did discover in Revelation 20 it won't always be this way.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” Revelation 20:11

- After the unbelieving world is finally judged, God will destroy the heaven and the earth.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” Revelation 21:1

- After God destroys the heaven and the earth, He will create a new heaven and a new earth; everything will begin anew.
- In the new heaven and new earth, God's plan for revealing His grace and mercy will be completed, therefore, the new heaven and new earth will never become spoiled through man's disobedience.
- After John saw the new heaven and new earth, he was then shown a new city.

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2

- This city was not built by men, but will be created by God in heaven and will then be brought to earth for all His children to enjoy.
- In John 14, when Jesus promised to go and prepare a place for us, He may have been referring to a mansion in the New Jerusalem (**John 14:1-3**).
- When God destroys the heaven and the earth, He will be destroying everything that was polluted because of sin.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelation 21:3

- After God creates a new heaven and new earth and sends the New Jerusalem to the earth, He Himself will then come to live with His children forever.
- Never again will man be separated from God because of sin.
- Because we have received the life of Christ, we have been made pure and perfect like Jesus; therefore God will never leave us or put us out of His presence.
- Man has never fully experienced the closeness and fellowship that Adam enjoyed with God before the fall; but it will be restored.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:1

- Because the penalty for sin has been fully paid by the blood of the Lord Jesus, and because we have been given His life, there no longer will be death,

sorrow, crying, or pain. All of these things will pass away with the old heaven and earth.

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” Revelation 21:22

- In the Old Testament, the temple and the need to bring sacrifices was a constant testimony to the fact of man’s sin and separation from God.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be no need for a temple and sacrifices, because there will be no sin. God will be present, as well as Jesus, the Lamb who made it possible for us to be delivered from the penalty, power, and now the presence of sin.

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” Revelation 21:23

- Ever since God created man, He provided him with the sun to light the day and the moon to light the night.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be no sun or moon, but the very glory of God and Jesus will shine and become the source of light (**Mark 9:1-3**).

“And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.” Revelation 21:24-26

- Since Adam and Eve sinned, there has been fleshly disagreement, anger, bitterness, and hatred, but in the New Jerusalem, there will be true harmony and peace among all peoples for the first time since the fall.
- One thing that our bodies need in order to live is rest. That is why God gave us the nighttime. It’s the time that we rest our bodies and gain strength for the next day.
- But John writes that in the New Jerusalem there will be no night; the source of light will be God Himself and not the sun; it will always be light.

“And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.” Revelation 21:27

- It's interesting to consider that bad keeps our name out of the Book of Life, but good does not get us in.
Only faith in Jesus Christ puts our name in the Lamb's Book of Life (**Matthew 7:22-23; Deut. 9:4**).

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Revelation 22:1

- The water in this river that John saw did not come from rain water, but flowed from the Throne of God and all living things will receive its life from this river.
- This will be a constant reminder that God is the source of all life, as well as the giver of eternal life that we will enjoy forever.
- Just as it was God who provided water for the Israelites in the wilderness, so it will be God who provides living water and life for all in the New Jerusalem.

“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:2

- Because of sin, man was never able to eat from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be a new tree of life and because there will be no sin, we will all be free to eat of its fruit and live forever.

“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:” Revelation 22:3

- All things that are presently on the earth because of sin's curse will be done away with in the new earth. This includes weeds, thorns, hurricanes, tornadoes, sickness, and death.

- In the New Jerusalem, we will have the awesome privilege to serve the Lord forever and ever.

“And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”

Revelation 22:4

- Before Adam sinned, God was his friend and would come to the garden and talk with him each day.
- But when Adam sinned, he was put out of the garden away from the presence of God.
- However, through Jesus, all who believe have been reconciled to God and when Jesus returns for us, we will receive a new resurrected body.
- Therefore, in the new earth, all of God’s children will be close to Him and see Him face to face.
- John writes that all of God’s children will have His name written on their foreheads.
- During the great tribulation, all those who follow the antichrist will receive his mark, 666. This will be the sign that they belong to him and are following him.
- But, by the unmerited grace of God, it won’t be 666 that will be put on our foreheads, but the name of God Himself.
- What an honor it will be to have God’s brand put on us which will prove we belong to Him.

“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:5

- In our present fallen world, sin reigns, however, in the new earth we will be reigning with Christ.
- With Him, we will rule and reign over all things forever.
- In this life we must endure many hard and unpleasant circumstances, but the day is coming when we will be reigning with the Lord Jesus.

“And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the

sayings of the prophecy of this book. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Revelation 22:6-7; 18-21

- John states all that has been written in Revelation is faithful and true, for it is from God Himself.
- In verse 7, he comments that all those who believe what is written will be blessed.
- To the degree that we know and believe the truth, we will experience all that God has for us.
- This book of Revelation, as well as the entire Bible, was made known by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and Prophets in words which God chose (**Ephesians 2:9-13**).
- The Bible is God’s complete message to all people everywhere.
- John ends Revelation as Paul ended his epistles by emphasizing God’s grace; *“the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”*

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