

What You Have Seen

Introduction

The book of Revelation is a very _____ book! I'm just a man and my understanding is presently incomplete but ever growing. This is where I am at this point in my life. You need to take responsibility for your own beliefs! The best I can do is share how I think things will unfold and encourage you to be ever vigilant! The book of Revelation is a lot more than a historical narrative. The fact that it's of the apocalyptic genre screams caution! When dealing with the situation of the seven churches under the heading of the things that are, some literal interpretation is necessary. But we must be open to the reality that these churches may also represent various challenges the church will traverse throughout time. This doesn't mean Revelation isn't reliable! It simply means that the book's a bit historical, a bit figurative, a bit cryptic, a bit symbolic and even a little bit metaphorical! Friends, when we're studying the book of Revelation at best, we're out of our _____ zone! The first century Jews and Christians were more familiar with this type of apocalyptic literature than we are. I want to begin this study with a summary of the most important things that this book teaches us! First, there is a Lamb's Book of Life! Secondly, if our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll get to spend eternity in heaven! Thirdly, if our names aren't written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll be thrown into the pit of hell! Fourthly, since the first three are unarguably true, we'd better make sure our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life! With that said, let's begin our study of the book of Revelation with a somewhat comprehensive summary of the book. The book begins with a picture of what John's seen in the beginning of his vision including seven lamp stands and seven stars! Then John's attention is turned to what's happening through and to his bride the church as he speaks to the seven churches of Asia minor. This use of sevens will continue throughout the book of Revelation. When one views Revelation's use of sevens, he'd be amiss to ignore the fact that in scripture seven is the number of _____!

The construction of the book into Sevens tells us that this book and the information it shares are perfect in every way! With this as background we're ready to begin our study of the revelation of Jesus Christ. Let's dig into the text but before we do, a bit of review of what's most important about this study! First, there is a Lamb's Book of Life! Secondly, if our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll get to spend eternity in heaven! Thirdly, if our names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll be thrown into the pit of hell! Fourthly, since the first three are unarguably true, then we'd better make sure our names are written in the Lamb's book of Life!

Revelation 1

Let's get started if you want to follow along... we're ready to begin our study by examining **Revelation 1:1-20**. The book of Revelation tells us that the one who penned the book is _____! But Revelation makes it clear that the words he pens come from _____ the risen and glorified Lamb of God! But Revelation makes it clear that the words he pens come from Jesus the risen and glorified Lamb of God! When John penned the Book of Revelation he was in exile, on the Island of Patmos! The book John penned can be a bit hard to understand! To have any chance of wrapping our minds around this book, we've got to understand some of the peculiarities surrounding this kind of literature! Apocalyptic literature has a lot in common with prophetic books. In fact, the book of Revelation is identified as a book of prophecy in **Revelation 1:3...**

3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. *

Even if we don't get it all, and that's a likely scenario, we're promised a _____, if we'll read the book, and keep the things that are written in it! Since Jesus has already divided the book into sections for us in **Revelation 1:19** we'll examine the book based on His divisions!

19 Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The angel placed his right hand on John... and told him not to be afraid! Wait for it... He then said... I'm the First, and the Last, I am the Living One...I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever, and ever! I hold the keys of death, and Hades. *

This angel is clearly _____ mouthpiece! I'm pretty sure, that only Jesus, fits the self-proclaimed description, given by the angel who was talking to John, on Jesus' behalf! He wastes no time getting to the point! He tells John to get his quill, and paper and record what he's experiencing! John has no real reference to providing him with an understanding of the things he's supposed to write about! So, he's left with the task of describing these visions in words, terms, and examples of things that he's familiar with. He said he saw seven golden lampstands and someone like a son of man standing in the middle of them. When this was revealed to John, he fell to the ground and laid motionless before God's representative. God's messenger revealed exactly who he's representing! He said I'm the First, and the Last! I'm the Living One! I was dead but look at me now, I'm alive, and I'll be alive forever, and ever! He said, I hold the keys of death, and Hades! This messenger was depicting the risen, glorified, _____! He wants John to write down the things He's seen and the things He's about to reveal to him! He even gives John an outline to follow! He tells John to write down what he's seen, what is now, and what will take place later! Jesus takes a few moments to unravel the mystery of what John's already seen! He tells John that the seven stars are symbols of the angels, or messengers of the seven churches! He tells John that the seven lampstands symbolize the seven churches! In the book of Revelation John's going to follow Jesus' outline! He's going to tell us what he's seen, what is, and what's yet to come! That brings us to the end of **Revelation chapter 1**.

NOTES



What Is

I'd like for us to begin, with a review of the most important things we'll discover, in our study of Revelation. First, there is a Lamb's Book of Life! Secondly, if our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll get to spend eternity in heaven! Thirdly, if our names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we'll be thrown into the pit of hell! Fourthly, since the first three are unarguably true, then we'd better make sure our names are written, in the Lamb's Book of Life! With that understood, let's dig into **Revelation chapters 2 & 3**. The letters to the seven churches, gives us a clear view of what's taking place in, through, and to the church, which is the _____ of Christ! The messages Jesus has John share with them paints a clear word picture of the unfolding challenges the church will face throughout the ages. The heavenly vision giver is very clear about what's going on in Christ's church during the life of John! We're going to summarize the historical context of each church and Jesus' words to each of the seven churches! Then we're going to look at the deep spiritual warning that the situation in these church's extends to us.

Ephesus

We'll begin, by examining what Jesus shared with the church, in Ephesus. This city was the home of a _____ Church! The people in Ephesus were hard-working people who hated evil! From the outside they looked like they had it all together! But their hearts were out 'a whack! It's no surprise that those who were committed to Christ would face trials in a city dominated by idolatry. And they did! But Jesus made it clear that these persecuted believers in Ephesus are not without issue! They'd turned their back on the love that they had when they began their walk with Jesus! Their hearts had become calloused. They'd become so intent on condemning sin, and evil that they forgot to extend grace-based love to sinners in need of God's amazing grace! This is an issue that the church throughout the ages needs to avoid by being ever vigilant! The church in Ephesus needed a renewal of its love for God, and it's love for people!

The same is true of many churches today! It is not enough to be doctrinally correct. The true church must learn to exhibit Bible based love that prompts appropriate action! This kind of love is described by Paul in **I Corinthians 13:1-8a...**

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8a Love never fails...

Smyrna

Next, a summary of what Jesus said to the church in Smyrna. The Smyrna church was a _____ Church! There was no rebuke for this persecuted church. As a result of this persecution believers in Smyrna faced economic and religious difficulties, yet they receive no rebuke in this letter. The church here was commended for its enduring faith amidst persecution, and they were encouraged to remain faithful even unto death in **Revelation 2:9-10...**

9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

These folks may have been poor in terms of this world but they're rich in God's eyes! While the church in Smyrna faced many trials, more severe persecution was on the horizon. It would be limited in duration but difficult none the less. Although they were continually under physical hardship the people of Smyrna, were told that they'd not be hurt, by the second death! The challenge Jesus extends to them is to remain fearless and faithful throughout this time of persecution.

Pergamum

This Church had given in to cultural norms! Pergamum was a center of learning and culture in the ancient world and boasted a magnificent library second only to the one in Alexandria. Pergamum was known as a center of pagan worship. The strong concentration of pagan worship and Roman political power make it a place of great evil. As a result of this satanic influence, believers in Pergamum regularly came face to face with issues of idolatry and immorality. In fact, one believer named Antipas had been killed in this city **Revelation 2:13...**

13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Pergamum was called the place where Satan lives and sits on the perch of his throne (v.13). Some believers have remained faithful despite persecution, others have not. According to **Revelation 2:14-15** there are some who held to the teaching of Balaam, and to the teaching of the Nicolaitans

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

_____ became a symbol of all corrupt teachers who lead believers into fatal worldly ideologies including but not limited to sexual misconduct. The folks in Pergamum need to repent of their blatant tolerance and compromise to those who promoted the ideologies of Balaam! They'd become so tolerant of this evil that it was hard to tell the believers in Pergamum, from the non-believers! Although they refused to deny Christ, they allowed _____ to run rampant in their midst! *

Thyatira

The church of Thyatira had love, faith, and good works! They were a very patient group that was eager to grow! But they'd allowed themselves, to be infiltrated by false teaching, idolatry, sexual sin, and pagan traditions! The city of Thyatira was known for its commerce and many trade guilds. You might recall in **Acts 16:14** that Lydia was from Thyatira and worked as a dealer in purple cloth.

14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.*

These trade guilds were a lot like modern day unions. The guilds would often throw parties for their members. To stay in good standing with their trade guild believers were tempted to attend these parties and as a result compromise their faith to show their loyalty to their guild and to Rome. The believers in Thyatira receive a mix of commendation and harsh rebuke. They're praised in **Revelation 2:19** for their positive actions! Unlike those in Ephesus, they're doing more now than they did at first!

19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*

The tone quickly shifts in **Revelation 2:20** to confrontation because they tolerate that woman _____, who calls herself a prophet!

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. *

In **1 Kings 16:31**, King Ahab marries Jezebel, a Sidonian princess. We see in **1 Kings 18:4** that as queen she would lead Israel into idolatry and murder the prophets of Yahweh until her bloody death that's recorded in **2 Kings 9**. The "Jezebel" of Thyatira refers to a false prophet who, like the Jezebel of the Old Testament is leading the people into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols (v. 20). Jesus demands that she repents of her evil, but she's refused! Because she refuses to repent, she and those who follow her will suffer greatly for their participation in these evil acts! Those who did not follow her lies are called to hold on to what they have until Jesus returns to take them home (v. 25).

Sardis

The church in Sardis was spiritually _____! They'd fallen asleep spiritually! There was still a remnant of true believers in their midst, but they needed to wake up the folks who were asleep spiritually! The city of Sardis was once a prominent capital of the region and a center of commercial and industrial activity. Unlike the previous churches the message to Sardis has no commendation at the beginning. But the message to Sardis is clear! They've got a reputation of being alive but are in fact _____! They're told in **Revelation 3:1-2** that they need to wake up!

1 To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*

If they don't wake up and repent... Christ will come like a thief... and they won't know what hit them! The unexpected nature of Jesus's timing is consistent with other passages about His return (e.g., Matthew 24:36-44 and Luke 17:26-29).

Matthew 24:36-44

36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. *

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. *

Luke 17:26-29

26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. *

The fact is this warning to Sardis may be referring to more than the final judgment. Like the other surprise attacks against the city mentioned previously Christ will come unexpectedly against it. These guys need to wake up and _____!

They need to remember what they've been taught and hang on to it. This nearly Dead Church was encouraged to kindle the flame of faith that was now no more than a flicker! *

Philadelphia

Next, we'll examine what Jesus said to the church in **Philadelphia**. This church was Spiritually _____! There was no rebuke for this church of faith! They loved Jesus! They hadn't denied their faith in Him! When Revelation was written the Philadelphian Christians were suffering persecution at the hands of the local Jews that Jesus calls, the synagogue of Satan. The believers in Philadelphia faced many pressures but remained faithful.

As a result, the folks in Philadelphia were promised protection and a legacy. As with Smyrna, and in stark contrast to Sardis, the church in Philadelphia receives no rebuke. The church in Philadelphia was poor, small, and harassed both by pagan citizens and by the local synagogue. The synagogue of Satan refers to those who claimed to be Jews, but whose actions proved them otherwise.

Despite the believers in Philadelphia having little strength (v. 8), they've remained faithful! They were being given an open door of opportunity, to spread the gospel of Christ! The believers in Philadelphia have kept Jesus's command to endure patiently!

According to **Revelation 3:10** Jesus will guard or keep them through the hour of trial that's going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. *

They're told that they must persevere in the face of pending trials. Jesus promised the kingdom of heaven was on the horizon for this group of believers, if they persevere! As overcomers they can look forward to great reward!

Laodicea

Laodicea was a _____ Church! Laodicea only received rebuke! The city was once the wealthiest city in the region of Phrygia. Laodicea was known for being home to a major medical school with some very famous teachers. The physicians of Laodicea developed various remedies, including an ointment from spice nard for the ears, and an eye-salve made from 'Phrygian powder' mixed with oil. Despite all these strengths Laodicea had a significant weakness!

There was a real lack of a dependable and sufficient water supply. By the time the available water reached the city it was tepid. Jesus compared the city of Laodicea to their well-known lukewarm water! Jesus' point was that the church in Laodicea was neither healthfully rejuvenating nor cool and refreshing! As a result they risked being spit out like one would spit tepid water out of their mouth. The Laodicean church might think they're prosperous but they're wretched, poor, blind and naked! The believers in this city lacked spiritual fervor and were thus described as lukewarm fence-sitters! We're told in **Revelation 3:17** that they were so prosperous and supposedly self-sufficient that they were completely out of fellowship with Jesus.

17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. *

This is not simply a middle-of-the-road church! They seem to be an accommodating church when it comes to the culture around them. They are fully embracing the lifestyle and values of the elite and powerful. Unfortunately, the church in Laodicea failed to provide refreshment for the spiritually weary or healing for the spiritually sick. The church in Laodicea was totally ineffective and thus useless to the kingdom of God! He goes on to tell them that although they were materially wealthy, they were in fact spiritually _____! Despite their claim to fame through their healing eye-salve, they're in fact spiritually blind! Christ stands outside waiting for the door of the Laodicean church waiting for them to open their hearts door. They need to invite Jesus in so they can once again enjoy His sweet fellowship!

Application

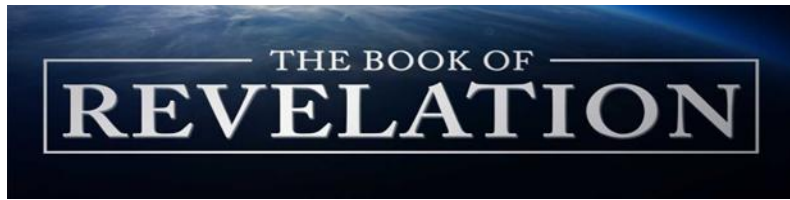
This summary of the messages to the seven churches should teach us some things! As believers, we need to take to heart the issues these churches were facing! We need to do our best, to avoid the bad and emulate the good! When trials come, we need to pray, trust in the Lord, and walk by faith! Today, cultural norms, and political correctness are trying to force Christ's church to be tolerant of and even supportive of sin! We can't afford to call good evil or evil good! God didn't stand for it then and He won't stand for it now! We should always choose faith, over fear as we cling to the promises of God!

We can't afford to let anything overshadow our love and passion for Jesus! Never forget, Jesus keeps loving us even when we've strayed from Him! There's a lot we can learn from the seven churches that Jesus had John write to!

Revelation 4

This chapter marks a shift in the book's narrative. John the Apostle is transported from earthly visions to a heavenly throne room. Here, he receives a glimpse of the divine realm. This chapter emphasizes the awe-inspiring nature of God and the heavenly worship He receives. The chapter portrays a scene of fervent and unceasing worship directed towards God by both the celestial beings and the elders. John's vision emphasizes the overwhelming majesty and power of God. The four creatures and the twenty-four elders seem to be symbolic figures. The entire scene underscores God's absolute sovereignty and dominion over all creation. I'd like for us to finish this section with a review of the most important things we'll learn from our study of Revelation.

NOTES



What is to Come

(The Seven Seals)

Revelation 5:5-8a

As we begin today's study, we find that there are seven sealed scrolls, that seemingly no one can unfasten! These sealed scrolls are but one in a series of end-times judgments, from God! The seals are described in **Revelation chapters 5-8**. In John's vision, the seven seals hold a scroll closed in heaven. The scroll has writing on both sides, signifying the extensive nature of the pending judgments! As each seal is broken, a new judgment against the wickedness of mankind would be unleashed on the earth. If the scroll could not be opened, then wickedness would not be judged, and evil would continue to infect the earth. But it doesn't take long for the angels to reveal the reality that there is one, who is worthy to unleash God's judgment on mankind! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has _____ over sin and death. His victory over sin and death, gives Him every right to remove the seals and open the scroll. (**Revelation 5:5-7**)

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

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. *

This perfect lamb of God is depicted by a lamb with seven horns and seven eyes! These sealed judgments are but the beginning! The Lamb of God, Jesus, begins to open the seals. With each seal opened, the scroll can be unrolled a little more, revealing bit by bit the judgments God has in store during the tribulation period.

The first seal

The first seal introduces the Antichrist in **Revelation 6:1–2**.

1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"

2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. *

The first four of the seven seals contain a view of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse! From the biblical description, we gather several details! The rider is depicted as riding on a _____ horse! He produces a persona of peace! This is clarified in **Daniel 9:27...**

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. " *

We find in **Daniel 7:24-25** that he's given a crown, indicating that he'll exercise great authority.

24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

He holds a bow, which shows his true intentions! This man pretending to be a lover of peace, is bent on worldwide _____. Let's look at **Revelation 6:2...**

2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. *

The second seal

When the Lamb opens the second seal, **Revelation 6:3-4** tells us that great warfare breaks out.

3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

This is symbolized by a rider with a large sword on a fiery red horse and ushering in global war and blood shed!

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

This conflict! It's symbolized by a rider with a large sword, on a fiery red horse! This horseman will usher in a time of worldwide war!

The third seal

We're told in **Revelation 6:5-6** that the breaking of the third of the seven seals causes famine.

5 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

The rider that John sees is riding a black horse and holding a pair of _____ in his hand.

The fourth seal

The fourth seal is opened, and John sees a pale horse symbolizing widespread death and devastation. In **Revelation 6:7-8** we're given a horrifyingly vivid description.

7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

The result of this fourth seal is that one fourth of the earth's population dies! This is the last seal with horse imagery!

The fifth seal

The fifth sealed scroll contains no horse imagery! In **Revelation 6:9-11** we discover that this seal contains no horse imagery.

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. *

The souls of these martyrs are under the altar in heaven. God hears their cries for _____, and He gives each of them a white robe. The martyrs are told to wait until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. But for now, the time of God's vengeance has not yet come!

The sixth seal

In **Revelation 6:12-14** we're told that there's a devastating earthquake.

12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.

14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. *

This earthquake causes terrible devastation! It ushers in unusual astronomical phenomena! The sun turns black, and the moon turns blood-red, and the heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up! Survivors of the sixth seal, hide in caves and cry out to the mountains and the rocks to fall on them to hide them! The day of God's _____ has come! Folks, according to **Revelation 6:16-17**, people are terrified!

16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

After the sixth is opened, there is a bit of an interlude! Then in **Revelation 7:1-8** John is told that God's been limiting the destruction, until the 144,000 could be sealed! Then an angel from God comes! He seals the foreheads of the 144,000! We're told in **Revelation 7:9-17**, that John sees a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. According to **Revelation 7:9** they're standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who*

These folks are wearing white robes, holding palm branches, and shouting, salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the _____ . According to **Revelation 7:14**, these are the ones who've washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

They're given some wonderful promises that were first shared back in **Isaiah 25:8...**

8 He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

The seventh seal

In **Revelation 8:1**, we're told that when the Lamb opens the seventh seal there's total silence.

1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

The seventh seal has introduced the next series of judgments!

(The seven Trumpets)

NOTES

The seven Trumpets

John sees seven angels who are handed seven trumpets! We're told in **Revelation 8:2-6...**

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.

4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

These angels are ready to sound their trumpets. These judgments are so severe that a solemn silence falls upon all of heaven! Once again God throws in a pregnant pause! An eighth angel appears burning incense. When he did, John heard peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and felt a huge earthquake. Once the seven seal judgments are finished, the trumpet tribulation is set to begin. John has depicted in human terms what he saw in his vision of the Spiritual Realm. He describes Jesus Christ as the "Slain Lamb" who is the only one able to open the book with 7 seals.

The first trumpet

The first trumpet ushers in a judgment of hail and fire mixed with blood in **Revelation 8:7.**

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

One third of the world's trees are burned up in this plague, and all the grass is consumed.

The second trumpet

This trumpet is introduced in **Revelation 8:8-9**.

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

The second trumpet brings something like a huge mountain all ablaze, that's thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turns to blood, a third of the ships sink, and a third of ocean life dies. The world's oceans and the creatures in them are all messed up!

The third trumpet

The third trumpet is introduced in **Revelation 8:10-11**.

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

This trumpet brings a great star called Wormwood, that falls to the earth blazing like a torch! The term John uses to describe what he's seeing with the term Wormwood. This third trumpet judgment's a lot like the judgment of the second trumpet, except it affects the world's _____ lakes and rivers instead of the oceans.

The fourth trumpet

The fourth trumpet is introduced in **Revelation 8:12-13**.

12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

This trumpet brings about changes in the heavens. As a result, a third of the days are without light, as is a third of the night. At this point John tells us about a warning of woe given by a flying eagle! For this reason, the fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpets are often referred to, as the three trumpets of _____.

The fifth trumpet

The fifth trumpet is introduced in **Revelation 9:1**.

1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

This trumpet is the first of the trumpets of woe! This trumpet begins with a star falling from heaven. We will find in **Revelation 9:11** that the falling star represents a fallen angel, who's given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

We're told in **Revelation 9:2-3** that he opens the Abyss, releasing a horde of locusts.

2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

These locusts look like horses prepared for battle. They wear something like gold crowns, and their faces are vaguely human, but they have teeth like that of a _____. These locusts attack and torture the unsaved for five months. But God sets boundaries for them! These demonic locusts have a king who is the angel of the Abyss. His name means _____!

The sixth trumpet

This trumpet is introduced in **Revelation 9:12-15**.

12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.

14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

This is the second trumpet of woe! This trumpet brings an onslaught of another demonic horde. When this trumpet sounds, a voice from heaven releases the four wicked angels who've been bound and waiting at the Euphrates River. Their goal is to wreak destruction during the tribulation. We're told how this will unfold in **Revelation 9:16-21**.

16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.

18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.

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

20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. *

These four wicked angels lead a supernatural cavalry of thousands upon thousands to kill a third of humanity. They kill with their mouths, and with their tails! Here's the crazy thing, despite the severity of these plagues, people still refuse to _____. After the revelation of the plagues of this sixth trumpet, John sees an angel descend from heaven with a little scroll in his hand which will be used to inform John that God's not done with him yet! In **Revelation 11:1-13** John's shown what will happen to these two witnesses! They will be murdered and a few days later, God will then raise them back to life and take them to heaven. That brings us to the 7th trumpet!

The seventh trumpet

This is the third trumpet of woe! According to **Revelation 11:15**, John hears a heavenly voice.

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

God's about to wrap things up once and for all. The call to repentance is about to become a demand for reckoning! In **Revelation 11:18**, the twenty-four elders declare that the time's come to destroy those who destroy the earth!

18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.*

The temple of God is opened in heaven! John is shown that inside. John describes the experience in **Revelation 11:19...**

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Thus ends the seven trumpet judgments. It's time for God's wrath to be meted out upon those who dwell upon the earth. But before that wrath is delivered Jesus introduces us to seven symbolic personages.

NOTES

Seven Symbolic Personages

In Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 14 the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described!

The First Personage

The first personage comes in the form of a female! This woman is described using celestial images in **Revelation 12:1**...

1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

This woman is clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head, there's a garland of twelve stars! It's hard to miss the dream of Joseph in this depiction. The fact that John says in **Revelation 12:1**, that this woman is a _____, helps us understand that the woman stands for something! I believe that she stands for Israel. Let me show you why. Let's begin with **Isaiah 54:1-6**...

1 Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband, says the LORD.

2 Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

4 Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

5 For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

6 The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. *

Then there's scriptures like **Jeremiah 3:20...**

20 But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:8-14...

8 'Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

9 'I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you.

10 I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments.

11 I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck,

12 and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

13 So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen.

14 And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD. *

Hosea 2:19-20...

19 I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.

20 I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD *

In **Revelation 12:2** we're told that this woman (Israel) is about to give birth to a son!

2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

As we unpack this passage, it will become clear, that this child, born of Israel, is Jesus! We're told that the male Child she bears... will rule all nations with a rod of iron, in **Revelation 12:5...**

5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

For a great commentary on this statement, we need to turn to **Psalm 2:6-9.**

6 I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.

7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

The second Personage

The second personage arrives in the form of the dragon representing Satan! John depicts a fearful, powerful, fiery red dragon, having seven heads, and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads! He gives power to the two beasts! Folks, this dragon is _____, just like the woman (Israel) was symbolic! John's painting a word picture of pure evil embodied in this powerful dragon! The dragon lays claim to royal authority that is not his to claim!

This satanic force, stood before the woman, waiting to devour her Child as soon as it was born! He uses his tail, to draw a third of the stars of heaven to earth, to stand with him! I'd suggest that these stars, represent the fallen angelic hosts, that are in league with Satan! He's sending them out to do his bidding! Satan's standing in stark opposition to the child who's born of this woman (Israel)! The man-child John describes represents Jesus! The woman and her child had to flee to escape the forces of the dragon! If you recall... Satan was using Herod to try and take out Jesus!

But His heavenly Father intervened as is recorded in **Matthew 2:13-14...**

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt. *

Satan knew that Jesus had come to set up His kingdom! We're told in **Revelation 19:15**, He rules the world with a rod of iron!

15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

The Third Personage

Jesus is the third personage listed. The woman (Israel), and her child (Jesus) had to flee, to escape the forces of the dragon! This is more than a physical fight for the life of baby Jesus! We read in **Matthew 2:13-14...**

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,*

There's a huge battle taking place between good and evil! In the end, the evil dragon was cast out, and his angels were cast out with him! Once the battle has ended, there is a voice that speaks from heaven that's recorded in **Revelation 12:10-12...**

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

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

Folks, a great battle ensued between the devil and Michael and the forces of heaven.

The Fourth Personage

Michael enters here as the fourth personage. Let's read **Revelation 12:7-9...**

7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

This was a battle for the very souls of men! But heaven's gain, is the earth's loss! Satan knows his time is short! Like a wounded, cornered animal, he begins to fight ferociously against the rest of her offspring!

The Fifth Personage

The rest of the woman's offspring that John describes here represents the Gentiles who'll come to Christ with a faith like the faith of Abraham! The Gentiles... represent the fifth personage. For a commentary on this, let's look at **Galatians 6:14-16...**

14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

We need to note that It's not the lineage of Abraham that matters; it's having the faith of Abraham. It's not circumcision that matters but rather a purified heart. A great commentary on this process is found in **Romans 11:17-21...**

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root,

18 do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."

20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid.

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

Having been grafted into the vine of Jesus the Gentiles became a target for the forces of Satan! The wrath of the dragon is clearly focused against all who have faith like the faith of Abraham! Satan realizes that he's lost the battle for their souls, so he begins to physically persecute them, with the assumed goal, of stifling their witness on earth!

Sixth Personage

This brings us to our sixth personage, the beast out of the sea that John describes, is a symbol of a worldwide _____ system that stands in stark opposition to Christ and thus can be called antichrist!

(First Beast)

John introduces the beast that emerges from the sea in **Revelation 13:1-3...**

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

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

3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

The dragon (devil) stood on the sand of the sea, waiting for the beast's arrival. The beast received its authority from the dragon (devil)! The beast standing in opposition to Jesus, is given a mouth to utter arrogant, blasphemous words! Now I admit, that's a bit disheartening, but we must remember, they can take our possessions, they can take our life, but our _____ is secure! This worldwide political organization will be going after true believer's wherever they are! There's not going to be any way to get away from his eyes, or his evil plans! This beast has 10 horns, 7 heads, 10 diadems on its horns, Blasphemous names are written on its heads (**John 10:33 and Mark 2:7**)! We're told it looked like a leopard, with bear's feet, and a lion's mouth! It had a mortal wound on one of its heads, but the wound was healed! The beast encouraged people to worship the image representing the dragon! Those whose names were not written in the Lamb's Book of Life worshiped the dragon and the beast!

People marveled at these demonic minions! They saw no way to stand against them and have any chance of winning the battle! Non-believers simply bowed down! Christians did not! As a result, Christians suffered greatly, even unto death! The scene is hopeless when it comes right down to it!

In **Revelation 13:10** we read...

10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

In other words, God _____ believers to be imprisoned and killed for their faith! Their willingness to die will prove their faith is a genuine saving faith! Those who've died for their faith are depicted as crying out for justice, from under the altar! God gives them white robes and tells them to be patient! There are still more believers who must be martyred like they've been, before the end comes!

Seventh Personage

That brings us to our Seventh Personage that arrives in the form of a second beast from the earth,

(Second Beast)

In **Revelation 13:11** we're introduced to a second beast that comes from the earth.

11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

The beast out of the earth that John describes next represents a one world _____ . This one world religion promotes the political system of the first beast and the dragon who gives it power! It has two horns like a lamb, imitating Jesus but it spoke like a dragon! It exercises all the authority of the first beast! In essence, if you tick off one, you tick them _____ off! This second beast forces the earth and its inhabitants to worship the first beast and the dragon that gives it its power! It performs great signs making fire come down from the sky in front of people! It forces the people to build an image of the first beast and the one who gives it its power! The second beast representing a worldwide religious system forces those who want to continue to be able to buy and sell to receive a mark on their right hands or foreheads!

Let's read **Revelation 13:15-18...**

15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,

17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

18 This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

The image that's empowered by the first beast forces people to bow down and worship or be _____! The mark received by people is represented by the number of its name 666! A number of complete imperfection! To help you see what I mean, let's take a bit of a detour! I want you to follow what I'm saying so I will only include the text here.

Let's examine **Matthew 24:1-3....**

1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*

Note the two-part question that Jesus' disciples asked. It's a two-part question, so you can expect a two-part answer! **Matthew 24:4-6...**

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.*

In their own day they'll continue to see wars and rumors of war.
Matthew 24:7-8...

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.*

The world will be thrown into turmoil, and mankind will face famines and earthquakes in various places revealing the birth pains of the Day of the Lord. But the Day of the Lord has not yet arrived. **Matthew 24:9-13...**

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

While the early Christians experienced persecution it'll pale in comparison to what will happen at the end of time. The saints on earth during the seven-trumpet tribulation will be killed for their faith in Jesus! Only those who remain faithful unto death will be saved! **Matthew 24:14...**

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

The 144,000 have been hard at work and they are joined by an angelic trio making sure the whole world has heard the gospel of Jesus. The end, the Day of the Lord will not come until the gospel is preached by these folks to the entire world.

Matthew 24:15-20...

15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—

16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.

18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.

19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.*

The Last Days just as in AD 70 will be horrific! In fact, an even greater desolation of Jerusalem will take place! Our only hope will be to flee anyplace that demands that we take the mark of the beast to enter or participate! **Matthew 24:21-24...**

21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” *

Here Jesus is referring to the two beasts, the false prophets. The murder of Christians will become rampant! The disasters being faced by the entire world will be unlike anything mankind’s ever seen before or will ever see again. Jesus is telling believers not to fall for the antics of these end of time false prophets!

Matthew 24:25-26...

25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. *

Jesus telling us all of this in _____ so we can anticipate it and refuse to fall into their trap! **Matthew 24:27-29...**

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. *

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days

“ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’*

Folks, there’ll be no _____ Jesus’ return! The heavens and earth are now feeling the full force of God’s judgment. The Day of the Lord has arrived We’re told in **Matthew 24:30-35a ...**

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

35a Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

Amazingly, the generation who sees the signs Jesus has just revealed will not all pass away before they get to witness the Last Day! Folks, there’s a good chance that we’re that generation! But despite all these signs, no one knows the hour of Jesus return other than the Father! **Matthew 24:35b-36...**

35b The Day and Hour Unknown

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. *

As for telling his disciples a date to put on their calendar Jesus basically says, nope!

Matthew 24:37-44...

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. *

After reading and taking time to explain and visualize this scripture in Matthew, let me reiterate the most important part of Revelation. There is a Lamb’s Book of Life. If your name’s written in it, you’re going to heaven. If not you’re going to hell! So, you better make sure your name’s written in the Lamb’s Book of Life! That brings us to **Revelation 15** which introduces us to the seven bowls of God’s Wrath!

This chapter tells us a bit more about the symbolic 144,000 standing for the entirety of God’s people that were introduced back in **Revelation 7:3-4...**

3 Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.

4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Fortunately for those who’ve been marked by God they won’t be affected by the tribulation _____. Those who’ve chosen to follow the 2 beasts and the worldwide religious and political organizations they’ve put into play by the power of the dragon/Satan, will find themselves facing the wrath of God!

As God’s wrath flows down upon them, the 144,000 representing the totality of those who have accepted God’s love gift, will be sharing the gospel along with three angelic messengers. I’m pretty sure the devil is going to be _____! Their proclamation will be the last opportunity for repentance offered to those of this world! Once the activities associated with the seven trumpets comes to an end, God’s wrath will be poured out on the world. But believers have been here throughout the seven trumpets, and they’ve been dying for their faith.

This is a far cry from the modern left-behind mentality! In **Revelation 14:1-5**, Jesus tells us exactly who the 144,000 are but without an understanding of the symbolism, it may be hard to grasp!

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

2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

Back in Revelation chapter 7 we learned that this group of 144,000 is made up of the tribes of Israel 12,000 from each tribe! The idea was that this represents the totality of God's people the entire people of Israel who come to God with the kind of faith that Abraham exhibited. The people of God traverse the period of tribulation that's brought on by the seven trumpets! Their task is to share the gospel. There's going to be Christian evangelists telling folks about Jesus whether the worldwide government or worldwide religion likes it or not! I'm pretty sure the dragon's going to be _____! They will be supported and helped by three angelic beings proclaiming God's truths from the heavens.

This is made clear in **Revelation 14:6-11...**

6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

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

**9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,
10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.
11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."**

So, to wrap this section up, the people of God will be working as evangelists throughout the time of tribulation! There's even an angelic trio... proclaiming the gospel from the heavens to assist the symbolic 144,000 in their task! Warnings not to worship the beast or its image are everywhere! We're told point blank that accepting the mark of the beast will be a big mistake! Taking that mark to keep body and soul together will land folks in the pit of _____!

Let's take a moment to examine what Jesus told His disciples about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of time as we know it! To wrap our minds around this whole concept we need to examine the words of Jesus found in **Matthew 24:1-3**.

**1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.
2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"**

Note the two-part question that Jesus' disciples asked. Part one, when will this happen, meaning the temple destroyed? Part two, what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age? **Matthew 24:4-6...**

**4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.
5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.
6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.**

In their own day they will continue to see wars and rumors of war. In fact, in AD 70 the temple will be _____ exactly as Jesus predicted. Let's keep reading. **Matthew 24:7-8...**

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

The world will be thrown into turmoil, and mankind will face famines and earthquakes in various places revealing the birth pains of the Day of the Lord. But that day has not yet arrived. Let's keep reading. **Matthew 24:9-13...**

9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.
10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,
11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

This will all be happening during the seven-trumpet period of Revelation. The saints are still on earth, being killed for their faith in Jesus! Let's keep reading. **Matthew 24:14...**

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

We find the gospel being preached to the whole world in **Revelation 14:6-7.**

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

The 144,000 representing the chosen people of God, have been hard at work and along with an angelic trio! Their goal is to make sure the whole world's heard the gospel of Jesus. The end, the Day of the Lord will not come until the gospel is preached by these folks to the entire world. At this point Jesus goes back for further explanation and recap. **Matthew 24:15-20...**

15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—

16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.

18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.

19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

The desecration of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanies and its later destruction by Titus were both horrible events! The people were starving! Things got so bad that they were cooking and eating their own children. But this will be nothing in comparison to what will happen when the Antichrist steps into the third temple and defiles it! **Matthew 24:21-24...**

21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Here Jesus is referring to the two beasts, the false prophets, and the image that Satan has set up to force mankind to worship him. The murder of Christians will be rampant! The disasters being faced by the entire world are unlike anything mankind has ever seen or will ever see again. Jesus is telling believers not to fall for the antics of these false prophets! The devil will give them unimaginable power to do things that seem miraculous. Don't fall for it! Remain faithful to the end so that the crown of life will be yours. **Matthew 24:25-26...**

25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

Jesus telling us all of this in _____ so we can anticipate it and refuse to fall into their trap! **Matthew 24:27-28...**

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

Folks, there will be no _____ Jesus’ return! It’s not going to be some secret event like it’s portrayed in Left Behind! When Jesus comes back every eye will behold Him! He will come back not as a lamb but as a warrior and king! This takes us up to the end of the angelic proclamation of the gospel in **Revelation 14**. The world’s been inundated with death and destruction. The vultures can be seen cleaning up the mutilated flesh of the worldwide dead! The trumpets have sounded, the 144,000 and their angelic counterparts have finished their task. The time of repentance has come to a screeching halt! The Christians on earth have been put to death. The gospel of repentance has been preached to all mankind. Their choice has been made. The end’s being rolled out! Let’s read on. **Matthew 24:29...**

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days

“ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

The heavens and earth are now feeling the full force of God’s judgment. There is no more repentance! The Day of the Lord has arrived. What mankind will see next is recorded in the next verses. Let’s read on. **Matthew 24:30-32...**

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

If you want to talk rapture, here it is! The saints are taken, not before the tribulation but _____ it's completed! Let's read on. **Matthew 24:33-35a...**

33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

35a Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Jesus is telling them that the signs have been given. Amazingly, the generation who sees the signs Jesus has revealed are coming, will not pass away before they witness the Day of the Lord! **Matthew 24:35b-36...**

35b The Day and Hour Unknown

36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

As for pinpointing the exact time of Jesus' return, as for telling his disciples a date to put on their calendar, Jesus basically says, no can do! Only His _____ is privy to that day and hour. But Jesus can lay out a few more signs for them to watch for.

On that day you'll either be ready for Jesus' return, or you will be left behind when the trumpet sounds and the elect are gathered and taken home. Let's read on. **Matthew 24:37-44...**

37As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

So, the bottom line is, be _____ or be left behind to await our eternal fate! Let me share the most important things anyone can learn from the book of Revelation. First, there is a Lamb’s Book of Life! Secondly, if our name’s written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, we’ll get to spend eternity in heaven! Thirdly, if our names aren’t written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, we’ll be thrown into the pit of hell! Fourthly, since the first three are unarguably true, we’d better make sure our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life! If we are ready, we’ll be gathered home when the trumpet of God sounds. If not, we will be left behind to await our eternal fate!

NOTES

Revelation 15

The call for _____ has come to a screeching halt! The wrath of God is about to be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth. Look with me at **Revelation 15:1...**

1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

The seven bowls introduced here will be explained in detail in **Revelation 16:1-21**. By now the Antichrist has entered the third temple and set up an image. During this time the wickedness of men will reach its zenith becoming as it was in the days of Noah. Just as in the days of Noah, God's _____ will come to an end. The trumpets that called for repentance, have ended! These seven last plagues are God's judgment on a disobedient and contrary world who've rejected Jesus! That brings us to **Revelation 15:2...**

2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God

John sees a sea of glass mingled with fire, and the martyrs, now standing victoriously on the sea of glass, holding harps. They're victorious not because they survived the tribulation but because they willingly died, rather than submit to the image of the beast or taking its mark! These martyrs are given the blessing of worshipping God with music in heaven. Their song of praise, is recorded for us in **Revelation 15:3-4...**

3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

These martyrs complete focus is on God! The seven angels are handed the seven bowls of God's wrath that will soon be poured out on the earth and its inhabitants! Let's read **Revelation 15:5-8...**

5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.

6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

The seven angels came out of the temple, from the very presence of God. They were about to do God's bidding by unleashing horror like the earth has never seen before and will never see again! They were clothed in pure bright linen, and they had golden bands around their chests signifying the fact that these judgments are righteous judgments and that they're deserved! The four living creatures standing in the presence of God handed them the bowls containing God's _____.

NOTES

Revelation 16

The first bowl of God's wrath

The first bowl of God's wrath is introduced in **Revelation 16:2...**

2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

This bowl was poured out on the land. It caused ugly, festering sores on the people who had the mark of the beast, and who worshiped its image animated by the second beast. The tribulation saints _____ be affected by these sores!

The second bowl of God's wrath

The second bowl is introduced in **Revelation 16:3...**

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

This bowl of God's wrath is poured out on the sea! A third of the sea life had already perished with the sounding of the second trumpet **Revelation 8:9**, and now the rest of the sea life dies!

The third bowl of God's wrath

The third bowl is introduced in **Revelation 16:4...**

4 The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

This bowl of wrath affects the rivers and freshwater springs! The wicked have shed the blood of God's holy people and His prophets! In justice God's given them blood to drink! According to **Revelation 16:5-7**, that's exactly what they deserve!

**5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged;
6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."
7 And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."**

The fourth bowl of God's wrath

The fourth bowl of judgment is introduced in **Revelation 16:8-9...**

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

When this bowl of wrath is poured out it affects the sun causing it to literally burn mankind with its radiant heat!

The fifth bowl of God's wrath

The fifth bowl is introduced in **Revelation 16:10-11...**

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

This bowl of wrath causes the kingdom of the beast to be plunged into great darkness! But still the followers of the Antichrist refuse to _____!

The sixth bowl of God's wrath

The sixth bowl is introduced in **Revelation 16:12...**

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

This bowl of wrath was poured out on the Euphrates River! That river dries up, in preparation for the kings of the East, to make their way, to their own destruction!

This next section introduces three frog-like unclean spirits! Look with me at **Revelation 16:13...**

13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

These demons perform miracles, and deceive the kings of the earth, and gather them to the final battle, on the Day of the Lord! Folks, things are unfolding fast! But for now, Armageddon is on the horizon! Look with me at **Revelation 16:16...**

16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl of God's Wrath

The seventh bowl is introduced in **Revelation 16:17...**

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

This bowl of wrath is emptied into the atmosphere! A loud voice in heaven declares it's _____! Giant hailstones, weighing around a hundred pounds each, fell on people! Those under judgment, cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague, was so terrible!

NOTES

Revelation 17

We begin with one of the seven angels showing John the punishment of the great prostitute who's described like this she's very good at what she does and plies her trade with the kings of the entire World! The inhabitants of the earth are intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries! To get the full impact of what's being written here we need a familiarity with **Jeremiah 3:1-2...**

1 If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers—would you now return to me? declares the LORD.

2 Look up to the barren heights and see. Is there any place where you have not been ravished? By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

She holds a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries! On her forehead is written, Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abomination of the Earth! She's drunk with the blood of the _____, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus!

It's at this point an angel of God shares a heavenly explanation of the vision John's been made privy to and obviously confused by! Since John's a bit confused, no wonder it's hard for our pea brains to grasp all of this. We learn in **Revelation 17:3-5...** that this harlot seems to be carried or supported by the beast as she entices the world.

3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The bottom line is that both the beast, and the prostitute, dishonor _____!
We're told in **Revelation 17:8**, that the scarlet-colored beast would be in the abyss or inactive for a time but would rise again!

8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

It shouldn't take us by surprise that this prostitute, with the backing of a worldwide government, is referred to as a great city. In this case it's an adulterous system, supporting Babylon the Great, the prostitute that promotes sinful acts as she attacks true believers! The evil, prostituting, wicked woman described here seems to represent a very evil system of materialism, rising to the level, of pure _____! She thinks can control the beast but she soon discovers that she cannot. The Holy Spirit uses this description, to show how religious Babylon, and governmental Babylon, are so intertwined, that they arrive on the scene as a unit! However, they're destroyed at different times! The prostitute Babylon the Great who was supported by the beast, is destroyed by the beast, before the two beasts solidify their power! This clears the way for the Antichrist to be animated by the worldwide religious system under the auspices of the worldwide government, to fulfill Satan's lifetime dream of being worshipped by men!

Chapter 18

An angel from heaven begins to shout Fallen is Babylon the Great! The merchants of the earth weep and mourn because no one buys their cargo anymore! Look with me at **Revelation 18:11...**

11 The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore.

While this reality may break the hearts of the self-gratifying people of earth, in heaven there are shouts of hallelujah and praise to God! The blood of the martyrs taken at the hands of this evil system and the Babylonian city it's spawned, has been avenged! The great prostitute Babylon has _____!

Chapter 19

This chapter begins with a great celebration over the demise of Babylon the Great. Let's begin by reading **Revelation 19:1-6...**

1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.*

John goes on to tell us about those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! John writes blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! Those who've overcome this world through their obedient faith are in for a huge celebration. But there's still work to be done by our groom. John goes on to tell us about a rider called faithful and true, covered in blood and called the Word of God shows up in John's vision riding on a white horse! The armies of _____ follow him! The beasts gather their armies, to make war against Jesus! The two beasts are captured and thrown into the lake of fire. Then all their followers are killed and their bodies devoured by the birds of the air! Avian garbage disposals!

NOTES

Revelation 20

An angel with the key to the Abyss comes down from heaven! He binds Satan with a chain for a thousand years and throws him into the Abyss locking and sealing it over him! This portrays a sequence of events where evil is temporarily restrained. During this time, those who resisted worshiping the beast or taking his mark and as a result were martyred for their faith, are resurrected to reign with Christ. This group of faithful martyrs reign with Christ throughout this _____ years. We don't need to get caught up on premillennial, postmillennial and amillennial views. If we're aware of and prepared by the main truths Revelation teaches, we'll be good no matter what happens. We just need to make sure that our _____ are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Unfortunately, during the millennium reign there seems to be some dissidents who turn their back on the Messiah. Sure, they follow the rules, but they're not committed to their savior. That seems to be the reason that the devil is freed for a short time. God still lets mankind exercise their free will. In the end they'll be gathered as Gog and Magog to face the fire of God. Here's what happens, after a thousand years come to an end, an angel descends with the key to the Abyss. Satan's set free for a short time and he creates quite the ruckus on this old earth because he knows his time is about up! Once released he goes out to deceive nations named Gog and Magog. These nations gather for a great battle but are consumed by fire from heaven. Nope! I don't get it either, but if God wants to do it, there must be a reason, so I defer to Him. Satan himself is cast into the lake of burning sulfur for eternal torment. All mankind will stand before the great white judgment seat of God as the books of deeds, and the book of life are brought out. All mankind will be judged according to their deeds as recorded in books. The unfaithful will discover the scope of their punishment for their evil deeds and the faithful will find out how they will be rewarded for their good deeds. The difference is that the saved have been declared not guilty by the blood of the lamb. They accepted God's love gift and therefore have their names written in the Lambs Book of Life. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, which is described as the second death. Anyone not found in the book of life is cast into this lake along with the beasts, the false prophet and Satan to face equitable punishment for their evil deeds.

Revelation 21

As this chapter opens, all the sinners of all the ages, both demons, and men, including Satan, the beast of the sea and the beast of the earth, along with the false prophet/antichrist are already in the lake of fire! God ushers in the new universe! There's an amazing list of building materials in **Revelation 21:18-21**! The foundation stones in this list are scientifically amazing!

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. *

Revelation 22

As this chapter opens, all the sinners of the ages are already in the lake of fire! The old heaven and earth have been Satan's domain! Therefore, the old heaven and earth had to be _____! Then, and only then, would God allow the things of heaven and the things of earth to become one!

Here we see the Tree of Life restored and watered with the living water that flows from the throne of God! Those in heaven will have _____ to this life-giving tree! The people in hell _____! The second death that they have chosen by rejecting God's love gift will cause them to be eternally separated from God!

Folks, we're about to bring the plane in for a landing! I can't hope to land it any better than John did with his closing words. So, I'd just like to read them for you.

12 Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

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

15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

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

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Folks, we win if our names are written, in the Lamb's Book of Life! So, If you get nothing else out of this study, make sure you go away with a burning desire, to make sure your name's written in the Lamb's Book of Life!

Credits: Richard Rogers; David Guzik; Paul Benware; Got Questions; Logos commentary; Jay Smith

NOTES