



REVELATION

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

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About This Study

Welcome to this study of the Book of Revelation, the Bible book that mystifies and entices! Did you know?

- Revelation has a reputation of being “the most argued about” book in the Bible
- Revelation has more views and interpretations than any other book in the Bible
- Revelation is both lauded and feared for its many strange symbols
- It is one of only three Bible books with a nickname, often called “The Revelation” (short for “The Revelation of John”).

This study is here to help allay fears and recognize that this book has been bringing comfort to Christians for nearly 2,000 years. You will gain understanding of symbols used in this book and consider some different views about what they mean.

Let’s get started with some FAQs so that we begin to feel some excitement for this very interesting book!

01 Is this study for groups or individuals? I’d love to study it but don’t have a group. This study can be used by a group or individually. It was designed to be flexible enough that it can accommodate both discussion and study groups as well as individual reflection. We do recommend that you don’t rush through this study, however, as that often leads to failure to grasp the material.

02 How does this study tackle the difficult parts, such as the “dreaded middle?” The middle section can indeed be both intriguing and intimidating! Most symbols are in the text we call “the Judgments.” They begin in chapter 6 and end in chapter 18. Here, the symbols grow more frequent, climaxing in chapters 12 and 13, then deescalate. To aid with comprehension in this section, we have included **all the chapters of Revelation** text in the readings, with the symbols or notes of interest color coded in **GREEN**. After the readings, you will find **GREEN SYMBOL BOXES** containing those green symbols plus what commentators have to say about them.

03 How many interpretations are there of Revelation and how will you cover them? There are four main interpretative views to understanding Revelation, but we will be moving forward with only two of them, the Futurist and Historic viewpoints. These two are the most common today, but they also contain varying sub-opinions. We won’t be giving all the interpretations or every subcategory among the two views, as such would be impossible. We will provide the interpretations that are considered most popular or relevant today.

04 Which views are you passing up, and why? You’ll be introduced to an overview of all four views later in this study. We are going to focus on two of them because research has determined that those wanting to study the Revelation are doing so because they want answers. Hence, the two views we will quickly drop are those where people who believe them would not want answers. For example, the Idealist View does not prefer

to name places and/or eras associated exclusively with the symbols. These people are not looking for answers and may be attempting to avoid them.

05 What if I still don't understand the material or have additional questions? Revelation is not like other books in the Bible that may seem easy reads in comparison. If you are having trouble grasping information or have more questions, we recommend that you conduct additional research on your own. The internet is a great resource and you can always search your questions online. However, we do recommend that you be wary of which websites you encounter, as they may preach "a gospel other than what you accepted" (Galatians 1:9). Also be aware that Wikipedia is not an accepted source among academics; it is rife with revisionists and can contain contrary facts which become frustrating.

06 What should be my goal with this study? The goal is to know the book well enough to be able to discuss it, supporting the personal view you adopt and being able to hear others. We are presenting you with various viewpoints so that you can decide which one you prefer. It is our opinion that the truths of the Revelation are not completely revealed at this time, in spite of some loud voices to the contrary. But it is understandable to God that people are scouring His word for help in these trying times. Discussion and open consideration will help move the dialogue forward. At the end of this study, you should be able to identify many symbols and support your own opinions.

07 How much work will the study require? This is a 30-day study, or month-long study, with one day of rest each week. Each of the 6 days will present you with the following, over four weeks of time:

- **A reading of either one or, occasionally, two chapters.** The reading will have words in **green color text**. These will highlight symbols or issues commentators feel are important enough to address.
- **Symbol boxes, often one for each view.** The symbol boxes will cover words in the reading that were in green. There will also be a short amount of text in explanation.
- **6-8 Short Answer Questions.** These will follow the readings, covering basic facts to reinforce them. Answers are provided.
- **One or two Application Questions.** Here we will ask you to either apply the passage to your own life or reflect on the details' meanings. These are subjective with no answer help usually provided.
- **Supporting Scriptures.** These additional Bible verses can broaden understanding, having you do further research for additional insight on relevant topics. You'll find 2 or 3 of these with each lesson.

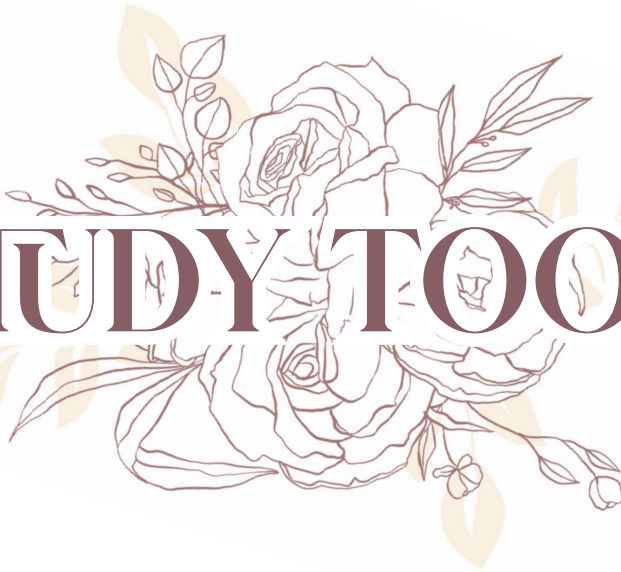
08 How do I get the most use out of the symbol boxes? We provide pages containing the actual text from Revelation and these additional pages have a good amount of space on them for writing. Try writing some symbols from the boxes above the corresponding lines of text to see if you find them easier to understand.

Per the symbol boxes, please be aware that often Historicists and Futurists do not give the same symbols the same importance. Therefore, in one box you may find a symbol that is absent from the other.

09 Are there any other tips to help read this book with confidence, especially because it is so challenging to understand? You'll gain confidence by knowing and using all the materials provided:

- **Use our study tools.** We provide several timelines and lists in the Study Tools section. One is a list of "Common Symbols in Bible Prophecy" that should be referenced frequently. If a symbol isn't covered in that reading's symbol box because the symbol is repetitive or very common, you will likely find it there.
- **Try to do the readings alongside the page containing the symbol boxes.** Being able to look at both side by side may prevent memory lapses and confusion. Enough space has been left for you between lines and in margins to write in some of the symbols, so that you are looking at the text and its meaning imbedded.
- **Don't skip over the boxes marked as Figures, which are spread out through the study.** They add further insight or important side facts that cultivate understanding.

10 My church believes that Christians should only use the King James (KJV), especially for important books like this where precision is necessary. Why are you teaching with the NIV? We do respect people's love of the King James. The NIV was chosen for this study because there is no denying that the text of Revelation is very challenging. Most move to other translations to understand the overall meaning of texts better, and we prefer not to use the most difficult translation to understand the material, on top of many of symbols and new terminology.



STUDY TOOLS

COMMON SYMBOLS IN BIBLE PROPHECY

Below are some common symbols found in biblical prophecy. More specific symbols will be included in **GREEN SYMBOL BOXES** following each reading. Keep this sheet as well as the appropriate **GREEN BOX PAGES** beside you while completing the readings as they will keep you afloat in a sea of symbols.

- **ANGELS:** Angels are literal. There are many in Revelation to announce or instigate important changes. Hence, angels won't be mentioned in the symbol boxes as they are real and ever present.
- **BEAST:** A kingdom or often an alliance of kingdoms (its horns being its kings or leaders).
- **EAGLE:** Many different representations. The eagle in Revelation 8:3 is sometimes translated "angel." The eagle Jesus referred to in Luke 17:37 ("where the body is, there eagles will gather") is sometimes translated "vultures," when He is describing a taking up or a rapture. The eagle sometimes symbolizes God's watchfulness (eyes of an eagle) or His great protection (wings of an eagle). Note: Don't get too excited if you are American and think an eagle might represent the US. Many countries within the modern world use the symbol of an eagle—such as Albania, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Scotland, Serbia, Germany, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Panama, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Poland. Biblical countries featuring eagles include Rome, Egypt, and Persia.
- **EARTHQUAKES:** Spiritual or political upheaval.
- **HAIL:** Weighty judgments.
- **HORSES:** Deliverers of judgments; can be literal in the heavenlies or in historic wars.
- **LAMPSTANDS:** Churches.
- **LAND (VERSUS) SEA:** When sea and land are both involved, often the sea represents people of the world and land represents Israel.
- **LIGHTNING AND THUNDER:** Hefty announcements from the heavens; if something is thrown to earth and thunder and lightning results when it hits, that is the response to God's judgment.
- **MOON:** Political leaders (while not as important as those symbolized by the **SUN**).
- **MOUNTAINS:** Kingdoms.
- **RAINBOWS:** God's steadfastness and reliability.
- **SCROLLS:** God's plans and announcements, deeds and wills; also documents like the Testaments.
- **SEAS:** Nations, kingdoms, alliances; lots of people.
- **SEALS:** The keeping of secrets and privacy; there were 7 seals on wills of inheritance in John's day.
- **STARS:** Angels
- **SUN:** Noteworthy political leaders; also great light being shed on an issue or problem.
- **WORDS:** Harsh words of judgment
- **VOICES THAT SOUND LIKE TRUMPETS:** (or things such as thunder): Usually voices that are going to make an announcement. However, it is also thought that in heaven, literally, all sounds will have richer, more dimensional and beautiful tones.

JUDGMENTS AT A GLANCE:

The 7 SEALS / 7 TRUMPETS / 7 BOWLS OF REVELATION

Exactly how many judgments are in the Book of Revelation? There are 7 judgments in 3 different series. The first series is mainly in chapter 6. The second series is in chapters 8-9. The final series is in chapter 16. Use this tool any time you need to remember where you are:



1st Seal: White Horse bent on conquest (6:2)

2nd Seal: Red Horse takes peace from the earth (6:4)

3rd Seal: Black Horse brings famine (6:5)

4th Seal: Pale Horse Kills of the earth by war, famine, plagues, wild beasts (6:8)

5th Seal: Cries of the Martyrs, God tells them to be patient a while longer (6:9-11)

6th Seal: Earthquake & Nature Signs/Symbols (6:12-14)

7th Seal: Silence in Heaven, then 7 Trumpet Judgments (8:1)



1st Trumpet: Hail, Fire, Blood, 1/3 of earth, trees, grass burned (8:7)

2nd Trumpet: Huge Burning Mountain Thrown into Sea, 1/3 of sea to blood, 1/3 sea life dies, 1/3 ships destroyed (8:8-9)

3rd Trumpet: Huge Star Falls, 1/3 of fresh water turns bitter (Wormwood) (8:10-11)

4th Trumpet: 1/3 of the Sun, Moon, Stars Struck, all darken (8:12)

5th Trumpet: Fallen Star opens the Abyss, releases locusts (9:1-16)

6th Trumpet: 4 Fallen Angels Released From Under River Euphrates to war/kill 1/3 of mankind (9:13-19)

7th Trumpet: Announcement God Has Taken Back His Earth: Ark of the Covenant seen in heaven (11:15-19); of Christ's Reign.



1st Bowl: Sores appear on those with mark of beast (16:2)

2nd Bowl: Sea Becomes Blood, all sea life dies (16:3)

3rd Bowl: Rivers and Springs turns to blood (16:4-7)

4th Bowl: Sun Scorches Men (16:8-9)

5th Bowl: Kingdom of the Antichrist Turns Dark (16:10-11)

6th Bowl: Euphrates River Dries Up for Armageddon (16:12-16)

7th Bowl: Worldwide Earthquake, Cities Collapsing, Hailstones (16:17-21)



Week 1

DAY 1:

Welcome to the Book of Revelation

Welcome to our Revelation Bible Study, about the Bible book that is most argued over and contains the most theories about its meaning. This Bible book is one that people are most curious about, Christian and non-Christian alike! It has brought comfort and hope to people for nearly 2,000 years, and it will continue to bring comfort and joy for people in years to come.

HOW TO READ THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Many of us like to believe that our God has it in mind to provide information about the future—especially now, when we are overwhelmed with everything from shady politics to natural disasters. And we may think that if we can just puzzle out a few bits, we can discern the future and what lies ahead.

God enjoys sharing His wisdom with us. James 1:5 rightly tells us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

And yet, with End Times prophecy, even the best commentators admit to giving pause. Throughout the centuries, multiple methods for understanding the Book of Revelation have evolved, and none of them agree with each other. Within the four formally recognized methods are some 5 to 10 sub-divergencies that go so far as to identify a symbol as Christ, while other identify that same symbol as Satan!

It’s common for us to attribute fault in understanding to other people, but not ourselves. This sort of lackluster discernment is prevalent everywhere and has plagued Christianity for centuries, generally coming from those who haven’t examined all facets (those who have studied tend to see through more humble lenses).

Granted, we want to put our trust in those whom we know and love. But it is common for pastors to teach this complicated, symbol-laden material, having already picked an interpretative view and then present it as fact. Hence many Christians are completely unaware there are other interpretations than the one they are taught!

SO, WHY ALL THE MYSTERY?

So why doesn’t God just make the future as plain as Christ’s Bethlehem birth story? It is our human nature to look for shortcuts. It takes effort to communicate with God every day and ask Him specifically what He has in mind for us. The information we’re craving also requires effort to understand, and it is likely for our sakes that large portions are not made crystal clear. Knowing how things will unfold can likely lead to laziness and procrastination, like the thought, “I’ll take out the trash right before the garbage truck gets here.”

Why study a book that is the most argued over of any book in the Bible? The fact is, when Bible prophecy began to be fulfilled, most people were blind. But for those who really wanted to serve God wholeheartedly, it was fairly plain to see. God has never left His children blind when they need Him, and He provided means for their understanding, especially through ancient records. Like those in the past, we also need this material, and there are parts we will come to understand, falling into place with all the clarity that we need.

IT IS EXCITING STUFF-FOR EXCITING TIMES!

There are similarities between today and the time of Christ, when people were sensing the arrival of the Messiah, much like the imminency many feel about the Second Coming of Christ.

People were not recorded showing surprise at John the Baptist's message. As one of Christ's first disciples, Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel didn't respond, "What are you talking about, the Messiah!? What makes you think it'll happen in our generation?" He simply said, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:45-46).

People who truly cared knew that the Messiah was coming—they just didn't know exactly when or where. Today is strikingly similar concerning the Second Coming, but with a larger number of people involved as Christianity has spread across the globe.

In the early part of this study, we will describe the various means by which the Revelation has been interpreted and which ones we are going to embrace. You will learn a great deal. However, we don't expect any discussion or answers provided to replace daily meditation, reflection and prayer, or daily thoughts on what God wants from us in the current day.

One Christian leader put it this way: *"In difficult times like today, people become interested in the apocalypse, as it can give great meaning to our lives, especially if we are feeling tossed to and fro. But no matter when we were born, or where, we will all see the apocalypse. We will all have a personal apocalypse because we will all see death. This is the apocalypse on which God really wants us to focus, because it is undeniable and the one on which we will be judged."*

Our relationship with God hangs in the balance, and whatever is presented here is for the purpose of cultivating that relationship.

Four Ways to Interpret THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Christians are often surprised to find that there are multiple views of how of Revelation is interpreted and the one they have been taught is only ONE of them. While none of these four viewpoints is known to be the absolute truth, dedicated Christian leaders are doing their best to navigate and share the riddles and symbols that intrigue us. Let's look at the four main ways to look at Revelation, along with their faults and virtues:



View #1: The Preterist View

The Preterist view gets its name from the Latin word *praeter*, meaning “past.” This view started gaining traction in the early centuries of Christianity and aligns with the tumultuous events of the Jewish-Roman War (AD 66-73). It upholds that all prophecies in the Bible have already been fulfilled in history and specifically that prophecies in the Book of Revelation were fulfilled around AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and the temple was dismantled for the second time. This view is gaining a following, though it is not the most popular.

Virtues: Jesus said, “what shall shortly come to pass,” “or what will begin quickly” concerning the Revelation. This view is able to place pieces of the narrative without hyper-imposing meaning to those types of statements. It resonates with the historical realities of the first-century Christian community, offering a contextualized understanding of Revelation’s symbolic language.

Problems: Most Bible scholars believe that the Revelation written by Apostle John very late in his life, around AD 90-95. The Preterist view holds that the Book of Revelation was written around AD 60, and this timing can be problematic in some details. This viewpoint also contains some flaws in that it denies the physical reality of Christ’s second coming and downplays the days of tribulation by only attributing them to the fall of Jerusalem.

Critics argue that limiting the interpretation to a specific historical event may overlook the broader, future applications of the text, neglecting its potential relevance for subsequent generations.

Summary: The Preterist perspective underscores the Book of Revelation as a testament to God’s intervention in historical crises, prompting believers to find solace in divine sovereignty.



View #2: The Historicist View

The Historicist view gained prominence during the medieval and Reformation eras, as interpreters sought to align Revelation’s symbols with significant historical events. Historicists view prophetic fulfillment as progressive and continuous, in an unbroken sequence from Daniel’s time to the end of the age. This approach links symbols to periods such as the rise of papal authority, the Protestant Reformation, and geopolitical conflicts. With this view, Historicists point to many events from the Revelation taking place over the past 2,000 years but the Second Coming still in the future.

Virtues: Historicists appreciate the continuous relevance of Revelation throughout history, providing a comprehensive narrative that aligns with major sociopolitical and religious shifts. This view appears offers a balanced view and allows the reader to have a source of revelation that is much more applicable to the reader’s life.

Problems: Critics argue that the Historicist approach can be arbitrary in its identification of historical events, lacking a universally agreed-upon timeline and risking selective interpretation.

Summary: From a Historicist perspective, the Book of Revelation serves as a guide for interpreting contemporary events within the context of an ongoing divine plan, urging believers to discern divine providence in historical developments.



View #3: The Futurist View

The Futurist view gained prominence during the rise of dispensationalism in the 19th century. This view asserts that except for the first three chapters, all of Revelation will take place in the future and will be fulfilled literally. This viewpoint is most common today, especially by evangelists. Unlike preterists, futurists hold to the date of AD 90-95 for the writing of Revelation. Futurists posit that many prophecies in Revelation are yet to unfold, particularly during an imminent eschatological period, which include a Great Tribulation, the Rapture, and Second Coming of Jesus.

Virtues: Futurists stress the imminent and future relevance of the Book of Revelation, providing a framework for anticipating and understanding forthcoming eschatological events. This view gives great meaning to our trying times, implying that God wrote about us and is very close at hand.

Problems: Critics argue that a strict literal interpretation may overlook the symbolic nature of much of Revelation, potentially leading to speculative and divisive approaches to End Time prophecy. While there is some argument that futurists do recognize that some aspects are symbolic, they hold that all symbols have a literal interpretation.

Futurists share the same problem as the Preterists in that their reading can be self-interested, and lacks the connection to the original readers of Revelation in the first century.

Summary: The Futurist interpretation encourages believers to remain vigilant and prepared for future eschatological events, fostering a sense of anticipation and urgency in their spiritual lives, particularly in times of global uncertainty.



View #4: The Idealist View

The Idealist view, which emphasizes the symbolic or allegorical nature of Revelation, gained prominence during the patristic period and resurged during the Renaissance. This perspective suggests that the book conveys timeless truths and spiritual principles through its symbolic language.

Virtues: Idealists highlight the universal and enduring messages embedded in Revelation, emphasizing the applicability of its teachings to believers throughout all ages.

Faults: Critics argue that the Idealist approach may risk subjectivity in interpretation and potentially dilute the application of the text in specific historical contexts.

Summary: The Idealist perspective encourages believers to engage with the Book of Revelation as a source of enduring spiritual truths, prompting ongoing reflection on the timeless principles it conveys.

Where Does THIS LEAVE US?

We will not be pursuing the Preterist or Idealist perspectives in this study, despite their endorsement by many reputable commentators. The possibility remains that any of these viewpoints could be valid. God, being omnipotent, could have crafted a profound message with multiple layers, offering solace to various epochs undergoing significant challenges.

We will be proceeding by explaining what the Historicists and the Futurists think about many symbols and chapters. Despite the earlier extensive critique of Futurism, we aim to present both the strengths and weaknesses. Our primary objective is to equip you with the knowledge to engage in discussions about the book upon completion. Effective communication will clarify any lingering questions, leaving you confident and capable of assisting others.

Despite these insights, it's important to note that they are not a substitute for daily communion with God. The intention behind this study was not to serve as a quick-fix solution enabling us to reduce the time spent with God, but rather to foster a deeper connection with Him.

Warning! Warning! Be Cautious About These Things!

Let's take a few minutes to discuss some of the challenges with understanding the Book of Revelation and how to circumvent them. They have to do with how we think, and of what we need to stay aware.

● Good and Evil

Let us digress for a moment to discuss the idea of good and evil. Firstly, it is crucial to understand that God traditionally inspires those who are considered evil to harm to other similarly sinful people. This occurred in the eighth century BCE, when the 10 tribes split, forming a divided Israel, and the Assyrians began their conquest. Similarly, in the 500s BCE, when Judah veered off the virtuous path, Babylon stirred to action as a means of retribution. This recurring pattern reveals a recognizable behavior of God.

Here, we should resist the inclination towards a simplistic black-and-white view of morality: "good" and "evil." When God uses one power to replace another, we should not automatically interpret the replacement as virtuous or "good." Such assumptions are misguided. Hostility between two "evil" groups is common in

both biblical and historical narratives. In the apocalyptic depictions of the Book of Revelation, a significant portion of the portrayed violence arises from two "evil" parties.

● Don't Dismiss Bible History

Some Christians may hesitate to explore history beyond the Bible, assuming it lacks relevance or significance. Yet, delving into the post-Acts era unveils narratives of martyrs and faith heroes that can deeply resonate with us today. Understanding the sacrifices and valor of those who paved the way for our faith fosters a profound appreciation for the history of Christianity. Regardless of our own perspective or faith, delving into Church history not only honors our predecessors but also provides valuable insights into the development of Christianity as a global force.

● Teachers Aren't Perfect

Supporters of any of the four perspectives should acknowledge that none of the commentators can be considered prophets themselves. Genuine prophets do not make mistakes, and any teachings to the contrary should be rejected. However, it would be foolish to outright dismiss an entire viewpoint or teacher solely based on a few errors.

For instance, numerous Futurists began to publish their opinions during the 1970s and '80s. But it is unrealistic to expect them to have accurately foreseen future developments, given the significant transformations in America over the past 50 years. Even though some predictions (such as the rebuilding of Babylon in fulfillment of Revelation 17 & 18) have not materialized, hastily rejecting such teachers may be premature.

You will encounter contrary viewpoints in this study. We recommend that you consider them without reacting defensively. Ultimately, we cannot know the reasons or motivations behind interpretations of difficult concepts. However, collaborative and cohesive study of prophecy can enhance our collective understanding and foster mutual support.

● Pray for Understanding

Prayer is key to seeking divine understanding. In Matthew 7:6, we are cautioned against exposing sacred truths recklessly. Additionally, James 4:8 exhorts us to "draw near to God and He will draw near to you." When sincere prayer for discernment and guidance are offered, God reveals all that is possible.

And yet there are instances, despite earnest supplication, where individuals find themselves without clarity—especially regarding the interpretation of symbols in Revelation. We must acknowledge that divine wisdom sometimes may be withheld, taking into consideration the inherent limitations of human nature and understanding.

The Book of Revelation contains passages that require some tolerance and even the embracing of symbolism, particularly as they recount tumultuous times in history. Despite the difficulty, our Heavenly Father values effort and earnestness as you seek to understand His Word.



DAY 1 APPLICATION

Today you'll be gleaning the information above for the short answer questions rather than the scriptures, which will start tomorrow.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Those who believe in this view see all topics in the Revelation as having happened around the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD: _____
- 02 Those who believe in this view do not see the Revelation as having many dates or historic facts as attached in absolutes: _____
- 03 Most evangelicals of today hold to this view: _____
- 04 While considered the most balanced, this view is not as popular as the Futurist: _____
- 05 James 4:8 says to draw near to God, and He will _____.
- 06 The last paragraph starts by saying that study requires tolerance and even embrace of this: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Matthew 7:6, James 4:8, Hebrews 10:36

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In exploring the Preterist, Futurist, Historicist, and Idealist views on the Book of Revelation, consider how each perspective influences our understanding of God's sovereignty and the relevance of the message for believers today. Which view resonates with you the most and why? How can we maintain unity and respect within the body of believers when different perspectives exist?

- 02** What kind of feelings do you have (anxiety/excitement) about understanding Bible prophecy? What can you do so that your heart, mind and spirit are alert, and you are able to accept God's will?



REVELATION 1:

Introducing the Resurrected Christ with Apostle John

Today, we commence our exploration of Revelation 1, a chapter brimming with profound intrigue. Unlike later readings that will necessitate the unraveling of symbols, the content presented in green will be accompanied by general notes. Simply appreciate the information, annotate or highlight noteworthy aspects, and respond to the subsequent questions.



Prologue

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants **what must soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his **servant John**, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because **the time is near**.

Greetings and Doxology

⁴ John,
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the **seven spirits** before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and **“every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”**;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



John's Vision of Christ

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his **head was white like wool**, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the **seven stars** that you saw in my right hand and of the **seven golden lampstands** is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

CHAPTER 1: COMMENTARY

WHAT MUST SOON TAKE PLACE and THE TIME IS NEAR (both in 1st paragraph): Five times in Revelation does Jesus promise to come QUICKLY. The Futurists have arguments supporting how this might not start for 2,000 years, but the readings can seem an uncomfortable fit to some.

SERVANT JOHN: For a while commentators thought this might have been a Presbyter named John, but most have reverted back to this being John our beloved Apostle.

7 SPIRITS: Many takes on the 7 spirits exist, but it is agreed by most commentators that this statement is a mystery, something we are unlikely to fully understand while on earth.

EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM: This implies there will likely be television involved in the Second Coming.

EVEN THOSE WHO PIERCED HIM: This implies as spoken in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 that the dead in Christ will rise first.

HEAD WAS LIKE WOOL/SNOW: White hair symbolizes wisdom in biblical contexts, not anything racial.

7 STARS: Just a note on the number (stars often symbolize angels)...You will see the number 7 most often in the Book of Revelation. It is a prime number, meaning it can't be divided, and it is not a favored number in our system of 10s. However it is very important in heavenly concepts.

7 GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS: Futurists think these symbolize the churches. They are referred to again later, implying issues concerning the Rapture.



DAY 2 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** To which Apostle did God send His angel, who testifies to these things? (v. 1)
- _____
- 02** _____ are those who read aloud the words of this prophecy and
_____ are those who hear it and take it to heart (v. 3).
- 03** In verse 8, Jesus describes Himself as the _____ and the
_____, the first and the last.
- 04** Name the 7 churches: (v. 11) _____

- 05** The 7 stars represent this: (v. 20) _____
- 06** The 7 lampstands represent this: (v. 20) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 11:2, Zechariah 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

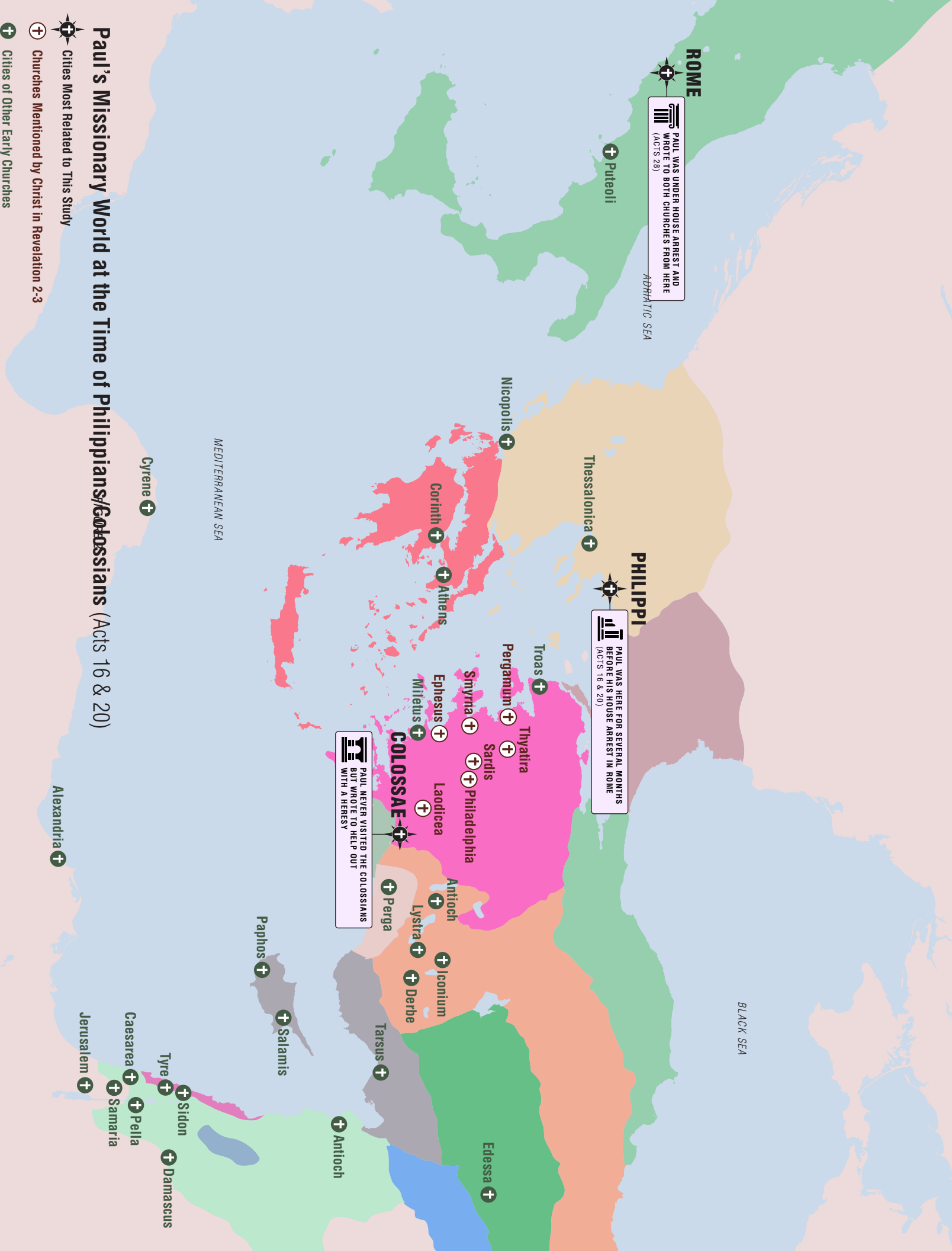
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 1, John experiences a powerful vision of Jesus Christ. Describe the key symbols and characteristics of Jesus as revealed in this chapter. How do these attributes contribute to our understanding of Jesus' role in the grand narrative of Revelation?

- 02** Verse 3 contains the phrase, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it" (1:3). How does the idea of being blessed connect with your own approach to reading and studying the Bible? In what ways can the insights gained from Revelation 1 impact your daily life and spiritual journey?

- ✦ Cities Most Related to This Study
- ⊕ Churches Mentioned by Christ in Revelation 2-3
- ⊕ Cities of Other Early Churches

Paul's Missionary World at the Time of Philippians/Colossians (Acts 16 & 20)





REVELATION 2-3: THE 7 LETTERS TO 7 CHURCHES

Today marks one of several instances this month where you will be reading two chapters instead of the usual one. The opportunity to examine the messages to all seven churches collectively is beneficial. Let us delve into the perspectives on these letters, as endorsed by both Historicists and Futurists.

Both schools of thought give significant importance to these letters, asserting that they were directed to the specific seven churches. However, they agree that these letters can also be interpreted as a chronicle of the Church Age, with the final church serving as a symbolic representation of either the contemporary era or the imminent future. A chart will be provided to facilitate your understanding of the historical progression within the Church Age as depicted in these letters. (see figure 2)



2: TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

¹These are the words of him who holds the **seven stars** in his right hand and walks among the **seven golden lampstands**. ²I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

⁷Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



To the Church in Smyrna

⁸ “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 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 life as your victor’s crown.

¹¹ **Whoever has ears**, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

7 Churches of Revelations	Periods: Church History
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Apostolic (30-100 AD)
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Persecuted (100-313 AD)
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Imperial (313-476 AD)
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Medieval (475-1453 AD)
Sardis (3:1-6)	Reformed (1453-1800 AD)
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Modern Missionary (1800-?)
Laodicea (3:14-22)	Modern Apostate (1980’s-Present)

FIGURE 2: THE 7 CHURCH AGES PER THE 7 LETTERS

To the Church in Pergamum

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the **teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak** to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

To the Church in Thyatira

¹⁸ “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 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.



²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3: TO THE CHURCH IN SARDIS

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but **you are dead**. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your **deeds unfinished** in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Whoever has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Philadelphia

⁷ "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall

NOTES ON TERMINOLOGY

7 STARS: in prophecy, stars usually symbolize angels, as these do

7 GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS: symbolizing the 7 churches to which he is writing; also the 7 biblical eras or ages

NICOLAITANS: Descendants of Nicolas of Antioch, considered heretics by the early church

SATAN'S THRONE: In the letter to Pergamum, we see this term twice. The city was most famous for its theatre built to honor Zeus

BALAAM/BALAK: Two characters from the Book of Numbers who hatched a scheme to seduce Jews into God's bad graces (trying to manipulate God into deserting the Jews)



down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

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

¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the Church in Laodicea

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

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

¹⁶ So, because you are **lukewarm**—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

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

CHAPTER 2: COMMENTARY

WHOEVER HAS EARS (2:11): This similar to Jesus’ words when teaching in parables which relayed stories with deeper truth. These were understood only by those with spiritual discernment. They symbols here in Revelation also hold a deeper truth.

JEZEBEL (2:20) was a wicked woman and the wife of evil King Ahab, who led the nation of Israel astray with idol worship.

YOU ARE DEAD (3:1) Spiritual death or separation from God.

DEEDS UNFINISHED (3:2) meaning actions are hollow or incomplete, short of what is required.

LUKEWARM (3:16) linked to spiritual fervor, where hot people are on fire for the Lord and cold people have not accepted the Gospel message. May mean those who have tasted the goodness of God, but then fallen away.



DAY 3 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 This church had forsaken its first love: (2:1-4) _____
- 02 This church would suffer persecution for 10 days: (2:8-11) _____
- 03 This church had some who held to the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans: (2:12-17)

- 04 This church tolerated the woman Jezebel: (2:18-20) _____
- 05 This church has a reputation of being alive but is dead: (3:1) _____
- 06 Jesus has opened a door that no one can shut for this church: (3:7-8) _____
- 07 True/False: Jesus has no complaints for the church at Philadelphia (3:7-10).
- 08 True/False: Jesus rebukes and disciplines those He loves (3:19).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: **Matthew 11:14, Ezekiel 10:12**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** After studying the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3, consider the specific commendations and rebukes given to each church. Choose one church that resonates with you the most, and explain why. How do the strengths and weaknesses of that church parallel aspects of your own spiritual journey? Additionally, discuss what practical steps you can take to emulate the positive attributes and address the shortcomings highlighted in that particular letter.

- 02** In Revelation 2-3, Jesus addresses various issues within the seven churches. Analyze the recurring themes such as love, perseverance, repentance, and faithfulness. How do these themes apply to the challenges faced by the contemporary Church today? What strategies and actions can the Church, both as a whole and as individual congregations, implement to heed the warnings and embrace the commendations given by Christ in these letters?



REVELATION 4: A THRONE IN HEAVEN

Revelation 4 marks a divergence in interpretation between Historicists and Futurists. In this section, John begins to witness God's judgments. Historicists assert that these judgments commenced in Jerusalem during John's time, while Futurists maintain that they are yet to transpire. Many Futurists (specifically Dispensationalists) subscribe to the notion that Bible history is divided into seven ages—with the current era being the 6th age, referred to as "manhood" or the Age of Grace. According to some Futurists, this chapter anticipates a Rapture, signaling the conclusion of Dispensation 6. Following each reading from here to chapter 16, there are symbol boxes for each group. Comparing the reading and symbols side by side may aid in understanding; consider noting the meanings above or in the margin for clarity.



The Throne in Heaven

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place **after this**."² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were **twenty-four elders**. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, **seven lamps** were blazing. These are the **seven spirits of God**.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a **sea of glass**, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were **four living creatures**, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a **flying eagle**.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was **covered with eyes** all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

⁹"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, is and is to come. Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four "elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."



Take a Minute to Understand an Important Term

Dispensationalism is important to understand when studying the Revelation as well as the arguments for and against it. First, here is a definition:

A **dispensation** is a method of ordering things or a system of management. In theology, a dispensation **covers God's plan for a period of time**.

Two distinct features help define Dispensationalists:

1. They take a fairly literal interpretation of Scripture, or a reach for the most literal approach to understanding what God is saying;
2. They perceive the relationship between God and Israel as separate from that of the Church within God's divine plan.

THE 7 DISPENSATIONS			
<i>Dispensationalist believe that Bible & church history can be broken down into 7 "Dispensations" (meaning systems of order), established by God to show His ever-increasing relationship with mankind.</i>			
#	Dispensations	Events	Years
01	Dispensation of INNOCENCE (Early Childhood)	Adam & Eve in the Garden	BC 4000
02	Dispensation of CONSCIENCE (Childhood)	Eviction from the Garden thru the Great Flood	BC 4000-2500
03	Dispensation of HUMAN GOVERNMENT (Boyhood)	Tower of Babel thru the calling of Abraham	BC 2500-2000
04	Dispensation of PROMISE (Youth)	Abraham thru the Exodus	BC 2000-1450
05	Dispensation of LAW (Manhood)	The Exodus thru Christ	BC 1450-0
06	Dispensation of GRACE (Old Age)	Age of Grace, aka the Church Age	Christ-Present
07	Dispensation of MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (Restoration of all things)	The Heavens & New Earth	Future

FIGURE 3

You can see how Dispensationalists split up the history of biblical time in Figure 3.



Arguments For and Against Dispensationalism

Opponents of this perspective express reservations about the notion of God changing His intentions or agreements with humanity, leading to alterations in plans or covenants. They cite scriptures such as "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) to underscore what they perceive as a consistent continuity.

On the contrary, adherents to dispensationalism view the distinct eras as deliberate components of God's overarching plan. Some even discern a pattern of God progressively drawing humanity closer to Himself in each dispensation following the Fall.

- **With the Flood**, he embraced only one family;
- **with Abraham**, it was one family with line of descendants;
- **with Moses**, He drew close to one nation;
- **with Christ**, it was all of the world;
- **In the Millennial Kingdom**, we move closest, which is actually living with Him and enjoying His company.

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
AFTER THIS: Shortly after the Revelation is written, this will happen. 24 ELDERS: Perhaps the smaller Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, composed of 23 elders, plus Christ; perhaps a reference to Ezekiel's vision of 25 men (8:16, 11:1). 7 LAMPS/SPIRITS OF GOD: Angels, perhaps the Holy Spirit. 4 LIVING CREATURES: A throne tradition—Solomon had 12 lions carved on each side of his throne, only these animals around the throne in heaven are real. SEA OF GLASS: Seas are often symbolic of peoples, nations and kingdoms. Hence a sea of glass, very smooth, would symbolize peaceful times. COVERED WITH EYES: Trying to capture this image could give one a bit of a headache. But many Historicists believe it simply means that God has eyes everywhere and doesn't miss a trick. THE FIRST TO FOURTH LIVING CREATURES: Lion is a chief of wild beasts, the calf is the chief of domestic beasts; the eagle is the chief of birds, and the man is chief of intelligent creatures.	AFTER THIS: After the Church Age ends, this will happen quickly. 24 ELDERS: Perhaps the first 24 ancestors of Christ mentioned in Genesis 5 and 11; perhaps symbolic of the raptured saints; may be angels; may be a heavenly counterpart to the 24 Levitical orders (1 Chron. 24:4); may be just a mention of the saints in glory. FOUR LIVING CREATURES: The attributes or qualities of God. THE FIRST TO FOURTH LIVING CREATURES: may be the four faces of Ezekiel's cherubim (10:14); may be the four portraits of Christ from the 4 Gospels



DAY 4 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 What encircled the throne? (v. 3) _____
- 02 How many thrones surrounded the one throne? (v. 4) _____
- 03 How many lamps were in front of the throne? (v. 5) _____
- 04 In the center, around the throne were _____ living creatures. (v. 6)
- 05 Each of the 4 creatures had _____ wings. (v. 8)
- 06 What were the 4 creatures covered with? (v. 8) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 8:16, Ezekiel 10:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 When speaking with friends and churchgoers about the Revelation, you will likely hear many terms. Familiarity with these terms can help you create better dialogue. While you already have information here for one of these terms, look up the other words in an online dictionary and write their definitions. Think about which you currently agree with.

1. Premillennialism:

2. Amillennialism:

3. Post-millennialism:

4. Dispensationalism:

5. Pretribulation:

6. Post-tribulation:



DEEP DIVE #1: IS THERE A RAPTURE; AND IF SO, WHO QUALIFIES?

Reflecting on the Rapture can help Christians who are struggling as parents, students, bill payers, spouses, and employees, etc. Most people feel that things are more complicated today than 50 years ago. Per the question in the title, sometimes the best answers are derived from stories. Let's hear from a Sunday school teacher whose opinion will strike a chord with those of all beliefs:

“As a new Christian in my 20s, I got in the habit with some Christian friends of saying, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus.” We would say it if something upsetting happened at work or if we saw something bad on the news. Sounds like a great line, right? Isn't that the very words that end the Book of Revelation?

Nonetheless, when I was alone one day I heard the Lord speaking to my heart. He said, “Jenny, I wish you wouldn't say that so often. Because you really don't understand what you're saying.”

That didn't make sense right away. I had learned the phrase while reading one of the first books Christians read back then, as it was still selling like hotcakes. Every Christian I knew had read Hal Lindsey's New York Times bestseller, *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Lindsay's words—on the end times, on the rapture, on our dizzying planet—had stuck like glue. My friends and I all knew a bad time was coming called the Great Tribulation. We'd always thought of it as a scary time, but it never dawned on us to consider God's feelings until I told them what I felt God had shared.

Praying together we started to feel the same things. God is a very kind and merciful Being, the kind who would pass through death to save many who are far less significant than He. It was a bit of a shock to realize that this Tribulation was something that could make Him exceedingly sad. We realized the truth: There might be millions of people crying out, whom He had already determined He would not respond to. His sadness was overwhelming.

Still, there was a silver lining for us young Christians. Up until that point we had thought of God the way kids think of a parent: “Oh, they're big. They'll handle it, whatever it is.” It is lost on most children that their parents have deep feelings, and it had been lost on us prior to this that God Himself had big feelings about the Tribulation.

We wanted to tell God that we understood and didn't want Him to suffer the pains of a parent watching children cry out. What came out of one friend was, "Well. I know from that Hal Lindsay book that you would come and take people up so they won't have to be here. But I just want you to know...if you need boots on the ground..." He raised a shaky hand. We were so inspired. We all followed.

We didn't sense any head patting or any rounds of "aren't these young people cute?" In fact I didn't think much about it until after the Millennium and life got darker and darker. People starting talking about the rapture more and more. I remembered our initial statement to the Lord and told Him it was still a promise. But then, I'd go to church and hear people shrug about the problems with the planet, saying, "Well...I'm being raptured." People sounded like they didn't have to care about anyone but themselves or their niche. It sounded like not MY problem! with a huge shrug.

I wondered if we had been melodramatic and childish in offering the Lord a huge hunk of life like that. But now, I hear that "I'm being raptured" thing so often that I'm concerned and still inspired by my friend's shaky hand raising to God. If people don't love enough to care, to want to work for the Lord until the bitter end, I just can't decide if this type of person gets raptured."

Is our precious Lord a dustbin? ”

IN SHORT: Do we know when the Rapture is? No. Do we know there is one? Absolutely. St. Paul describes it in detail. Do we know for sure this will happen before any great tribulation? Anyone who studies the scriptures and says "Absolutely, I know" is pushing it. Is it fun to look forward to? Absolutely. But let's include some self-examination: Is there something I believe because it is convenient? Am I wholeheartedly committed to the Lord such that "humble servant" is the most important part of my identity? To think, "all I have to do to get raptured is believe" is not a great attitude to put before God. Whether He will behave like a dustbin is uncertain. He wants our hearts, souls, mind and strength.



REVELATION 5: THE SCROLL & THE LAMB

In this poignant chapter, John encounters a scroll that initially seems inaccessible. However, the Lamb with significant credentials emerges, marking the commencement of the segment covering the first seven judgments known as the 7 seals. This section extends until the conclusion of chapter 8. Utilize the study tool, "Judgments at a Glance," to maintain awareness within the narrative.



The Scroll & the Lamb

*Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne **a scroll** with writing on both sides and sealed with **seven seals**.² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

*⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had **seven horns and seven eyes**, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the prayers of God's people.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:*

*"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and*

REVELATION: A BREAKDOWN

A chance to review while moving forward. Below is a brief outline of the Revelation. Where are we now?

Chapters	Events
1 2&3	Intro: John Meets Christ Letters to the 7 Churches
4&5	Christ as Judge
6 thru 18	Judgements
19	Return of Christ
20	1,000-Year Reign
21 & 22	Eternity Described

FIGURE 4



people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering **thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand**. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength...and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:
“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

CHAPTER 5: COMMENTARY

GOLDEN BOWLS FULL OF INCENSE: Some teachers have observed the intriguing nature of these bowls, believed to encapsulate the “prayers of the saints.” Traditionally, such matters have been interpreted symbolically due to the absence of mathematical or scientific understanding for literal interpretations. In this context, one might consider Einstein’s theory $E=MC^2$, demonstrating mathematically the transformation of energy into mass. Our prayers, viewed as energy, potentially manifest as substance in heavenly realms, akin to incense or gas. The significance lies in recognizing the importance of our prayers; they can indeed have a tangible impact. In the divine realm, prayers occupy a spatial presence.

THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF ANGELS: Individuals have found considerable comfort from this representation. It is plausible that God brought into existence a greater multitude of angels than human beings. Whatever assistance you may require, God possesses a surplus of angels to provide aid. As articulated in Psalm 91, “He will assign his angels to watch over you, preventing you from stumbling upon a stone.”

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
THE SCROLL: The plans and purposes of God concerning His Church and the World. 7 HORNS, EYES: All power, knowledge and wisdom from God; God has eyes everywhere. 7 SPIRITS OF GOD: Various gifts and operations of the spirit. THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS: The entire universe rejoicing.	THE SCROLL: Perhaps a title deed to the earth (wills at the time were sealed with seven seals). 7 HORNS: an allusion to Jericho (when the seven trumpets sounded). 7 EYES: fullness of God’s spirit. THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS: Countless angels, not a literal number.



DAY 5 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** How many seals were on the scroll? (v. 1) _____
- 02** Who was found worthy to open the scroll? (v. 5) _____

- 03** True/False: Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (v. 6-10)
- 04** How many horns did the Lamb have? (v. 6) _____
- 05** The seven eyes of the Lamb are the seven _____ of the Lord sent into all the earth. (v. 6)
- 06** The bowls of incense are the _____ of the Lord's people. (v. 8)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: (about the use of scrolls in history)
Exodus 17:14, Numbers 5:23, Deuteronomy 17:18, Psalm 56:8

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Revelation 5 reveals that the Lamb is deserving to carry out God's plan of redemption. How does this truth affect our daily lives? How can we live each day considering the worthiness of the Lamb and understanding God's unfolding plan? Think about how this passage can guide us in facing challenges, finding purpose, and playing our part in God's story of redemption.

- 02** Revelation 5 mentions the prayers of the saints, symbolized by the golden bowls full of incense. Reflect on the significance of our prayers in the unfolding of God's purposes. How does understanding this aspect of Revelation 5 can influence our prayer life and sense of partnership with God?



REVELATION 6: SEALS 1-6 (OF 7)

Chapter 6 is easily memorable for those who appreciate numerical patterns. This chapter delves into six seals (6 = 6). The initial four judgments showcase the renowned Four Horses of the Apocalypse, each symbolized consistently in both perspectives: White Horse/Conquest, Red Horse/War, Black Horse/Famine, Pale Horse/Death. Please continue consulting the "Judgments at a Glance" sheet in the Study Tools section for reference, as it serves as a valuable aid in your understanding.



The Seals

*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.³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"⁴ Then **another horse came out, a fiery red one.** Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.*

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

*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.*

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



¹² I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The **sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,** ¹³ and **the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree** when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ **The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up,** and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
WHITE HORSE: The period of Roman Imperialism, from the death of Domitian in AD 96 to the peace afforded by Commodus, AD 180. RED HORSE: The Roman Empire; perhaps the period from AD 180 to 284, from Commodus to Diocletian. BLACK HORSE: Financial oppression imposed by corrupt emperors of the 200s AD. PALE HORSE: AD 248 to 296. When every province of Rome suffered invasions and tyranny; ALL THE EVENTS OF NATURE IN VERSES 12-17: The fall of paganism to Christianity with the conversion of Emperor Constantine (315 AD). The sun, moon and stars are earthly dignitaries or leaders. The earthquake may be the fall of the nation of Israel.	WHITE HORSE: The Great Tribulation begins with the breaking of the first seal. Some see the rider as Christ; more see the rider as Satan. RED HORSE: Bloodshed, a time of war as the Great Tribulation proceeds forward. Perhaps Russia and Arab Allies. BLACK HORSE: Conditions of famine brought on by the warfare of the previous seal. OIL AND THE WINE: Luxuries that the well-to-do can still afford—they are not believed to be the oil and wine of Communion. PALE HORSE: 1/4 of the world's people will suffer confusion and distress ending in death, as the Great Tribulation builds ALL THE EVENTS OF NATURE IN VERSES 12-17: Great cosmic disturbances of the Great Tribulation. The weather may symbolize the destruction of our present social order; some see a nuclear explosion.

COMMENTARY

Further Notes on the Historicist View:

Additional information on the Historicist perspective will be presented in subsequent sections, as it is primarily concerned with historical dates and events. The main difference between the views here is that Historicists believe this chapter was covered in the distant past, while Futurists believe it has yet to take place.

If you identify as a Futurist, we strongly advise against overlooking the information presented below for two primary reasons:

1. These are our brethren, and it is essential to take an interest in their perspectives to facilitate meaningful engagement and avoid dismissiveness.
2. The information provides insights into the thoughts of our fellow Futurists who have faced martyrdom, deserving of our gratitude and respect.

COMMENTARY

WHITE HORSE: This period started with the death of Domitian, a Roman emperor (AD 81-96). On a par with Nero (AD 55-68), Domitian killed Christians in unthinkable ways because they refused to worship him as a god. He tried to boil the Apostle John in oil, but John came out of the vat unharmed. This period marked what some historians refer to as “the Indian summer of pagan Rome,” during which five formidable emperors expanded the Roman Empire through military might, capturing empires formerly dominated by the 3 preceding empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.

RED HORSE (2ND SEAL): This period, bloody with civil wars, spelled the beginning of the end of the pagan Roman empire.

BLACK HORSE (3RD SEAL): Taxes became overwhelming in the 3rd century, and thus people were allowed to pay with produce, which was given a monetary value. “A quart of wheat for a denarius” is hauntingly similar to their payments.

PALE HORSE: (4TH SEAL): In the 20-year period of AD 248 to 268, every province of Rome was affected by invaders, whereupon 5,000 persons died daily.

MARTYRS CRYING OUT (5TH SEAL): The Church again came under great persecution with the reigns of Emperor Diocletian (not to be confused with Domitian above) and his successor Maximian, between AD 270 – 304. It started another period known for destruction of churches and execution/torture of Christians who refused to sacrifice to the Roman gods. It allegedly was worse than under Nero or Domitian and became known as “the Era of Martyrs”. Per the Futurists: The Dispensational Futurists believe the church has been raptured, and anyone saved herein will be martyred and hence, it is their voice.

EARTHQUAKE (6TH SEAL): Generally, earthquakes have been symbolic of political or spiritual shakeups. This fits for Historicists with two possible periods:

1. the division of the Roman Empire to East and West in AD 395, or
2. the fall of paganism to Christianity as Constantine’s ascension formulates, starting AD 312.



DAY 6 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** What color was the first horse? (v. 2) _____
- 02** What color was the second horse? (v. 4) _____
- 03** The rider of the red horse had the authority to take this from the earth: (v. 4)

- 04** What color was the third horse? (v. 5) _____
- 05** What was the name of the rider of the fourth horse? (v. 8) _____
- 06** The martyrs under the altar were given white robes and told to wait until their brothers and sisters had been _____ just as they had been. (v. 11)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In this chapter, the Lamb opens the seals, revealing various events. Which of the seals stood out to you the most, and how do you interpret its significance in the context of the broader narrative? How might the messages behind these seals relate to our lives today?

- 02** As we study Revelation 6, consider the impact these apocalyptic visions can have on our daily lives. How can the challenges and tribulations described in this chapter be seen as relevant to our personal faith journeys? In what ways can the messages in Revelation 6 guide us in facing adversity and remaining steadfast in our commitment to Christ?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Preterist
2. Idealist
3. Futurist
4. Historicist
5. Draw near to you
6. Symbolism

FROM DAY 4

1. Rainbow
2. 24
3. 7
4. 4
5. 6
6. Eyes

FROM DAY 2

1. John
2. Blessed, blessed
3. Alpha, Omega
4. Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
5. The angels of the seven churches
6. The seven churches

FROM DAY 5

1. 7
2. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David
3. True
4. 7
5. Spirits
6. Prayers

FROM DAY 3

1. Ephesus
2. Smyrna
3. Pergamum
4. Thyatira
5. Sardis
6. Philadelphia
7. True
8. True

FROM DAY 6

1. White
2. Red
3. Peace
4. Black
5. Death
6. Killed



Week 2

REVELATION 7:

THE SEALING OF GOD'S SERVANTS

Today, we explore a perplexing numerical concept: the 144,000 individuals saved from various tribes of Israel. This figure has been subject to diverse interpretations. It is essential to consider the term "Dispensationalist," referring to individuals adhering to a belief system that includes a pretribulation rapture. Let us examine its relevance to Chapter 7.



144,000 Seals

After this I saw **four angels** standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the **four winds of the earth** to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put **a seal on the foreheads** of the servants of our God." ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000** from all the tribes of Israel.

⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

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

The Great Multitude in White Robes

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

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four



living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
¹² saying:

"Amen!
 Praise and glory
 and wisdom and thanks and honor
 and power and strength
 be to our God for ever and ever.
 Amen!"

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know."

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

¹⁵ Therefore,
 "they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
 and he who sits on the throne
 will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ 'Never again will they hunger;
 never again will they thirst.
 The sun will not beat down on them,'
 nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
 will be their shepherd;
 'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

CHAPTER 7: COMMENTARY

A SEAL ON THE FOREHEADS, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” It is interesting that Futurists, very intent on the upcoming mark of the beast on hands or foreheads (chapter 13), do not give great pause over what would be found on these folks’ foreheads. Many believe it is symbolic and not an actual tattoo or implant, or that only heavenly creatures can see it.

THE 144,000 NOTES: These are all Jews from the 12 tribes if literal. Some commentators think that these Jews are part of the Church, while others in the Dispensationalist camp believe that God has two series of blessings upcoming: one for the Jews and one for the Church. Finally, note the major work of God in collecting these bloodlines again, as 10 Tribes were scattered after the Assyrian invasion of Israel in 732 BC. Even for the Historicist take, these people had been living among pagans and likely compromising their bloodlines for centuries.

ALSO NOTE THAT A TRIBE IS MISSING. There are 12 tribes listed, but the Tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim have been joined in one original tribe, the Tribe of Joseph. Dan is missing. Some theorize that this omission is linked to the belief that the Antichrist will emerge from Dan, possibly due to their history of pervasive idolatry.

THE GREAT MULTITUDE: This presents a bit of a challenge for Dispensationalists who believe in a pretribulation rapture. The question arises: Is it plausible for an exceedingly large number to emerge from the Great Tribulation if the church has already undergone rapture?

THEY WHO CAME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION...AND SERVE HIM DAY AND NIGHT IN THE TEMPLE (7:14-15): Once more, it poses a challenge for adherents of the pretribulationist Dispensationalist viewpoint. Christ’s statement suggests that individuals emerging from the Great Tribulation (and thereby missing the rapture) attain a remarkable position in heaven. This position appears to be in closer to Christ than those who would have qualified for the rapture (and would consequently be perceived as being near the throne as well). Would not any Christian desire such an intimate position? The continual “day and night” service implies enduring permanence.

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
4 WINDS, 4 ANGELS, 4 CORNERS OF EARTH: The angels’ mission is to stall an outbreak of outrageous events while God creates a record of His children; with the 4 corners of earth, perhaps this is better translated “the 4 quarters of the earth” (as no one believed the earth was flat in the days of John). SEAL ON BELIEVERS’ FOREHEADS: May relate to Isaiah 26:20-21, where God hurries His chosen along to “hide” while the trouble lasts. THE 144,000: Jews alive during the Great Tribulation who will be saved, perhaps the preachers of the Gospel; perhaps the full number of people saved in the Tribulation; the “last generation church.” THE GREAT MULTITUDE: Gentiles to be saved during the Great Tribulation, who will be martyred by the Antichrist, et al.	THE 4 WINDS: The wars that led to Rome’s demise; perhaps relaxed morals during the reign of Constantine and later to heretics like Arius and Pelagius, AD 250-440. SEAL ON BELIEVERS’ FOREHEADS: Just a concept of God knowing who all his children are and making certain none are harmed. THE 144,000: A symbol for the entire Church; perhaps a symbol for a group of Jews saved from the judgment of Jerusalem. THE GREAT MULTITUDE: All the redeemed in heaven; perhaps all of the Gentiles redeemed (as the Jewish believers are numbered above).



DAY 1 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** The seal of God was to go on the _____ of the servants of God. (v. 3)
- 02** How many were sealed? (v. 4) _____
- 03** True/False: The multitude came from one nation. (v. 9)
- 04** Where did the multitude in white come from? (v. 14) _____
- 05** The robes of the multitude were made white by this: (v. 14) _____
- 06** Who will be the Shepherd that will lead the multitude? (v. 17) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Psalm 17:8, 27:5, 31:20; Genesis 48

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 7, we read about the sealing of the 144,000 and the great multitude before the throne. What do you think is the significance of God's seal on His people? How does this passage encourage believers to trust in God's sovereignty and protection in the midst of challenges and tribulations? How does the concept of being sealed by God apply to your own life and faith journey?

- 02** In Revelation 7, we encounter a profound revelation about the twelve tribes of Israel, including the 'lost' 10 tribes. This raises interesting questions about the promises God made to these 'lost' tribes. How do you think advancements in genetics and DNA testing might shed light on the identity and restoration of these tribes?



REVELATION 8: THE LAST SEAL IS 7 TRUMPETS; THE FIRST 4 ARE HERE

We now arrive at the final of the seven seals, which manifests as silenced followed by seven trumpet blasts. In today's reading, we will explore the initial four blasts, succeeded by angelic pronouncements regarding the next three. Chapters 9 will cover two of these woes and Chapter 10 will cover one of them. Utilizing the "Judgments at a Glance" study tool is advised for a comprehensive overview of the unfolding events.



The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

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

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

³ Another angel, who had a **golden censer**, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

The Trumpets

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

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

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.

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.

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!"

CHAPTER 8: COMMENTARY

GOLDEN CENSER, A PRELUDE TO THE 7 TRUMPETS (V. 5): These prayers that went before God are similar to those in 5:8, where we see prayers turning to vapor. So these prayers pleased God. But the angel throwing them to earth created supernatural reactions. Thunder, lightning and hail may symbolize the reaction, but this interpretation is not good enough for the Historicists.

MOUNTAIN (v. 8): All except the Futurists remind us that a "mountain" is often the symbol of a kingdom. Hence the 2nd Trumpet may topple one kingdom or another.

WORMWOOD is a bitter herb mentioned many times in the Bible as symbolizing extreme affliction from God. See the 5 Supporting Scriptures that follow.

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
7 TRUMPETS: All the countries about to attack Rome in the AD 400s; all the foreign invasions against the Roman Empire through the fall of Constantinople, AD 1453. HOOR SILENCE IN HEAVEN: Associated with the short period of silence when the 144,000 were marked; perhaps the 70 years of peace after Constantine's defeat of Licinius, etc., starting AD 324. FIRST 4 TRUMPETS: 4 blows that came to the Western Empire in the AD 400s. ALL OF THE THIRDS: EARTH BURNED, SEA TO BLOOD, SUN STRUCK. The Roman Empire was one-third the size of the known world at the time. 1ST TRUMPET (hail/fire/blood): War, which is generally accompanied by the destruction of nature; could also be a storm of heresies to strike the Church. 2nd TRUMPET: Could be the Vandals of the 400s AD whose king was known as a tyrant of the sea. 3rd TRUMPET: (blazing star): Attila the Hun; perhaps the heretic Palagis, both in the 400s AD. 4th TRUMPET: (sun/moon/stars struck): when Rome ended in 476, where 1/3 of the world had lived. EAGLE: Symbolizes Rome; was on the Roman ensigns.	7 TRUMPETS: Judgments to be endured by all the unrepentant people of the earth. May involve nuclear weapons. HOOR SILENCE IN HEAVEN: A time of expectation that foreshadows the judgments to come. 1ST TRUMPET (hail/fire/blood): Literal images that will manifest during the Great Tribulation; perhaps nuclear weapons are involved. 2nd TRUMPET (blazing mountain): The "Revived Roman Empire" being thrown down; it could be a meteorite or an H-bomb. 3rd TRUMPET (blazing star): an apostate church leader; perhaps a comet or meteorite; perhaps a nuclear exchange. 4th TRUMPET (sun/moon/stars struck): The "revived Roman empire" will be struck down due to its moral darkness; could involve air pollution.



DAY 2 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** What was given to the 7 angels? (v. 2) _____
- 02** What did the initial angel hurl to the earth? (v. 5) _____
- 03** What fraction of the earth was burned up when the 1st angel blew the trumpet? (v. 7)

- 04** What fraction of the sea turned to blood when the 2nd trumpet was sounded? (v. 8)

- 05** What fraction of the water turned bitter when the 3rd trumpet was sounded? (v. 11)

- 06** When the 4th trumpet was sounded a third of the _____
_____ and _____ turned dark. (v. 12)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: (These are several uses of the term “wormwood” in the Bible; however, they are all in the King James. Look them up online if you do not have other access to a King James Bible, as they are also poetic and beautiful) **Amos 5:7, Deuteronomy 29:18, Jeremiah 9:15,**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 8, we witness the opening of the seventh seal, ushering in a profound silence in heaven before the seven trumpets are sounded. Consider the significance of the silence and the subsequent events. What might the silence symbolize, and how does it set the stage for the trumpet judgments? How can we apply the concept of silence before divine action to our own lives, encouraging us to listen and discern God's leading in the midst of challenges?

- 02** In verses 10-22, the third trumpet brings about the falling of a star named Wormwood, causing bitterness in the waters. Reflect on the symbolism of Wormwood and its impact on the waters. How might this imagery convey spiritual truths or warnings? In what ways can we apply the concept of 'wormwood' to our lives today, and how should we guard against bitterness in the 'waters' of our own hearts and relationships?



REVELATION 9: TRUMPETS 6 & 7

The preceding chapter concluded with a sense of anticipation as an “eagle” warns individuals about the next three trumpet blasts. In Chapter 9, we will delve into the introduction of two of these trumpet blasts. The chapter is notably rich in content, featuring the depiction of locusts, prompting parallels to helicopters by Futurists. Additionally, readers will encounter two enigmatic entities, Abaddon and Apollyon, identified as fallen angels.



The **fifth angel sounded his trumpet**, and I saw a **star** that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³ And out of the smoke **locusts** came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but **only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads**. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for **five months**. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸ Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for **five months**. ¹¹ They had as **king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer)**.

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

¹³ The **sixth angel sounded his trumpet**, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵ And the **four angels** who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to **kill a third of mankind**. ¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was **twice ten thousand times ten thousand**. I heard their number. [Note: 200 million]



¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were **fiery red, dark blue, and yellow** as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the **three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur** that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

²⁰ The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
5TH TRUMPET: Coming of Islam (AD 600). STAR: Mohammed (AD 600–632). LOCUSTS: Saracens, aka Arab Muslim campaigns against the East Roman Empire (612 thru 763). 5 MONTHS: aka 150 days (v. 5&10) 150 years, the exact number of years that Islam attacked. ADADDON/APOLLYON: Mohammed, who laid waste to so much territory (AD 632). 6TH TRUMPET: Coming of the Turks who took Baghdad (AD 1055). The Byzantines and Constantinople fell in AD 1453, which matches the exact period of time, using the day-for-year approach. KILL 1/3 OF MANKIND: The eastern third of the Roman Empire. 4 ANGELS IN THE EUPHRATES: Turkish leader Melek Shah's 4 sons; perhaps the 4 sultan colonies bordering the Euphrates until the end of the Crusades (AD 1095–1291). Both options work out to a decrypted timeline. 200 MILLION: A indefinable number. RED/BLUE/YELLOW: The Turkish flag; the uniforms of the Ottomans (Turks) AD 1300–1923). FIRE/SMOKE/BRIMSTONE: Artillery.	5TH TRUMPET / STAR: The Pope; perhaps the Gnostics; perhaps Satan himself. LOCUSTS: Hal Lindsey has noted that if these aren't helicopters, he has never seen one; may involve nerve gas in the attacks. Perhaps a terrible military power of the Antichrist; perhaps associated with Gog (Ezekiel 38), which many believe will be Russia's head at the time. ADADDON/APOLLYON: A future apostate pope; perhaps a derogatory allusion to the Greek god Apollo (his symbol was the locust). 6TH TRUMPET/4 ANGELS IN THE EUPHRATES: perhaps the same 4 angels from 7:1; perhaps evil angels whose job it is to keep the far East from wanting to attack Israel. KILL 1/3 OF MANKIND: The judgments from the 4th seal killed 1/4 of humanity; these 4 demonic angels will kill 1/3 of those remaining. 200 MILLION: A coalition of forces that will come from the Far East. Hal Lindsey said, of a press release he uncovered as early as 1970, that China was bragging about an army of this size, though historically it had been deemed impossible. RED/BLUE/YELLOW BREASTPLATES: John's articulation of modern warfare. All the rest of the images involve modern warfare, thermonuclear war.

CHAPTER 9: COMMENTARY

ONLY THOSE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE SEAL OF GOD ON THEIR FOREHEADS: Here is another reference to Christians having a seal on their foreheads that only God and angels can see. Futurists would say this differs from the Mark of the Beast (13:16) in that this mark is merely an identifier, whereas the Mark of the Beast has banking and monetary functions.

MORE ON THE LOCUSTS: Note that some Historicists do not see Islam as the Fifth Trumpet, but rather Pope Boniface (AD 1294-1303), the third bishop of Rome, who released heresies including likening the pope to the pagan Roman gods, to be worshipped or recognized as the voice of God Himself.

As well, note that Catholic Historicists identify the locusts with the Lutherans and the Reformation (AD 1517-1648). But the reading seems hyper-imposed, making the peaceful Lutherans out to be killers and tormenters (as if the Papacy wasn't rife with these very crimes for centuries). However, most common is Historicists seeing the 5th Trumpet associated with the coming of Islam (AD 600s) and the 6th Trumpet announcing the coming of the Ottoman empire (AD 1300-1923).

ABADDON/APOLLYON: Just a fun note to gauge your own reaction at the sight of these names, because Christians and others find them intriguing. The reason is that whenever a Bible prophecy contains a detail this specific, people just can't resist trying to discover what it means.

7th TRUMPET: Most will be looking for a 7th Trumpet in next chapter, but it doesn't occur until chapter 11. Use the "Judgments at a Glance" study tool to know where you are!

FIRST WOE IS PAST (V.12) Each woe is linked to a one judgment. This woe is linked to the judgments from the Trumpets.



DAY 3 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 The locusts had power like _____ of the earth. (v. 3)
- 02 True/False: The locusts were told to kill all the people who did not have the seal of God. (v. 5)
- 03 How long were the locusts allowed to torture the people? (v. 5) _____
- 04 How many angels are bound at the Euphrates River? (v. 14) _____
- 05 The 4 angels were released to kill what fraction of mankind? (v. 15) _____
- 06 True/False: The people who survived repented of their sins. (v. 20)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: **Isaiah 31:1, Amos 2:15, Proverbs 21:31, Psalm 20:7** (Biblical terms to describe warfare)

NOTE: Occasionally, Futurist educators express concern about references to horses as a means of attack (verse 17). Some Futurists interpret these statements quite literally, prompting some Historically-oriented individuals to react with exasperation. No contemporary armies employ horses for warfare. When interpreting descriptions of armies advancing on horses in a Futurist context, it becomes necessary to attribute symbolic significance to the term "horses."

It is reasonable to speculate that individuals like Apostle John, lacking familiarity with modern technology such as lightbulbs, would describe advanced weaponry in terms familiar to them. In John's worldview, anything moving across the ground might be likened to a living entity. For instance, he might use the term "horses" to describe tanks or jeeps and refer to aerial vehicles as "bugs."

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** As we explore the details in this chapter, consider the role of repentance. In verses 20-21, despite the intense suffering, people do not repent of their deeds. What do you think prevents them from turning to God in the midst of adversity? How can we apply the message of repentance to our own lives, especially during challenging times?

- 02** In Revelation 9, the description of locusts has intrigued many readers, as they are compared to something that sounds remarkably similar to modern-day helicopters. Make a list of the details provided for these “locusts” in verses 7-10 and analyze their contribution to the overall imagery.



REVELATION 10: THE LITTLE BOOK

This chapter may seem like an interlude positioned between Trumpets 6 and 7. A “little book” or “little scroll” has sparked considerable discussion among commentators due to its mysterious nature. The secret it holds may only be revealed in heaven. However, passages like this emphasize that God is not obligated to disclose everything; He reveals only what we can endure.



The Angel and the Little Scroll

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

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

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your **stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’**”¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.¹¹ Then I was told, “**You** must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
LITTLE SCROLL: The Bible, which became more available after the development of the printing press, AD 1437 (See Figure 4). LOUD VOICE: Christ challenging the doctrines of Roman Catholicism. 7 THUNDERS: The 7 Crusades (AD 1095-1201); others say perhaps the 7 wars between the Reformation and the French Revolution. SEAL UP/DO NOT RECORD: John is told perhaps to not record the Papal judgments, which are unworthy. SWEET MOUTH/SOUR GUT: The Word of God is sweet to those who receive it via the Reformation; the sour was the persecution of the Papacy against the Protestants.	LITTLE SCROLL: Old Testament prophecies that have to do with the Great Tribulation yet to come. VOICE OF 7 THUNDERS WHICH JOHN WAS TOLD NOT TO RECORD: Judgment due to unbelieving man, which Christ Himself bore. Thus, those who trust him don't need exposure to its dread. MYSTERY OF GOD: That evil men should be allowed to prosper while good people suffer; others say the Good of God which has not been fully revealed to man. SWEET MOUTH/SOUR GUT: The Word of God is sweet, but books like Revelation contain the divine judgments to be poured out, and they would be sour.

CHAPTER 10: COMMENTARY

You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings (v. 11) –John's prophecies and the rest of the Bible have been translated into other languages and made available around the world, see Figure 5.

Here in Chapter 10 is an interesting divergence between the two views arises.

The Historicists feel this is where Martin Luther comes in with the start of the Reformation (AD 1500s). They believe this is the allusion to the Papacy and it making war upon others who reject its doctrines as Truth from God. It is true that the Papacy became extremely corrupt, leaving many Historicists to believe that it became an Antichrist.

The 7 THUNDERS is an interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpets. These are thunder-like voices delivering a message or messages. Thunder and lightning often represent judgments being announced from heaven. John was told NOT to record it. Along with the Historicist opinion in their symbol box, some have speculated the possibility that this judgment is just too harsh for many to hear.

HIS FEET ON LAND AND SEA: According to most commentators from either camp, this mighty angel's feet would represent a great extent of power, both over land and sea. It's like a reference to God having "all things under his feet" or putting them all beneath the feet of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). It may also include a reference to the future of Christians such as the Pilgrims escaping persecution by leaving land and crossing the sea (the Atlantic).

As for the Futurists, this chapter is a continuum of God's unfolding judgments but without these spectacular earmarks, as they perceive these events all happening in the future.



DAY 4 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 What was above the angel's head? (v. 1)

- 02 The angel's shout was like the roar of a
_____. (v. 3)
- 03 True/False: John was not allowed to write down what the seven thunders said. (v. 4)
- 04 The mystery of God will be accomplished when the
_____ angel sounds the trumpet. (v. 7)
- 05 True/False: The mystery of God being accomplished had already been announced to the prophets. (v. 7)
- 06 What was John told to do with the little scroll? (v. 9)

AVAILABILITY OF THE BIBLE: TIMELINE

Year	Event
1453	Many Greek scholars move west; the printing press in Holland and Germany is created
1458	The Greek language is introduced to many European colleges
1516	Erasmus creates the first Greek New Testament
1518	Swingli creates the first Swiss NT
1522	Luther creates the first German NT
1526	Tyndale creates the first English NT
1527	First complete Danish Bible completed
1539	The complete Bible planned to be presented in every English church
1611	The King James Bible is completed
1620	Pilgrims arrive in Massachusetts; 2 copies of the Bible recorded among 200 people
1850s	Printing Press is reaching far enough that many families have a personal Bible
1950s	Bibles developed in leather with strong binding for flipping and studying
1970s	Development of highlighter pens make studies more easy
2008	Development of Google allows us to look up verses by knowing only a few words
2012	Development of Social Media reaches a level where we can study with others wherever on the planet
2019	Development of voice command enables us to look up verses using only our voice

Figure 5: This timeline shows the availability of the Bible for study and ways we use it today. That is an incredible gift that speaks of the times. God has given it because it is **NEEDED** to ward off skeptics and stay afloat.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: **Ezekiel 2:9-10** (another example of God giving a prophet a scroll); **Amos 1:2, Joel 3:16** (God's or Christ's voices being compared to sounds of nature)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Drawing inspiration from Revelation 10, where John is given a little scroll to eat symbolizing the Word of God, consider the metaphor of “partaking” of the Scriptures. How does the act of partaking of the Word of God resonate with you personally? In what ways do you think the availability of the Bible throughout history has influenced our ability to spiritually partake in God’s wisdom, guidance, and truth?

- 02** In Revelation 10, the angel declares, “In the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished.” Reflect on the concept of God’s mystery being unveiled. How does this anticipation impact our understanding of God’s plan for the future? How can we live in light of this revelation in our daily lives?”



REVELATION 11: 2 WITNESSES, & THE 7TH TRUMPET

The current reading introduces the well-known ‘two witnesses of Revelation.’ It isn’t clear whether these are whether singular entities, collectives, or kingdoms. Additionally, mysterious numerical references are presented: 1,260 days, and 42 months. Many people are left wondering if these numbers are to be taken literally or if they are somehow coded messages. Within this chapter, the 7th Trumpet ultimately sounds, announcing good tidings alongside lightning, thunder, and an earthquake. Let’s try to make sense of it all.



The Two Witnesses

*I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “**Go and measure the temple** of God and the altar, with its worshipers.² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the **Gentiles**. They will trample on the holy city for **42 months**.³ And I will appoint my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for **1,260 days**, clothed in sackcloth.”⁴ They are “**the two olive trees**” and **the two lampstands**, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, **fire comes from their mouths and devours** their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.⁶ They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*

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

¹¹ But after the **three and a half days** the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven



saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

¹³ At that very hour there was a severe **earthquake** and a **tenth of the city** collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

The Seventh Trumpet

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 Messiah,
and he will reign for ever and ever.”

¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
the One who is and who was,
because you have taken your great power
and have begun to reign.

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 people who revere your name,
both great and small—
and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

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 severe hailstorm**.

COMMENTARY

This is one of those chapters so rife with symbols, they can't all be covered in the symbol boxes. The symbols remain there but details of intrigue continue below:

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
GENTILES: The Papacy and all who were deluded by them. 3.5 DAYS: (3.5 YEARS, 1514-1517.) During this period the resistance to the Papacy appeared to be dead until Martin Luther came along with his 95 Theses. 1,260 DAYS/42 MONTHS: With Days=Years (1,260 years); perhaps the periods between AD 538 when the Ostrogoths ended their Roman siege and AD 1798 when the Pope was taken prisoner by Napoleon. (Other options exist for this period, all representing the beginning and end of papacy strength). 2 WITNESSES: The Waldenses, Albigenses, and other kingdoms that resisted the papacy. 2 OLIVE TREES/LAMPSTANDS: As lampstands symbolize churches and olive BRANCHES usually symbolize people, this leads some Historicists to think these are groups and not individuals. FIRE FROM THEIR MOUTHS: Truth coming from the resisters. BEAST: The Papacy. EARTHQUAKE/10TH OF THE CITY: Lost Papal power; England divorces Rome, AD 1534. LIGHTNING/THUNDER/EARTHQUAKE/HAIL: The judgments against those who killed the martyrs.	TEMPLE: The place John is measuring is the new Temple, the one that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem before the Tribulation starts. 1,260 DAYS: Literal, an actual 3.5-year period covering the 2nd half of the Great Tribulation (some say the 1st). 42 MONTHS: The math is equal to the 1,260 days above. 2 WITNESSES: 2 literal prophets who will be killed in the streets of Jerusalem and will rise again while all see it on television. FIRE FROM THEIR MOUTHS: Being clothed in power, delivering true but tough messages. BEAST: Satan; more on him in chapter 13. ARK OF THE COVENANT: Literally the one created on the Exodus. Its whereabouts have been a mystery since Solomon's temple was destroyed in 586 BC by Babylon. EARTHQUAKE/10TH OF THE CITY: Literal. LIGHTNING/THUNDER/EARTHQUAKE/HAIL: Literal. 7th ANGEL: Heralding the Second Coming of Christ.

CHAPTER 11: COMMENTARY

MEASURING THE TEMPLE PER THE HISTORICISTS: John's measuring of the temple represents a time when God is measuring the true remnant of the Church among the many deceived by Papal doctrines. Some see the measurements associated with power given to Martin Luther to change what had gone wrong in the Church. The non-measured portion represents the removal of pagan/papal practices such as worshipping idols.

THE 1260 DAYS to Historicists represent the 1260 years that the Papacy was in its high power, from 533 to 1793, though these dates vary slightly depending on which event was focused upon.

PER THE FUTURISTS: These dates are all still to come. They represent either the 1st or 2nd half of the Great Tribulation, with commentators varying about which half.

AS FOR BODIES LYING IN THE STREETS, Historicists recall many literal horrors: Martyrology, by Samuel Clarke, records the Papal murders of the Waldensians in the first half of the 13th century as exceeding 2 million. Between 1540 and 1570, nearly 2 million Protestants were put to death in various European countries. It is important to note that Catholic and Protestant historians differ greatly on the numbers of people killed by the Papacy for heresy. But Catholic historian Petrus Paulus Vergerius admits that under Pope Paul IV, in just the 4 years between 1555-1559, the Inquisition claimed 150,000 Protestant lives through tortures, starvation and burning. This is just a smattering that this study can handle, but feel encouraged to do further research independently.

THE TWO WITNESSES have drawn great interest, being seen as literal men by Futurists. Some declare them to be Moses and Elijah, who also were present at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8). Others declare them to be the Prophet Elijah, who was taken up to heaven without dying (2 Kings 2) and Noah's great grandfather Enoch (Genesis 5), the only other person to be taken to heaven without dying.



DAY 5 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** How long will the Gentiles trample on the holy city? (v. 2) _____
- 02** How many witnesses will God appoint? (v. 3) _____
- 03** These witnesses are the _____ and the two
lampstands that stand before God. (v. 4)
- 04** This will come out of the mouths of the witnesses: (v. 5) _____
- 05** These witnesses will have the power to stop the _____ and turn the water into
_____ and to strike the earth with _____. (v. 6)
- 06** How long did the witnesses remain dead? (v. 11) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: **Ezekiel 4:6** (about the day=year thesis),
Jeremiah 5:14 (shows another prophet's message being referred to as a fire that devours),
Matthew 10:28, Romans 14:8, Romans 8:18 (all on the honor of martyrdom)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 11, the two witnesses are described as individuals with extraordinary powers. What do you think these powers reveal about their identity and purpose in God's plan? How might their unique abilities contribute to the fulfillment of prophecy? What implications could their presence have for believers in the end times?

- 02** In Revelation 11, the Ark of the Covenant is mentioned as being present in the heavenly temple. Remembering the significance of the Ark in the Old Testament, particularly its role in the tabernacle and later the temple, what spiritual truths or symbolic meanings might be associated with the presence of the Ark in the heavenly context? How does this deepen our understanding of God's covenant and His relationship with His people throughout history?



REVELATION 12: THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON

Today's reading encounters a succession of symbols. Numerous Historicists argue that this chapter deviates from chronological order, examining the internal affairs of the Church during the same time period covered in chapters 4-11. Futurists entertain the idea of a lull or reflection in this chapter, but due to their future-oriented perspective, certain visions remain unclear.



The Woman and the Dragon

A great sign appeared in heaven: a **woman** clothed with the **sun**, with the **moon** under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was **pregnant** and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous **red dragon** with **seven heads** and **ten horns** and **seven crowns on its heads**. ⁴ Its tail swept a **third of the stars** out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was **snatched up to God** and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled **into the wilderness** to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for **1,260 days**.

⁷ Then war broke out 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.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Messiah.
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.



¹¹ They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.
¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short.”

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

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
WOMAN: The True Church. CHILD: True Body of Christ. WILDERNESS: The decline in true spirituality just after the triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire; perhaps the disappearance of the True Gospel into obscurity of small sects such as the Waldenses (AD 254 to 1514). HER PREGNANCY: A promise of growth. SUN & MOON: high-ranking representatives in Rome adorning the new church. STARS: Lesser authorities such as bishops. RED DRAGON: Satan leading Pagan Rome, which eventually becomes Papal Rome. 1/3 OF THE STARS: 1/3 of the lesser authorities. CAUGHT UP TO GOD: Symbol for Constantine becoming emperor of the entire empire, AD 324. 2 WINGS: Eastern & Western divisions of the Empire, both of which protected Christianity. SPEWED WATER/FLOOD: Persecution of the true church by the Roman Empire, perhaps Satan's efforts to destroy works of men like Augustine and Vigilantes.	WOMAN: Israel. CHILD: Christ or Christianity. SUN/MOON/12 STARS: A reference to Joseph's dream about leading his family in Genesis 27:9; implying she had everything he had. RED DRAGON: Satan. STARS: Some say a meteor shower; perhaps angels; or perhaps a reference to the rebellion of 1/3 of the angels in the fall of Lucifer. DRAGON'S PLAN TO DEVOUR: Satan's plan to kill the Christ child in the Bethlehem genocide. TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE: A massive air evacuation to transport Jews fleeing Jerusalem, possibly American planes, taking them to a literal wilderness. 1,260 DAYS: 2nd half of the 70th week from Daniel 9:24-27, or the 2nd set of 3.5 years in the Tribulation. WAR IN HEAVEN: Identical to Daniel 12:1; identical to the star at the 5th Trumpet; or perhaps the Church Rapture from a different perspective. SPEWED WATER/FLOOD: A literal flood; perhaps the perverted teachings of the papacy.

CHAPTER 12: COMMENTARY

NOTES ON BOTH VIEWS:

There is a lot of symbolism here. GO SLOWLY and, as stated, write the meaning of the symbols above or beside the text to see how much more sense it makes with the presented meanings in place.

AS FOR THE HISTORICISTS: Some see this chapter as the beginning of a second series of visions. The first series, contained in chapters 4-11, concerned the outward state of the church. This second set, running from 12-19 is about the same time period, only looking at the situation from the inside. We might look at Chapter 12 and upcoming 13 as an overview shot of what's taken place so far, at least partially.

While some Historicists view this **"SON OR MALE CHILD"** as being synonymous with the Church Body; such an association may be considered somewhat speculative. This is due to the fact that the male child is described in explicitly Christlike archetypal terms, such as ruling all the nations with a rod of iron (12:5). Christ is prophesied to "rule all nations with a rod of iron" in Psalm 2:9, and the manifestation happens in Revelation 19:15. Likening the Church body to Christ Himself can seem a bit egotistical.

The same could be true with the Church being **"SNATCHED UP TO GOD,"** wherein this phrase accurately depicts the safeguarding it experienced during the reign of Constantine. If these Historicists are correct (and this protection symbolizes an early hero like Emperor Constantine), consider that this "church" is on the verge of encountering severe consequences. To liken this temporary protection as being "caught up to God" can seem heady as well. (In these Historicists' defense, however, the Church of Thyatira was told they could "rule with a rod of iron (2:27)," the words coming from Christ Himself.)

These Historicists' visions could indeed be accurate. As with a number of other symbols, we can see it as a spot where one view's puzzle pieces are not an easy fit.

AS FOR THE FUTURISTS: The symbolism of **7 HEADS, 10 HORNS, AND 7 CROWNS** is embraced by Futurists, representing a coalition of 10 nations believed to pose significant challenges. The identification of these nations is a cause for concern among Futurists, who associate such alliances with the feared "one-world system" from Revelation 13. Organizations like the United Nations (UN), NATO, and the Commonwealth have been scrutinized by Futurists to assess their alignment with a potential 10-member platform.

It's important to note that the concept of groups forming for protection and strength is a common human response throughout history, not inherently negative. The 7 heads/10 horns imagery recurs in Revelation 13, and a comparable scenario involving beasts is also mentioned in Daniel 7. In these contexts, horns symbolize nations, with crowns representing the most influential or manipulative among them. Daniel's account suggests that the beasts represent individual nations. Further insights can be gained through additional reading of the Supporting Scriptures below.

A TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME (V. 14): can be understood as one, two, and one-half or essentially three and a half. Can be understood as 42 months and 1260 days.



DAY 6 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** The woman had a crown of 12 _____ on her head. (v. 1)
- 02** True/False: The great dragon is Satan. (v. 9)
- 03** They conquered him by the _____ and the
_____. (v. 11)
- 04** True/False: Satan was hurled down to earth. (v. 13)
- 05** The woman was given wings of this animal: (v. 14) _____
- 06** True/False: the children of the woman are the ones who hold fast to the testimony of Jesus and keep God's commands. (v. 17)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Psalm 2:9, Revelation 19:15
(these are the prophecy and the fulfillment of Jesus ruling with a rod of iron)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** The imagery in Revelation 12 draws upon and connects with various Old Testament events and prophecies. Consider whether it can be seen as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies or if it operates as a type and shadow of events to come. How does this chapter contribute to the unfolding story of redemption in the larger biblical narrative?

- 02** This chapter vividly describes a cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil, using symbolic language. How might the imagery in Revelation 12 provide insights into the spiritual warfare that believers face today? What lessons can we draw from this passage to strengthen our faith and commitment to God in the midst of challenges?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Foreheads
2. 144,000
3. False
4. The great tribulation
5. The blood of the Lamb
6. The Lamb

FROM DAY 4

1. A rainbow
2. Lion
3. True
4. Seventh
5. True
6. Eat it

FROM DAY 2

1. Trumpets
2. The censer
3. A third
4. A third
5. A third
6. Sun, moon, stars

FROM DAY 5

1. 42 months
2. 2
3. Olive trees
4. Fire
5. Rain, blood, plagues
6. Three and a half days

FROM DAY 3

1. Scorpions
2. False
3. 5 months
4. 4
5. A third
6. False

FROM DAY 6

1. Stars
2. True
3. Blood of the Lamb, word of their testimony
4. True
5. Eagle
6. True



Week 3

REVELATION 13:

BEASTS OF THE SEA & EARTH

Today's reading commands notable attention within the context of Revelation. It introduces two entities commonly interpreted as the Antichrist and the False Prophet, although it is noteworthy that these specific terms are absent in the chapter. Additionally, the elusive number 666 is introduced. Proceed deliberately, and utilize the "Common Symbols" study tool along with the symbol boxes for reference.



The Beast out of the Sea

*The dragon stood on the shore of the **sea**. And I saw a **beast** coming out of the sea. It had **ten horns** and **seven heads**, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.² The beast I saw resembled a **leopard**, but had feet like those of a **bear** and a mouth like that of a **lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.³ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the **fatal wound had been healed**. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.⁴ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"*

⁵ *The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for **forty-two months**.⁶ It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.⁷ It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.⁸ **All inhabitants of the earth** will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.*

⁹ *Whoever has ears, let them hear.*

¹⁰ *"If anyone is to go into captivity,
into captivity they will go.*

*If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
with the sword they will be killed."*

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

The Beast out of the Earth

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



on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to **set up an image in honor of the beast** who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a **mark on their right hands or on their foreheads**, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast,

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
BEAST OF THE SEA: Antichrist as Pagan; parallels Daniel's fourth beast (Daniel 7:7, 25). 10 HORNS/7 HEADS: Rome, known as the "city upon seven hills;" perhaps 7 forms of government under which Rome had existed. 10 CROWNS: 10 kingdoms, most likely the Anglo Saxons, Franks, Alemanni Franks, the, Visigoths, Suevi, Vandals, Ostrogoths, Bavarians and Lombards, which began arising around AD 532. LEOPARD/BEAR/LION: Greek Empire/Medo Persians/Babylon. FATAL WOUND THAT HEALED: Diocletian's violent era ended with a decree of intolerance against pagan ritual religion. The wound healed when the Papacy revived the pagan practices within its downed doctrines. 42 MONTHS: 1260 years using the day=year thesis; Elevation of the Pope above all priests in AD 533 to the French Revolution in AD 1793. ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH: People from each and every culture. 2ND BEAST or BEAST OF THE EARTH: with the 1st beast as pagan Rome, this one is papal Rome, AD 500s, aka the false prophet. 2 HORNS/DRAGON VOICE: Mimics the Lamb Christ, Satan's words. IMAGE WORSHIPPED BY ALL: by all cultures. MARK ON THEIR HANDS/FOREHEADS: Popes used to forbid buying and selling with Protestants and heretics. 666: Irenaeus thought Lateinos, Greek word for Latin; the Papacy Latinized everything.	BEAST OF THE SEA: The Antichrist, an individual future world leader; many believe the old Roman Empire will be revived, and the Antichrist will lead the world from it. 10 HORNS/7 HEADS: 10 nations that arise in the revived Roman Empire (which will likely be an alliance of nations). FATAL WOUND THAT HEALED: Perhaps an assassination attempt; perhaps Rome that died but will live again. 42 MONTHS: 3 years; 2nd half of the Great Tribulation ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH: It will become a law that all will worship the beast. 2ND BEAST or BEAST OF THE EARTH: The False Prophet; a future religious leader, perhaps a Jew posing as the Jewish Messiah whom they still await. GREAT SIGNS: Literal, future, perhaps imitating the two witnesses of chapter 11. IMAGE WORSHIPPED BY ALL: The image will speak, perhaps a robot; will be set up in the new Temple to be built in Jerusalem. MARK ON THEIR HANDS/FOREHEADS: Sign of a cashless society, like an internal debit card only more complicated, akin to a SIM card imbedded under the skin. 666: Many options, none exclusive. See Figure 5.

CHAPTER 13: COMMENTARY

Here is where the FUTURISTS captivate many with compelling plotlines and vivid descriptions, envisioning the Antichrist and False Prophet as distinct individuals whose actions will be unprecedented in human history, inspiring numerous films and books.

You may recognize elements from Chapter 12, where the Dragon played a similar role. Now, attention shifts to the Beast of the Sea. Simply put, according to verse 13:2, the dragon shares its power with the beast.

For clarification on the seven heads, Historicists often attribute them to Rome due to its location on seven hills, aligning with discussions about the Papacy. However, other cities—such as Jerusalem, Athens, Amon, Seattle, Barcelona, Brussels, Moscow, Istanbul, Kiev, and Washington, DC—also claim this topography.

The symbolism of **THE BEAST WITH THE LEOPARD/BEAR/LION** corresponds to the Greeks, Persians, and Babylonians, (see the Historicist symbol box). This symbolism echoes Daniel's visions in Daniel 7 and the components of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as interpreted by Daniel in Daniel 2.

People & Things Thought to be the 666 Beast:

Emperors:

- Nero (AD 60s)
- Domitian (AD 90s)
- Diocletian (AD 200s)
- Constantius (AD 300s)

Popes:

- John XII
- Boniface VIII
- Benedict XI
- Alexander VI

Others:

- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Adolf Hitler
- John Kennedy
- Henry Kissinger
- Walt Disney
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Benito Mussolini
- Protestantism
- Catholicism
- Ronald Reagan

- The Bush clan
- Donald Trump
- Hilary Clinton
- Bill Gates
- Barney the Dinosaur
- Barak Obama
- the Internet
- George Soros
- Joe Biden
- Vladimir Putin
- Jerry Seinfeld
- Covid vaccine
- current French President Emmanuel Macron
- Jared Kushner
- and probably many others

This list is not meant to be glib or mean spirited. The 666 DOES mean something. We have to proceed with patience and humility.



DAY 6 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** How long was the beast given authority? (v. 5) _____
- 02** True/False: The second beast performed great signs for all to see and to deceive many. (v. 13)
- 03** What was the image of the first beast given the ability to do? (v. 15) _____

- 04** Where would the beast force the people to get the mark? (v. 16) _____

- 05** True/False: Without the mark, people will still be able to buy and sell. (v. 17)
- 06** According to verse 18, people are going to need this: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: DANIEL 7 (Daniel's beasts likened to John's)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 13, the chapter describes the emergence of two powerful entities: the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth. These beings wield significant influence and deceive many. What insights can we draw regarding the challenges faced by believers in the face of deception and worldly powers? Is there anything we can do to avoid being deceived?

- 02** Here, the concept of the mark of the beast is introduced. How do you interpret the significance of this mark in the context of the chapter, and what implications does it have for believers? Additionally, how might the description of the mark prompt reflection on contemporary issues or ethical considerations in today's world?



REVELATION 14: A HARVEST OF THE EARTH

This chapter appears unrelated to the preceding two and lacks the same level of symbolic complexity. The reference to the 144,000 may be familiar from Chapter 7. Both perspectives agree that these are the same 144,000. The depicted harvest is not visually appealing. It is advisable to proceed deliberately, cross-referencing the symbols with the accompanying text.



The Lamb and the 144,000

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 **remained virgins**. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as **first fruits to God** and the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

The Three Angels

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 its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ¹⁰ they, too, will drink **the wine of God's fury**, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their



torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the **dead who die in the Lord from now on.**”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress

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

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

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
LAMB: Jesus. MOUNT ZION: of 556 thru 1700s (get real dates) of the 1260 years of the pope’s rule. VIRGINS: May have been married; never committed adultery. NEW SONG: The gospel presented by the Reformation. 1st Angel: Speaking to the Great Awakening, Wesley, Finney, etc. 1871. HOOR OF HIS JUDGMENT: Evangelization of the whole globe in the Reformation. BABYLON: The Papacy. HARVEST: All the saints will enter heaven and the enemies of the church will be cut off. STATIA: 180 miles or 300 km 1,600 FURLONGS: A slaughter so great as to produce a sea of blood.	LAMB: Jesus. MOUNT ZION: A tern often used for Jerusalem; could be a place in heaven. VIRGINS: Meaning they never stopped glorifying God. WHITE CLOUD: Jesus as harvester of the earth. HARVESTING THE EARTH: separating believers from unbelievers. BABYLON: An actual city, perhaps Rome, perhaps the original Babylon rebuilt. THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD FROM NOW ON: Those who are martyred in the Great Tribulation. VINE: Apostate Israel or perhaps wickedness in general. BLOOD UP TO THE HORSE’S BRIDLES: Could be literal; indicative of a terrible judgment

CHAPTER 14: COMMENTARY

This chapter comprises two parts. The first provides a detailed account of the 144,000 mentioned in Chapter 7. The second part discusses the harvest of the earth, a topic addressed in Revelation prior to the final 7 bowl judgments. It is essential to note that characterizing the Book of Revelation as strictly chronological oversimplifies its presentation in various instances.

Both interpretations concur that the figure on the **WHITE CLOUD** is Christ, and they identify this group as the same 144,000 mentioned in Chapter 7, who are clearly identified as hailing from the Tribes of Israel. While Chapter 14 does not suggest a non-Jewish identity for this group, it portrays them differently, emphasizing their close association with Christ—a position highly esteemed by any Christian. The reasons for their unique status and proximity to Christ vary, with diverse explanations.

Referring to them as **“FIRST FRUITS”** aligns logically with the idea that they are among the initial Christians, given that a significant number of the first-generation Christians were Jewish. The possibility of there being 144,000 of them is supported by historical evidence, such as the 3,000 individuals saved on the day of Pentecost alone. Even those who anticipate future events acknowledge a retrospective view, interpreting verse 13 as a reference to the blessedness of those who die in the Lord from that point onward. In their perspective, the 144,000 symbolize the first fruits, with the last fruits being accorded a comparable significance.

The judgment depicted in the latter part of the chapter echoes Christ’s words in Matthew 13:40-42, illustrating the separation of good and evil at the end of the age, akin to the weeding out of sin and evildoers from the kingdom, resulting in their consignment to a fiery furnace accompanied by weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MADDENING WINE (V. 8) drink meant to excite passions and desire, leading to fornication

WINE OF GOD’S FURY (V.10): used to express the punishment of God’s wrath. Often wine was mixed or cut with other substances. But here, the wine is poured at full measure, meaning that it is His Judgment without Mercy

SHARP SICKLE IN HIS HAND (V. 14) symbolic of the harvest



DAY 2 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 What mountain were the 144,000 seen on? (v. 1) _____
- 02 True/False: Only the 144,000 knew the words to the song. (v. 3)
- 03 True/False: The 144,000 were virgins who remained blameless. (v. 4-5)
- 04 How many angels flew through all the earth proclaiming messages? (v. 6-12) _____
- 05 True/False: It will take patience and endurance for the people of God to remain faithful to Jesus. (v. 12)
- 06 _____ are the dead who die in the Lord. (v. 13)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Some of Christ's parables about judgment align with this chapter. Along with the parable of the wheat and the weeds, here are several: **Matthew 22:1-14** (Parable of the Wedding Banquet), **Matthew 25:31-46** (Parable of the Sheep & Goats), and **Matthew 21:33-44** (Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 14:6-7, the angel proclaims the eternal gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people. How does this message challenge us in our current context to actively participate in spreading the gospel globally? What practical steps can we take as individuals and as a community of believers to ensure that the message of salvation reaches people from diverse backgrounds? How can we overcome barriers to fulfill this divine call in our lives?

- 02** In Revelation 14, the concept of the 'grapes of wrath' is introduced. Reflecting on this imagery, how does the symbolism of grapes and wrath convey the divine judgment that is portrayed in the passage? What does this imagery teach us about God's judgment? How does understanding this symbolism impact our perspective on the consequences of our choices and the importance of aligning our lives with God's will?



REVELATION 15: 7 ANGELS, 7 BOWLS

This chapter focuses on judgments, involving seven angels and seven bowls. Some readers may find this section challenging, given the intense portrayal of God's anger, which may seem unjust without careful consideration of the details. Reflect on the fact that recorded history spans approximately 6,000 years. Certain civilizations and lineages have not acknowledged God for over 4,500 years, extending back to two generations after the Flood. Considering that we were intended to be His companions, the endurance of His wrath over this extended period is remarkable.



Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

*I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the **seven last plagues**—last, because with them God's wrath is completed.² And I saw what looked like a **sea of glass** glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, **those who had been victorious over the beast and its image** and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God³ and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:*

*"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.
⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.*

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

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
7 PLAGUES: the number 7 is used 8 times in the chapter; 7TH Seal contained 7 trumpets, and now the 7th trumpet contains the 7 bowls SEA OF GLASS: Means they are back in the throne room, where it was seen in 4:6. GOLDEN BOWLS: Emptied in rapid succession, from the French Revolution extending into the future. THOSE WHO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE BEAST: Those who survived Papal persecution with their faith intact.	7 PLAGUES: Psalm 85:5-9; will God always be mad? No. SEA OF GLASS: John is looking at a vast number of people; fire is an indication of judgment; these have been martyred during the Tribulation and now they are singing. THOSE WHO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE BEAST: Those who converted during the Great Tribulation. OLD SONG: Song of Moses, Exodus 15. NEW SONG: New Covenant.

CHAPTER 15: COMMENTARY

In this chapter, the Historicists present one of their final historical observations, focusing predominantly on past events. They assert that one of the bowls symbolizes the French Revolution, a particularly brutal conflict that transpired over a decade (AD 1789-1799), resulting in over 16,000 executions via guillotine. However, there is a lack of consensus among Historicists regarding the specific bowl associated with this historical event, as well as the interpretations of other bowls.

Refer to the accompanying **TIMELINE (figure 6)**, which compiles Historicist dates spanning from Pentecost to the present. Many of these dates may be unfamiliar to students, but they hold significance in the context of Christianity's struggle against evil.

Both perspectives view the **GLASS MINGLED WITH FIRE** as impending judgment. The sea of glass is likened to what John witnessed upon entering the throne room (4:6). In symbolic terms, a "sea" typically represents humanity, and a "sea of glass" suggests a state of calm or absence of disturbance. Repeatedly, it is emphasized that Christ's return may occur unexpectedly, perhaps during a period of apparent tranquility.

TEMPLE (V. 5) Indicates the dwelling of God and that angels were commanded by God in their purpose

THE 7 DISPENSATIONS

These dates should be interesting to all Christians, as they mark the start and/or finish of some of the most trying times in our past. Note that Historicists do not always name the same symbol with the same event, and some below may be from a different school of Historicist thinking than what you are accustomed to. However, it can provide a great idea of how they think.

Chapter	Symbol	Events	Years
06	White Horse	Domitian's death to the Peace afforded by Commodus	AD 96-180
06	Red Horse	Pagan Roman Empire from Commodus to Diocletian	AD 180-284
06	Black Horse	Financial oppression imposed by corrupt emperors	AD 200s
06	Pale Horse	Every Province of Rome suffers invasions and tyranny	AD 248-296
06	Sun, Moon, Stars Falling, Giant Earthquake	The fall of Paganism to Christianity with the conversion of Constantine	AD 312
07	Four Winds	4 wars that led to pagan Rome's demise	AD 250-440
08	7 Trumpet Judgments	The foreign invasions against the Roman Empire through the fall of Constantinople	AD 440-1453
08	Half Hour of Silence	70 years of peace between Constantine's defeat of Licinius	AD 324
08	1st Trumpet	Wars, or storms of heresies thrown at the early church	AD 315-415
08	2nd Trumpet	Vandals attack; King was known as a "tyrant of the Sea"	AD 400
08	3rd Trumpet	Attila the Hun invades the Empire	AD 400s
08	4th Trumpet	Pagan Rome "end" with its Emperor Romulus overthrown by barbarian Germanic Odoacer	AD 476
09	5th Trumpet	Coming of Islam; Arab Muslim Campaigns against the Eastern Roman Empire	AD 612-763
09	6th Trumpet	Coming of the Turks, the taking of Baghdad, the Byzantines, and Constantinople	AD 1055-1453
10	7 Thunders	The 7 Crusades	AD 1095-1201
10	Little Scroll	Start of the Reformation with Martin Luther	AD 1517
11	2 Witnesses	The Waldenses & Albigenses and others who resisted the Papacy	AD 1170-1216
12	Wilderness	Decline of spirituality just after the triumph of Christianity from within the Roman Empire	AD 254-1514
12	Baby caught up to God	Constantine becoming emperor of entire kingdom	AD 324
13	10 Crowns/Kingdoms	Anglo Saxons, Franks, Alleman Franks, Burgundic Franks, Visigoths, Suevi, Vandals, Ostrogoths, Bavarians and Lombards	AD 400s -1600s
13	Mount Zion	Those standing on the mount are the true followers of Christ throughout Papal power	AD 538-1798
13	One of the bowls	French Revolution	AD 1789-1799

For most Historicists, the rest is in the future—same as with the Futurists

Figure 6



DAY 3 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 How many angels were there with the last plagues? (v. 1) _____.
- 02 What did the seven angels with the seven plagues come out of? (v. 6) _____
- 03 True/False: Some nations will not worship God. (v. 4)
- 04 True/False: The Law was in the temple. (v. 5)
- 05 How many bowls were full of the wrath of God? (v. 7) _____
- 06 True/False: No one could enter the temple until the seven plagues were completed. (v. 8)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: (on God's Nature) **Psalm 7:11, Psalm 30:5, James 1:17**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** This chapter witnesses a scene of worship in heaven just before the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath. Considering the imminent and unexpected nature of Christ's return, how does this chapter prompt us to live with a sense of urgency and anticipation for His second coming in our daily lives? How should this impact our perspective on time, priorities, and readiness for the Lord's surprise appearance?

- 02** In Revelation 15:3-4, it is proclaimed that God's judgments are true and just. How does this assurance impact your understanding of God's character and the way you approach challenges and difficulties in your own life? Reflect on a time when you questioned God's ways or felt uncertain about a situation. How might the truth and justice of God's judgments, as revealed in these verses, bring comfort and perspective to your struggles?



REVELATION 16: THE 7 BOWLS OF WRATH ARE POURED OUT

This chapter provides an introduction to the battle of Armageddon, which is regarded by Futurists as a precursor to the Return of Christ and the culmination of time. Historicists, on the other hand, associate this event with the French Revolution and anticipate the unfolding of subsequent significant developments. As Historicists shift their focus from retrospection to anticipation, intriguing alignments come into view.



The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."

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

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

⁴ *The third angel poured out his bowl on the **rivers and springs of water**, and they **became blood**.* ⁵ *Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:*

*"You are just in these judgments, O Holy One,
you who are and who were;*

⁶ *for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."*

⁷ *And I heard the altar respond:*

*"Yes, Lord God Almighty,
true and just are your judgments."*

⁸ *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, **and the sun was allowed to scorch people***



with fire. ⁹ They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

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

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

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

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

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!”** ¹⁸ Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. ¹⁹ The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. ²¹ From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
ALL BOWLS: Some have to do with the French Revolution starting in 1789 (the Revolution was aimed at the Papacy), Napoleon’s wars, and into the future. SORES: The moral corruption and pollution of society, especially in France. PEOPLE WHO HAD THE BEAST’S MARK: Anyone who helped build the lie of the Papacy. BLOOD ON THE SEA: a series of great naval disasters that struck France in the Revolution from 1793 to 1815. RIVERS AND SPRINGS: Battles in the Revolution that happened on the Rhine, Po and Alpine streams of Piedmont and Lombardy. SCORCHING SUN: In 1806 the Holy Roman Empire falls to Napoleon; the age of the Papacy ends (is darkened, loses strength). BEAST’S KINGDOM PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS: Beast kingdom usually applies to Rome. Pope Pious VI was kidnapped by the French and died in exile, 1798. EUPHRATES RIVER: The river was surrounded by the Turkish Empire	ALL BOWLS: Most take a literal approach though some commentators move toward symbolism or confess not knowing. SORES: Could be nuclear pollution. BLOOD ON THE SEA: The death of every sea creature; great floods as poles melt. RIVERS AND SPRINGS: Fresh water is polluted. SCORCHING SUN: The ozone layers are severely compromised; nuclear flares will increase. BEAST’S KINGDOM PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS: A preview of Hell, perhaps nuclear fallout. EUPHRATES: Spirits of demons go out to draw enemies to the battle of Armageddon. LIGHTNING, THUNDER, EARTHQUAKE: All literal.

CHAPTER 16: COMMENTARY

In this chapter, there are notable instances around people failing to repent. Despite their apparent obstinacy, there is a crucial element they fail to grasp, reminiscent of contemporary events.

Consider occurrences such as natural disasters or acts of terrorism in our era. Individuals daring to ponder, “Could this be a divine message? Is there a purpose behind it?” often face backlash and accusations of morbidity. The prevailing belief is that God does not communicate punitively in the present.

Given this perspective, it becomes apparent why people might **“REFUSE TO REPENT.”** Understanding God’s intentions necessitates drawing near, seeking His guidance, and sometimes patiently awaiting a response. Unlike scattering signs along the road, God’s communication is not overt. Yet, those who seek understanding find the message becomes more clear.

These individuals likely had no awareness of the need to repent, as the aftermath of the Fall of Man has clouded our understanding. Simply by “checking in,” adhering to God’s directives, and spreading the word.

THREE IMPURE SPIRITS (V. 13) represent the influences of the Dragon, Beast, and False Prophet

ARMAGEDDON (V. 16) In Hebrew, meaning Mount of Megiddo, and the location of deciding battles in the Old Testament, a decisive battle to determine the future of the Kingdom of God.



DAY 4 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** The first bowl of wrath produced this on the people who had the mark of the beast: (v. 2)
- _____
- 02** The second bowl killed everything living in the _____. (v. 3)
- 03** The third bowl resulted in the springs and rivers being turned into this: (v. 4)
- _____
- 04** The fourth bowl was poured out upon this to make it scorch people with fire: (v. 8)
- _____
- 05** True/False: People are still going to refuse to repent. (v. 9)
- 06** The sixth bowl dried up the waters of this river: (v. 12) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: **Jeremiah 2** (this is a great perspective on people's surprise to discover that God is angry with them while they have never bothered to ask)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 16, we read about the seven bowl judgments that bring devastating plagues upon the earth. Reflecting on the Old Testament plagues in Exodus—particularly those during the time of Moses, such as the plagues of Egypt—how do the plagues in Revelation 16 echo or parallel those found in the Old Testament plagues?

- 02** How does Revelation 16 contribute to our understanding of God's justice and the consequences of human rebellion? In what ways do the judgments described in this chapter reflect God's character and His response to sin?



REVELATION 17 & 18:

A HARIOT, 8 KINGS, AND MYSTERY IN ABUNDANCE

Today, we will delve into one of the most unsettling visions presented in the Book of Revelation: a debauched woman riding a massive, unsightly beast. Even the Apostle John himself found it difficult to witness. The interpretation of this imagery varies, with chapter 17 containing the majority of the symbolism. Chapter 18, on the other hand, primarily depicts a world steeped in sin and straightforward narrative. Therefore, we will examine both chapters today, focusing on the essential insights provided in chapter 17.



17: BABYLON, THE PROSTITUTE ON THE BEAST

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the **great prostitute**, who sits by many waters. ² With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

³ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. 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 The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

*Babylon the great
the mother of prostitutes
and of the abominations of the earth.*

⁶ I saw that the woman was **drunk with the blood of God’s holy people**, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ **The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss** and go to its 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 it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

⁹ “This calls for a mind with wisdom. **The seven heads are seven hills** on which the woman sits.

¹⁰ They are also **seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come**; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, **is an eighth king**. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

¹² “The ten horns you saw are **ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom**, but who for **one hour** will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

¹⁵ Then the angel said to me, “**The waters** you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶ The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. ¹⁸ The woman you saw **is the great city** that rules over the kings of the earth.”

18: LAMENT OVER FALEN BABYLON

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ² With a mighty voice he shouted:

“‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’

She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

³ For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.
The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

Warning to Escape Babylon’s Judgment

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“‘Come out of her, my people,’
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

⁵ for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

⁶ Give back to her as she has given;
pay her back double for what she has done.
Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

⁷ Give her as much torment and grief
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.
In her heart she boasts,
‘I sit enthroned as queen.

I am not a widow;
I will never mourn.’

⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:
death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire,



for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Threefold Woe Over Babylon's Fall

⁹ "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰ Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

"Woe! Woe to you, great city,
you mighty city of Babylon!
In one hour your doom has come!"

¹¹ "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— ¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

¹⁴ "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' ¹⁵ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn ¹⁶ and cry out:

"Woe! Woe to you, great city,
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!
¹⁷ In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

"Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. ¹⁸ When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' ¹⁹ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

"Woe! Woe to you, great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
became rich through her wealth!
In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"

²⁰ "Rejoice over her, you heavens!
Rejoice, you people of God!
Rejoice, apostles and prophets!
For God has judged her
with the judgment she imposed on you."

The Finality of Babylon's Doom

²¹ Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

"With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,
never to be found again.

²² The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters,
will never be heard in you again.



No worker of any trade
will ever be found in you again.
The sound of a millstone
will never be heard in you again.
²³ The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again.
The voice of bridegroom and bride
will never be heard in you again.
Your merchants were the world's important people.
By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.
²⁴ In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people,
of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."

HISTORICIST VIEW	FUTURIST VIEW
GREAT PROSTITUTE: Papacy or future religious heresy. MANY WATERS: A place of many ports; perhaps waters, like seas, representing many different types of people. WOMAN, BABYLON: Papacy SCARLET BEAST: Uncertain (problematic, as most commentators consider this the same Beast of the Sea introduced in Revelation 13; which is the Papacy. However such cannot be both the woman and the beast she rides). 7 HEADS/10 HORNS: Rome, known as the "city upon seven hills;" perhaps 7 forms of government under which Rome had existed. DRESSED IN PURPLE/SCARLET: The expensive clothing worn by the Papacy (it is the actual color scheme for popes and cardinals). DRUNK ON THE BLOOD OF GOD'S PEOPLE: The Inquisition & other violent oppressions; apologist H. Grattan Guinness calculated that the Papacy is responsible for over 50 million martyrs. BEAST WHICH WAS, WAS NOT, AND WILL BE: FIVE THAT HAVE FALLEN would be to John Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The 7th is yet to come. THE EIGHTH: probably refers to a singular individual who will reign over the 7th and future kingdom.	GREAT PROSTITUTE: An unnamed mysterious nation that will prosper greatly; could be the rebuilding of the original Babylon or a revived Rome; or an apostate church yet to form. MANY WATERS: a place with many ports; Ancient Babylon, if revived, was on the Euphrates and a series of canals. WOMAN, BABYLON: A market system based on the seduction of wealth rather than service of the people; perhaps a religious entity that works well with the scarlet beast that supports her. THE SCARLET BEAST: Modern/Postmodern secular thinking, idolized by schools and industries; a political system that supports the religious doctrines associated with the woman. 7 HEADS/10 HORNS: 10 powers that will form from nations that spring out of the revival of the old Roman Empire. DRESSED IN PURPLE/SCARLET: the pompous clothing of any apostate clergy of the future.

CHAPTER 17 & 18: COMMENTARY

Here we are again with the **7 HEADS/10 HORNS**. For all essential purposes, this is the same beast as in chapter 13 (Antichrist) as well as the Dragon in chapter 12 (Satan). While it can be confusing, they share the same power base and are symbols.

The idea of a “Revived Rome” predicted by some Futurists may appear implausible to practical Christians. While the Common Market, NATO, and the United Nations do not resemble the prophesied 10 horns, Futurists earnestly anticipate the emergence of this “Revived Rome.” Let’s briefly review the historical context of Rome:

- The decline of Rome culminated in AD 476 when the German chieftain Odoacer deposed the last Roman emperor of the West, Romulus Augustulus. No subsequent Roman emperor ruled from Italy. The Eastern Roman provinces evolved into the Byzantine Empire, which endured until the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453.
- The fall of Rome was a gradual process rather than an abrupt event, fading into irrelevance over time. Some Christians perceive ancient Rome differently from the Rome led by the popes, creating a mental distinction between the two. However, from a heavenly perspective, they are one and the same. God’s displeasure with the Roman Empire mirrors His disdain for the bloodthirsty Assyrians and idolatrous Babylonians.
- Considering the next phase of Rome, Protestant Historicists believe that, following pagan Rome’s decline, the Devil’s strategy was to revive it in a more repugnant form—a pagan Rome adorned in religious attire, living luxuriously, and claiming the authority to forgive sins (for a fee known as indulgence), along with idol worship. Thus, in the minds of Historicists, pagan Rome transformed into papal Rome, occupying the same spatial location but appearing markedly different.

ASTONISHED (17:8) will be so out of the ordinary without explanation to excite attention

SEVEN HEADS/SEVEN HILLS (17:9): referring to Rome, the seven-hilled city.

SEVEN KINGS (17:10) Powers or Government, can refer to

TEN KINGS WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A KINGDOM (17:12) refers to 10 horns or 10 minor powers

ONE HOUR (17:12) meaning brief or temporary

GREAT CITY 1 (7:18) referring to Babylon



DAY 5 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 The scarlet beast had _____ heads and _____ horns. (17:3)
- 02 The woman was dressed in _____ and _____. (17:4)
- 03 The woman was drunk with the _____ of the saints. (17:6)
- 04 The seven heads are also seven _____. (17:10)
- 05 God wants to protect people from her _____. (18:4)
- 06 How long will it take for this Babylon to fall? _____. (18:10)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: about God's judgment on nations or assemblies that go astray:
Romans 1:18-32, Ezekiel 33:11, Jeremiah 18:9-10

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Revelation 17:18 speaks of a great city with immense influence. Considering the dynamics of power and influence in our world today. How can we, as individuals and as a community, discern and respond to structures or entities that may have a negative impact on our values and beliefs? What practical steps can we take to remain faithful and true to our convictions in the face of external pressures?

- 02** In Revelation 18, the fall of Babylon is vividly described. Reflect on the characteristics and actions of Babylon as outlined in this chapter. How do these descriptions relate to worldly systems and values today? In what ways can we guard ourselves against being influenced by the 'Babylonian' mindset in our daily lives as followers of Christ?



DEEP DIVE #2:

COULD THE UNITED STATES BE MYSTERY BABYLON FROM REVELATION 17-18?

The disturbing question arises more frequently amid the increasing influence of secularism in America and the growing prevalence of corruption. This question revolves around the identification of Mystery Babylon, mentioned multiple times in chapters 17 and 18 as a city, not a country. Many raising this question point to New York City or Washington, D.C. as potential candidates, given the potential global impact if such a city were to be destroyed. The concern is heightened by the possibility of a catastrophic event, possibly resembling a nuclear attack, particularly emphasized in 18:11. To explore this perspective, a careful reexamination of chapters 17 and 18 with relevant passages highlighted is recommended, referred to here as the New Futurist take.



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When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ **The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss** and go to its 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 it once was, now is not, and yet will come.



⁹ “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for **only a little while**. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, **is an eighth king**. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

¹² “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for **one hour** will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

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³ For all the nations have drunk
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and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

Warning to Escape Babylon’s Judgment

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

⁵ for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

⁶ Give back to her as she has given;
pay her back double for what she has done.
Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

⁷ Give her as much torment and grief
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

In her heart she boasts,
‘I sit enthroned as queen.

I am not a widow;
I will never mourn.’

⁸ Therefore in **one day her plagues will overtake her:**
death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Threefold Woe Over Babylon’s Fall

⁹ “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰ Terrified at her torment, **they will**



“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
you mighty city of Babylon!
In one hour your doom has come!”

¹¹ “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— ¹² **cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;** ¹³ **cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.**

¹⁴ “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ ¹⁵ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn

¹⁶ and cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

¹⁷ In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!”

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. ¹⁸ When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ ¹⁹ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
became rich through her wealth!
In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”

²⁰ “Rejoice over her, you heavens!
Rejoice, you people of God!
Rejoice, apostles and prophets!
For God has judged her
with the judgment she imposed on you.”

The Finality of Babylon's Doom

²¹ Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,
never to be found again.

²² The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters,
will never be heard in you again.

No worker of any trade
will ever be found in you again.

The sound of a millstone
will never be heard in you again.

²³ The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again.

The voice of bridegroom and bride
will never be heard in you again.

Your merchants were the world's important people.
By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

²⁴ In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people,
of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”



²⁴ *In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."*

NEW FUTURISTS' VIEW OF THE SYMBOLS: MYSTERY BABYLON

New Futurists' View, Chapter 17

GREAT PROSTITUTE: A city in the United States

MANY WATERS: In prophecy "water" is often a symbol of countries or cultures. The US remains the only country designed to be a conglomeration of many cultures.

KINGS OF THE EARTH COMMITTED ADULTERY: Engaged in unfair practices that made people rich by depleting the poor and average. Business or government.

SCARLET BEAST w/ 10 HORNS: The nations the woman leads or manipulates, who will get sick of her.

PURPLE & SCARLET: Most popular colors for royalty in John's day.

GOLDEN CUP: Perversion of the communion ceremony; perhaps the set of immoral values (such as greed) that causes her perversions.

DRUNK WITH THE BLOOD OF GOD'S PEOPLE: The US does not have the host of martyrs that other countries do, but there has been a mass murder of faith due to her universities and public schools becoming secular, and systematically chipping away at our children's faith.

THE BEAST, WHICH ...WAS, NOW IS NOT, AND YET WILL COME UP: Perhaps a future President who gets assassinated and revived; perhaps Rome, as the US may be the only modern nation so strongly influenced in its makeup by ancient Rome.

ONE HOUR: A short time; (Day = Year seems implausible if Day = Year, then an hour = a year/24 or 15 weeks).

THE WATERS YOU SAW: A confirmation that this Babylon is in a culturally diverse nation.

BEAST WITH 10 HORNS HATES THE PROSTITUTE: If the horns are European nations, this is becoming true. The days of traveling and getting special treatment for saying "I'm an American" are over. It's a combination of jealousy & US citizens not recognizing their own hubris.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WERE INTOXICATED WITH THE WINE OF HER ADULTERIES (V. 2) Seduced by idolatrous practices, such as riches, honors, pleasures, etc.

HE MUST REMAIN FOR ONLY A LITTLE WHILE (V. 10) reign will be only a short duration

EIGHTH KING (V. 11) new power or person coming out the seven previous king or an embodiment of all seven.

THE WOMAN YOU SAW IS THE GREAT CITY (V. 18) Mystery Babylon

New Futurists' View, Chapter 18

I SIT ENTHRONED AS QUEEN: Awareness that theirs has been the greatest nation on the earth.

I AM NOT A WIDOW: Denial of other nations' feelings about her.

I WILL NEVER MOURN: Denial that anything bad could happen over here.

WILL OVERTAKE HER IN ONE DAY: A nuclear bomb striking New York.

PEOPLE WILL STAND FAR OFF AND CRY: Television; some ships approaching or leaving ports.

ALL THE CONSUMER GOODS IN 18:12: Shows that this is a marketing port city like New York and perhaps not a political one like Washington.

HUMAN BEINGS SOLD AS SLAVES: Perhaps a reference to our slavery; perhaps a reference to

IN HER WAS FOUND THE BLOOD OF THE PROPHETS AND GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE: This verse looks to fit a country like Iran as opposed to the U.S. Symbolically it reflects the slaughter of our faith in the public square (where anything but christianity is allowed), similar to the slaughter of our children's faith in government schools.

WHY SOME FUTURISTS DO NOT LIKE THE TERM "MYSTERY BABYLON"

Even though the term was largely started by famous Futurist Hal Lindsey, many Futurists find the term misleading. They point out that in Revelation 17:6, in the King James and many other translations, the actual reading is "And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great...." The comma after the word Mystery means to them that the whole statement is a mystery, but that Babylon could be the original Babylon rebuilt. Futurists from the older camp are still holding out with the thought that Babylon in Iraq is coming back.

They have a mechanical point, though the title is now well seasoned. We will continue using it here.

NEW FUTURIST THESIS: THE UNITED STATES MAY CONTAIN "MYSTERY BABYLON"

What would be the implications if Mystery Babylon were located in the United States? Those exploring this possibility express concern about the increasing secularism in America, encompassing various issues such as witchcraft, Satan worship, sex trafficking, leadership corruption, greed, theft, adultery, and the prominent debates on abortion and homosexuality. Some believe that divine retribution for these sins might manifest in the form of an enemy country launching a nuclear strike on New York City or Washington, D.C. Notably, Billy Graham has been quoted as saying, "If God doesn't judge America, he will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." In examining this theory, let's consider its pros and cons, as well as the perspectives of New Futurists.



THE CONS OF THIS THESIS

First, let's look at the arguments against the United States containing Mystery Babylon:

1. America has long been known as the most Christian of any nation.
2. America gives more to charity than any other nation and much of it comes through Christians.
3. The rest of the country may be slackening its moral fiber, but the church is still strong, and God will protect His own.

The theory would be highly objectionable to older Americans who experienced the Great Depression and World War II, contributing to America's recovery. They lived in an era where education was deemed reliable, and authority was regarded as wise rather than foolish. Let us examine whether their arguments remain valid.

#1 The US has the most Christians:

While this trend remains evident, the percentage of Americans self-identifying as Christian has decreased from 91% in 1976 to 64% in 2022. The decline is particularly notable among younger generations. According to a Pew Research poll, 66% of individuals who ceased regular church attendance in their youth provided various reasons. However, a common thread emerges: many desire to avoid any additional commitments on Sunday morning.

#2 America gives more to charity:

Currently valid! Nevertheless, we possess limited awareness of how our charitable contributions are

allocated. Philanthropy holds a high significance in Christianity, embodying God's love, generosity, and readiness to assist those who seek His support. The absence of benevolence, regardless of its scale, hinders His Kingdom on a global scale.

Evangelicals are recognized for their donations to churches and Christian educational institutions. However, a substantial portion of these funds often lacks impactful distribution. The United States boasts a plethora of nascent churches, and the financial contributions within these congregations are predominantly directed toward operational expenses. In churches less than a decade old or with fewer than 100 members, the majority of financial resources may primarily sustain the pastor's livelihood and cover the church's overhead costs. Little is going to serve the poor, hungry, lonely, imprisoned, or needy as Christ spoke of in Matthew 25.

A less-discussed aspect of the Reformation is the potential flaw in Martin Luther's decision to separate. Subsequent acts of separation within the Protestant community have resulted in isolated seedling churches—perhaps up to 30 in a single county—lacking intercommunication, especially regarding donations and financial contributions. This contrastingly positions the Catholic Church as the most significant charitable contributor.

Concerning donations to Christian schools, a notable proportion is motivated by self-interest, serving the educational needs of donors' children. While God perceives the motivations behind our giving as paramount, the overall impression may indicate insufficient concern for the welfare of the impoverished and needy.

#3 ...But the church is still strong.

This argument highlights a concern regarding a misconception prevalent among certain Christians. Numerous Americans are taught that the United States is an equivalent to biblical Israel, and as Israel faced severe judgment from God, the United States will suffer a similar fate. This reasoning hinges on the perception that, just as Israel was God's chosen nation before Christ's arrival, the abundance of Christians and churches in the U.S. makes it special to God prior to His second coming.

However, a critical distinction lies in the fact that biblical Israel had no secular population, whereas the U.S. not only accommodates secular individuals but also anticipates and accommodates them in its Constitution.

God has not endorsed any prophecies favoring a particular nation post-Israel. Since the Ascension, His favored realm has consistently been His Kingdom, a perspective that Christians should adopt. Despite this, some Christians exhibit stronger emotional attachment (like anger) toward their non-Christian neighbors than their fellow believers in regions like Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Ukraine, China, and North Korea.

To gain a more accurate understanding of God's intentions and actions, Christians should shift their analogy from the United States/Israel to THE CHURCH/Israel. This adjustment would provide a clearer perspective and alleviate fears of divine retribution, enabling a focus on addressing internal issues rather than harboring anger over other's actions.



HOW IS THE US CHURCH BEHAVING?

Drawing a false equivalence between the United States and Israel may be causing significant distress and unnecessary concern among parishioners. Christians may fear potential retribution from God where parishioners and their descendants might suffer unjustly.

Christians frequently face danger in various locations while spreading the gospel. If God's judgment results in collateral damage, it is viewed as martyrdom. The emphasis should be on serving the marginalized in our hometowns, yet the question arises: do we consider martyrdom irrelevant? Is our love for family and earthly life greater than our devotion to Christ and God? (See Matthew 10:37-39) A frequently overlooked point by Apostle Paul is that our focus should be on evaluating the Church rather than passing judgment on the external world (1 Corinthians 5:12-13). Instead of scrutinizing groups outside the church—such as abortionists, homosexuals, witches, thieves, etc.—what do we stand to gain by turning the spotlight inward and assessing ourselves?

The psalmist, in Psalm 139:23-24, urges God to examine our hearts, recognizing our tendency to overlook our shortcomings. Let's address some issues that are easily avoided or dismissed.

#1 The “Believe and Belong” Version of American Christianity Is Rampant

America has gradually succumbed to a subtle error, imperceptible in its progression (resembling the Devil's preferred tactic of gradual deception). During the decades when prominent evangelists like Billy Graham were active, they advocated the message of “salvation by grace and not of works,” referencing Ephesians 2:8-9.

This message impacted individuals raised in the legalistic atmosphere of the 1950s and '60s, where the fear of hellfire over seemingly innocuous activities was prevalent. However, a significant issue has emerged over the subsequent generations: the perception among American Christians that salvation, being a free gift from God, requires no action beyond belief. Attendees at churches express their faith through attendance, equating it with belonging.

It is crucial to remember the saying, “WE ARE NOT SAVED BY OUR OPINIONS.” Merely sitting in church and vocalizing concerns about issues like abortion falls short of fulfilling the deeper call to action. The disappointment to the Lord is evident in the reference to the letter to the Laodicean Church in chapter 3, emphasizing the concept of being “lukewarm.” Even after 2,000 years, faith without corresponding actions remains lifeless, and self-deception should be avoided.

Churches should not function as exclusive clubs, providing refuge for mature Christians seeking to avoid engagement with those they are called to serve—sinners. The fact that many secular entities manage most cities' charities does not present a positive testimony. Instead of harboring guilt, individuals should inquire, “What can I do?” Initiating this question marks a commendable beginning.

#2. Christians Are Not Maturing Spiritually

American Christians have been taught the importance of the “born again” experience, but for many, it is viewed as a conclusion rather than a commencement. Our lives constitute an ongoing journey with God, characterized by continuous growth and maturation in Christ beyond the initial salvation experience. Despite this, identifying the traits of a spiritually mature Christian remains challenging for many.

In the Parable of the Field, Jesus conveyed, “the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” Particularly for those saved before the millennium, it is crucial to recall the vitality and enthusiasm accompanying our salvation. Let us consider the profound sacrifice that this salvation is meant to demand from us—everything!

#3. Americans No Longer Understand Witnessing

When pastors instruct on the practice of “witnessing,” the focus often centers on activities such

as engaging individuals in conversations about Jesus, distributing tracts or other informational materials, and reciting the four spiritual laws. However, delivering a message solely through these means may yield a mediocre witness, as it can come across as superficial and may be ineffective when the audience is cold, hungry, or in pain. A more impactful witness involves not only speaking but also listening, empathizing, offering assistance, serving, and giving. Some successful witnesses invest years in building relationships.



WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

To address the question of whether New York City could be identified as Mystery Babylon, Christians commonly assert that while the United States is experiencing moral decline, it has not reached an extreme level. This view aligns with Old Testament passages, such as Genesis 15:16, where the Lord delays judgment until a nation's sin reaches its full measure.

While this viewpoint is logical, it carries the risk of complacency, akin to delaying responsibilities until prompted. It is imperative that we rectify our conduct promptly, irrespective of Mystery Babylon's identity. Our focus should extend beyond potential temporal threats, like the possibility of New York being a target, to more significant spiritual matters. Our priority should be aligning our actions with God's expectations in our daily lives.



WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Christians who have managed to readjust from Believe and Belong to Activists-for-Christ say it is not hard.

- **Tell God your heart is willing.** Communicate your willingness to God and allow Him to guide transformative changes in your life.
- **Get in the right mindset.** A significant aspect of service originates from our thought processes. Some individuals have lost the habit of considering how to serve, missing opportunities in their communities and workplaces
- **Pray hard!** Engage in fervent prayer for your country and churches. While distinct entities, both require urgent attention.
- **Repent!** Repentance, a frequently used term, involves turning away from beloved sins and relinquishing them. This leaves you empty-handed, allowing God to fill your hands.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 Today's reading was challenging! We are going to apply it to your life, regardless of where or what Mystery Babylon is. God tells the people in Revelation 18:4 to "'Come out of her, my people,' so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues." Many Christians have experienced a divine calling to depart from their beloved homeland, either seeking safety or responding to urgent needs elsewhere. Consider a scenario in which you might be directed by God to leave your native country. Reflect on the potential circumstances and the personal challenges you would face in fulfilling God's mission. How does this inspire you to live differently in the real world today?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: New Futurists point to these Bible chapters, believing they also relate to Mystery Babylon: **Jeremiah 50 & 51**



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. 42 months
2. True
3. Speak
4. On their right hand or forehead
5. False
6. Wisdom

FROM DAY 4

1. Sores
2. Sea
3. Blood
4. Sun
5. True
6. The Euphrates

FROM DAY 2

1. Mount Zion
2. True
3. True
4. 3
5. True
6. Blessed

FROM DAY 5

1. 7, 10
2. Purple, scarlet
3. Blood
4. Kings
5. Eighth
6. 1 hour

FROM DAY 3

1. 7
2. The Temple
3. False
4. True
5. 7
6. True



Week 4

REVELATION 19: SATAN IS DEFEATED

This chapter marks the departure from Babylon. It is the third and concluding segment addressing Mystery Babylon, a city of significance in the Book of Revelation. Due to the extensive coverage of the city in the text, dedicating three chapters to a day's reading might have been overwhelming. Therefore, this chapter will be examined in isolation. It unfolds in two primary sections: (1) the praise of Mystery Babylon's destruction and (2) the arrival of a rider on a white horse, heralding a moment of salvation.



Threefold Hallelujah over Babylon's Title

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 great and small!"

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.

⁷ *Let us rejoice and be glad*

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb *has come,*

and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ *Fine linen, bright and clean,*

was given her to wear."



(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are **those who are invited to the wedding supper** of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

¹⁰ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

The Heavenly Warrior Defeats

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a **white horse**, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ **Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

king of kings and lord of lords.

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the **beast was captured, and with it the false prophet** who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them **were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.** ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

HISTORIC VIEW	FUTURISTIC VIEW
CHRIST ON THE WHITE HORSE: This could be understood as all the victories accomplished by the true church, and the same with the SHARP SWORD PROCEEDING OUT OF HIS MOUTH. So while this is a future event for the Futurists, it is going on now for the Historicists.	WEDDING OF THE LAMB: Some say this is God and Israel, the broken marriage, and it will be restored. Most think the marriage involves all Christians. THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY: This means that all prophecy points to Christ or concerns the journey to Christ. THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET thrown in the LAKE OF FIRE: It is noted here that the multitudes following the beast (people who were deceived by the Beast and the Mark of the Beast) are killed by the sword and are not thrown into the fire of eternal damnation, at least not here.

CHAPTER 19: COMMENTARY

Now that the judgments are over and Babylon is ending, there is not as much symbolism or corresponding divergences between the two views over it. Hence the symbol boxes will be smaller from here on, and more comments will apply to both or are from both as written:

HALLELUJAH is spoken 4 times in the first section and does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament. It's one of many spots in the Revelation with far-reaching returns.

WEDDING OF THE LAMB: Again, this is a phrase found nowhere else in the NT, though some verses allude to Christ eventually having a bride (see Supporting Scriptures below).

Historicists point out that Papal Rome, having been exposed as a prostitute and devoured by goodness, stands in stark contrast to this Bride, who will remain close to Christ for all eternity.

As for Futurists and their statement about **THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB**, the belief that God and Israel will be restored could be a breach of Old Testament Law that states divorced people can never be remarried, as it is an abomination that will pollute the land (Deuteronomy 24:4, Jeremiah 3:1). Things would be extremely different in the heavenlies if this were true.

ROBE DIPPED IN BLOOD: Both views hold this to the blood Christ shed on the cross. Those accompanying Him may already be clean, but His blood still flows for sins.



DAY 1 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 How many elders were there? (v. 4) _____
- 02 How many living creatures were there? (v. 4) _____
- 03 What stands for the righteousness of the saints? (v. 8) _____
- 04 The rider of the white horse was called _____ and _____. (v. 11)
- 05 His name is _____. (v. 13)
- 06 What is written on His robe and on His thigh? (v. 16) _____
and _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: These show other places where wedding of Christ is alluded to:
Matthew 9:15, Matthew 22:2, John 3:29, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:25-27

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Revelation 19, the Church is portrayed as the bride of Christ. What significance do you think this metaphor holds for our relationship with Jesus? How can understanding ourselves as the bride influence our daily lives and devotion to Him?

- 02** Revelation 19 vividly describes a powerful image of a white horse. This imagery has transcended its biblical origins and become a common symbol in various forms of media. In popular culture, the image of a white horse is often associated with various themes such as heroism, victory, and purity. Can you think of some specific examples from movies, literature, or art where a white horse is used as a symbol? Why do you think the imagery taken from the Revelation has thrived so much over the centuries?



REVELATION 20: JUDGMENT DAY

Early in this study, you were tasked with locating definitions for premillennial, postmillennial, and amillennial interpretations of the Book of Revelation. Now, apply these definitions in the upcoming section. Note that highlighted text is absent as symbolism is limited. Moving forward, the focus will shift away from Historicist and Futurist perspectives, as they tend to overlap when everything is considered future. Instead, we'll analyze the timing and sequence of events as perceived by commentators.



The Thousand Years

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

⁴ I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

The Judgment of Satan

⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.



The Judgment of the Dead

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

CHAPTER 20: COMMENTARY

The Pre-, Post- and Amillennial overviews of Chapter 20 are below. View the differences of each, then move to the right column, into some critique of the three.

PREMILLENNIAL Timeline for Chapter 20:

1. The binding of Satan has not occurred yet. It will take place at the Second Coming, which follows the Great Tribulation.
2. Satan will be loosed one final time after 1,000 years when Christ will reign with His followers.
3. This will be followed by the White Throne Judgment, where all those who lived will be judged.
4. The new heavens and new earth will follow the Millennium.

Most evangelical Christians today are PREMILLENNIALISTS as well as Futurists. But most of them not only believe the 1,000-year Millennial will occur after the return of Christ, but also the White Throne Judgment.

The **PREMILLENNIAL** view does not draw a lot of criticism. The text is explicit, and their Futurists appreciate a literal approach when plausible. In fact, that may be weak point in this view, as literal details like 1,000 years almost seems too literal. If taken literally, it implies that even Satan is aware of a designated timeframe, raising concerns. This may be a great time to consider that one reason God does not want us fixating on specific dates is the dangers and challenges of Him divulging information that Satan should not possess. The paradox arises: if Satan is unaware, how is it conveyed to us?

POSTMILLENNIAL Timeline for Chapter 20:

1. The binding of Satan has not occurred yet. The successful preaching of the gospel eradicates Satan's power.
2. The 1,000 years may or may not be literal. But it speaks to a victorious and wonderful age before the Second Coming.
3. The release of Satan will be nothing to fear as he has been powerless and will remain so.
4. The White Throne Judgment occurs at the Second Coming.

The **POSTMILLENNIAL** view stands alone in seeing a powerless Satan at the end of the alleged thousand years. Their belief that the 1,000 years of peace will be due to "the gospel having been successfully preached" seems optimistic. Sadly, even Turkey, once the hub of the renowned churches cited in chapters 2-3, is now 99.8 percent Islamic. According to Pew Research, Islam predominantly prevails in Central Asia, Western Asia, North Africa, West Africa, and the Middle East. While an extended period of grace is promised, it is unlikely that the effective preaching of the gospel will serve as the catalyst.

AMILLENNIAL Timeline for Chapter 20:

1. The binding of Satan occurred at the cross.
2. The 1,000 years should not be taken literally, as it represents a very long time.
3. Satan will be let out to have one last shot at deceiving and destroying mankind at the end of the present age.
4. Fire consuming wicked people from heaven is a symbol as well. It represents the Second Coming

The **AMILLENNIAL** perspective may pose challenges in determining the timing of events. Christianity has witnessed 70 million martyrs since the Crucifixion, and scarcely a decade has transpired without some form of warfare occurring on Earth. The question arises: If Satan was bound at the cross, how is it that conditions have deteriorated to such an extent? While the cross symbolized the binding of Satan, his subsequent actions have been notably severe.

DAY 1 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 For how long does the angel bind Satan? (v. 2) _____
- 02 True/False: All the dead will rise to reign with Christ for 1,000 years. (v. 4-5)
- 03 The dead that come to life to reign with Christ are the _____. (v. 5)
- 04 The dead that rise first will be _____ of God and of Christ. (v. 6)
- 05 The lake of fire is the _____. (v. 14)
- 06 Anyone whose name was not found in the _____ was thrown into the lake of fire. (v. 15)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: The Olivet Discourse is in Matthew 24.

Read the whole chapter (it is engaging and reads speedily).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 We read about the first resurrection where the souls of the martyrs and those who have faithfully followed Christ are raised to reign with Him for a thousand years. How does the concept of the first resurrection shape our perspective on challenges and difficulties in our lives today, knowing that there is a future resurrection and reign promised for those who are faithful to Christ?

02 The millennial reign portrays a unique period where Christ is present and actively reigning on earth. Reflect on the implications of living in a world where Christ is close at hand, and His influence is directly experienced. How does the prospect of an intimate relationship with Christ during this time shape your perspective on daily life, relationships, and your spiritual journey? Consider how the awareness of Christ’s proximity might impact your choices and priorities in the present moment.



REVELATION 21-22: GOOD TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL

Ultimately, "GOOD" emerges victorious. The journey is marked by suspense and fascination. Take a moment to appreciate the imagery that continues to spark debates about its literal interpretation. This scene, a recurring element in the Revelation, consistently delivers positive tidings and solace across different eras.



21: A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the **first heaven and the first earth had passed away**, and there was **no longer any sea**.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband**.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! **God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them**. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."⁴ 'He will **wipe every tear from their eyes**. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

New Jerusalem, Bride of the Lamb

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very



precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with **twelve gates, and with twelve angels** at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [**1,400 miles** or about 2,200 kilometers] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits [about 200 feet or about 65 meters] thick [sometimes translates “high”]. 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 agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ **The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.** ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose **names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.**

22: EDEN RESTORED

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ **There will be no more night.** They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

John and the Angel

⁶ The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

⁷ “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

¹⁰ Then he told me, **“Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time**



is near. ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

Epilogue: Invitation and Warning

¹² “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each **person according to what they have 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 the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

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.

CHAPTER 21-22: COMMENTARY

There are no symbol boxes today. Even though there is much commentary available, it doesn't break down easily. It may help to put the reading page side by side with this page to remember the context of each statement.

FIRST HEAVEN AND EARTH HAVE PASSED AWAY: There are other allusions in the Bible of God dismantling the current universe, not just the world. See the Supporting Scripture below, Isaiah 34:4.

NO LONGER ANY SEA: This vision has made some people sad who love the ocean. God has long managed to work within the laws of physics he established, and one law is that to sustain life, an ecosystem must have water. It may be that the water will all be fresh water. Another thought is that, because "sea" has been in Revelation a symbol of peoples and nations, it only means that all the people who rejected God and Christ will be absent.

PREPARED AS A BRIDE BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED FOR HER HUSBAND: This is not an allusion to the Bride of Christ but is a simile (already) and applies to the detail and workmanship of the new city.

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE IS NOW AMONG THE PEOPLE, AND HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM: To some, this concept is amazing, mostly for mature Christians. The longer one knows God on earth, the more amazing He becomes, and the more incredible this opportunity appears.

WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES: So, there will be crying in heaven? Probably at first. Some commentators point out that in order for us to fully appreciate salvation, there must be an experience that allows us to see the fullness of Christ's sacrifice as well as the fullness of our spiritual ineptitude. That perspective will be part of our love and gratitude forevermore.

12 GATES WITH 12 ANGELS AT THE GATES: Here is where some commentators are all but stomping their feet, insisting that this isn't literal. It may not be, but it is here for the purpose of filling us with awe and wonder. Whatever is in God's new heaven and earth, it is sure to dazzle, so the arguments seem moot.

1,400 MILES: this is one of the details commentators use to show that John was sincerely trying to share something very real, and arguments for symbolism seem to fall short.

THE NATIONS WILL WALK BY ITS LIGHT, AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH WILL BRING THEIR SPLENDOR INTO IT: Some people have questioned why we will need nations and kings in heaven. Down here, we know these concepts help to keep order, which would be unnecessary. We do know that there will be thrones in heaven (the 24 elders and Christ). It is likely that kingship in heaven is a reward and not a tense or consuming occupation.

NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE: We can all take the book of life as something very real, even if the book turns out to be a database. It is mentioned 8 times in the Bible. Psalm 69:29 points out that names can be erased from it (see Supporting Scriptures).

THERE WILL BE NO MORE NIGHT: This is something we really can't imagine (try it). But it means that there will be no shadows, even in a closet or rooms without windows.

DO NOT SEAL UP THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF THIS SCROLL, BECAUSE THE TIME IS NEAR. To be discerning, let's remember that not every explanation is a good one. This statement, along with verses 22:20 and 22:7, do state that all of this was to at least start happening soon. It makes Futurism a tight fit.

I WILL GIVE TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE: This is not the only place in the Bible which states we will ALL be judged by our actions. It sounds as if actions are more important in the end than faith. Actions reflect faith, and where there is no action, there is likely no faith or nominal faith. These people's rewards in heaven won't be great.



DAY 3 APPLICATION

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Then John saw a new _____ and a new _____. (21: 1)
- 02 How many gates did the new Jerusalem have? 21:12) _____
- 03 How many angels were at the gates? (21:12) _____
- 04 What was written on the gates? (21:12) _____
- 05 What was written on the 12 foundations? (21:14) _____
- 06 Each gate was made of a single _____ (21:21)
- 07 What three ways does Jesus describe Himself in verse 22:16? _____

- 08 What is the last word in the Bible? (22:21) _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: (about God ending the universe) **Isaiah 34:4, Psalm 102:26**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** How does the description of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 inspire and challenge your understanding of the eternal dwelling place for believers? Consider the symbolism used, such as the precious stones, gates of pearl, and streets of gold. How might this vision impact the way you view the future hope of being in God's presence?

- 02** Consider the invitation to salvation in verse 6-17 of Revelation 22. In what ways do the repeated invitations for people to come and receive the water of life emphasize God's desire for all to be saved? How can believers actively extend this invitation to others in their daily lives?



REVELATION REVIEW 1x

Congratulations! You have finished one of the most challenging and yet beloved books of the Bible!

Today and tomorrow will help to put all this material into perspective. We have included here some games to reinforce important material.

1. Treasure Hunt: Find the BEASTS!

Revelation is known for its beasts and people love to discuss them. Below are Revelation's Top 3 Beasts and the days on which they were studied. Find them in this study and write down which represent SATAN, which represent the ANTICHRIST, and which represent the FALSE PROPHET.

Week 3, Day 1, Chapter 13: The **BEAST OF THE SEA:**

Week 3, Day 1, Chapter 13: **BEAST OF THE EARTH:**

Week 2, Day 6, Chapter 12: The **RED DRAGON:**

2. Four women are featured in the Revelation.

Find them, identify them, and write which two are GOOD and which two are BAD. Search through the lessons to identify them:

_____ Week 1, Day 3, Chapter 2

_____ Week 2, Day 6, Chapter 12

_____ Week 3, Day 5, Chapter 17

_____ Week 4, Day 3, Chapter 21: (as this one wasn't touched upon as much, here is an added clue: It is found in verses 9-10):

3. Try the exercise on the next page: It has to do with naming all the plagues in order! If you can do that, you are approaching EXPERT status and can feel comfortable talking about this book with anyone!

EXERCISE:

Knowing All the Judgments of Revelation

Do you really want to understand Revelation easily enough that you can discuss it at length? Use the following exercise to help learn all 21 judgments of the Revelation. Draw a line from the Judgment on the left to the event on the right. Use the "Judgments at a Glance" study tool if you need it, but see how many you can name without it first.

1st Seal:	1/3 of the Sun, Moon, Stars Struck, all darken (8:12)
2nd Seal:	4 Fallen Angels Released From Under River Euphrates to war/ kill 1/3 of mankind (9:13-19)
3rd Seal:	Silence then 7 Trumpet Judgements (8:1)
4th Seal:	Announcing God has Taken Back His Earth: Ark seen in heaven (9:15-19)
5th Seal:	Black Horse brings famine (6:5)
6th Seal:	Cries of the Martyrs, God tells them to be patient a while longer (6:9-11)
7th Seal:	Rivers and Springs turns to blood (16:4-7)
1st Trumpet:	Earthquake & Nature Signs/Symbols (6:12-14)
2nd Trumpet:	Euphrates River Dries Up for Armageddon (16:12-16)
3rd Trumpet:	Fallen Star opens the Abyss, releases locusts (that look like helicopters) (9:1-16)
4th Trumpet:	Hail, Fire, Blood burn 1/3 of earth, trees, grass (8:7)
5th Trumpet:	Huge Burning Mountain Thrown into Sea, 1/3 sea to blood, 1/3 sea creatures die, 1/3 ships destroyed
6th Trumpet:	Huge Star Falls, 1/3 of fresh water becomes bitter (Wormwood) (8:10-11)
7th Trumpet:	Sores appear on those with mark of beast (16:2)
1st Bowl:	Kingdom of the Antichrist Turns Dark (16:10-11)
2nd Bowl:	Pale Horse Kills of the earth by war, famine, plagues, wild beasts (6:8)
3rd Bowl:	Red Horse takes peace from the earth (6:4)
4th Bowl:	Sea Becomes Blood, all sea life dies (16:3)
5th Bowl:	Sun Scorches Men (16:8-9)
6th Bowl:	White Horse bent on conquest (6:2)
7th Bowl:	Worldwide Earthquake, Cities Collapsing, Hailstones (16:17-21)

REVELATION REVIEW 2

Learn Popular Revelation Talking Points

Below are the Top 15 hottest topics in the book in current times.

It may help to commit these to memory because if you can't find them, you can't discuss them well! It may help to make a game of it. Cut out the items, fold over the chapters, and guess what they are until you know them all.

THE 7 DISPENSATIONS

Chapter	Popular Topics for Discussion	Why So Popular?
06	The four horses of the Apocalypse	Since seen in LORD OF THE RINGS, people like to wonder if they are coming soon and what they stand for: (White, Red, Black, and Pale, symbolizing Conquest, War, Famine, and Death)
07 & 14	The 144,000	People are unclear on who they are and often debate about it
08	The Locust Attack (that looks like helicopters)	People enjoy finding modern imagery in the book, and this is probably the most common
08	The Wormwood Attack (that looks like a nuclear fallout)	Because of Chernobyl people wondering about it
11	The Two Witnesses Prophecy, Die and are Raptured	The Futurists believe these are two individuals who are very curious about when they will come and what they will say
11	The Ark of the Covenant seen in heaven	The many documentaries about "Where is the Ark" draw comments about this appearance in heaven
12	The Pregnant Woman (who gives birth to the Male Child)	She has caused a lot of debate about whether she represents the Church or Israel, etc.
12 & 13	Time, Times, and Half a Time, 1,260 Days, 42 months	These shrouded clues draw mathematicians and others to determine what lengths of time they symbolize
13	Mark of the Beast Introduced	Futurists are diligently looking for something current that aligns with this image
13	Devil's Number 666 Introduced	Always a favorite...don't let others degrade the imagery with oversimplistic and convenient definitions
16	Term Armageddon Appears	It only appears one time in the Bible and people find that interesting, given how much this war is discussed
17-19	Mystery Babylon Described and Judged	"Is it the United States" has caused a big stir lately
19	The White Horse Ridden by Christ	Also common in media; people affectionately refer to it often
20	Terms Gog and Magog Appear	Futurists are watching carefully, suspecting it is Russia or an alliance of nations that used to be the Soviet Union
20	White Throne Judgement	Some teachers teach that Christians will not be here; others think Christians must be present.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. 24
2. 4
3. Fine linen
4. Faithful, True
5. The Word of God
6. KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

FROM DAY 2

1. 1,000 years
2. False
3. First resurrection
4. Priests
5. Second death
6. Book of life

FROM DAY 3

1. Heaven, earth
2. 12
3. 12
4. The names of the 12 tribes
5. The names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb
6. Pearl
7. The Root, the Offspring of David, the Bright Morning Star
8. Amen

FROM DAY 4

1. BEAST OF THE SEA: Antichrist
BEAST OF THE EARTH: False Prophet
RED DRAGON: Satan
2. Chapter 2: Bad (Jezebel)
Chapter 12: Good (Woman Gives Birth)
Chapter 17: Bad (Prostitute)
Chapter 21: Good (Wife of Christ)
3. Knowing Judgements: See page 9