

## a word from the pastor

I'm excited about beginning this new study in the Book of Revelation with you! This book, when studied correctly, will change your life. At the end of our journey through this book, I trust you will not look at the world the same. You'll begin to see that everything is in the control of a sovereign God. In the face of life's struggles, this book will comfort and encourage you like no other.

So buckle your seatbelt and ride along with John as he takes you on the ride of a lifetime. And when the ride is over, you'll be able to say in triumph, "Jesus wins!"

Pastor Armand Collins



## quick outline

<b>1:1-20</b>	<i>prologue</i>
<b>2:1-3:22</b>	<i>letters to the seven churches</i>
<b>4:1-5:14</b>	<i>God and Christ are glorified</i>
<b>6:1-8:5</b>	<i>seven seals</i>
<b>8:6-11:19</b>	<i>seven trumpets</i>
<b>12:1-15:4</b>	<i>deeper conflict</i>
<b>15:5-16:21</b>	<i>seven bowl judgments</i>
<b>17:1-19:21</b>	<i>final judgment of Babylon and the beast</i>
<b>20:1-15</b>	<i>millennium</i>
<b>21:1-22:5</b>	<i>new creation and the church perfected in glory</i>
<b>22:6-21</b>	<i>epilogue</i>

NO OTHER BOOK OF THE BIBLE HAS PROVOKED GREATER FASCINATION OR LED TO MORE CONTROVERSY THAN REVELATION...IN THE MIDST OF THE SOMETIMES PERPLEXING DETAILS OF ITS VISIONS, GOD'S FINAL MESSAGE TO HUMANITY REMAINS CLEAR: IN THE END, GOOD WILL TRIUMPH OVER EVIL, WICKEDNESS WILL BE JUDGED, AND THE RIGHTEOUS WILL RECEIVE THEIR REWARDS.

Charles R. Swindoll





# keys to understanding revelation

## Understanding what Revelation is NOT

- Revelation is NOT essentially about the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
- Revelation is NOT essentially about a \_\_\_\_\_ chart.
- Revelation is NOT meant to satisfy our \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The prophecies in Revelation are NOT meant to be interpreted against modern \_\_\_\_\_.
- Revelation is NOT meant to be turned into commodified \_\_\_\_\_.
- Revelation is NOT a \_\_\_\_\_ collection of unrelated \_\_\_\_\_.



## Understanding Revelation

- Revelation belongs to a genre of biblical literature called

\_\_\_\_\_.

- A distinguishing mark of Revelation is that it is filled with signs and

\_\_\_\_\_.

- The key to understanding Revelation is to have a working knowledge of the Old

\_\_\_\_\_.

Scholars estimate that as many as 278 out of 404 verses in Revelation contain references to the OT and that over 500 allusions to OT texts are made in total.

G. K. Beale



## 4 views on revelation

- The view which holds that Revelation is a prophecy of the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD and that everything in the book has already been fulfilled is called the \_\_\_\_\_ view.
- The view which suggests that the seals, trumpets, and bowls paint a picture of the successive ages of church history is called the \_\_\_\_\_ view.
- The view which sees the entire book as a symbolic depiction of the battle between good and evil is called the \_\_\_\_\_ view.
- The view which holds that chapters 4-22 of Revelation prophesies events surrounding the return of Christ at the end of history is called the \_\_\_\_\_ view.

4 views at a glance	
<b>Preterist</b>	<b><i>Events fulfilled by AD 70</i></b>
<b>Historicist</b>	<b><i>Panoramic view of church history</i></b>
<b>Idealist</b>	<b><i>Symbolic depiction of good vs. evil</i></b>
<b>Futurist</b>	<b><i>Description of future events yet to come</i></b>



## The 6 W's of Revelation

Who?

**Who?** \_\_\_\_\_, the disciple of Jesus and author of the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ as well as 1, 2, and 3 \_\_\_\_\_.

What?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Where?

**What?** A record of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that he saw and heard.

When?

**Where?** On the tiny island of \_\_\_\_\_, some 40 miles off the coast of Asia Minor, where John had been exiled for the gospel.

(to) Whom?

**When?** Most probably AD \_\_\_\_\_, during the reign of the emperor \_\_\_\_\_.

Why?

(to) **Whom?** Written to the \_\_\_\_\_ churches in \_\_\_\_\_ Minor.

**Why?** To bring encouragement and comfort to believers undergoing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, by showing them what will take place in the future.



# Part 1 (1:1-20)

*“Write therefore the things that you have seen...”*

## Prologue 1:1-3

The **revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He **made it known** by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



### Word Studies

- **‘Revelation’** from Greek ‘apokalupsis’ meaning “to uncover; to unveil”
- **‘made it known’** from Greek ‘esemanen’ meaning “to give a sign, to signify”

## The four-fold channel of communication



## The Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

- 1:3 “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near”
- 14:13 “...blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”
- 16:15 “...Blessed is the one who stays awake...”
- 19:9 “...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”
- 20:6 “Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection!”
- 22:7 “...Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book”
- 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life...”

## Focusing on the Facts

- The Book of Revelation is about \_\_\_\_\_ . (1:1)
- The Book of Revelation's chain of communication starts with God and moves to \_\_\_\_\_, then to the \_\_\_\_\_, who sends it to \_\_\_\_\_, who in turn sends it to the seven \_\_\_\_\_ in Asia Minor. (1:1-2)
- Revelation comes attached with a blessing for all those who \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ what is written in the book. (1:3)



### Stop and Apply

- God wants YOU to know His plans and purposes for the world.
- The blessing in 1:3 reminds us of the importance of not only being hearers, but also doers of the word, cf. James 1:22
- In light of Christ's return, we ought to live totally and decisively for Him now.





## Opening Greeting 1:4-8

**<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood<sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him**

**be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so.**

**Amen.<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**



### Word Study

- 'witness' from Greek 'martus' meaning "one is a spectator of anything; hence, witness"
- 'firstborn' from Greek 'protokos'; in various NT contexts, word carries meaning of "superiority of position"



### Interpretive difficulty

Who are the seven spirits before his throne (1:5)?

#### 2 main views:

**1. Angels**

**2. The Holy Spirit, cf. Is. 11:2; Zech. 4:2**



## Focusing on the Facts

- Jesus is called by three titles. What are they? (1:5)  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus has freed us from our sins by His \_\_\_\_\_. (1:5)
- God has made us a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God. (1:6)

### Vision of the Son of Man

1:9-20

**<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup>Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup>As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**





## Interpretive difficulty

What is the meaning of the phrase “the Lord’s day?” (1:10)

### 2 main views:

**1. The future “Day of the Lord”, cf. Joel 1:15; Amos 5:18**

**2. Sunday, cf. Matt. 28:1; Luke 24:1; 1 Cor. 16:2**

### Revelation’s Symbols Explained (1:12-16)

Symbol	OT background	Meaning
<b>seven golden lampstands</b>	Ex. 25:31 ff; Zech. 4:2-6	Represents the church, cf. 1:20
<b>one like a Son of Man</b>	Dan. 7:13	Introduces Christ as the Messiah of the OT
<b>long robe; golden sash</b>	Ex. 28:4; or Dan. 10:5	Indicates the exalted (priestly) status of Christ
<b>white hair</b>	Dan. 7:9	Represents Christ’s dignity, eternity, and holiness
<b>eyes like a flame of fire</b>	Dan. 10:6	Pictures Christ’s divine insight in connection with His judgment
<b>feet like burnished bronze</b>	Dan. 10:6; Ezek. 1:7	Pictures Christ’s glory and strength in connection with His judgment



<b>voice like many waters</b>	Ezek. 1:24; 43:2	Represents Christ's authority and power
<b>seven stars (in right hand)</b>	Job 38:7	Represents the 7 churches, cf. 1:20
<b>sharp sword in mouth</b>	Isaiah 11:4	Pictures Christ in His role as judge, cf. 2:16; 19:15
<b>face like the sun</b>	Isaiah 60:19(?); Judges 5:31(?)	Pictures Christ in His glorified state, cf. Matt. 17:2

### ***A divine outline of the Book (1:19) of Revelation***

<i>"Write therefore the things that you have seen..."</i>	chapter 1
<i>"...those that are..."</i>	chapters 2-3
<i>"...and those that are to take place after this."</i>	chapters 4-22

### **Focusing on the Facts**

- John was a brother and partner in the \_\_\_\_\_ and the kingdom and the \_\_\_\_\_ that are in Jesus. (1:9)



- John was on the island called \_\_\_\_\_ on account of the word of God. (1:9)
- List the seven churches in Asia Minor to whom John writes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:11)
- Christ holds the stars (churches) in His \_\_\_\_\_ hand. (1:16)



### Stop and Apply

- In times of difficulty, what we need most is a renewed vision of who Jesus is.
- We need to contemplate the reality of Christ's presence in our church and His awareness of everything that goes on in it.
- John's description of the Kingdom challenges contemporary understandings of what the Kingdom of God is all about (how does this understanding critique the so-called "health and wealth" gospel?)

### Homework Assignment:

- 1. Read chapter 2 two times (at regular speed, then slowly)**
- 2. Write down any exegetical questions you might have and bring to class next week.**
- 3. Go and do likewise!**



## Part 2 (2:1-3:22)

“...those [things] that are...”

### 7 churches at a glance

Ephesus (2:1-7)	“The Loveless Church”
Smyrna (2:8-11)	“The Persecuted Church”
Pergamum (2:12-17)	“The Indiscriminate Church”
Thyatira (2:18-29)	“The Compromising Church”
Sardis (3:1-6)	“The Dead Church”
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	“The Faithful Church”
Laodicea (3:14-22)	“The Lukewarm Church”

### Understanding Christ’s Letters to the Seven Churches

- These letters are addressed to \_\_\_\_\_ churches in \_\_\_\_\_ Minor (modern Turkey).
- These letters address \_\_\_\_\_ problems in \_\_\_\_\_ churches in \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.
- These churches are \_\_\_\_\_ of the spiritual conditions of all churches throughout the age of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- These churches were located on a \_\_\_\_\_ route, making them centers of distribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to other churches in the province.
- Other churches in Asia Minor included \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:17) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 1:2).



## Geographical Setting of 7 Churches



### Structure of the 7 letters

1. Addressee: "To the angel of the church in...write."
2. Character of Christ: "These are the words of..."
3. Claim of knowledge: "I know..."
4. Evaluation: commendations/rebuke
5. Promise or Threat: "I will..."
6. Challenge to overcome: "him who overcomes..."
7. Call to listen: "he who has an ear..."



## Ephesus 2:1-7

**“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> ‘‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.<sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’**

## Ephesus—The Loveless Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
authority	doctrinal zeal	lost love	repent	tree of life

*“Orthodoxy without orthopraxy is a false religion.”*

Grant R. Osborne







## Interpretive difficulty

What reality is being referred to by the phrase, “**abandoned the love [they] had at first?**” (2:4)

### 2 Main views:

1. The loss of enthusiasm/excitement they had shortly after conversion
2. The loss of their missionary zeal

### Focusing on the Facts

- The Ephesians have \_\_\_\_\_ those who call themselves apostles and found them to be \_\_\_\_\_. (2:2)
- 3 verb imperatives instruct the Ephesians on what they should do; what are they: 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (2:5)
- The Ephesians had abandoned their first \_\_\_\_\_. (2:4)
- The Ephesians hated the works of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Who were the Nicolaitans? (2:6, 15)

Short answer: We don't know for sure.

Longer answer: Early church father Irenaeus sees a link with Nicolaus, one of the deacons of Acts 6:5, who supposedly departed from the truth. However, little evidence exists to substantiate this claim.

Although Revelation doesn't say much about their doctrine, it does mention their practices:

1. Immorality
2. idolatry





## Stop and Apply

- It is possible to be doctrinally sound and spiritually cold.
- We must always be aware of the danger of losing our missionary zeal.
- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the Ephesian church?
- The path to spiritual restoration is 3-fold: remember, repent, and do.

Smyrna 2:8-11

**<sup>8</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. <sup>9</sup> “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’**

### Smyrna—The Persecuted Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
giving life	spiritually rich		suffer for Christ	freedom from death





## Interpretive difficulties

1. What is the meaning of the phrase “**synagogue of Satan?**” (2:9)

Best answer: referred to the fact that the Jews who were opposing the Christians in Smyrna weren't the true assembly of God.

Scripture to consider: John 8:44; Romans 2:28-29

2. Are the “**10 days**” of tribulation to be taken literally or symbolically? (2:10)

Best answer: a literal 10 day period of testing/tribulation.

Scripture to consider: Daniel 1:12; also cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13

3. What is the meaning of the phrase “**second death?**” (2:11)

Answer: the lake of fire, i.e., final eternal punishment (in contradistinction to physical death).

Scripture to consider: Revelation 20:6, 14; 21:8



## Focusing on the Facts

- The Jews who slandered the Christians were called a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. (2:9)
- The Christians at Smyrna were about to be thrown into \_\_\_\_\_ and undergo persecution for \_\_\_\_\_ days. (2:10)
- Christ exhorts them to be faithful unto \_\_\_\_\_, after which He would give them the crown of \_\_\_\_\_. (2:10)



## Stop and Apply

- God is faithful to us in our persecutions/trials.
- In times of material poverty, we must remember our spiritual riches.
- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Smyrna?
- Persecution tends to purify faith.



## Pergamum 2:12-17

**<sup>12</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> “‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. <sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’**

### Pergamum—The Indiscriminate Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
warrior against sin	holding fast	false teaching/immorality	repent	spiritual significance



#### Interpretive difficulties

1. Why is Pergamum called “**Satan’s throne?**” (2:13)



Best answer: Pergamum was the center of the imperial cult (emperor worship) for the province of Asia.

2. What is the meaning of the figure “**hidden manna?**” (2:17)

Best answer: the true spiritual bread that God gives to the believer; cf. John 6:22ff.

3. What is the meaning of the figure “**white stone?**” (2:17)

Best answer: refers to the believer’s entrance into the messianic banquet, cf. 19:6-9. (White stones were given to victors at athletic games which gained them entrance into certain celebratory feasts.)

4. What is the meaning of the figure “**new name?**” (2:17)

Best answer: a new name given to the overcomer by Christ.

Scripture to consider: Isaiah 62:2; 65:15

### **Focusing on the Facts**

- Those at Pergamum did not deny the faith in the days of \_\_\_\_\_. (2:13)
- Those at Pergamum hold the teachings of 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and 2) \_\_\_\_\_. (2:14, 15)



- Christ promises them (3) things: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_. (2:17)



### Stop and Apply

- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Pergamum?
- Doctrinal vigilance is important.
- Christ is aware of the difficulties of doing ministry in ungodly environments.

Thyatira 2:18-29

**<sup>18</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup> "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. <sup>20</sup> But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. <sup>22</sup> Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup> But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup> Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'**



## Thyatira—The Compromising Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
searching heart	love, service	false teaching/immorality	repudiate Jezebel	rule over nations



### Word Studies

- **'tolerate'** from Greek 'aphiemi' meaning "to allow or permit"
- **'seducing'** from Greek 'planao' meaning "to deceive; lead aside from the right way"



### Interpretive difficulties

1. What is the meaning of the phrase "**deep things of Satan?**" (2:24)

Answer: use of sarcasm; "Jezebel" claimed to teach the "deep things of God" but was actually peddling the "deep things of Satan."

2. What is the meaning of the figure "**morning star?**" (2:28)





Best answers: 1) the righteous will shine as stars in the messianic kingdom, cf. Daniel 12:3

2) refers to the fact that we will know Christ (the Bright Morning Star, cf. 22:16) fully in heaven, cf. 2 Peter 1:19

### **Symbol Explanation**

<i>Jezebel</i>	code name for false teacher, cf. 1Kings 16:31-34; 21:25-26
<i>sickbed</i>	to be afflicted with serious illness
<i>great tribulation</i>	imminent judgment (not the Tribulation of 6-16)

### **Focusing on the Facts**

- Christ knows their works, their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and patient \_\_\_\_\_. (2:19)
- Those at Thyatira tolerate the woman called \_\_\_\_\_. (2:20)
- Jezebel teaches the practice of sexual \_\_\_\_\_ and to eat food sacrificed to \_\_\_\_\_. (2:20)
- Christ promises to throw Jezebel on a \_\_\_\_\_. (2:22)





## Stop and Apply

- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Thyatira?
- It is dangerous to compromise the church's doctrinal distinctives.
- The elders of the church must protect it from error.
- How might you compromise your Christian convictions?

### Homework Assignment:

1. Complete the “focusing on the facts” sections.
2. Read chapter 3 of Revelation twice and record any questions you may have.
3. Go and do likewise!



## Sardis 3:1-6

**“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. ‘“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.<sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.<sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.<sup>4</sup> Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.<sup>5</sup> The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.<sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’**

“No church is beyond hope as long as there is a remnant in it, willing to strengthen the things that remain.”

Warren W. Wiersbe

### Sardis—The Dead Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
Source of Spirit	A few faithful saints	Spiritually dead	Awake!	White robe



### Ancient Background

- Seven miles outside the city of Sardis was a large necropolis (ancient cemetery). The word “necropolis” literally means “city of the dead.” (3:1b)



## The “Book of Life” (3:5b)

The theme of the “Book of Life” has a rich background in Biblical theology and can be traced out.

**OT:** Ex. 32:32-33; Register of the citizens of Israel: Ps. 9:5; 87:6; Isa. 4:3; Ps. 69:28; Dan. 12:1

**NT:** Luke 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Heb. 12:23; in the Book of Revelation: 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27

- Sardis was the center of the wool trade in the Greco-Roman world. It was claimed that the art of dying wool was discovered there. (3:5)
- Twice the city of Sardis fell to its enemies because the watchmen had fallen asleep on their posts. In 546 B.C., the Persian King Cyrus laid siege to the city for 14 days. (3:3b)

### Focusing on the Facts

- “The words of Him who has the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the seven \_\_\_\_\_.” (3:1a)
- Sardis had the reputation of being \_\_\_\_\_, but they were \_\_\_\_\_. (3:1b)
- If they didn’t repent, Christ promised to come to them like a \_\_\_\_\_. (3:3)
- Sardis had a few \_\_\_\_\_ who had not \_\_\_\_\_ their garments. (3:4)





## Stop and Apply

- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Sardis? Are we watching for the signs that our church is losing its life? What are those signs? How might we strengthen what remains?
- Are you dead spiritually? What are the signs that a spiritual life has lost its vigor? Is it possible to appear vibrant spiritually but really be dead spiritually? How might we be revived in our spiritual lives?

Philadelphia 3:7-13

**<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. <sup>8</sup> “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’**



## Philadelphia—The Faithful Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
Opening door	Keeping the word		Continue	Secure dwelling



### Interpretive difficulties

1. What is the meaning behind the “**open door?**” (3:8)

Best Answer: Refers to the ‘door’ of the kingdom.

2. What is the meaning of the figure, “**pillar in the temple of my God?**” (3:12)

Best Answer: the permanent place the believer has in God’s kingdom.

3. What is the meaning of those expressions regarding being given a “**name?**” (3:12)

Answer: these figures refer to the same promise: eternal union with God and fellowship in His presence; cf. Ezekiel 48:35



## The Rapture of the Church (3:10)

What does the term 'Rapture' mean?

The English word "rapture" comes from the Latin word *raptura*, which in Latin Bibles translates the Greek word *harpazo* that is used 14 times in the NT. The basic meaning is "to suddenly remove or snatch away."

What is the Rapture?

The rapture is the teaching that at or before the return of Christ the Christians who are alive on earth will be transformed into resurrected bodies and be "caught up" with Jesus in the clouds.

Verses used to support the doctrine of the rapture are as follows:

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
2. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
3. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
4. Revelation 3:10

## Focusing on the Facts

- Jesus has the key of \_\_\_\_\_. (3:7)
- The Christians at Philadelphia had little \_\_\_\_\_, but they have kept His \_\_\_\_\_ and not denied His \_\_\_\_\_. (3:8)
- Christ will keep them from the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ that is coming on the whole world. (3:10)
- To the one who conquers, Christ will give a \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of my God. (3:12)



### Stop and Apply

- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Philadelphia?
- Does our church culture place too much emphasis on size and influence?
- Can a Christian lose their salvation? Why or why not?
- What seems to be the missing link to Christian faithfulness?



## Laodicea 3:14-22

**<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.<sup>15</sup> "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"**

### Laodicea—The Lukewarm Church

Character of Christ	Strength	Problem	Duty	Promise
True witness		worthless	Admit need; receive from Christ	fellowship



### Ancient Background

- Laodicea was a center of banking and finance. When Cicero was traveling in Asia Minor, he cashed his letters of credit at Laodicea. It was one of the wealthiest cities in the world. (3:18)





- Laodicea was also a center of medical care. It was home to a medical school (ophthalmology) famous for ointments for the eye. (3:18c)
- Laodicea was a center of clothing manufacture. The sheep around the city were known for their violent-black, glossy wool. The city mass-produced garments. (3:18c)
- Laodicea's water supply was piped in from neighboring Hierapolis through an ancient aqueduct system. The springs of Hierapolis were known to be very hot and, by

A COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD VERSE  
(3:20)

THIS VERSE IS NOT A CALL FOR  
EVANGELISM PER SE. INSTEAD, IT IS A  
CALL TO A WEAK CHURCH TO REPENT!

the time it arrived at Laodicea, it was lukewarm and sometimes dangerous to drink. (3:15-16)

### Focusing on the Facts

- Jesus is called the \_\_\_\_\_, the faithful and true \_\_\_\_\_, and the beginning of God's \_\_\_\_\_. (3:14)
- The problem at Laodicea wasn't that they were cold or hot, but that they were \_\_\_\_\_. (3:16)



- The Christians at Laodicea were wretched, pitiable, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and naked. (3:17)
- Those whom Christ loves He does to things. What are they? 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3:19)



### Stop and Apply

- Does Elim Baptist Church resemble the church at Laodicea?
- Why is affluence so often a stumbling block to faith in Christ?
- What is “lukewarm” religion? What is the antidote to lukewarm religion?
- It is possible to be materially rich yet spiritually poor.

### Homework Assignment:

1. Complete the “focusing on the facts” sections.
2. Read chapters 4-5 of Revelation and jot down any question you might have.
3. Complete personal edict letter exercise on page 35.
4. Go and do likewise!



To \_\_\_\_\_ at the Church in Detroit (Elim Baptist Church)

To Brother or Sister \_\_\_\_\_ write: These are the words of the

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_.

"I know your works. I know that

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. I also know

that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. Moreover I know

that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Yet I have this against you.**

You \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

You

also \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Finally

you \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Repent, or else I will come to you and remove your lampstand in

judgment. To the one who conquers I

will \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to

you.



## Part 3 (4:1-22:21)

*"...and those [things] that are to take place after this."*

### God's Throne Room (4:1-5:14)

#### Understanding the pivot point of Revelation

- The unifying theme of these chapters is the centrality of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 4:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10; 5:1, 6, 7, 11, 13
- The judgments of chapters 6-16 \_\_\_\_\_ from God's throne room in these chapters.
- The overall atmosphere of these chapters is that of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the Lamb.
- These chapters assure believers that God is still in control of \_\_\_\_\_.
- These chapters teach that there is a connection between salvation, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**"AS WE CENTER ON THE GOD WHO  
CONTROLS THE FUTURE, WE CAN OVERCOME  
THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PRESENT"**

Grant R. Osborne



## The throne vision and Daniel 7

<b>The prophet “looks”</b>	Dan. 7:9; Rev. 4:1
<b>He sees a throne in heaven with God sitting on it</b>	Dan. 7:9; Rev. 4:2
<b>God’s appearance is described</b>	Dan. 7:9; Rev. 4:3
<b>There is fire before the throne</b>	Dan. 7:9-10; Rev. 4:5
<b>“Myriads of myriads” of heavenly beings surround throne</b>	Dan. 7:10; Rev. 5:11
<b>Books are opened</b>	Dan. 7:10; Rev. 5:1-5
<b>Divine figure approaches throne and receives kingdom</b>	Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 5:5-13
<b>This kingdom consists of all people</b>	Dan. 7:14; Rev. 5:9
<b>The prophet experiences distress on account of vision</b>	Dan. 7:15; Rev. 5:4
<b>The prophet receives wisdom concerning vision</b>	Dan. 7:16; Rev. 5:5
<b>Saints are given authority to reign over a kingdom</b>	Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 5:10
<b>Vision concludes with mention of God’s reign</b>	Dan. 7:27; Rev. 5:13-14

Adapted from G. K. Beale, Revelation: A Shorter Commentary

### Throne in Heaven 4:1-11

**After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”** <sup>2</sup> At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.<sup>3</sup> And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup> From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings<sup>[a]</sup> and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of



God, <sup>6</sup> and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup> the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!”

<sup>9</sup> And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

<sup>11</sup> “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.”



### Interpretive difficulty

Who are the 24 elders? (4:4)

#### 2 main views:

1. Human representatives (redeemed church?)
2. Angelic representatives, cf. 5:8; 7:13-14; 11:18; 14:3

Why the number 24?

Best Answer: highlights the priestly function of these representatives, alluding to the 24 orders of the priesthood, cf. 1 Chronicles 24:3-19



## The 4 living creatures of around the throne (4:6b-8a)



Representative of *untamed* creation?



Representative of *domesticated* creation?



Representative of *human* creation?



Representative of *avian* creation?

Many commentators believe these living creatures represent the whole of animate creation. The visions are strikingly similar to those found in Ezekiel 1 and Isaiah 6. Those visions clearly identify these living creatures as Cherubim and Seraphim.

### Focusing on the Facts

- “After this I looked, and behold, a \_\_\_\_\_ standing open in \_\_\_\_\_! (4:1)
- God is likened to a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ stone. (4:3)
- Around God's throne are \_\_\_\_\_ thrones, and seated on the thrones are 24 \_\_\_\_\_. (4:4)
- The four living creatures have appearances like a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (4:7)





## Stop and Apply

- Do you in practice live with a weak view of God's sovereignty?
- What is the primary goal of creation, particularly human beings?
- Does our earthly worship (individual/corporate) reflect the heavenly pattern of Revelation 4?
- For what reasons do we worship God?
- When we get to heaven, what will it be like?

### Homework Assignment:

- 1. Complete the “focusing on the facts” questions.**
- 2. Read chapter 5 of Revelation.**
- 3. Find out how many songs, hymns, or anthems are found in the Book of Revelation. Why do you think there are so many?**





## A Short Theology of Worship (4:1-11)

- Christian worship has as its object, \_\_\_\_\_.(2-3)
- Worship has as its focus, God's:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
- Worship has as its centrality, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(chapter 5)
- Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_ beings. (6-7)
- Worship involves the ascription of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- Worship should invoke in us a sense of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.(5)
- Worship is often expressed in \_\_\_\_\_  
(singing).
- Worship is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.



## The Lamb Takes the Scroll

5:1-14

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"



**13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,**

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

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

## The Scroll of Revelation 5



<b>Location:</b>	<i>In the right hand of Him seated on the throne</i>	<u>Significance:</u> God is sovereign over the events of history and the future
<b>Description:</b>	<i>Written within and on the back</i>	<u>Significance:</u> God's plan for the future is extensive and comprehensive in nature
<b>Contents:</b>	<i>Sealed with seven seals</i>	<u>Significance:</u> The prophetic revelation has not yet been disclosed
<b>Prophetic dilemma:</b>	<i>No one worthy to open the scroll</i>	<u>Significance:</u> Man cannot effect his own destiny
<b>Prophetic solution:</b>	<i>Lion of the tribe of Judah, Root of David is worthy</i>	<u>Significance:</u> God controls the events of the future; Jesus is the key to history



## Focusing on the Facts

- The scroll in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne was sealed with \_\_\_\_\_ seals. (5:1)
- John began to weep because no one was found \_\_\_\_\_ to open the scroll. (5:5)
- Jesus is called by two messianic titles. What are they?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- John beheld the Lamb as though it had been slain, with seven \_\_\_\_\_ and seven \_\_\_\_\_, which are the seven \_\_\_\_\_ of God sent out into all the earth. (5:6)



### Stop and Apply

- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus has “conquered?”
- What should our response to God be in light of His redemption, power, glory, etc.?
- What does this text teach us about human nature in general? What is the solution to the problem of sin?
- What should be the focus of our corporate and individual worship?



## Opening the 7 Seals (6:1-8:5)

### First 6 Seal Judgments 6:1-17

**Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" <sup>2</sup> And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.**

**<sup>3</sup> When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" <sup>4</sup> And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.**

**<sup>5</sup> When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"**

**<sup>7</sup> When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.**

**<sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. <sup>10</sup> They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.**

**<sup>12</sup> When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, <sup>13</sup> and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.**



**<sup>14</sup> The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"**

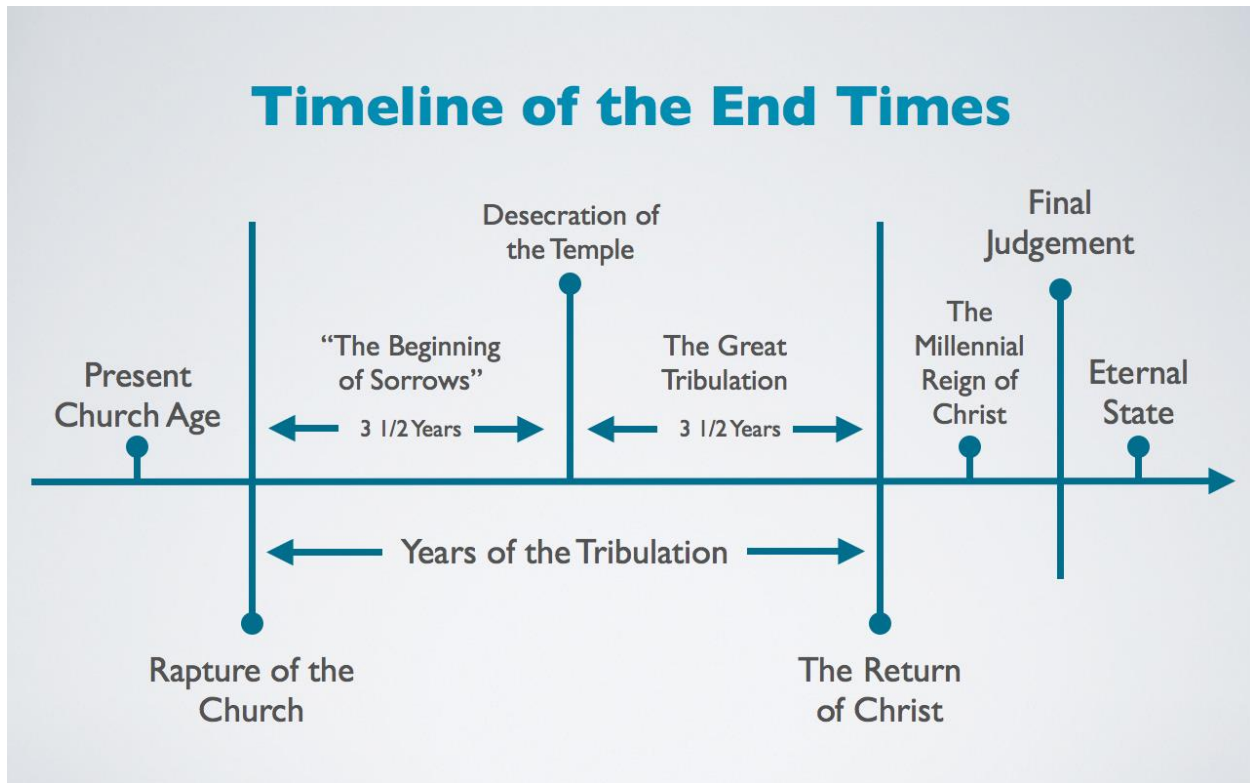
## Preparatory Lessons for Revelation's Prophecies

### What is Dispensationalism?

- Dispensationalism is a \_\_\_\_\_ of interpreting the scriptures.
- Dispensationalism is not a \_\_\_\_\_ school of thought, but its adherents are found across a broad theological spectrum.
- Dispensationalism, when reduced to its essentials, has as its main beliefs:
  - 1) The Church began at \_\_\_\_\_ and is NOT to be \_\_\_\_\_ as Israel.
  - 2) God has a future for the nation of Israel, and many of the OT promises made to them will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the future.
  - 3) Israel will function as a literal nation in the \_\_\_\_\_.



## The Future at a Glance



## The Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ

Misconception: God will mete out punishment for our sins.

Correct View: Rewards will be given or lost depending on how one has used his/her life for the Lord.

Key Verses:

- 1) Romans 14:10-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- 3) 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
- 4) 1 John 2:28



## 5) Revelation 3:11-12; 22:12

The English phrase “judgment seat” translates the Greek word *bema*, which referred to a raised platform. The word is associated with the Isthmian Games:

1. Contestants competed for prizes
2. Judges enforced the rules of the games, cf. 2 Tim. 2:5
3. Victors were led to the *bema* (raised platform)
4. Laurel wreaths were placed on the heads of the victors, cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-25

**WHEN:** After the rapture, cf. 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 4:5

**WHO:** Believers only, cf. Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:12ff; 2 Cor. 5:9ff

**WHAT:** An evaluation of believer’s works; believers will not come under judgment, cf. John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 1 Cor. 11:32





## The Day of the Lord in the Old Testament

The Day of the Lord will be characterized by a pouring out of divine wrath on God's enemies. However, the Day of the Lord is also marked by divine blessing upon God's people.

### The Day of the Lord in the OT

1. Obad. 15
2. Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14
3. Amos 5:18; 20
4. Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9
5. Zeph. 1:7, 14
6. Ezek. 13:5; 30:3
7. Zech. 14:1
8. Mal. 4:5

## A Short Theology of Biblical Judgment

- Judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Rom. 3:5ff; Heb. 6:1-2)
- Judgment day will be \_\_\_\_\_. (Jude 14ff; 2 Thess. 1:7ff; Rev. 20:11ff)
- \_\_\_\_\_ will be the Judge. (John 5:22; Matt. 25:31ff; Acts 10:42)
- All \_\_\_\_\_ will be judged. (2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; 1 Pet. 4:17)



- All \_\_\_\_\_ will be judged. (Rom. 2:16; 1 Cor. 4:5; Mark 4:22; Matt. 12:36)
- The judgment is \_\_\_\_\_. (Heb. 9:27; Rom. 2:3; Matt. 23:33)
- Judgment is according to \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6; 1 Cor. 3:8; Rev. 22:12)
- The Judgment is \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom. 2:2; Rev. 19:11)
- Believers may have \_\_\_\_\_ in the judgment (Rom. 8:33; Jude 24; 1 John 4:17)

## A Comparison between the Olivet Discourse and the Seals of Revelation

<b>"Beginning of Birth-Pangs"</b> (Matt. 24:8; Mark 13:8) <i>The first half of the Tribulation</i>					
Matt. 24:4-5	Mark 13:6	Luke 21:8	Antichrists	Rev. 6:1-2	First seal
Matt. 24:6-7	Mark 13:7-8	Luke 21:9-10	War	Rev. 6:3-4	Second seal
Matt. 24:7	Mark 13:8	Luke 21:11	Famine	Rev. 6:5-6	Third seal
Matt. 24:9	Mark 13:12	Luke 21:16	Death	Rev. 6:7-8	Fourth seal
Matt. 24:9-13	Mark 13:9-13	Luke 21:12-19	Martyrdom	Rev. 6:9-11	Fifth seal
		Luke 21:11	Earthly & heavenly phenomena	Rev. 6:12-17	Sixth seal
<b>"Abomination of Desolation"</b> (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14) <i>The middle of the Tribulation</i>					



## The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse (6:1-8)



### **Color of Horse**   **Meaning**

White	Conquest by "peaceful" means?
Red	War
Black	Famine
Pale (Ashen)	Death



### **Interpretive difficulties**

Who is the rider of the white horse? (6:1-2)

#### **2 main views:**

- 1. Christ, cf. Rev. 19:11**
- 2. Antichrist; an unidentified personal force**



What is the meaning of the phrase, “and do not harm the oil and wine!” (6:6)

## 2 main views:

**1. Represents a limitation to the famine's affects**

**2. An allusion to Domitian's (AD 92) edict to remove half the vineyards of the empire during a crop shortage**

## Focusing on the Facts

- John watched as the \_\_\_\_\_ opened one of the seven seals. (6:1)
- Name the colors of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and what they represent:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_
- What did John see when he opened the fifth seal?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(6:9)
- When John opened the sixth seal, he looked and there was a great \_\_\_\_\_. (6:12)





### **Stop and Apply**

- How might we avoid the negative consequences of God's judgment?
- Do you live in light of the reality of God's judgment? How does it lead to holiness?
- What does God's judgment of the unbelieving word say about the necessity of faith?
- What does this chapter, if anything, say about the necessity of waiting on God?

### **Homework Assignment:**

- 1. Read chapter 7 of Revelation.**
- 2. Review your notes from chapter 6.**
- 3. Research what the JW's teach about the religious significance of the number 144,000. Bring your notes to class next week.**



## Prophetic Interlude (7:1-17)

Revelation 7:1-17 forms a parenthesis between the 6<sup>th</sup> seal (6:12-17) and the 7<sup>th</sup> seal (8:1). It answers the question posed in 6:17, "*...for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand.*"

144,000 of Israel Sealed 7:1-  
17

**After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:**

**<sup>5</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,  
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,  
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,**

**<sup>6</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,  
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,  
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,**

**<sup>7</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,  
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,  
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,**

**<sup>8</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,  
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,  
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.**

**<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around**



the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> "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.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."



### Interpretive difficulties

1. Who are the 144,000? (7:1-8)

### 2 main views:

1. Representative of the redeemed church
2. Redeemed Jews who serve a missionary purpose (dispensational), cf. 7:9-17

2. What is the identity of the great multitude of 7:9-17?



## 2 main views:

1. Representative of the church (from a different vantage point)
2. Representative of the tribulation saints (dispensational view)

### Salvation in Judgment

While the tribulation period will be a time of judgment, it will also be a time of salvation as the gospel will be proclaimed and many will come to faith in Christ.

Scriptures for consideration:

- 1) Rev. 7:14; 6:9-11; 20:4
- 2) Matthew 24:14
- 3) Isaiah 11:10

### Focusing on the Facts

- The angels in John's vision were holding back the \_\_\_\_\_ corners of the earth. (7:1)
- "And I heard the number of the sealed, \_\_\_\_\_, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel." (7:4)





- What did John observe in the hands of the great multitude? \_\_\_\_\_
- The elder states the identity of the great multitude as being those who have come out the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (7:14)



### **Stop and Apply**

- What does this chapter tell us about God? What do we learn about God's care and concern for the elect?
- What does this chapter teach us about God's protection?
- How does this chapter underscore the truth of God's patient and forbearance?
- How does this chapter warn the unbeliever?



## The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (8:1-5)

### The Seventh Seal (8:1-5)

**When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. <sup>3</sup> And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, <sup>4</sup> and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.**

### The Silence of Foreboding (8:1)

**Psalm 76:8-9**

**Habakkuk 2:20**

**Zephaniah 1:7**

**Zechariah 2:13**

#### The Altar of Incense

The wooden altar, overlaid with pure gold (Ex. 30:1–10; 37:25–28), was 3 feet high, and 1.5 feet long and wide (1 m x 0.5 m x 0.5 m). It stood in the Holy Place before the veil which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. It was transported by means of wooden poles which were overlaid with gold and inserted through rings attached to the sides of the altar.



## The First Four Trumpets (8:6-13)

### First Four Trumpets (8:6-13)

**<sup>6</sup> Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.**

**<sup>7</sup> The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

**<sup>8</sup> The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup> A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

**<sup>10</sup> The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.**

**<sup>12</sup> The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.**

**<sup>13</sup> Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"**



## The 7 Trumpets of Revelation

CHURCH OF THE ROCK  
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# THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Green grass and 1/3 of the trees are burned up. Rev. 8:7	1/3 of sea becomes blood; 1/3 of ships and sea life destroyed. Rev. 8:8-9	1/3 of waters turn bitter. Rev. 8:1-11	1/3 of sun, moon, and stars do not shine. Rev. 8:12	"Locusts" wield the Beast's military power. Rev. 9:1-12	200-million-man army; a third of mankind killed. Rev. 9:13-21	The Kingdom of God is declared. Rev. 11:15-19

### Wormwood in the Bible (8:11)

Wormwood is the name of a plant and of the bitter-tasting extract derived from it.

"Wormwood" is mentioned 8 times in the OT, where it is associated with bitterness, poison, and death. Cf. Deut. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; 6:12

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Revelation 1-11



## Focusing on the Facts

- John reports that there was silence in heaven for about \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_. (8:1)
- Another angel came and stood at the altar and was given much incense to offer with the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the \_\_\_\_\_. (8:3)
- The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ was struck, and a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. (8:12)
- John looked and saw an \_\_\_\_\_ crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead. It was heard saying, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_!



### Stop and Apply

- What does this text say about the power and efficacy of prayer?
- What does the limitation of these judgments say about the mercy of God? (Cf. 9:20-21 which seems to suggest that the judgments are designed to lead men to repentance)
- What does this chapter reveal about the power and majesty of God?



## The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpets (9:1-21)

### The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12)

**And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup> He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. <sup>3</sup> Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. <sup>4</sup> They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. <sup>6</sup> And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.**

**<sup>7</sup> In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, <sup>8</sup> their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; <sup>9</sup> they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. <sup>11</sup> They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.**

**<sup>12</sup> The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.**



### Interpretive difficulties

What is the identity of the “star fallen from heaven to earth?” (9:1)



## The Bottomless Pit (9:1-2)

From Greek *abyssou*; literally, “the pit of the abyss.”

The Bottomless Pit in Scripture referred to the place of incarcerated demons. The term is mentioned 7 times in the Book of Revelation, cf. 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3.

Certain demons in Jesus’ day seemed to be aware of this place of torment, cf. Luke 8:31

In Romans 10:7, Paul uses the term to refer to the place of the dead.

Why are these demons incarcerated in the Abyss?

Apparently, these fallen angels (demons) committed sin:

1. 2 Peter 2:4
2. Jude 6
3. Cf. Genesis 6:4

### 3 Main Views:

1. Satan, cf. 12:7-9
2. A fallen angel (demon)
3. A holy angel whom God sends to open the bottomless pit

What is the identity of the locusts? (9:3-11)

### 3 Main Views:

1. Literal locusts, cf. Joel 1:2-2:11
2. Demons in the form of locusts, cf. 9:11
3. Symbolic representation of some other destructive judgment

Who is the “angel of the bottomless pit?” (9:11)

### 2 Main Views:

1. Satan, the same as in 9:1



## 2. Some other high-ranking fallen angel

### The Sixth Trumpet (9:12-21)

**<sup>12</sup> The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.**

**<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."<sup>15</sup> So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup> The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. <sup>17</sup> And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. <sup>18</sup> By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.**

**<sup>20</sup> The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, <sup>21</sup> nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**



### Interpretive difficulty

What is the identity of the "mounted troops" of 9:16?





### 3 main views:

1. Symbolic representation of human armies
2. Demonic army in the form of human armies
3. Symbolic description of a demonic army

### Focusing on the Facts

- The locusts were given power like the power of \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth. (9:3\_
- The locusts were instructed not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those who do not have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God on their \_\_\_\_\_ . (9:4)
- The power of the locusts to hurt people was for the period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (9:10)
- Those who were not killed by these plagues refused to \_\_\_\_\_ of their works...nor did they repent of their murders or their \_\_\_\_\_ or their sexual \_\_\_\_\_ or their \_\_\_\_\_. (9:20-21)



### Stop and Apply

- The purpose of these judgments was to lead men to repentance (cf. 9:20-21). Does God use judgment in a similar way today? (cf. Luke 13:1-5)



- What details of this chapter teach that God is sovereign over evil? Do we give the Satan more power over our lives than he really has?
- What does this chapter say about the necessity of genuine repentance?

### **Homework Assignment**

- 1. Read chapters 10:1-11:14**
- 2. Record any questions you have and bring to class next week.**
- 3. Pray for insight into personal application of last week's lesson.**



## Prophetic Interlude (10:1-11:14)

### The Angel and Scroll (10:1-11)

**Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. <sup>2</sup> He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, <sup>3</sup> and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." <sup>5</sup> And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven <sup>6</sup> and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, <sup>7</sup> but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.**

**<sup>8</sup> Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." <sup>9</sup> So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." <sup>10</sup> And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. <sup>11</sup> And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."**



### Interpretive difficulty

What is the identity of the "mighty angel" in 10:1?



## 2 main views:

### 1. The angel represents Jesus Christ

### 2. This is an angel of high rank or status

Revelation	Ezekiel	Daniel
<p><b>Then I saw another mighty angel...wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire... (10:1)</b></p>	<p>...behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth...(1:4-5)</p>	<p>I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of gold...his body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning...(10:5-6)</p>
<p><b>...I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down...(10:4)</b></p>		<p>But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end...(12:4)</p>
<p><b>...And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever...(10:5-6)</b></p>		<p>...And I heard the man clothed in linen...he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever...(12:7)</p>
<p><b>...Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel...And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey...(10:8-9)</b></p>	<p>...behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book...And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll...and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey...(2:9-3:4)</p>	



## Focusing on the Facts

- The mighty angel was wrapped in a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_ was over his head (10:1).
- When the mighty angel called out with a loud voice, the seven \_\_\_\_\_ sounded (10:3).
- John was instructed to \_\_\_\_\_ up what the seven thunders have said, and do \_\_\_\_\_ write it down (10:4).
- What did the voice from heaven instruct John to do with the scroll \_\_\_\_\_ (10:9)?



### Stop and Apply

- What does this chapter say to you about the reality of answered prayer? (cf. 10:6)
- Why doesn't God reveal the totality of His will to us? Is what He does reveal to us enough?
- What should we do with God's word?
- What is a necessary prerequisite to evangelism, preaching, teaching, etc.?



## The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)

**Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, <sup>2</sup> but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup> And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."**

**<sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. <sup>6</sup> They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. <sup>7</sup> And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, <sup>8</sup> and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, <sup>10</sup> and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. <sup>13</sup> And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

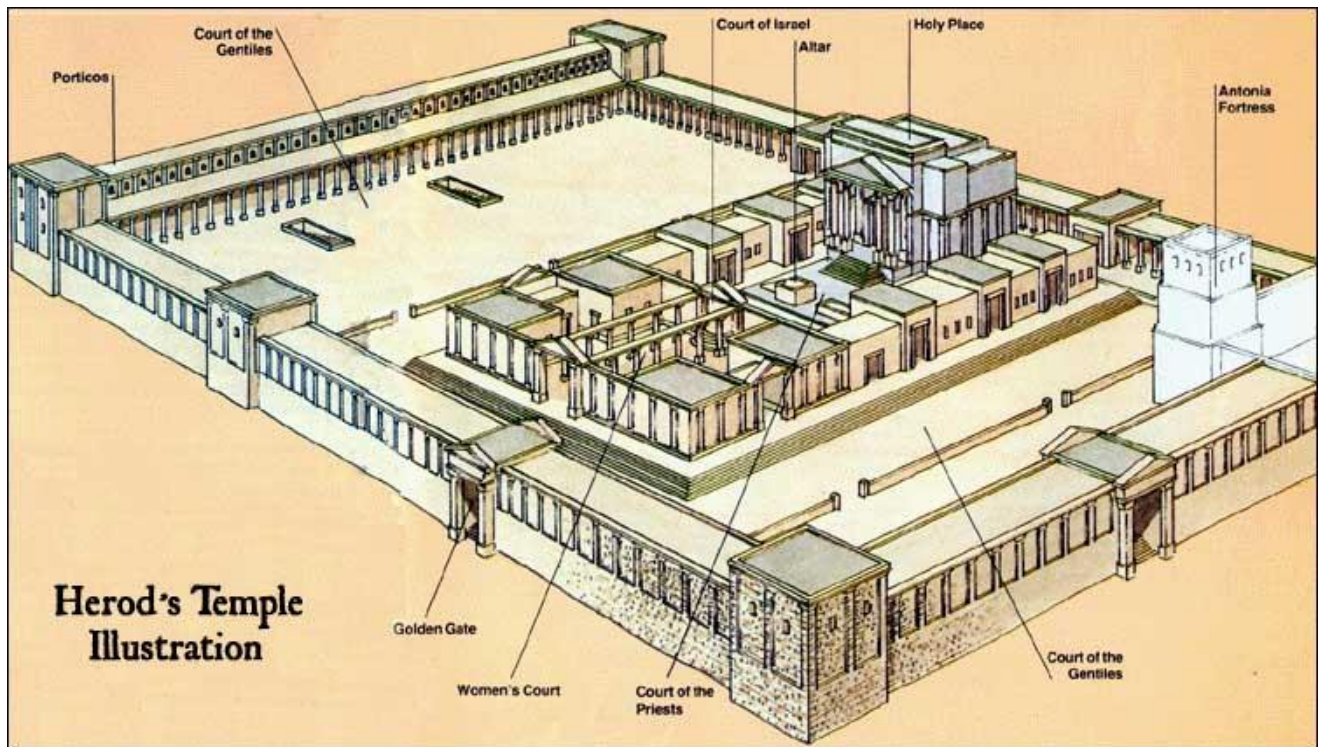
**<sup>14</sup> The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.**





## Ancient Background

- ✓ *Measuring Rod (Reed)*: From Greek *Kalamos*, which referred to a reedlike plant that grew in the Jordan River Valley to a height of 15 to 20 feet. The stalk of the plant was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as a measuring device.





## Interpretive difficulty

Who are the two witnesses of Revelation 11:1-13?

Several Views:

- ✓ Moses & Elijah: The ministry of the two witnesses bear striking resemblance to the ministries of Moses and Elijah, cf. Mal. 4:4-5; Matt. 17:4
- ✓ Enoch & Elijah: Some commentators point out that Enoch and Elijah were both translated alive into heaven.
- ✓ Joshua & Zerubbabel: Some commentators see a connection between Revelation 11:1-14 and Zechariah 4.
- ✓ Symbolic of the witness of the Church: typical of Preterist/Idealist interpreters.
- ✓ Two unidentified Jewish evangelists/doomsday prophets to be revealed during the Tribulation





## Focusing on the Facts

- John was given a measuring \_\_\_\_\_ and was told to measure the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ and those who \_\_\_\_\_ there (11:1).
- What was John NOT to measure?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why was he told not to measure it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(11:2)

- God granted authority to these two witnesses for \_\_\_\_\_ days (11:3).
- How many people were killed in the earthquake?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (11:13)

## Matching

\_\_\_ 1. Forty-two

\_\_\_ 2. 1,260

\_\_\_ 3. 3 ½

\_\_\_ 4. Tenth

A. Days two witnesses will prophecy

B. Days dead bodies of two witnesses left lying

C. Portion of city felled by earthquake

D. Months the holy city to be trodden underfoot





### **Stop and Apply**

- What does this chapter say to us about the nature of Christian witness?
- Why do unbelievers respond so negatively to God's truth?
- What does this chapter say about God's sovereignty over evil?

### **Homework Assignment**

How might this chapter be applied to your life?

What do you learn about God?

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What you do you learn about your own sinful heart?

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How might this chapter alter the way you view your personal Christian testimony/witness?

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## Supplementary Revelation (12:1-14:20)

### The Woman and the Dragon (12:1-17)

**And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. <sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. <sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, <sup>6</sup> and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.**

**<sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup> And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”**

**<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.**



## 3 Key Personages in Revelation 12

### The Woman

Most likely a symbolic representation of the nation of Israel. Cf. Is. 54:1-6; Jer. 3:20; Ezek. 16:8-14; Hos. 2:19-20. Cf. also, Is. 26:17-18; 66:7-9; Jer. 4:31; 13:21; Mic. 4:10

### The Dragon

A symbolic representation of the devil (Satan). Cf. 12:9

### The Male Child

A symbolic representation of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Cf. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mic. 5:2; Matt. 1:1; Gen. 49:10

**<sup>14</sup> But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. <sup>15</sup> The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. <sup>17</sup> Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.**

THERE ARE TWO EQUAL AND OPPOSITE ERRORS INTO WHICH OUR RACE CAN FALL ABOUT THE DEVILS. ONE IS TO DISBELIEVE IN THEIR EXISTENCE. THE OTHER IS TO BELIEVE, AND TO FEEL AN EXCESSIVE AND UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN THEM.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



## What does the Bible teach about Satan?

- Before Satan's original \_\_\_\_\_ he was a covering cherub or angel. Cf. Ezek. 28:14
- Originally Satan was known as "\_\_\_\_\_" which means, "shining one," or "morning star." Cf. Is. 14:12
- According to Ezekiel 28:13, God \_\_\_\_\_ Satan, along with the other angels.
- Satan's rebellion was based in \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Ezek. 28:15; Is. 14:13-14
- Because of Satan's pride, God cast Satan down to the \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Is. 14:15; Luke 10:18
- Having been cast down to earth, Satan is now known as the god of this \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4. As such, the whole world lies in Satan's \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 1 John 5:19. In fact, Satan controls many of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world and their glory. Cf. Matt. 4:8
- Although the god of this world, Satan still has \_\_\_\_\_ into God's \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Job 1:6



- Satan now exists to \_\_\_\_\_ the plan and purposes of God. Cf. Gen. 3:15
- Satan's nature is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. John 8:44
- The title "Satan" literally means \_\_\_\_\_. The title "devil" literally means \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Satan mostly works by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:14
- What does Satan do with his time? 1) He roams the earth seeking someone to \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 1 Pet. 5:8. 2) He appears in heaven in order to \_\_\_\_\_ Christians before God. Cf. Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1ff



## **How do we fight against Satan?**

- 1) *Be aware of his schemes, 2 Cor. 2:11*
- 2) *Put on the whole armor of God, Eph. 6:11*
- 3) *Be reminded of God's everlasting love, Rom. 8:31-39*
- 4) *Remember that Satan is already a defeated foe, Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20; Heb. 2:14*
- 5) *Remember that God is greater than Satan, 1 John 4:4*
- 6) *Resist his temptations in faith, Matt. 4; 1 Peter 5:9*
- 7) *Submit to God and resist the devil, James 4:7*

### **Michael, the Warrior Angel (v. 7)**



**Daniel 10:13, 21**

The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but *Michael*, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia... 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except *Michael*, your prince.

**Daniel 12:1**

At that time shall arise *Michael*, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

**Jude 1:9**

But when the archangel *Michael*, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

**Revelation 12:7**

Now war arose in heaven, *Michael* and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back...

**Focusing on the Facts**

- A woman was clothed with the \_\_\_\_\_, with the \_\_\_\_\_ under her feet, and on her head a crown of \_\_\_\_\_ stars (12:1).
- The dragon's tail swept a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven and cast them to the earth (12:4).





- “Now \_\_\_\_\_ arose in heaven, \_\_\_\_\_ and his angels fighting against the dragon.” (12:7)
- The dragon went off to make war with the rest of the woman's offspring, those who:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_; and also
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (12:17).



### **Stop and Apply**

- What does this chapter teach us about the nature of the Christian battle?
- Why must we resist the sin of pride?
- What does this chapter teach us about God's protection of His people?
- What ways does this chapter suggest that we fight the devil? How does this understanding challenge charismatic ideas of “casting out demons,” etc?



## The First Beast (13:1-10)

**And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"**

**<sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear:**

**<sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive,  
to captivity he goes;  
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,  
with the sword must he be slain.**

**Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.**



## Symbols in Revelation Explained

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<i>Beast out of the sea</i>	The antichrist
<i>Ten horns</i>	10 future kings
<i>Seven heads</i>	7 successive world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, final world empire of the future
<i>Leopard...bear...lion</i>	Represents the swiftness, strength, and power of the final world empire
<i>Mortal wound...healed</i>	Possibly refers to the revival of the future Roman Empire; may also refer to a literal resuscitation or resurrection of the future world ruler

### The Antichrist in Scripture

- ✓ Daniel 7:8, 20-21, 24-26
- ✓ Daniel 8:23-25
- ✓ Daniel 11:36-45
- ✓ Matthew 24:15-16
- ✓ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10
- ✓ 1 John 2:18



## The Second Beast (13:11-18)

**<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, <sup>14</sup> and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. <sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.**



### Interpretive difficulty

What is the meaning of the number 666?

Best answer:

The identification is not yet available, but will be easily recognizable by the generation living during its fulfillment.



## The Convoluted Speculations of Gematria



*Nero Caesar*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{נ} &= 50 \\
 \text{ך} &= 200 \\
 \text{ו} &= 6 \\
 \text{נ} &= 50 \\
 \text{ק} &= 100 \\
 \text{ד} &= 60 \\
 \text{ך} &= \underline{200} \\
 &= 666
 \end{aligned}$$

Endless speculation surrounds the exact identification of the number of the beast. Other identifications include the Roman emperors

Caligula and Domitian, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, President Obama, and

others. The better part of wisdom suggests that exact identification will continue to escape those generations too far removed from its fulfillment.

### Gematria

Gematria is an Assyro-Babylonian-Greek system of code and numerology later adopted into Jewish culture that assigns numerical value to a word or phrase.



### Satan's Counterfeit

The Beast is an image of Satan, whom Satan brought forth (13:1), just as Christ is the exact image of God, begotten by the Father ([Col. 1:15](#); [Heb. 1:3](#); [Ps. 2:7](#)).

The Beast has ten crowns, while Christ has many crowns (19:12).

The Beast has blasphemous names written on him, while Christ has worthy names (19:12).

The Dragon gave the Beast his power and his throne and great authority (13:2), just as Christ has power (5:12-13) and throne (3:21) and authority (12:10) from the Father ([John 5:21-23](#)).

The Beast has a fatal wound, counterfeiting Christ's resurrection (13:3). The Beast's healing is one of the principal features that attracts followers, just as the resurrection of Christ is one of the principal points of evangelistic proclamation.

Worship is directed both to the Dragon and the Beast, just as Christians worship both the Father and the Son ([John 5:23](#)).

The Beast attracts the worship of the whole world (13:3), just as Christ is to be worshipped universally.

The Beast utters blasphemies, while Christ utters the praises of God ([Heb. 2:12](#)).

The Beast makes war against the saints, while Christ makes war against the Beast (19:11-21). The song of praise to the Beast in 13:4 counterfeits the song to God the warrior in [Exod. 15:11](#). The striking juxtaposition of Christ and the Beast in 19:11-21 shows that these two are the two main warriors in the battle. Christ is the divine warrior, fulfilling the imagery of [Exod. 15:3](#); [Isa. 59:16-18](#); [63:1-6](#); [Hab. 3:3-15](#); [Zech. 9:13-15](#); [14:1-5](#). The Beast is the unholy, counterfeit warrior, fulfilling the imagery of [Dan. 7:1-8](#).

Adapted from Vern Poythress, *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*

### Focusing on the Facts

- John saw a \_\_\_\_\_ rising out of the \_\_\_\_\_ . (13:1)
- One of the heads of the beast seemed to have a mortal \_\_\_\_\_ , but its mortal wound was \_\_\_\_\_ . (13:3)
- “And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and \_\_\_\_\_ words. (13:5)



- The beast rising out of the \_\_\_\_\_ performs great \_\_\_\_\_, even making fire come down from heaven to earth. (13:11, 13)



### **Stop and Apply**

- What does this chapter say about the need to be discerning?
- In what significant way does Satan operate?
- Is the “Jesus” that we worship a Satanic counterfeit?

### **Homework Assignment:**

- 1. Read chapter 14**
- 2. Record your questions and bring to next week’s class**



## The Lamb and the 144,000 (14:1-5)

**Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.<sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,<sup>3</sup> and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.<sup>4</sup> It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,<sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.**



### Interpretive difficulties

How are we to understand the reference to “Mount Zion” (14:1)?

#### 2 main views:

1. Refers literally to the *earthly* Mount Zion, i.e., Jerusalem, cf. 2 Sam. 5:7; Ps. 48:1-2; Is. 2:3
2. Refers figuratively to the *heavenly* Mount Zion, i.e., the New Jerusalem, cf. 21:2; Heb. 12:22

What is the meaning of the phrase, “have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins” (14:4)?





## 2 main views:

1. Refers literally to the fact that the 144,000 will be sexually chaste, cf. Matt. 19:12; 1 Cor. 7:26
2. Refers figuratively to the fact that the 144,000 have not “defiled” themselves by participating in an ungodly world system

### *THE NEW SONG*

IN THE OT, THE “NEW SONG” WAS A SONG OF PRAISE OCCASIONED BY THE MERCIFUL DEEDS AND WORKS OF GOD.

PSALM 33:3; 40:3; 96:1

### Heavenly Pronouncements (14:6-13)

**<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup> And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”**

**<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,**



**10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."**

**12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**

**13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"**

Source	Message
"another angel"	Fear God and give Him glory before the judgment (vv. 6-7)
"another angel"	Babylon has been judged (v. 8)
"another angel"	Whoever worships the beast and receives his image will suffer God's wrath (vv. 9-11)
"voice from heaven"	Those who die in the Lord will be blessed (v. 13)



## Babylon in the Bible



- ✓ The original city came to symbolize evil and rebellion against God.
- ✓ It was founded by Nimrod, a powerful, God-rejecting ruler (Gen. 10:9).
- ✓ Was the site of the first organized system of false religion (Gen. 11:1-4).
- ✓ God judged the people's idolatry and rebellion at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:5-9).
- ✓ The final Babylon (political, economic, religious empire) is personified as a harlot (Rev. 17:1-5).



## The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20)

**<sup>14</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.<sup>15</sup> And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe."<sup>16</sup> So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.**

**<sup>17</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.<sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe."<sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.<sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.**

### God's Final Judgment



*"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31)*



<p><b>Isaiah 13:11-13</b></p>	<p><sup>11</sup>I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. <sup>12</sup>I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. <sup>13</sup>Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.</p>
<p><b>Isaiah 24:21-23</b></p>	<p><sup>21</sup>On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. <sup>22</sup>They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. <sup>23</sup>Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.</p>
<p><b>Isaiah 63:1-6</b></p>	<p>Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." <sup>2</sup>Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup>"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood<sup>a</sup> spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. <sup>4</sup>For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption<sup>[b]</sup> had come.</p>



## Focusing on the Facts

- The Lamb stood on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (14:1).
- John saw an angel flying overhead with an  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim to  
those who dwell on the earth (14:6).
- If anyone worships the beast and its image, he will be  
made to drink the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's  
\_\_\_\_\_ (14:10).
- As they stood poised to harvest the earth, each angel  
had a \_\_\_\_\_ in their hand (14:14).



### Stop and Apply

- What does this chapter say to believers?
- What does this chapter say to unbelievers?
- Why does God delay His judgment?
- How are we to live in the light of God's certain judgment?



## The Seven Last Plagues (15:1-16:21)

### Vision of the 7 Last Plagues (15:1-8)

**Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.**

**<sup>2</sup> And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. <sup>3</sup> And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,**

**“Great and amazing are your deeds,  
O Lord God the Almighty!**

**Just and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations!**

**<sup>4</sup> Who will not fear, O Lord,  
and glorify your name?**

**For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship you,**

**for your righteous acts have been revealed.”**

**<sup>5</sup> After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, <sup>6</sup> and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. <sup>7</sup> And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, <sup>8</sup> and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.**



## Categories of God's Wrath

The historical outpouring of God's wrath can be broken down into at least four categories:

- There is what we might call "sowing and \_\_\_\_\_ wrath (people who sin suffer the logical consequences of their sin). Cf. Job 4:8; Gal. 6:7-8
- A second kind of wrath is \_\_\_\_\_ wrath (when God sends massive, destructive judgment). Cf. Gen. 6-8; 19:1-29; Num. 16:31ff
- Romans chapter 1 reveals God's wrath of \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Romans 1:18-32
- There is a final, future wrath called \_\_\_\_\_ wrath. Cf. 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9

*The Sea of Glass (v. 2)*

*Apparently this is some kind of transparent crystal platform before God's throne. Cf. 4:6; Exodus 24:10; Ezek. 1:22*





### The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-21)

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a man of war;  
the LORD is his name.

<sup>4</sup>"Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea,  
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

<sup>5</sup>The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.

<sup>6</sup>Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

<sup>7</sup>In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;  
you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

<sup>8</sup>At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;  
the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

<sup>10</sup>You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

<sup>11</sup>"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

<sup>12</sup>You stretched out your right hand;  
the earth swallowed them.

<sup>13</sup>"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have  
redeemed;  
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

<sup>14</sup>The peoples have heard; they tremble;  
pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

<sup>15</sup>Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;  
trembling seizes the leaders of Moab;  
all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

<sup>16</sup>Terror and dread fall upon them;



because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone,  
till your people, O LORD, pass by,  
till the people pass by whom you have purchased.

<sup>17</sup> You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,  
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD will reign forever and ever.”

<sup>19</sup> For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. <sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

### The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath (16:1-21)

**Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels,  
“Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”**

**<sup>2</sup> So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.**

**<sup>3</sup> The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.**

**<sup>4</sup> The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,**

**“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,  
for you brought these judgments.**

**<sup>6</sup> For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,  
and you have given them blood to drink.  
It is what they deserve!”**



**<sup>7</sup> And I heard the altar saying,  
“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,  
true and just are your judgments!”**

**<sup>8</sup> The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. <sup>9</sup> They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.**

**<sup>10</sup> 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 anguish<sup>11</sup> and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.**

**<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup> For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.<sup>15</sup> (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) <sup>16</sup> And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.**

**<sup>17</sup> The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” <sup>18</sup> And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. <sup>19</sup> The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. <sup>21</sup> And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.**



# Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

*Revelation 16*

**Judgment**

- 1 Earth** 

Those with the mark of the beast who worship its image break out in sores
- 2 Sea** 

Sea turns to blood that kills all life in it
- 3 Rivers/Springs**

Waters turn to blood
- 4 Sun** 

Sun scorches people with fire
- 5 Beast's throne**

Darkness covers beast's kingdom; people gnaw their tongues and curse God
- 6 Euphrates River** 

River dries up to allow kings to cross for battle at Armageddon
- 7 Air** 

Earthquake collapses cities and splits the great city; 100-pound hailstones fall on people

*"the angel in charge of the waters..." (v. 5)*

*In Jewish thought, the elements of nature were held to be under the jurisdiction of appropriate angels. Cf. 7:1; 14:18*

*Word Study:*

*"...harmful and painful sores..."  
(v. 2)*

*'Sore' translates the Greek word 'helkos', the Greek equivalent of the Latin word from which we*



## The Battle (War) of Armageddon



- Armageddon is the climactic war of the Great Tribulation when all the armies of the earth gather to attack Israel and attempt to finally eradicate God's people.
- 10 Main Passages about Armageddon:
  1. Psalm 2
  2. Is. 34:1-16
  3. Is. 63:1-6
  4. Joel 3:1-17
  5. Zech. 12:1-9
  6. Zech. 14:1-15
  7. Malachi 4:1-5
  8. Rev. 14:14-20
  9. Rev. 16:12-16
  10. Rev. 19:19-21



## Focusing on the Facts

- John saw a sea of glass mingled with \_\_\_\_\_ (15:2).
- The heavenly multitude sang the Song of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Song of the \_\_\_\_\_ (15:3).
- The first angel poured out his bowl on the \_\_\_\_\_ (16:2).
- The second angel poured out his bowl into the \_\_\_\_\_ (16:3).
- The water of the Euphrates River was dried up to prepare the way for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (16:12).



### Stop and Apply

- What do these chapters teach us about our proper response to God's wonderful works?
- Why must we not limit our understanding of God's nature and being to include only such characteristics as grace and mercy?
- What do these chapters teach us about the obstinate nature of human sinfulness?



## The Fall of Babylon (17:1-18:24)

### Fall of Religious Babylon (17:1-18)

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." <sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. <sup>5</sup> And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." <sup>6</sup> And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. <sup>7</sup> But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. <sup>8</sup> The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. <sup>9</sup> This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; <sup>10</sup> they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. <sup>11</sup> As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. <sup>12</sup> And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. <sup>13</sup> These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup> They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."



**<sup>15</sup> And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. <sup>16</sup> And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, <sup>17</sup> for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup> And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."**

#### The Symbols of Revelation 17

1. THE GREAT PROSTITUTE: REPRESENTS THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE BABYLONIAN SYSTEM.
2. IMMORALITY/DRUNKENNESS: REPRESENTS THE INFLUENCE THIS SYSTEM HAS ON THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.
3. MYSTERY BABYLON: MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES: REFERS TO THE FACT THAT FALSE RELIGION ORIGINATED IN BABYLON
4. THE SCARLET BEAST: THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13:1, I.E., THE ANTICHRIST
5. THE MANTY WATERS: THE NATIONS RULED OVER BY BABYLON.





## The 7 Kings of Revelation 17:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece
6. Rome ("one is")
7. Final World Empire under Antichrist ("has not yet come")



### **Interpretive difficulty**

What is meant by the destruction of the prostitute in v. 16?

Most likely refers to the destruction of the Babylonian religious system. This will take place prior to the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. Antichrist and the nations allied with him will destroy the united religious system. Apparently he does this in an effort to set himself up as the sole god to be worshiped.



Fall of Commercial Babylon  
(18:1-24)

**After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice,**

**"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**

**She has become a dwelling place for demons,  
a haunt for every unclean spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean bird,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.**

**<sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk  
the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,  
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,  
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of  
her luxurious living."**

**<sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,**

**"Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues;**

**<sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven,  
and God has remembered her iniquities.**

**<sup>6</sup> Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,  
and repay her double for her deeds;  
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.**

**<sup>7</sup> As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,  
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,  
since in her heart she says,**

**'I sit as a queen,  
I am no widow,  
and mourning I shall never see.'**

**<sup>8</sup> For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,  
death and mourning and famine,  
and she will be burned up with fire;  
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."**



**<sup>9</sup> And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. <sup>10</sup> They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,**

**“Alas! Alas! You great city,  
you mighty city, Babylon!  
For in a single hour your judgment has come.”**

**<sup>11</sup> And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, <sup>12</sup> cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, <sup>13</sup> cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.**

**<sup>14</sup> “The fruit for which your soul longed  
has gone from you,  
and all your delicacies and your splendors  
are lost to you,  
never to be found again!”**

**<sup>15</sup> The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,**

**<sup>16</sup> “Alas, alas, for the great city  
that was clothed in fine linen,  
in purple and scarlet,  
adorned with gold,  
with jewels, and with pearls!**

**<sup>17</sup> For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”**

**And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off <sup>18</sup> and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,**

**“What city was like the great city?”**

**<sup>19</sup> And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,**

**“Alas, alas, for the great city  
where all who had ships at sea  
grew rich by her wealth!  
For in a single hour she has been laid waste.**



**20 Rejoice over her, O heaven,  
and you saints and apostles and prophets,  
for God has given judgment for you against her!"**

**21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and  
threw it into the sea, saying,**

**"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence,  
and will be found no more;**

**22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and  
trumpeters,**

**will be heard in you no more,  
and a craftsman of any craft**

**will be found in you no more,  
and the sound of the mill**

**will be heard in you no more,**

**23 and the light of a lamp**

**will shine in you no more,**

**and the voice of bridegroom and bride**

**will be heard in you no more,**

**for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,**

**and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.**

**24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,  
and of all who have been slain on earth."**

## Understanding Babylon in Revelation 17-18

To better understand the meaning of Babylon in the book of Revelation, several things need to be considered:

- Babylon in the book of Revelation refers to both a literal city and a system of operation
- The Babylonian system is embodied in the person of the Antichrist
- Babylon is representative of false religion and the unholy alliance of the world's nations
- Babylon in the book of Revelation has its roots in the OT city of Babylon



- The OT prophets predicted the fall of the historical kingdom of Babylon. However, the complete fulfillment of their prophecies awaits the destruction of the future Babylon
- Chapter 17 deals with Babylon as a religious entity; Chapter 18 deals with Babylon as a commercial/economic/political entity

*OT TEXTS REGARDING THE  
DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON:  
ISAIAH 13:1-22  
ISAIAH 21:1-17  
JEREMIAH 50-51*



### **Interpretive difficulty**

What is the meaning of the phrase, “repay her double for her deeds?” (18:6)

To “pay back double” is another way of saying to pay back fully. Cf. Exodus 22:4, 7, 9; Isa. 40:2; Jer. 16:18



## Focusing on the Facts

- The great prostitute was seated on many \_\_\_\_\_ . (17:1)
- Written on the woman's forehead was a name of \_\_\_\_\_ . (17:5)
- The ten horns = the ten \_\_\_\_\_ . (17:12)
- Babylon has said in her heart: I sit as \_\_\_\_\_ ; I am no \_\_\_\_\_ ; and \_\_\_\_\_ I shall never see. (18:7)
- The kings of the earth committed \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ with Babylon and lived in \_\_\_\_\_ with her. (18:9)



### Stop and Apply

- How would you feel if the luxuries in your life suddenly went up in smoke?
- Why is it dangerous to compromise with the world's culture?
- In what ways can the reality of God's certain judgment change our lives?
- How does chapter 17 speak to the necessity of properly understanding the Bible?



## The Second Coming of Jesus Christ (19:1-21)

Praise of God in Heaven  
(19:1-10)

**After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,**

**“Hallelujah!**

**Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,  
<sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just;  
 for he has judged the great prostitute  
 who corrupted the earth with her immorality,  
 and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”**

**<sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out,**

**“Hallelujah!**

**The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”**

**<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”<sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying,**

**“Praise our God,  
 all you his servants,  
 you who fear him,  
 small and great.”**

**<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,**

**“Hallelujah!**

**For the Lord our God  
 the Almighty reigns.**

**<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult  
 and give him the glory,  
 for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
 and his Bride has made herself ready;**



**<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—**

**for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**

**<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

### HALLELUJAH

THE ENGLISH WORD ‘HALLELUJAH’ IS A RENDERING OF THE GREEK TRANSLITERATION, ‘ALLELOUIA’. THE GREEK IN TURN COMES FROM TWO HEBREW WORDS: 1) HALAL, MEANING “PRAISE” AND 2) YAH, MEANING “LORD”

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*“The Salvation of God should awaken the gratitude of man. The glory of God should awaken the reverence of man. The power of God is always exercised in the love of God, and should, therefore, awaken the trust of man. Gratitude, reverence, trust—these are the constituent elements of real praise.” William Barclay*

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## Reasons for giving thanks to God

<b>Because of God's attributes</b>	Psalms 30:4; 136:26; 106:1
<b>Because of God's mighty works</b>	Is 25:1; 1 Sam. 2:1; Rom. 6:17
<b>Because of God's rich blessings</b>	2 Cor. 9:15; 1 Cor. 15:57; 1 Thess. 5:18
<b>Because of God's judgment</b>	Deut. 32:43; Ps. 58:10-11; 96:11-13

## The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (vv. 6-10)

New Testament context:

"But I say to you, I will not *drink of this fruit of the vine* from now on *until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*" Matthew 26:29 (emphasis added)

New Testament marriage images

Image	Fulfillment
<b>Choosing of bride</b>	Happens in <i>Church Age</i>
<b>Wedding Ceremony</b>	Happens at the <i>Rapture</i>
<b>Wedding feast</b>	Happens in the <i>Millennium</i>
<b>Consummation of marriage</b>	Happens in the <i>eternal state</i>





### Interpretive difficulty

What is the meaning of the phrase, “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy?” (v. 10)

Plausible meaning: To begin with, the verse teaches that Jesus is the source and theme of revelation (i.e., the testimony of Jesus). In this regard, the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy; that is, all prophecy points to Jesus.

The angel forbids John to worship him because he was simply a herald of that testimony, not the fulfillment of it.

#### The Return of Christ (19:11-21)

**<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.<sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.**

**<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God,**



**18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”**

**19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.**

<b>The Lord's Second Coming</b>	
<b><u>PHASE 1</u></b> <b>The Rapture</b> <b>(1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)</b>	<b><u>PHASE 2</u></b> <b>Jesus' Return to the Earth</b> <b>(Revelation 19)</b>
Jesus returns to the air	Jesus returns to the earth
Jesus returns in secret, like a thief	Jesus returns openly
Jesus returns <i>for</i> his Church	Jesus returns <i>with</i> his Church
Jesus comes as bridegroom	Jesus comes as King
Jesus comes as deliverer	Jesus comes as warrior and judge
Jesus comes with grace	Jesus comes with wrath and grace
Jesus delivers the Church <i>from</i> wrath	Jesus delivers believers (of the Tribulation) who endured wrath
Living believers receive immortal bodies as they are taken to heaven	Living believers remain mortal on the earth during the Millennium
The world is left unjudged	The world is judged (Mt. 25:31-46)
The world continues in sin	Righteousness is established
Addresses only the saved	Addresses the saved and unsaved
Can happen at any moment	Many signs must first occur
The devil continues his evil reign	The devil is cast into the Abyss



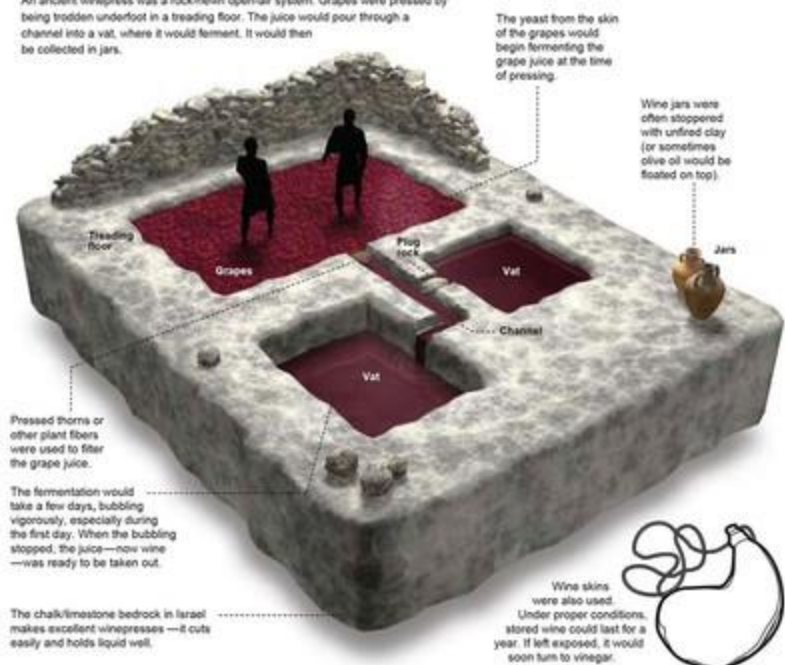


## Ancient Background

“...He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.” (19:15)

### A Winepress in Ancient Israel

An ancient winepress was a rock-hewn open-air system. Grapes were pressed by being trodden underfoot in a treading floor. The juice would pour through a channel into a vat, where it would ferment. It would then be collected in jars.



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### Interpretive difficulty

What is the name written on Christ that “no one knows?” (v. 12)



## 2 main views:

1. Refers to the ancient practice of magic in which to know a person's name gave one power over them. Therefore no one has power over Jesus because no one knows His name

2. In the ancient world, a name revealed the nature of the individual. That we do not know Christ name means that his nature transcends human understanding

## Focusing on the Facts:

- "Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ to the marriage \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 9)
- The testimony of Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 10)
- Behold, a \_\_\_\_\_ horse! (v. 11)
- The beast and false prophet were thrown alive into the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that burns with \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 20-21)



## Stop and Apply

- For what other reasons do we praise God?
- What or who is the object of our worship?
- How does this chapter challenge your pre-conceived ideas about who Jesus really is?



## The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ (20:1-15)

### The Millennium (20:1-6)

**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.**

**<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who 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 for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.**

*THE FIRST RESURRECTION  
REFERS TO THE RESURRECTION OF  
THE SAINTS OF ALL AGES. IT IS TO  
BE CONTRASTED WITH THE  
'SECOND RESURRECTION', WHICH  
IS THE RESURRECTION OF THE  
UNRIGHTEOUS, WHO WILL BE  
JUDGED AT THE GREAT WHITE  
THRONE JUDGMENT (CF. 20:11-  
15)*



*THE SECOND DEATH  
REFERS TO THE FINAL, ETERNAL  
DEATH BEYOND THIS EARTHLY  
LIFE, THAT TAKES PLACE AFTER  
PHYSICAL DEATH (CF. 20:14; 2:11;  
21:8)*

What is the Millennium?

- The Millennium refers to the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth (Rev. 20:1-6).
- Mille (Latin)=1,000; annum (Latin)=year

### **The Millennium in the OT**

**Ps. 2; 24; 72; 96**

**Isa. 2; 9:6-7; 11-12**

**Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-11**

**Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14**

**Hosea 3:4-5**

**Amos 9:11-15**

**Micah 4:1-8**

**Zeph. 3:14-20**

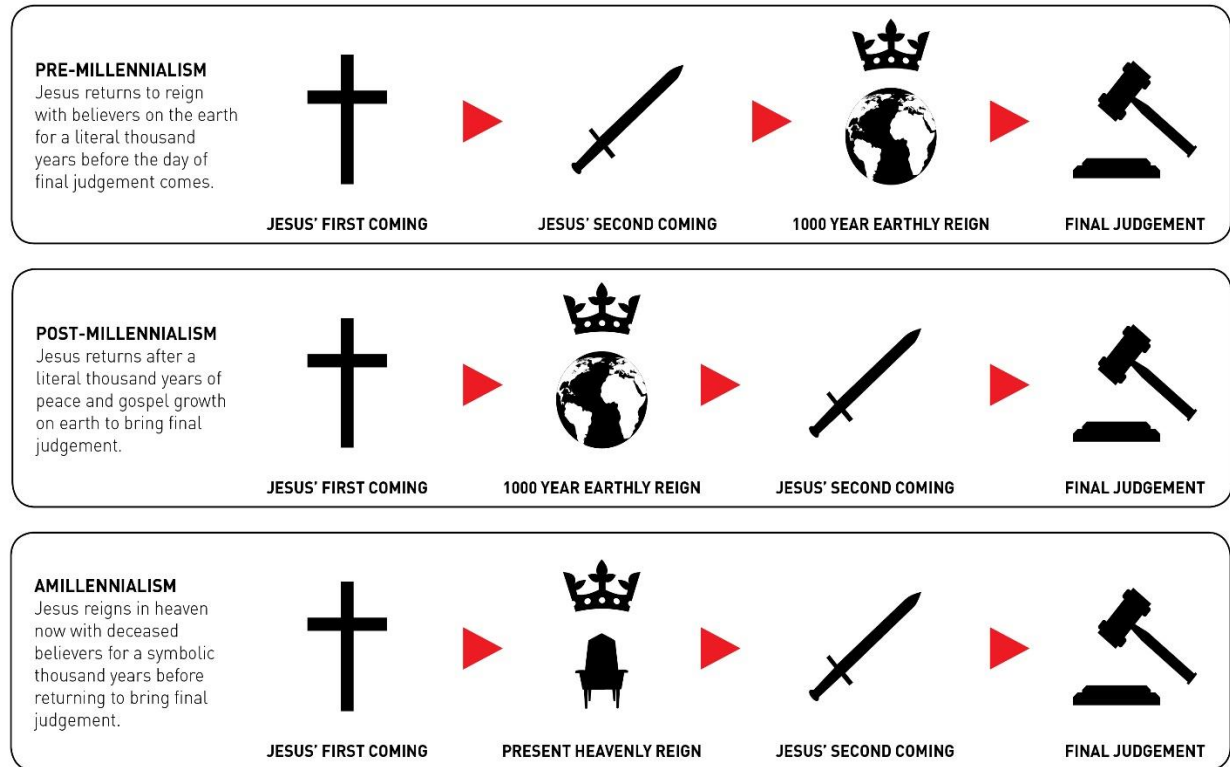
**Zech. 8:1-8**





## THE MILLENNIUM THREE VIEWS

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### The Defeat of Satan (20:6-10)

**<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**







## Interpretive difficulty

What is the meaning of the name “Gog and Magog”? (v. 8)

As used in v. 8, “Gog and Magog” appears to be a symbolic title given to the enemies of Christ. The name comes from Ezekiel 38-39, where it refers to a literal ruler, Gog, (the Antichrist) from the region of “Magog”, who will lead an invasion force against Israel during the Battle of Armageddon. Again, in Revelation 20, the name appears to be symbolically used as a general title for the final enemies of God.

The Great White Throne  
(20:11-15)

**<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**



## Focusing on the Facts:

- The angel seized the \_\_\_\_\_, that ancient \_\_\_\_\_, who is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (20:2)
- “They came to life and reigned with Christ for a \_\_\_\_\_ years.” (20:4)
- The devil was thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and sulfur where the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are. (20:10)
- John saw a great white \_\_\_\_\_. (20:11)



### Stop and Apply

- What lesson do we learn from Satan’s final rebellion?
- How does a person come to share in the first resurrection?
- Why won’t believers be judged before the Great White Throne?



## A Short Theology of Eternal Punishment

### Descriptions of Hell

- Hell is described as a place of \_\_\_\_\_ . Cf. Matt. 23:33
- Hell is described as a place of \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Matt. 22:13
- Hell is described as a place of \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 7:13
- Hell is described as a place of eternal \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 18:8
- Hell is a place of eternal \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Matt. 25:46

### The Nature of Hell

- Hell is \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. Rev. 20:10
- Hell is \_\_\_\_\_ from God's \_\_\_\_\_. Cf. 2 Thess. 1:8
- Hell is a place of \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 8:12



## The 7 Occupants of Hell

- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Rev. 20:10
- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Rev. 20:10
- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Rev. 20:13
- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Rev. 20:13
- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Matt. 25:41
- \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Rev. 20:15
- \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Matt. 25:41



## The New Heaven and the New Earth (21:1-27)

### The New Heaven and New Earth (21:1-8)

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."**

**<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."**

#### *7 EVILS BANISHED IN THE NEW CREATION:*

- 1. THE SEA, V. 1*
- 2. DEATH, V. 4*
- 3. MOURNING, V. 4*
- 4. WEEPING, V. 4*
- 5. PAIN, V. 4*
- 6. NIGHT, 22:5*
- 7. THE CURSE, 22:3*





## Interpretive difficulty

What is the relationship of the New Jerusalem to the new earth? (v. 2)

### 2 main views:

1. “New Jerusalem” and the “new heaven and new earth” are two different figures describing the Eternal State
2. The New Jerusalem is the satellite city of, or capital city of Heaven

### The Former and Future Creation

Genesis	Revelation
Heavens and earth created (1:1)	No heavens and earth (21:1)
Sun created (1:16)	No need of sun (21:23)
The night established (1:5)	No night there (21:25; 22:5)
The seas created (1:10)	No more seas (21:1)
The curse announced (3:14-17)	No more curse (22:3)
Death enters history (3:19)	No more death (21:4)
Man driven from paradise (3:24)	Man restored to paradise (22:14)
Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)	No more mourning, crying or pain (21:4)



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*“A holy city will be one in which no lie will be uttered in one hundred million years, no evil word will ever be spoken, no shady business deal will ever even be discussed, no unclean picture will ever be seen, no corruption of life will ever be manifest.”*

*W. M. Smith*

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### The New Jerusalem (21:9-27)

**<sup>9</sup> Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

**<sup>15</sup> And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. <sup>16</sup> The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. <sup>17</sup> He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. <sup>18</sup> The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,**



**<sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.**

**<sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.**

**<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**



### **Interpretive difficulty**

What is the exact identity of the precious stones described in verses 19-20?

Best Answer: We cannot identify all of these stones today. Nonetheless, these gemstones were of many different colors of the rainbow, suggesting the extreme beauty of the heavenly city.

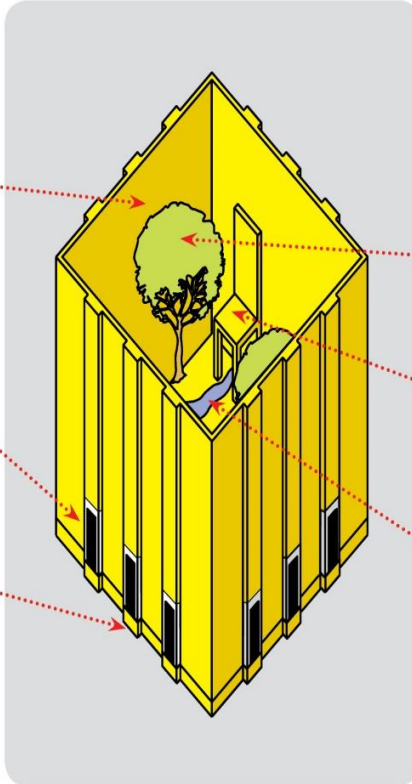




# THE NEW JERUSALEM REVELATION 21-22

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SIGNIFICANCE	SYMBOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a great, high wall (2200 km in all directions &amp; 65m thick) = there will be an impenetrable barrier between believers &amp; unbelievers [see 21:27]</li> <li>made of pure gold &amp; the walls of pure jasper</li> <li>a perfect square, like Ezekiel's vision of God's city [Ezekiel 48:30-35]</li> <li>a perfect cube like the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle &amp; the temple, representing the presence of God [Exodus 26; 1Kings 6:20]</li> <li>as big as the known world of the first century, i.e. from Palestine to Spain</li> </ul>	<p><b>WALLS</b> 21:12-18</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 gates with the names of the tribes of Israel representing the old covenant people of God</li> <li>fulfilment of Ezekiel's vision [see Ezekiel 48:30-35]</li> </ul>	<p><b>GATES</b> 21:12-13, 21, 25-27</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 foundations with the names of the apostles representing the new covenant people of God</li> <li>foundations made of 12 precious stones like the breastplate of the high priest [Exodus 28:17-20]</li> <li>fulfilment of Isaiah's vision of Zion, with walls, foundations &amp; battlements made of precious stones [see Isaiah 54:11-12]</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOUNDATIONS</b> 21:14, 19-20</p>



SYMBOL	SIGNIFICANCE
<p><b>TEMPLE</b> 21:22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God &amp; Jesus meet face-to-face with their people</li> <li>there is no need for a temple</li> </ul>
<p><b>LIGHT</b> 21:23-24; 22:5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no need for the sun or the moon for the glory of God gives the city light &amp; the Lamb is its lamp</li> <li>light = glory &amp; life - the nations will be drawn toward it [see Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20, John 1:4, 9; 8:12; 12:35, 46]</li> </ul>
<p><b>TREE</b> 22:2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the tree of life stands on either side of the river representing eternal life for believers [see Genesis 3:22, Ezekiel 47:12]</li> </ul>
<p><b>THRONE</b> 22:3-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the throne of God / the Lamb will be in the city &amp; his servants will serve them</li> <li>God's people will now see his face &amp; live, be marked as his chosen people &amp; will reign over the new creation with Christ [see Daniel 7:27; Matthew 5:8; Revelation 7:3; 20:4]</li> </ul>
<p><b>RIVER</b> 22:1-2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the river of life flows from the throne down the middle of the city - representing the gift of eternal life [see Genesis 2:10; Psalm 36:8; Psalm 46:4; John 4:10; Ezekiel 47:12, Zechariah 14:8]</li> </ul>
<p><b>CURSE</b> 22:3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no longer will there be any curse in the city from the fall [see Genesis 3]</li> </ul>

## Focusing on the Facts

- The name of the holy city was called the new \_\_\_\_\_ . (v. 2)
- Name the (8) characteristic sinners whose portion will be the lake of fire: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 4) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) \_\_\_\_\_



6) \_\_\_\_\_ 7) \_\_\_\_\_  
8) \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8)

- How many gates will the New Jerusalem have?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)
- What will be the length and width of the New Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16)



### **Stop and Apply**

- Why shouldn't Christians become too attached to this present world?
- How might we cultivate a deeper relationship with God right now?
- Why do you think God reveals to us the dimensions of the heavenly city?



## The Conclusion to the Revelation (22:1-21)

### Paradise Restored (22:1-5)

**Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**



### Interpretive difficulty

If there is no death or decay in the new creation, then how should we understand the phrase, “healing of the nations” (v. 2)?

Best Answer: The Greek word translated “healing” is *therapeian*, which literally means “health-giving.” Since there will be no death in the new creation, evidently the leaves of this tree will promote well-being.



## Jesus is Coming (22:6-21)

**<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."**

**<sup>7</sup> "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."**

**<sup>8</sup> I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, <sup>9</sup> but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."**

**<sup>10</sup> And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."**

**<sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."**

**<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**

**<sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."**

**<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.**

**<sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,**



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

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

**21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**

It is ironical that people have neglected this book—of all the books in the Bible—even though it contains more promises of blessing than any other book in the Bible. Everyone should continue to study it.

Thomas Constable



### **Interpretive difficulty**

What is the meaning of verse 11?

Best Answer: This verse teaches the truth that, when Christ comes, people will not be able to change their destiny.

### **A 3-Fold Emphasis**

There are three main emphases in Revelation 22:6-21:

- 1) The prophecy of Revelation is genuine (vv. 6-7, 8-9, 16, 18-19)
- 2) Jesus will return imminently (vv. 6-7, 10, 12, 20)
- 3) Unbelievers should beware, and the faithful should take courage (vv. 11-12, 15, 17-19)



## Names of Christ Explained

Name of Christ	Meaning
<b>Alpha &amp; Omega</b>	Stresses God's eternality and sovereignty
<b>First &amp; the Last</b>	God is the cause and goal of history
<b>The Beginning and the End</b>	God finishes what He starts

## Focusing on the Facts

- “The leaves of the tree were for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations. (v. 2)
- John was commanded not to \_\_\_\_\_ up the words of the prophecy of this book. (v. 10)
- Jesus is coming soon and will bring His \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, and repay each one according to what he has \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 12)

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*Ever, as the church moves on through time, and above all in the days in which we live, the next thing for every Christian to be looking for in this world is the coming of Christ to fulfill what is written in this Book. The Bible tells of nothing between us and that day.*

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