

Small Group Questions for Revelation 1:1-8

Introduction to Revelation:

Author: John the Apostle

Date: A.D. 94-96

Place: Island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, southwest of Ephesus, where John was exiled for preaching the Gospel.

What are some things you never thought you'd see in your lifetime?

Just for fun, make a few predictions:

This year's Super Bowl winner: _____

The next president of the United States: _____

What you'll be doing in ten years: _____

When the Dow will climb back to 12,000: _____

1. What does the word "Revelation" mean? Why is this book called "Revelation"?
2. How did God communicate this message to John? (1-2)
3. How are we blessed by hearing and heeding the prophecy? (3)
4. Where is the area of "Asia" that these churches are located in? (4)
5. Who/what are the seven Spirits? Where are they? Rev 4:5, Zec 4:2 (4)
6. List five ways John describes Jesus in vs. 5. Jot down how each description encourages you:
7. What has Christ made us in vs. 6? What difference does this make in your life?
8. Who are those who pierced Christ? Zec 12:10, Ac 2:22-23 Who will mourn over Him? When? Why? (7)
9. What does the title Alpha and Omega signify? (8)
10. So what? What are several really good reasons to study this book of Revelation?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 1:9-20

1. Why was John on the island of Patmos? How does he describe himself? Why? (9)
2. What does John mean by, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day”? 2Cor 12:2 (10)
3. How does John describe the voice he heard behind him? (10)
4. What do the lampstands represent (v. 20)? Where is Christ? Dan 7:13 (12-13)

Description of Christ	What do these descriptions mean?
A robe to His feet	
A golden sash across His chest	
Hair white like wool – Dan. 7:9	
Eyes a flame of fire – Hebrews 4:13	
Feet of burnished bronze – 1 Cor. 15:17	
Voice like many waters – Eze. 43:2	
Seven stars in His hands – vs. 20	
Two-edged sword out of His mouth – Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12	
Face shining like the sun	

5. What was John’s reaction and how does Jesus respond? (17)
6. How does Christ describe Himself to John? (17-18)
7. How does vs. 19 give us an outline for the book of Revelation?
8. Who are the seven angels of the seven churches? (20)
9. SO WHAT? In this section, John details the attributes of Christ (which also signify his deity). Why do you think Christ revealed Himself like this to John? How does this description of Christ affect your view of Him?

<p>Jesus came the first time in humiliation; He will return in exaltation. He came the first time to be killed; He will return to kill His enemies. He came the first time to serve; He will return to be served. He came the first time as the suffering servant; He will return as the conquering king. The challenge the book of Revelation makes to every person is to be ready for His return.” (John MacArthur)</p>

Small Group Questions for Revelation 2:1-7

EPHESUS

1. These seven churches in Revelation 2-3 represent seven kinds of churches throughout the church age. If Christ wrote our church a letter, in brief, how would He describe Faith Bible Church? (1)
2. Who is addressing the church at Ephesus and how is He pictured? (1)
3. How did the church put those to the test who called themselves apostles? Ac 17:11, 1 Thes 5:21, 1 Jn 4:1 (2)
4. What does it mean to persevere and not grow weary? Col 1:23, 2 Thes 1:4, Heb 3:6 (3)
5. What does “first love” mean spiritually? What are several evidences of a believer leaving his or her first love? Matt 10:37-38, Jn 14:21, 1Cor 16:22 (4)
6. What counsel does Christ give them? What deeds did they do at first? Eph 3:17-19, 5:2, Gal 5:22-23 (5)
7. Who were the Nicolaitans? What did Christ think about them? 2 Pet 2:1, Jude 4 (6)
8. What does it mean to overcome? 2 Cor 2:14, 1 Jn 5:4 (7)
9. What does Christ promise to the overcomer?
10. SO WHAT? Christ’s warning to the church at Ephesus should cause us to examine our motives to be sure that everything we do is out of love for Him. What can we do to renew our first love? Matt 22:36-38, 1 Cor 13:1-4

Small Group Questions for Revelation 2:8-17

SMYRNA

1. Notice how John refers back to the description of Christ in his introductions to each church. Which description does he refer to in vs. 8? 1 Pet 3:18
2. How could the church in Smyrna be poor and rich at the same time? Eph 3:8 (9)
3. Any idea what “a synagogue of Satan means? Rom 2:28-29, Gal 3:29 (9)
4. Why were they told not to fear? Matt 10:24-31 (10)
5. What is Christ’s promise to overcomers? Rev 20:14 (11)

PERGAMUM

6. Why did Christ identify Himself to Pergamum as bringing a sword? Is that a positive or negative announcement to the church? (12)
7. What is meant by “Satan’s throne” and “where Satan dwells”? 2 Cor 4:4 (13)
8. How does Christ commend this church? (13)
9. Find out what the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans means. (14-15)
10. What is the sword of His mouth? Heb 4:12 How does that rectify the problems in vss 14 and 15? Jn 8:31-32, 1 Jn 2:14, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Jas 2:21-22 (16)
11. What does Christ promise overcomers of this church (see notes in your Bible)? (17)

SO WHAT? Lessons from Smyrna: Suffering for Christ is sometimes hard to comprehend in our country. However, we are called to suffer for the sake of Christ and His gospel (1 Pet 2:21, 2 Tim 1:8).

Lessons from Pergamum: The Church at Pergamum did not deny the name of Christ but they compromised with the world and adopted worldly ways. How does this compare with the typical church today that proclaims Christ but is quick to adopt the latest worldly solutions to its problems, i.e. worldly counsel for sinful behavior (?), science as the ultimate authority (?), pragmatism (?), or mysticism (?).

Small Group Questions for Revelation 2:18-29

THYATIRA

1. What were the deeds of the church at Thyatira and Christ's attitude toward them? Heb 6:10 (19)
2. How was the woman (Jezebel) in the church leading some astray? 1 Ki 21:25-26, note also 1 Tim 2:12 (20)
3. Why would God give her time to repent? 2 Pet 3:9 (21)
4. What is meant by "committing adultery" with her? Jer 3:6-10 (22)
5. Who are these children whom Christ will kill? What should we learn from this? (23)
6. Why does Christ call immorality and false teaching "the deep things of Satan"? Jn 8:44 (24)
7. What should we hold fast to until Christ comes? Jn 17:22-23 (25)
8. What does Christ promise to those who overcome? When and where will this take place? Ps 2:7-9 (26-27)
9. Who/what is the morning star? 2 Pet 1:19, Rev 22:16 (28)
10. SO WHAT? Given the warning from Christ to the church in Thyatira, why do so many churches today tolerate false teaching and even promote it for the sake of "unity" or "church growth"? 2 Tim 4:3-4.

A person with a "Jezebel spirit" is one who appeals to his/her "spirituality" to rationalize (or again, at minimum, to overlook) sensuality. Often they don't even believe it to be sinful or illicit, but are so blinded by pride, the praise of men, and sensational supernatural experiences that what may well be inappropriate for mainstream believers is, in their case, permissible. It's just one of the perks. Sam Storms

Small Group Questions for Revelation 3:1-13

SARDIS

1. If you just moved to town and were looking for a church, what qualities would attract you to a congregation and what would rule out a church for you and your family?
2. How could the church at Sardis be dead but have a name that they were alive? (1)
3. What commands does Christ give this church in vss. 2-3? What would they have to do to obey these orders? (2-3)
4. How have a few people not “soiled their garments”? See James 1:27; Jude 23 (4)
5. What does Christ promise to overcomers in Sardis? (5)
6. What is the book of life? Phil 4:3 What does Christ promise His people here? How does this compare with Ps 69:28? (5)
7. Sardis was a “dead church”. When is it time to leave a dead church for a live one?

PHILADELPHIA

8. What does the key of David represent? Isa 22:22 (7)
9. What is the open door Christ put before them? Col 4:2-3 (8)
10. What is the hour of testing Christ will keep them from? Dan 9:25-27 Does that promise apply to this church only? (10)
11. What should they do in view of Christ’s quick coming? (11)
12. What does Christ promise to overcomers in Philadelphia? (12)
13. SO WHAT? Compare these two churches, at Sardis and Philadelphia. Which would you want to be a part of? How would your presence make a difference? Remember the Super Bowl commercial, **WAKE UP, PEOPLE!**

Small Group Questions for Revelation 3:14-22

LAODICEA

1. What does Christ mean He is the beginning of creation? Jn 1:3, Col 1:15-18 (14)
2. Why is being lukewarm worse than being either cold or hot? (15)
3. What does it mean, “I will spit you out of my mouth?” Matt 7:21-23 (16)
4. How would their attitudes in vs. 17 express themselves in a local church? (17)
5. What do the things represent that Christ tells them to buy? Isa 55:1 (18)
6. What does Christ do for those He loves? What will prove that they are indeed in God’s love? Heb 12:5-8 (19-20)
7. Rather than the typical interpretation of this verse as Jesus standing at the door of a person’s heart asking him to invite him in, what door is Jesus really knocking on? If there is just one unbeliever in there, what does He promise? (20) (Note: does the Bible ever speak of “inviting Jesus into your heart” for salvation?)
8. What does Christ promise overcomers in the church of Laodicea? 2 Tim 2:12 (21)
9. SO WHAT? Perhaps no other church best represents the modern American church than the church in Laodicea. They were neither hot nor cold. They weren’t persecuted and fit in with everyone. They depended on their own riches and everyone was comfortable. They had Christ, but in name only, and represent precisely the people Jesus spoke about in Matt 7:21-23.

List ways our church or any church in our day is like this Laodicean church. How do we change to either being hot or cold?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 4:1-11

1. What does the transition “after these things” signify? Rev 1:19 Why does God bring John into heaven for this next part of Revelation? (1)
2. Who is the One sitting on the throne? Isa 6:1 What does the symbol of a throne teach us? (2)
3. Why is His appearance compared to precious stones? Why a rainbow around the throne? Eze 1:26-28 (3)
4. Who do the 24 elders represent? Why would they not represent Israel or the people saved during the tribulation period? (4)
5. What do the thrones, white garments, and golden crowns indicate about these 24 elders?
6. What does the thunder and lightning from God’s throne represent? See Exodus 19:16-18. Where have we heard about the seven spirits before? (5)
7. What might the sea of glass symbolize? See Ezekiel 1:22. (6)
8. What are the four living creatures? How do they compare with the four living beings in Ezekiel 1:4-14? (6-8)
9. What purpose do they serve? What do you find interesting about what they do? (8-9)
10. What is the elders’ response to these four creatures? Why is God worthy to receive glory and honor? Col 1:15-17 (9-11)
11. What does this chapter teach you about heaven?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 5:1-7

1. Who is seated on the throne? Where is the book? Why? What is unique about this book? See Daniel 12:4,9. (1)
2. Who is the strong angel? Rev 10:1; 18:21. Why does he ask this question? (2)
3. How exhaustive was the search? Why was there no one able to open the book? (3)
4. Why did John weep? What is God teaching us here? (4)
5. What do the two titles indicate about Christ? Why is He described this way? Gen 49:8-10; 2 Sam. 7:13; Luke 1:32-33; Rev. 22:16 Why is He able to open the book? (5)
6. How is the Lamb described? Where else in Scripture is Christ called a “Lamb”? (6)
7. Why did He take the book? Matt 28:18 (7)
8. SO WHAT? As John moves from describing God on His throne, we are introduced to the Lamb that was slain, Jesus Christ. Many men, and even Satan, have tried to rule the world and have failed. Only one person, Jesus Christ, has the power (symbolized by the Lamb’s horns) and authority to judge and rule the world. Dan 7:13-14, Jn 16:8.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 5:8-14

1. How do the elders respond when Christ takes the scroll?
2. Why are the prayers of the saints represented by incense? Ps 141:2 (8)
3. List the truths in this new song sung by the elders. (9)
4. What did Christ make the people He purchased with His blood? 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev. 20:6 (10)
5. What does the phrase “myriads” signify? Dan 7:10 (11)
6. Why was the Lamb worthy? What seven things is He worthy to receive? (12)
7. Is every created thing referring to people only? Ps 150:6 (13)
8. Whom are the elders worshipping in vs. 14? What does this tell you about the Lamb? Col 2:9 (14)
9. SO WHAT? As the Lamb takes the scroll, all of creation breaks out in praise as the long anticipated defeat of sin, death, and Satan is imminent.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 6:1-8

1. What was John seeing as the first four seals were broken? Who is controlling these four seals? Who announces the unleashing of each one? Matt 24:4-8 (1, 3, 5, 7)
2. What does the white horse and rider represent? Note the bow with no arrows and the crown. Is he successful? Dan 9:26-27, 1 Thess. 5:3 (2)
3. What does the red horse and rider represent? What is frightening about this horseman? Luke 21:10 (3-4)
4. What does the black horse and rider represent? What does “do not damage the oil and the wine” indicate? (5-6)
5. What does the pale horse and rider represent? (7-8)
6. Does the fourth of the earth represent geographic or population limits? What instruments does he use to do his work? (8)
7. Is the church present on earth at this time (the beginning of the 7 year tribulation)? 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:51-52
8. SO WHAT? As the Lamb breaks the first four seals of the scroll, the “beginning of birth pangs” (Matt 24:8) usher in God’s judgment on the earth with false peace, then war and famine, with inevitable death following. The horse and riders are best understood as representing forces unleashed rather than individuals, although the white horse and rider certainly represent the Antichrist, setting up his government with the promise of false peace.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 6:9-17

1. Who were the souls under the altar? Why are they under there? (9)
2. Why were they crying for justice? What are they told? (10)
3. If the church is no longer on the earth, who are the fellow servants that will be martyred? What do the white robes given to them represent? Rev 3:5 Rev 7:14 (11)
4. Unlike the first 5 seals, earthquakes and cosmic disturbances can only be attributed to whom? What do you think is happening here? Joel 2:31 (12)
5. What do “stars” falling from the sky as figs fall from a tree describe? (13)
6. What does God do in vs. 14 to leave no doubt He is behind these judgments? Isa 34:4 (14)
7. Where do these people run? Can you imagine this? Will anyone be spared from God’s wrath? Zeph 1:18 (15)
8. What do they recognize about these judgments? Is there any indication of repentance? Why or why not? Do they have any hope? (16-17)
9. SO WHAT? God’s judgment now moves toward the “great tribulation”, i.e. the last 3 ½ years of the 7 year tribulation. Matt 24:9-22. The forces of judgment now move from human agents (the first 4 seals) to God’s direct judgments (6th seal and 7th seal which contains the trumpet and bowl judgments), in response (in conjunction with His will), to the prayers of the martyrs (5th seal). Luke 18:7-8

Small Group Questions for Revelation 7:1-8

1. What are the angels holding back? What does this represent? (1)
2. What does the seal on the 5th angel signify? What were the four angels empowered to do? (2)
3. Is God fair in punishing all these people during the tribulation period? Does He punish everyone during this time?
4. Why does the 5th angel prevent them? Rom 5:9 (3)
5. Who are the 144,000 sealed by God? Are they the only Jews that are saved during the tribulation? Since all church age believers are raptured from earth before the tribulation period, how will these Jews be saved? Rom 11:25-27 (4)
6. What is God's special purpose for them? Rev 14:4 (4)
7. How is the list of 12 tribes different from the list in Genesis 49:1-28? Is that significant? (5-8) Gen 49:1-28
8. SO WHAT? God now allows an interlude between the 6th and 7th seals. Judgment is briefly withheld (indicated by the Angels), and a special group of Jews are ordained by God as His witnesses, (evangelizing) during the remaining tribulation.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 7:9-17

1. Who are these multitudes? See 6:11 How are they dressed and what are they holding? Why? See John 12:13. (9)
2. Why are they excited? What is the main theme of their worship? What is biblical worship all about? See John 4:23-24 (10)
3. Why were the angels praising God? Who falls on their faces? (11-12)
4. Why does this one elder ask John about the multitude? (13)
5. What does washing their robes in blood signify? Where did they come from? Rom 3:24-25 (14)
6. Why are they able to stand before God? Philippians 3:9 (15)
7. How are they now protected? Isa 49:10 (16)
8. How does the Lamb function as shepherd? Jn 10:11 What does this verse tell you about your God? (17)
9. There are ten eternal blessings in vss. 15-17. List them and indicate which you appreciate the most.
10. SO WHAT? Even during God's greatest judgment on mankind, it is also a time of unprecedented grace and mercy, as evidenced by the uncountable multitudes that are saved during the tribulation. We should be encouraged that God is faithful and saves His own even when things seem to be at their worst.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 8:1-13

1. Why was there silence when the 7th seal was broken? Zeph 1:7a (1)
2. What is the significance of the trumpets given to the angels? Exodus 19:16 (2)
3. Where were the prayers of the saints? Why did the angels offer incense with the prayers? (3-4)
4. What did the angel take from the altar? (5)
5. Why did the angel throw the censer to the earth? What was the result? Zeph 3:8 (5)
6. What is about to happen next? Mk 13:19 (6)

FIRST TRUMPET JUDGMENT

7. What is hail, fire, and blood descending on earth likely describing? What three things happen on earth? (7)

SECOND TRUMPET JUDGMENT

8. What do you think the great mountain burning with fire was? What three things happen on earth? (8)

THIRD TRUMPET JUDGMENT

9. The star burning like a torch is most likely what? Why is it called wormwood? (10-11)

FOURTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT

10. What three things happen when this trumpet is blown? (12)
11. What does the eagle warn the earth about? (13)
12. SO WHAT? Why do you think God targets earth's water supply in many of these judgments?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 9:1-12

THE FIFTH TRUMPET

1. Who is most likely the “star” that fell? Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:9. How do we know this is not a literal star, asteroid, or meteorite? (1)
2. The bottomless pit is mentioned 7 times in Revelation – 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,31. Who is there and what is it’s purpose? See also 2 Pet 2:4, 1 Pet 3:18-19, Lk 8:31 (2)
3. What kind of power do these locusts have? (3)
4. What and whom are these locusts not to harm? Rev 7:3-4 (4)
5. What kind of torment did they inflict? Why are men not permitted to die? How is God’s sovereignty revealed in this plague? (5-6)
6. What does this description and the fact that they do not eat anything green (vs.4) lead us to conclude about these locusts? What are they? (7-9)
7. What is unique about their tails? (10)
8. Who is their king? What does his name in Hebrew and Greek mean? Is he the same person as the “star that fell”?
9. SO WHAT? Imagine what the world would be like if all the prisons were emptied and the criminals were given free reign to inflict mankind. This will be nothing compared to the judgment of the 5th trumpet when the bottomless pit is opened and these creatures are given free reign upon the earth to inflict mankind.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 9:13-21

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

1. Where does the voice come from? See 6:9-10, 8:3, 5. What does an altar usually represent? What is this altar in heaven crying for now, though? (1)
2. Who are these bound angels? (14)
3. Where are they bound? Is there any significance about this place in Scripture? (14)
4. What does it mean that they were prepared for this hour? (15)
5. What power do the “angels” have that the locusts didn’t have? Rev 9:5 (15)
6. Who are the armies and horsemen? What might John have been seeing in his vision as he watched these millions of horsemen? (16-17)
7. What were the three plagues and what was the extent of the devastation? (18-19)
8. Why did the people who were left alive not repent? Rom 1:24-32 (20-21)
9. SO WHAT? Many people think that those in Hell are there pleading to be released, sorry for what they’ve done. However, the reason that their punishment is eternal, is because mankind is eternally unrepentant, even when faced with God’s judgment.

Note: The 4th seal killed a quarter of the world’s population and this judgment kills another third, not counting all those killed during the other judgments. So far, 50% to 70% of the world’s population has been killed. Contrast that with WWII when, in a six year period about 50 million people were killed, which was about 2% of the world’s population.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 10:1-11

1. Who is this angel, what is his appearance, and why is he not an appearance of Christ? What does the angel's "feet like pillars of fire" symbolize? Mal 4:1 (1)
2. What do the angel's feet standing on both land and sea symbolize? (2)
3. What is the emphasis in vs. 3?
4. Why was John not permitted to write what he heard? 2 Cor 12:4 (4)
5. By whom does the angel swear and what does he swear? (5-6)
6. What is the mystery of God (think big, REALLY BIG, picture here)? Eph 1:9-10 (7)
7. What is the book John was commanded to take? Rev 5:1 (8)
8. Why was he told to eat it? Eze 2:9-3:14 (9)
9. What do sweet and bitter symbolize? Does God's message always please us? See Jer. 15:15-18; Ezek. 3:3; Zech 12:10 (10)
10. What do the angels tell John he still has to do? Which judgments are still coming up? (11)

SO WHAT? Again, God allows a brief interlude, between the 6th and 7th trumpet judgments as he did between the 6th and 7th seals. God is now prepared to pour out his final wrath on rebellious mankind through the bowl judgments.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 11:1-14

1. What does John's measuring of the temple symbolize? Why was the court given to the nations? And for how long? When will this happen? Zech 2:1-5 (1-2)
2. Although we can't be certain, who might the two witnesses of God be? Zech 4:11-14, Matt 17:3 How long will they prophecy? Why are they called "olive trees" and "lampstands?" (3-4)
3. Why would anyone want to harm these witnesses? Is the fire flowing from their mouths literal or figurative? What do they use it for? What other powers do they have? Who else had these powers? Ex 7:17-21, 2 Ki 1:10, Jas 5:17 (5-6)
4. Who is the beast that kills them? When will he kill them? 2 Thess. 2:3-4 (7)
5. What is the great city? Matt 23:37 (8)
6. How will the people of the entire earth look on their dead bodies? Why would they not allow the bodies to be laid in a tomb? How long will their bodies lie there? Why will people rejoice and send gifts to one another? (9-10)
7. What happens after 3 ½ days? Any symbolism here? What happens to them and what is the response of the people of earth? (11-12)
8. What happens at the very hour these two witnesses disappear? In what sense did the terrified people give glory to God? (13)
9. SO WHAT? In the midst of God's judgment, during the final three and a half years of the tribulation, He gives the world a continual chance to repent through the preaching of His two witnesses. When they depart, the remaining judgments (bowl judgments) come rapid-fire, culminating in the return of Christ.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 11:15-19

1. What is the “kingdom of the world” Christ is about to take back? How does this contrast with Matthew 4:8-11? (15)
2. Why were the elders giving thanks? Matt 6:10 Consider what this world has gone through from the beginning up to this time. (16-17)
3. Why do the elders use the phrase “who are and who were”? What all are they saying about God in this verse? (17)
4. List all the things vs. 18 says is about to happen:
5. What does it mean that God will destroy (judge) those who have destroyed the earth? In what way was the earth destroyed? How concerned should God’s people be about the earth and its environment? (18)
6. What does the temple being opened and the ark appearing symbolize? Why all the upheaval of nature? (19)
7. SO WHAT? As the 2nd interlude ends (the seals and the trumpet judgments), the establishment of Christ’s kingdom is now imminent. Dan 2:44-45, Zech 14:9. The nations will gather in a final, futile attempt to prevent His kingdom, culminating in the battle of Armageddon. See Ezekiel 38 for prophecy regarding this time period. Also see Dan 12:11-13 to help understand the timeline of the last 3 ½ years (plus 75 days) of the tribulation.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 12:1-6

1. This is the first of 7 signs in the rest of Revelation. See 12:3; 13:13,14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20. Where does this sign appear? What is significant about the sun, moon, and stars? Who does the woman represent? (1)
2. What does this vision of a woman giving birth to a child represent? Isa. 66:7-12; Luke 2:8-11 (2,5)
3. Who does the dragon symbolize? Any thoughts about the descriptive words great, red, seven heads, ten horns, seven crowns? 1 Pet 5:8 (See MacArthur's note) (3)
4. Who were the stars the dragon threw to earth? How many? When did this happen? (4)
5. How did the dragon try to devour her child? What's the big picture here? (4)
6. How was the child caught up to God? Ac 1:9-11 (5)
7. Where does the woman flee? Who is this and how does God take care of her? Matt 24:15-21 (6)
8. SO WHAT? In Revelation chapters 12-14 we now review tribulation events from Satan's perspective, including events prior to the tribulation, i.e his fall from heaven (vs 9) and attempted killing of the Messiah, (vs 4). The chronological narrative of events following the seventh trumpet resume in chapter 15.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 12:7-17

1. How can there be war in heaven? Is this the first time warfare has taken place in heaven? Is there ever a question about the outcome? What does this tell you about sin? Dan 10:12-13 (7-8)
2. What do we learn about the dragon in vs. 9? What does it mean that the dragon and his angels were thrown down to earth? See Luke 10:18-20 (9)
3. What has Satan done for ages that he will no longer do to believers? How do you think Satan has done this? Has he ever done this to you? Zech 3:1 (10)
4. How do believers overcome Satan? 1 Jn 4:4 (11)
5. What two things does Satan have in his remaining time on earth? Rev 20:1-3 (12)
6. Whom does Satan go after in his remaining time on earth? (10)
7. What do the eagle's wings symbolize and where is the woman taken? See Deut. 32:9-12; Ps. 91:4; Is. 40:31 (14)
8. What does the water coming after the woman symbolize? Jer 47:2-3 How does the earth help the woman? (15-16)
9. What is the dragon's reaction to the earthquake? Who are the rest of the woman's children? (17)
10. SO WHAT? From the perspective of the tribulation timeline, this likely occurs at the mid point (vs 14). Knowing there is only a short time left before he is incarcerated in the abyss, he makes an all out effort to destroy God's people. (Mt 24:15-22)

Small Group Questions for Revelation 13:1-10

1. What is the relationship between the dragon and the beast? How are their appearances similar? (12:3) What do these horns and heads symbolize? What's on the heads? See 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Dan 7:24-25; Rev 17:9 (1)
2. What do the leopard, bear, and lion symbolize? What does the dragon give him? Dan 7:3-7 (2)
3. What does the fatal wound that was healed represent? Why is the whole earth amazed and why do they follow after him? 2 Thes 2:9-10 (3)
4. What was the result of the people's amazement? 2 Thes 2:11 (4)
5. What does the beast do? What is his nature? What is the significance of the 42 months? 2 Thes 2:4, Dan 11:36 (5-6)
6. What authority is the beast given? Who gives him that authority? How could this possibly happen? (7)
7. Who will and who will not worship the beast? Why? Eph 1:4 (8)
8. This is an intense time of spiritual conflict and persecution. How would you react? What will prepare us for this kind of persecution? Can you say, "I'm willing to go to jail or die for the testimony of Christ?" What is the perseverance and faith of the saints? 1 Pet 2:20-21 (9-10)
9. SO WHAT? This section describes the beast that represents not only the world government as a whole, but also a literal man, Antichrist, who rules over the entire world and sets himself up as a god.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 13:11-18

1. Who is the second beast? Does the fact that the first beast came “up out of the sea” and this beast came “up out of the earth” mean anything? What is striking about his description? 2 Cor 11:14-15 (11)
2. How does he exercise the authority of the first beast? Where does the authority come from? Why is the fatal wound mentioned again? What is his primary purpose? (12)
3. Who is the second beast (false prophet) counterfeiting with his signs? (13)
4. How does the false prophet deceive people? What does he tell people to do? Why? Where is this image to be set up? Dan 9:27, Matt 24:15 (14)
5. How can you imagine vs. 15 could be fulfilled today? What is its purpose? (15)
6. What is the purpose of this mark? How do you think people will be persuaded to receive it? Are there any parallels in today’s world? Would you take a credit card-type micro-chip in your hand for convenience in buying stuff? (16-17)
7. What does the mark of the beast represent? Can anything be known about it with certainty today? (18)
8. SO WHAT? It would seem hard to believe that anyone would be deceived by the false prophet. However, consider that people are deceived by many lesser false prophets today (Matt 24:11, Mk 13:22). In fact, even as Christians, we must be continually on guard for false teachers (1 Jn 4:1).



Small Group Questions for Revelation 14:1-8

1. Who is the Lamb? Where is He standing? Is this on earth or in heaven? Who are the 144,000? What is written on their foreheads? Why? Why on their foreheads? (1)
2. How does John describe the voice from heaven? Whose voice is it? Rev 5:9-10 (2)
3. Why could only the 144,000 learn to sing the song? (3)
4. How are these 144,000 described? How are they blameless? Col 1:22, Zeph 3:13 Is that the same as being sinless? (4-5)
5. What is the eternal gospel? Matt 24:14 (6)
6. Why is the appeal to worship God focused on Him as Judge and Creator? Is creation as revealed in Genesis 1-2 part of the gospel? Where do evolutionists believe life originated from? How does this fit with today's popular view of judgment and creation? Rom 1:18-20 (7)
7. Why is Antichrist's kingdom compared to Babylon? What is the wine she makes the nations drink? (8)
8. SO WHAT? The 144,000 should cause us to reflect on our responsibility to be a witness of the gospel of Christ. Our circumstances are much easier than theirs will be. Do we live up to our responsibilities or do we retreat at the first hint of hostility from the world? Rom 1:16 says...

Small Group Questions for Revelation 14:9-20

1. How are the people given warning about worshipping the beast? What will be the consequences of worshipping the beast? Is this fair? Where will they be tormented? (9-10)
2. Why is their punishment eternal? What will be their experience day and night? Can you imagine this? Forever? (11)
3. How do God's elect persevere? John 6:37-40; Hebrews 10:39 (12)
4. Why are believers who die from this time on especially blessed? Notice the contrast of resting in this verse with verse 11. What does it mean that their deeds will follow them? (13)
5. Who is the One sitting on the cloud? Why the golden crown and sharp sickle? Dan 7:13 (14)
6. What does the idea of "ripe" mean for this judgment? (15-16)
7. There are two angels in vss. 17-19. What is each one's responsibility?
8. Who do the clusters of the vine represent? Isa 63:1-6 (19)
9. What is being described in verse 20? Is this bloodbath to be understood literally? (20)
10. SO WHAT? Even in the depths of the tribulation and judgment, God extends His mercy to the world through yet another opportunity to hear, repent and accept the gospel.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 15:1-8

1. Why is this sign called “great and marvelous”? What is most interesting about these seven plagues? Ps 2:1-9, Zeph 3:8 (1)
2. Who are the ones victorious over the beast? Rev 12:11 but also 20:4 (2)
3. What is the sea of glass? Why are they holding harps of God? Ex 24:10, Eze 1:22, Rev 4:6 (2)
4. What is the song of Moses? Ex 15:1-18, Dt 32:1-43 (3-4)
5. What is the song of the Lamb? How is God described in vss. 3-4? Rev 5:8-14 (3-4)
6. What is the tabernacle of testimony? Ex 38:21, Ac 7:44 (5)
7. How were these angels dressed as they come out of the temple? Why? (6)
8. What does the living creature give to the angels? How is God described here? (7)
9. Why was the temple filled with smoke? What restriction was placed on the temple? Ex 40:34-35, Isa 6:1-4 (8)
10. SO WHAT? This chapter is the prelude to the bowl judgments contained in the last trumpet, which itself was contained in the last seal. With chapter 16 we pick up the chronological narrative where it left off at the end of chapter 11.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 16:1-11

1. How does 11:15-19 connect with this verse and the beginning of the bowls of wrath? How often does Revelation use the word “wrath”? (You’ll need a concordance). (1)
2. List briefly the seven bowl judgments. How many of these bowl judgments are similar to the plagues on Egypt? (2-11)
3. Who is affected by the first bowl judgment? Why? (2).
4. What happens when the 2nd and 3rd bowls are poured out? Is it literal blood? Ex 7:20-21 (3-4)
5. Why are God’s judgments declared righteous? Rom 2:5 (5-6)
6. What does the altar represent (since altars don’t speak)? What is the essence of its message? (7)
7. What is the significance of God altering the output of the sun? I wonder how the global warming crowd will like this (Donovan’s comment). (8)
8. What is the people’s response as they are scorched with this severe heat? Rom 1:21 (9,11)
9. What does God darken? What kind of darkness is this? See Ex. 10:21. Why do the people blaspheme God? (10-11)
10. SO WHAT? The bowl judgments are a picture of rapid-fire judgments dumped on the world at once as if from a saucer, rather than a slow pouring stream, and take place in a short amount of chronological time. What is God demonstrating to the world of lost people?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 16:12-21

1. Where is the Euphrates River? Gen 15:18 Why does God dry up its water? (12)
2. Why are the unclean spirits portrayed as frogs? Lev 11:10-11 Why from their mouths? Recall another time when God used frogs as judgment? (13)
3. How did they deceive the kings of the earth? What is their purpose? 1 Ki 22:19-22 (14)
4. Why and how does Christ encourage His people at this point? What are the clothes Jesus is talking about? Isa 61:10, Rom 13:14 (15)
5. What is the name of the battle about to be fought? Joel 3:9-17 (16)
6. What is finally “done”? (17)
7. What is the magnitude of this final earthquake? See Ezekiel 38:19; Zech. 4:3-4 (18, 20)
8. What happens to the cities of the nations? Why does God especially target Babylon? What do you think Babylon represents? (19)
9. What was the size of these hailstones? How will people respond? Ex 9:25 (21)
10. SO WHAT? The final battle between Satan (and his followers) and Christ takes place at Armageddon, followed by a restructuring of the earth to something similar to it's antediluvian condition, in preparation for Christ's millennial reign. Note how that will affect life spans similar to the antediluvian environment. Isa 65:20

Small Group Questions for Revelation 17:1-7

1. What leads us to conclude this great harlot is not one city but representing some great power? Why is this global power or entity called a harlot? (1)
2. What kind of immorality and drunkenness are these nations guilty of? (2)
3. Where have we seen this beast before? What is the symbolism communicated by the word “sitting” (the woman is sitting on the beast)? (3)
4. What do the purple and scarlet clothes and all the jewelry represent? What’s in the cup? (4)
5. Interesting, another name on a forehead. Why her forehead? Based on her mystery name, what is her great sin? (5)
6. What is this woman drunk with? Why does John wonder greatly at this? (6-7)
7. SO WHAT? Again, we leave the chronological narrative of Revelation in chapters 17 and 18 as John receives a vision detailing Antichrist’s kingdom, false religious system, and its judgment.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 17:8-18

1. This gets very interesting. What will all the non-believers be amazed at? How does this verse describe believers of this time? Rev 13:3 (8,11)
2. How do we know the seven mountains are not the seven hills of Rome? (9-10)
3. If these seven kings are actually world empires, which ones are the five that have fallen? Which one "is"? Which one will come? How long will that kingdom stay in power? (10)
4. How is the beast different from the others? (11)
4. Who are the 10 kings? What is their goal and under whose authority will they operate? (12-13)
5. What war will they wage? How will they actually do this? Where? What is the outcome? Rev 16:14-16 See also Zechariah 14:10 (14)
6. Why do the beast and the kings suddenly hate the harlot and destroy her? How is God involved in this entire scenario? Rev 13:11-12 (16-17)
7. SO WHAT? What kind of influence has religion and economics had over the nations of the world?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 18:1-8

1. What three things characterized this angel? What does this tell you about his message? (1)
2. What has happened to Babylon? What is God emphasizing in this description of Babylon? We already saw a preview in Rev. 14:8. Isaiah 21:9 relates the fall of Babylon historically. (2)
3. How had rulers and merchants become seduced and rich through Babylon? What values and philosophies rule world politico-economic systems? Rev 13:17 (3)
4. How is it that God's people would be in the midst of Babylon? What are they being called out of? 1 John 2:15-17; Jeremiah 51:6-8 (4-5)
5. What is God's attitude toward this corrupt world system when it comes to her judgment? Why? (6)
6. Ultimately, what was Babylon's sin? Is 42:8, Is 47:8-11 (7)
7. How long will it take for God to judge Babylon? Remember Belshazzar in Daniel 5:30? (8)
8. SO WHAT? Is the call to come out of Babylon any different than our calling today? See 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 18:9-24

1. Why will the kings of the earth weep over Babylon? Rev 17:12 (9-10)
2. Why were the merchants weeping? Compare the people's lament with their earlier boast. Rev 13:4 (11-14)
3. How did all these various people demonstrate their deep sorrow? Why such intense grief and mourning? (15-19)
4. Why is the reaction of the saints, apostles, and prophets different? Rev 6:9-10 (20)
5. What does the angel do to symbolize Babylon's judgment? (21)
6. What will not be found in her any longer? What does this mean? (22)
7. Who were her merchants? How were they deceived? (23)
8. SO WHAT? What does this chapter teach us about the hold that idolatry and materialism has on the human heart? What should be the believer's attitude toward all this stuff?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 19:1-10

The chronological narrative of Revelation is resumed after the interlude of chapters 17 and 18. A major interpretive question is whether Babylon is a literal city or a global religious-economic system.

1. Why was the multitude in heaven rejoicing? What is the nature of God's judgments? (1-2)
2. Why is smoke rising up from Babylon? Cf. Rev. 14:10 (3)
3. Why did the elders, living creatures, and multitude praise God? (4-6)
4. Who is the bride of the Lamb? 2 Cor 11:2 How does this reflect Genesis 2:24? (7)
5. What are the righteous acts of the saints? Rom 6:18. Is this the same as Christ's imputed righteousness? 2 Cor 5:21 (8)
6. Who participates in the marriage supper of the Lamb? (9)
7. Why did the angel refuse to be worshipped? Col 2:18 (10)
8. SO WHAT? Here we see all the host of heaven rejoicing at the destruction of the Antichrist's kingdom. Should God's people rejoice at the destruction of the wicked? Deut 32:43, Ps 58:10-11.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 19:11-21

1. Who is the One sitting on the white horse? How does the manner of His coming compare with His first advent? Zech 9:9 (11)
2. Where have we seen this description before? What name is written on Him? 2 Cor 12:4 (12)
3. Why is His robe dipped in blood? What is significant about his name in this verse? Isa 63:1-6 (13)
4. Who are the armies of heaven and what are they doing? Zech 14:5 (14)
5. What does the sword coming out of His mouth symbolize? Is 11:4 (15)
6. What does His name in this verse affect your heart attitude toward Christ? (16)
7. What is happening that will provide this great supper for all these birds? Lk 17:37
Eze 39:17-22 (17-18)
8. What have the beast and his allies assembled to do? What do you think this moment in world history will look like? Rev 16:16 (19)
9. What happens to the beast and the false prophet? Why? Dan 7:11 (20)
10. Will any unbelievers be left alive to enter the millennial kingdom? Matt 24:40-41 (21)
11. SO WHAT? Antichrist and his kingdom are finally destroyed as Christ claims His rightful place as King. Note how the final battle is over in an instant, everyone is immediately slain by Christ. Knowing how things ultimately end, how should we view our place in His kingdom? Do we live each day in victory or defeat?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 20:1-10

This is a highly debated passage. Premillennialists take the thousand years literally and following Christ's second advent; Amillennialists believe the thousand years speaks of Christ rule over the church today; and Postmillennialists believe the thousand years represents an indefinite future time when Christ will have subdued the entire world through the gospel.

1. The word "abyss" is used nine times in the NT. It means bottomless depths. What do the key and chain speak of in this verse? Lk 8:31, 1 Pet 3:19-20, 2 Pet 2:4 (1,3,7)
2. Where else in Revelation do we have this description of Satan? What does the angel do to Satan? What influence will Satan have during the millennium? (2-3)
3. What do these thrones represent? Who sits on the thrones? How are they described? What does "and they came to life" mean (see vs. 5)? What will they do for one thousand years? Dan 7:27, Matt. 19:28, 1 Cor 6:2, (4)
4. Who are the rest of the dead? When will they "come to life?" (5)
5. What is the "first resurrection?" What is the "second death"? What will "first resurrection" people do? Mt 13:42 (6) (The word for resurrection [anastasis] is always used of a physical resurrection in the New Testament).
6. At what point will Satan be released from the abyss? What will he do as soon as he is released? Will there be unbelievers in the millennial kingdom? (7-8)
7. How is this final war different than the war we've already studied led by the Antichrist? (9)
8. What happens to Satan at this point? Whom does he join? How long? (10)
9. SO WHAT? What are several outstanding characteristics about the thousand year reign of Christ in this passage? How does this passage give us hope today?

Small Group Questions for Revelation 20:11-15

1. What did John see that caused heaven and earth to flee away? Why would these realms flee? (11)
2. Who is being judged? How could the “dead” stand before the throne? What do these books in this verse represent?(12)
3. Where did all these dead people come from? What is different about this resurrection from the first resurrection in vs. 6? Dan 12:2, Jn 5:29 (13)
4. In what sense will death and Hades be thrown into the lake of fire? What exactly is the “second death” (which was referred to in vs. 6) (14)
5. Who was thrown into the lake of fire? What is the book of life? Dan 12:1, Lk 10:20 (15)
6. Look up and list all the references to “fire” in the Gospel of Matthew:
7. SO WHAT? The world either denies judgment (atheism, Darwinism, etc.) or views judgment as a scale where good deeds are weighed against the bad and consequently the vast majority of people will be judged good. Instead, here we see the stark and frightening picture of the righteous judgment of God against sinners. Indeed, they are judged according to their works, which in every case, will be an insufficient atonement for their sins apart from Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 21:1-8

1. What happens to the first heaven and earth? What is missing in the new heaven and earth? Why? 2 Pet 3:10-13 (1)
2. How is the new Jerusalem pictured here? Why? (2)
3. What does verse 3 tell you about God and His relationship with His people? (3)
4. What will God do for His people? What does this say about our fallen world today? Is 25:8 (4)
5. What does God urge John to do? Why? (5)
6. How does God describe Himself and how does He offer life to us? (6)
7. How are overcomers blessed for eternity? 1 Jn 5:4-5 (7)
8. Who will be thrown into the lake of fire? What strikes you most about this description of lost people? 1 Cor 6:9-10, Gal 5:19 (8)
9. SO WHAT? Finally we see the culmination of all of redemptive history, a new heaven and new earth with a new Jerusalem prepared for believers to live in (Phil. 3:20). With our inheritance prepared for us (1 Pet 1:4), where then should our focus be? Why do most believers still seem preoccupied with this world? What are some ways we can cultivate a heavenly mindset? (1 Jn 3:3)

Small Group Questions for Revelation 21:9-21

1. Who/what is the bride/wife of the Lamb? (9)
2. What is significant about this new Jerusalem? From where does it come? See vs. 2 and 3:12. (10)
3. What does it mean that the city has the glory of God? Isa 60:19 (11)
4. What is written on the gates of the city? What does this tell us about the nation Israel in eternity future? (12-13)
5. What is written on the foundation stones of the city? What does this tell us about the distinction between Israel and the church? What do vs. 12-14 tell us about the unity of God's people in the future eternal state? (14)
6. How big is this city? Should we take these measurements literally? How thick were the walls? What materials were used to build this city? (16-18)
7. Why do you think God describes these foundation stones as He does? (19-20)
8. How does God describe the gates and the street? Why? (21)
9. SO WHAT? Here we see the new Jerusalem, the eternal dwelling place of God's elect. Take note of the many similarities with the tabernacle and temple. In what aspects will living there be different than our lives today, not just spiritual differences, but also in practical, ordinary ways.

Small Group Questions for Revelation 21:22-22:5

1. Why is there no temple in the heavenly city? (22)
2. Why is there no need for sunlight? Isa 60:19-20 (23,25)
3. What will kings and nations bring into this city? What does that mean? Will there be kings and nations in the eternal state on the renewed earth? (24-26)
4. Who are the people that will dwell there? What won't be there? (27)
5. What does John see coming from God's throne? What does it symbolize? (1)
6. What function will the tree of life have in this eternal city? (2)
7. What will life be like in this glorious place? (3-5)
8. Whose face will we see? What will be on our forehead? Why? (4)
9. SO WHAT? What will eternity be like? Will we get bored? What will fill up our time?