

SEVEN YEAR WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year Seven
Lessons 40-52

Fourth Quarter
Revelation 6 – Revelation 22

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FOREWORD

1. Revelation and Genesis

The Bible is a UNIT: ONE STORY. The last part of the last book in the Bible reads like the close of the story begun in the first part of the book of Genesis – the first book in the Bible.

The First Word in Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

The Last Lesson in Revelation: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth” (21:1).

“The Gathering Together of Waters He Called the Sea” (Genesis 1:10).

“And There Was No More Sea” (Revelation 21:1).

“The Darkness He Called Night” (Genesis 1:5).

“There Shall Be No Night There” (Revelation 21:25).

“God Made Two Great Lights” (Sun and Moon, Genesis 1:16).

“The City Had No Need of the Sun... moon” (Revelation 21:23).

“In the Day Thou Eatest Thereof Thou Shalt Surely Die” (Genesis 2:17).

“There Shall Be No More Death” (Revelation 21:4).

“I will greatly Multiply Thy Sorrow” (Genesis 3:16).

“Neither Shall There Be Any More Pain” (Revelation 21:4).

“Cursed Is The Ground For Thy Sake” (Genesis 3:17).

“There Shall Be No More Curse” (Revelation 22:3).

Satan Appears as the Subtle Deceiver of Mankind (Genesis 3:1, 4).

Satan Disappears Forever in “The Lake of Fire” (Revelation 20:10).

Adam and Eve were driven from the “Tree of Life” (Genesis 3:22-24).

The “Tree of Life” Re-appears (Revelation 22:2).

Man Was “Driven” from God’s Presence (Genesis 3:24).

“They Shall See His (God’s) Face” (Revelation 22:4)

Man’s Primeval Home Was By a River (Genesis 2:10)

Man’s Eternal Home Will Be Beside “A Pure River” (Revelation 22:1).

Seven Beatitudes of Revelation

1. “Blessed Is He That Readeth... Hear... Keep” (Revelation 1:3).
2. “Blessed Are the Dead Which Die in the Lord...” (Revelation 14:13).
3. “Blessed Is He That Watcheth...” (Revelation 16:15).
4. “Blessed Are They Which Are Called...” (Revelation 19:9).
5. “Blessed and Holy... First Resurrection” (Revelation 20:6).
6. “Blessed Is He... Keepeth the Sayings... of this Book” (Revelation 22:7)
7. Are They That Do His Commandments...” (Revelation 22:14)

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 40

Page 1

Revelation 6

Memory Verse: Revelation 6:1

Memory Verse:

“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the fourth beasts (living creatures) saying, COME AND SEE” (Revelation 6:1).

THE FIRST SIX SEALS “OPENED”

The CHURCH was assured that GOD IS OVER ALL in Revelation 4 and 5. The FUTURE of the CHURCH is committed to the Lamb.

Now the CHURCH is allowed to look into the FUTURE, with its trials and triumphs, as it is revealed by means of pictures (Revelation 6:1-8:1). Let us enter the fascinating study of the DIVINE PICTURE-GALLERY with “great expectations.” “The REVELATION of Jesus Christ” was “sent and SIGN-I-FIED” (Revelation 1:1). Prayerfully read Revelation 6:1-17 and Matthew 24:3-21.

In our study last week the “LAMB... came and took the (sealed) book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne” (Revelation 5:6-7). In this chapter, he OPENS or breaks the first six seals of the mystic book.

I. THE FIRST SEAL: A WHITE HORSE (Revelation 6:1-2)

“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals... noise... Come.” (Revelation 6:1) The word “come” was addressed by the lion-like creature (Revelation 4:7) to the mounted figure. John had no need to “come.” He was already there. The response was immediate.

“And I saw... a WHITE HORSE.” (Revelation 6:2) “He that sat on him had a bow... a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

Who is the “RIDER” upon this White Horse? Christ as the LAMB is holding the “seven-sealed book,” and hence I conclude Christ is not the rider. Christ appears as a White Horse Rider in Revelation 19:11. His name is “The Word of God”! A SHARP SWORD comes out of His mouth upon His enemies (Ephesians 6:17; Revelation 19:15-21).

1. Some say the “White Horse” of Revelation 6:2 and the “White Horse” of Revelation 19:11 are ridden by Christ. If they are the same, the ONE STARTS and the OTHER FINISHES, HIS CONQUEST.

2. This Horseman may symbolize NOT CHRIST, but the WORLD POWER under which Christ was starting His work. The first rider has a “bow,” no arrow is mentioned. The “Stephanos” or “Victor’s Crown” was later given him as a reward for his prolonged but bloodless victories. His brilliant victories dazzle the world. His triumphs will be due to his skillful diplomacy. Like his prototype, Antiochus Epiphanes, he “will come in PEACEABLY and obtain the kingdom by FLATTERIES” (Daniel 11:21). As a tool of Satan he has wonder working powers. When he comes, the world will be ready to believe “THE LIE,” for that is what he will be (II Thessalonians 2:9-11).

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At the end of the Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ” (Revelation 11:15). This may imply that the “Kingdom of the World” was in the saddle at the START.

3. Others think this Horseman may symbolize the beginning of the reign of the Antichrist at the time of the end. His “peace” will be short-lived, as the breaking of the “Second Seal” will show. If this Horseman represents the WORLD POWER under which Christ was starting His work, it is an accurate picture of that power. The Church began when the prosperous, powerful Roman Empire was just entering its Golden Age. Edward Gibbon, English Historian (1734-1794), calls the reign of the five Emperors, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius, and Marcus Aurelius from 96 A.D. to 180 A.D., “the happiest and most prosperous period in the entire history of the human race.”

II. THE SECOND SEAL: A RED HORSE (Revelation 6:3-4)

“And when he had opened the second seal... horse... red.” (Revelation 6:3-4) John heard the second, or “Calf-like Living Creature” say: “Come.” A “horse that was RED” appeared. To the rider was given a SWORD to “take peace from the earth” (verse 4).

“Probably it is enough to say that not one of the four riders is a per-son. Each is rather a CAUSE, a manifestation of certain truths connected with the kingdom of Christ” (Robert Milligan).

1. If the “White Horse” of Revelation 6:2 represents Christ, then this “Red Horse” of the “second seal,” the “Black Horse” (Revelation 6:5), and the “Pale Horse” (Revelation 6:8) may “represent the WOES that scourge mankind on account of their rejection of Christ.”

2. If the “FIRST SEAL” represents the ANTICHRIST, then these THREE SEALS must refer to his terrifying wars.

3. If the “FIRST SEAL” refers to the Golden Age of the mighty Roman Empire, is it not logical to assume that these THREE SEALS – WAR, FAMINE, and DEATH – must refer to the same Empire? Again the picture fits exactly, for between 200 A.D. and 300 A.D. over FIFTY DIFFERENT PRETENDERS CLAIMED THE THRONE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. They were fighting among themselves as to WHO SHOULD BE EMPEROR. Naturally, in a HUNDRED YEARS OF CIVIL WAR, FAMINE, PESTILENCE AND DEATH, the Roman Empire lost more than HALF ITS POPULATION. “Incessant civil warfare” (Sismondi) was the road that led to its RUIN!

III. THE THIRD SEAL: “A BLACK HORSE” (Revelation 6:5-6)

“And when he had opened the third seal.... I beheld a BLACK HORSE” (Revelation 6:5): At the call of the MAN-LIKE CREATURE, came “a BLACK HORSE” and its rider. BLACK is typical of distress, woe and mourning.

“Balances” likely means scales. “Incessant civil warfare” brought famine, and food became so scarce it was carefully doled out by weight (Leviticus 26:26, Ezekiel 4:16-17).

“Penny...” (verse 6) The “penny” was a “denarius,” a silver coin which looks something like our dime. It was the most common Roman coin during the days of Jesus and the Apostles. It represented a day’s pay, about “eighteen or twenty cents.” “Measure.” This would be about a quart.

“Hurt not the oil and the wine.” Luxuries were abundant. Necessities were at famine prices. Does this mean that RULERS HAD PLENTY, while common people were in WANT as a result of the PROLONGED WARS OF THE SECOND SEAL? Remember that when the Communists overthrew the CZARS, that the Czars and the Church lived in luxury, while “the people” FOUGHT over the contents of the garbage cans of the palace and rectories! However, remember that today the Communist leaders LIVE and TRAVEL in LUXURY while “the people” may want the necessities of life!

IV. THE FOURTH SEAL: “A PALE HORSE” (Revelation 6:7-8)

“And... fourth seal... a PALE HORSE.” (Revelation 6:7-8) At the call of the fourth of “Eagle-like Living Creature,” “a PALE HORSE”, called “DEATH,” came forth. “HADES” the “GRAVE,” not “HELL” follows after “Death” like a “Voracious Monster” to swallow up the victims of “Death.”

“And power was given... to kill.” (Revelation 6:8) The “fourth part of the earth” over which the PESTILENCE shall sweep will be the part of the Eastern Hemisphere covered by the revived Roman Empire. So great was the destruction of human life in the days of the “Fourth Seal” that HADES will have to enlarge herself and open her mouth as Isaiah 5:13-16 foretold. The means of destruction are SWORD, HUNGER, DEATH and the “BEASTS OF THE EARTH.” These are the “FOUR SORE JUDGMENTS” of Ezekiel 14:21 that are to fall upon Jerusalem. These awful days are only the “BEGINNING OF SORROWS” for those who are left (Matthew 23:6-8). The WORST thing about them will be that they are HARDENING JUDGMENTS. Instead of people repenting and calling upon God, they will call on the mountains and rocks to “HIDE US FROM THE FACE... and the WRATH OF THE LAMB” (verse 16).

The Civil War of the Roman Empire from 200-300 A.D. suffered a colossal loss of population, followed by an ENORMOUS INCREASE OF WILD ANIMALS.

V. THE FIFTH SEAL: THE MARTYRED REMNANT (Revelation 6:9-11)

“And when he had opened the FIFTH SEAL... under the altar the souls... slain for the WORD OF GOD” (Revelation 6:9) In the ancient sacrifices the BLOOD, the symbol of LIFE, was Poured out at the foot of the altar: “Under the altar” (Leviticus 4:7).

The Roman Empire had TEN PERSECUTIONS against the church during the first 300 years. Nero’s (64 A.D.) was already past; the second one was closing – Domitian (96 A.D.). Then Trajan (98-117); Hadrian, 117-138; Antonius Pius, 138-161; Marcus Aurelius, 161-180; Septimus Severus, 193-211; Decius, 249-251; Valerian, 253-260; Diocletian (294-305 A.D.). The vision may be a prophetic hint of the Papal Persecutions of the Middle Ages, and perhaps the PERSECUTIONS of the TRIBULATION PERIOD of the LAST DAYS.

“How long, O Lord... avenge our blood.” (Revelation 9:10) By yielding their lives for the cause of righteousness, the martyrs are regarded as having themselves upon the heavenly altar (II Timothy 4:6). Like the blood of righteous Abel (Genesis 4:19), the blood or “souls” or “lives” are said to cry unto God for punishment. God heard the cry; He reminds them that final punishment for their persecutors must wait until the number of martyrs is fulfilled. The martyred “SOULS” were given “white robes” (verse 11), a symbol of purity, and a pledge of their glory. Read Revelation 20:4-6, Daniel 7:27.

VI. THE SIXTH SEAL: THE GREAT CATASTROPHE (Revelation 6:12-17)

A. A Mighty Convulsion (Revelation 6:12-14).

“And I beheld... he... Opened the SIXTH SEAL... great earth-quake” (Revelation 6:12) “The description,” says Robert Milligan, “is marked by almost unparalleled magnificence and sublimity, and any attempt to dwell upon details could only injure the general effect. The real question to be answered is, TO WHAT DOES IT APPLY?”

1. Picture of the destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.)?
2. Or is it a picture of the FINAL Judgment?
3. Or may it even represent every great CALAMITY by which a sinful world is overtaken?

In each of these senses -- and in each of them with a certain degree of truth -- has the passage been understood. Each is a part of the great thought it embraces. To the FALL OF Jerusalem, to EVERY CRISIS in the history of the world, and especially to the END OF THE ALL, the language may be fittingly applied.

Is this a hint of the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-21)?

Remember Jesus used similar language in speaking of the TIME OF HIS COMING AGAIN (Matthew 24:29-30, Luke 21:26). So had Isaiah in predicting Babylon’s fall (Isaiah 13:10), as did Ezekiel in predicting Egypt’s fall (Ezekiel 32:7. God’s Judgment ON NATIONS, or the final Day of Judgment, used similar language (Isaiah 34:4; Joel 2:30-31; Acts 2:20).

“Sun became BLACK AS SACKCLOTH” “GREAT DARKNESS” overspread Egypt for three days before the Exodus (Exodus 10:21-23). “DARKNESS” settled over Jerusalem and Calvary on the day of the Crucifixion of Christ (Matthew 27:45).

On May 19, 1780, there was in New England what is called the history of the “DARK DAY.” It was not an eclipse of the sun. It was dark enough to make the stars visible. Chickens went to roost. The CAUSE OF THAT DARKNESS HAS NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED.

Whatever else the SIXTH SEAL may refer to, does it not seem like a prediction of the UPHEAVALS of the Roman Empire in the FOURTH CENTURY? The Empire ceased its persecutions of the church. Emperor Constantine became a Christian (312 A.D.), and issued an EDICT OF TOLERATION in 313 A.D. Christianity was made the RELIGION OF HIS COURT. In 325 A.D. Constantine issued a GENERAL EXHORTATION TO ALL TO OBEY THE GOSPEL, and “embrace Christianity.” He moved his Capitol to Constantinople.

Theodosius made Christianity the STATE RELIGION of the Empire, and CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COMPULSORY. In 395 A.D. the Mighty Roman Empire that had tried for 300 years to DESTROY CHRISTIANITY was BREAKING UP!

B. The Fear and Consternation that Followed (Revelation 6:15-17).

“And the kings of the earth... HID THEMSELVES” (Revelation 6:15) Universal panic followed the break-up of the Roman Empire. Seven classes of UNBELIEVERS from the mightiest to the lowest are mentioned.

“And said to the mountains and rocks, FALL ON US... hide us...” (Revelation 6:16-17): They attempt to conceal themselves. They acknowledge the approaching END and their UNPREPARED STATE. They cannot escape from the “face... and from the wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Before the final stroke is delivered the “elect” must be gathered (Matthew 24:29-31), and the SAINTS MUST BE MADE SECURE!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. Why should Jesus the “Lamb” be the one to open the seals (Acts 17:31; John 5:22)?
2. What was heard when the first “seal” was opened (Revelation 6:1)?
3. At the opening of how many seals was a horse seen (Revelation 6:2, 4, 5, 8)? What was their color?
4. What was seen under the fifth “seal” (Revelation 6:9-11)?
5. What happened when the sixth “seal” was “opened” (Revelation 6:12-17)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. When the _____ opened the first seal one of “Living creatures” said, “Come _____” (Revelation 6:1).
2. The rider of the “white horse” went forth _____ “ (Revelation 6:2).
3. The “pale horse” was ridden by _____, “ and _____ ” followed him (verse 8).
4. “ _____ were given” those who were “slain _____ “ (Revelation 6:9-11).

YES OR NO?

1. Does John say the first rider had a “bow” and arrow (Revelation 6:1)? _____
2. Did a voice say “Come and see” when the “fifth seal” was “opened” (verse 9)? _____
3. Did the souls of the martyrs say anything (verses 9-10)? _____
4. BLACK “robes” were given the martyrs. _____
5. Is there only one question in Revelation 6? _____

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Oil and wine are mentioned when the fourth “seal” is opened. _____
2. The name of the “pale horse” is death. _____
3. A horse appeared when the “fifth seal” was opened. _____
4. The elders asked “How long” before their blood be avenged. _____
6. Seven classes of unbelievers prayed for the “mountains and rocks” to “fall on us” (Rev. 6:15-16).

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 41

Page 1

Revelation 7

Memory Verse: Revelation 7:17

Memory Verse:

“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).

THE SEALED AND THE SAVED

Revelation 7 is parenthetical. Revelation 8:1 tells of opening of “the seventh seal.”

The signs of the SIXTH SEAL prepare us for the END OF THE AGE and the COMING of Christ. Yet there is a “sudden interruption, an unexpected episode. Our last lesson left us UNBELIEVERS who “said to the rocks and the mountains and rocks, “fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand” (Revelation 6:17).

Our study today reminds us that TRIUMPH, not tribulation, is the last word in the history of the church. The CHURCH under the CROSS becomes the church CROWNED AND TRIUMPHANT. Though Christ’s people pass through tribulation, they shall in due time enter into glory.

In the stillness before the storm, there came to John two visions of consolation which were meant to encourage him and the Christians of ALL GENERATIONS in their trials:

1. The Sealing of God’s Servants (Revelation 7:1-8).
2. The Great Multitude before the Throne in Heaven (Revelation 7:9-17).
3. “Silence in Heaven” (Revelation 8:1).

After these things, the SEVENTH and last SEAL was “opened.”

I. THE SEALING OF GOD’S SERVANTS (Revelation 7:1-8)

“After this...” (Revelation 7:1) means after the opening of the SIXTH SEAL. As God reserved 7000 in the days of Ahab who did not BOW THE KNEE TO BAAL (I Kings 19:18), so there will be a “remnant according to the election of grace” (Romans 11:4-6), and God will reserve 144,000 who during the “tribulation” did not bow the knee to Antichrist. This SEALING is not the SEALING of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 2:38; 5:29-32).

“Four angels... four corners of the earth, holding...” “Four” is a universal number, comprehending all directions – north, south, east, and west. These “angels” are the agents of divine judgment. The fact that they are “holding the winds,” judgments or calamities, denotes that the judgment about to fall on “the earth” is universal. These angels were “holding” the judgments, as one holds a dog on a leash. The destructive agencies were SUSPENDED for the preservation of God’s ELECT. Read Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2.

“And I saw another angel... from the east” (Revelation 7:2): The region from which the Saviour came (Malachi 4:2), THE Morning Star, on His errand of mercy.

“Having the seal of the living God...” The “seal” was a mark of ownership. Is this a picture of our great Redeemer holding back the hand of the destroying angel? God’s love is such nature that He cannot curse any-thing until His children are “sealed” or marked for security (see Genesis 19:22; Exodus 12:7-13;

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Ezekiel 9:3-6; Matthew 24:21. God wants ALL to confess and obey the gospel (Matthew 10:32-33, II Peter 3:9).

“Hurt not the earth... till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” (Revelation 7:3) Is this the process of evangelizing going on in the Roman Empire BEFORE IT FELL? Or in the whole world, throughout the whole course of HISTORY (His Story), before the FINAL DAY of the LAMB’S “WRATH” (Revelation 6:15-17).

“And I heard the number... sealed... 144,000 of... Israel” (Revelation 7-4) The number 144,000 is a symbolic number representing completeness.

Twelve is a sacred number. 12 times 12 multiplied by 1000 equals 144,000 and IDEAL NUMBER denoting that the BODY IS COMPLETE YET UNLIMITED. 12,000 are from each of the 12 tribes “of the children of Israel.”

There is a remarkable difference between the names of the Tribes here recorded and the names of the original Twelve Tribes:

Leah bore Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

Zilpah, Leah’s handmaid: Gad and Asher.

Rachel bore Joseph and Benjamin.

Bilhah, Rachel’s maid: Dan and Naphtali (see Genesis 29:31-30:24, 35:16-20).

Are these numbers to be taken literally? I think not. Do they represent a great number, not a countless number, but a part at each tribe, who accepted the Gospel of the Messiah, or the Christ? I think so.

In listing the tribes in Revelation 7:5-8, the names of DAN and EPHRAIM are OMITTED, and the names of Joseph and LEVI are SUBSTITUTED. The former two tribes INTRODUCED IDOLATRY in Israel (Deuteronomy 29:18-21; I Kings 12:25-30; Revelation 14:1).

“Israel” is used here in a SPIRITUAL SENSE, not in the fleshly sense, as Paul had used it (Romans 9:6; Galatians 6:16), and as John himself later used it in Revelation 21:12. See also Galatians 3:26-29.

II. THE GREAT BLOOD WASHED MULTITUDE IN HEAVEN (Revelation 7:9-17)

“After this I beheld... a great multitude.” (Revelations 7:9) In this second parenthetical vision, the reader is again transported from earth to the court of heaven (Revelation 7:9-17). Both visions refer to the same people, but under different aspects. In the first they are only sealed, though the “sealing” made secure. In the second vision, they are more than secure – they have PEACE and joy; every sorrow is healed.

“A great multitude...” All the departed saints, and all the living saints, and all the saints, who shall live, are included in the number. The VASTNESS OF THE “GREAT MULTITUDE” is “of all nations” (social), “and kindreds” (ethnic), “and people” (political), “and tongues” (linguistic). From every continent and island of the sea they are gathered.

“Stood before the throne... Lamb... white robes... palms in their hands.” The SAVED now STAND “before the THRONE” of God, a position of favor, security, and joy. They are dressed in “white robes,” denoting purity, as “palms” suggests rejoicing at the close of the harvest.

“And cried... Salvation to our God” (Revelation 7:10) This is the SONG of the REDEEMED, the SAVED. The blood-washed throng is at last in the Father’s House. Contrast this with the “day of wrath” of Revelation 6:16 on earth. It is the answer to the Martyr’s cry, “How long, O Lord...” (Revelation 6:10). The “angels,” “the elders,” and the “four living creatures” join in the seven-fold, or perfect praise to “God for ever and ever. Amen” (Verses 11-12).

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“And one of the elders... What are these... whence came they?” (Revelation 7:13): The question is asked that the “elder” may teach John. “These” refers to the “great multitude” of Revelation 7:14a and asks for the interpretation of the vision. With great courtesy John admits his ignorance and asks for the interpretation of the vision (verse 14a).

“These are they which came out of great tribulation... washed their robes... white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14b) They are NOT ANGELS, but human beings who had know temptation, sin, sorrow, bereavement, disappointment, persecution, and the blessing of OBEYING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. Like Saul of Tarsus, they had been “baptized into Christ” and “washed away their sins” (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4) in the “blood of the Lamb” (John 1:29; I Peter 1:18-19).

“Therefore... they serve him day and night in his temple.” (Revelation 7:15) Their service is continual. There is “no night there” (Revelation 25:5), so their worship is ceaseless. They “SEE GOD” and “FACE TO FACE” (Matthew 5:8) “in his temple.”

“They shall hunger no more...” (Revelation 7:16) All their wants are supplied. They are beyond the reach of harm. All sadness is taken away. Here we know:

1. Tears of pity, as we weep over hardened sinners and their doom of (Luke 19:41-42).
2. Tears of sympathy, as we weep with those who weep (John 11:35, Romans 12:15b).
3. Tears of bereavement – a David weeping for his son Absalom, the rebel (II Samuel 18:33), or a Rachel weeping for her children who are not (Matthew 2:16-18).
4. Tears of penitent would who weep over the memory of wasted lives (Luke 7:36-38).
5. Tears of anxiety as earnest Christian workers are deeply concerned with the moral and spiritual well being of those with whom we live and labor (Acts 20:31).
6. Tears of sacrifice – the tears of God’s children who suffer great personal loss to the end that the church may go forward, that the gospel may be preached where it has never been heard (Psalm 126:5-6; Acts 20:19).

“God shall WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES.” God, with a tender hand, “shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

III. “SILENCE IN HEAVEN” (Revelation 8:1)

“And when he had opened the SEVENTH SEAL...” (Revelation 8:1) When the Lamb opened the SIXTH SEAL “there was a great earthquake” (Revelation 6:12). When the “SEVENTH SEAL” was opened there was an awful “silence in heaven” – all heaven waited in hushed awe for “half an hour.” Is not this silence typical of the PEACE THAT REIGNS IN HEAVEN? Such a scene prepared the aged apostle and all the saints for the judgment to come.

“Silence,” says Thomas Carlisle, “is the element in which great things fashion themselves together; that at length they may emerge full-formed and majestic, into the delight of life which they are henceforth to rule.”

“All the evils of life have fallen upon us because men will not sit alone quietly in a room” (Paschall).

Leslie Weatherhood has a chapter in one of his books called: “The Significance of Silence.” Read Luke 6:12.

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QUESTIONS: And Your Answers

1. Why was the hurting of the earth, sea, and trees was delayed (Revelation 7:3)?
2. For what does the “sixth seal” prepare us (Revelation 6:12-17)?
3. How many had not “bowed the knee to Baal” (I Kings 19:18)?
4. What is the significance of the number “four” in the book (Revelation 7:1)?
5. What is the significance of “winds” (Revelation 7:1)? And what do the “four winds” imply?

FILL IN THE BLANK WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. John saw “ _____ angels” standing on (at) the “ _____ of the earth, holding the _____ of the earth” (Revelation 7:1)?
2. _____ “were sealed” our of each tribe of Israel (Revelation 7:4-8).
3. “One of the elders” told John that those in “white” had “washed their robes in the _____ of the _____ “ (Revelation 7:13-14).
4. “For the _____ will “lead the redeemed to “ _____ ” (verse 17a).
5. “ _____ shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” (Verse 17a)

YES OR NO

1. The Lamb told the angels, “Hurt not the earth” (verse 3). _____
2. Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the list because they introduced idolatry in Israel (Deuteronomy 29:18-21; I Kings 12:25-30; Revelation 14: 1). _____
3. The 144,000 of Israel are to be taken literally. _____
4. “Israel” is used here in a SPIRITUAL SENSE. _____
5. “A GREAT MULTITUDE” disproves the fact that ONLY 144,000 will be saved. _____

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The “saved” of Revelation 7:9 could not be numbered. _____
2. God wants “all” men “everywhere” to be saved (Revelation 22:17, II Peter 3:9). _____
3. Those who teach that only 144,000 will be saved are “false prophets.”
4. The seven-fold worship of God was perfect worship (Revelation 7:12)? _____
5. Those dressed in “white” serve God “day and night” (verse 15). _____

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 42

Page 1

Revelation 8-9

Memory Verse: Revelation 9:6

Memory Verse:

“And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them” (Revelation 9:6).

THE FIRST SIX TRUMPETS

The opening of the “seventh seal” caused “silence in heaven” for “half an hour” (Revelation 8:1).

This “SILENCE” which comes after the opening of the “seventh seal” is a surprise – a startling pause. It shows the structure of the book. The contents of the seventh seal are not to be revealed – but not at once. “The space of half an hour” denotes a brief period, and a broken period – and interruption for a short time.

“SEVEN TRUMPETS” must first sound (Revelation 8-9), and “SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD’S WRATH” (Revelation 15-16) are yet to be outpoured – both SEVENS are the CONTENTS of the “SEVENTH SEAL!”

Let us illustrate: A ROCKET fired into the air may burst into “SEVEN STARS,” and ONE of the STARS into “SEVEN OTHER STARS,” and one of the second group of stars into a third group of “SEVEN STARS”! So the “SEVENTH SEAL” (Revelation 8:1) includes the SEVEN TRUMPETS and the “SEVENTH” TRUMPET includes the “SEVEN VIALS” or BOWLS.

“Half an hour” in a pleasant task is not long. However, when we do not know what is going to happen, when a life is at stake a minute, nay, even a few seconds, seem to be hours.

I. THE PREPARATORY VISION: THE GOLDEN CENSER (Revelation 8:2-5)

“And I saw the seven angels... before God... given seven trumpets.” (Revelation 8:2) Who were the “seven angels?”

1. They were “angels” of irresistible power – so indicated by their number.
2. They were “angels” of prominence – they “stood before God”!
3. They were “angels” of war – for a trumpet was a war signal. A war of God’s DIVINE RETRIBUTION was at hand!

“Incense... prayers of all saints”: The ascending smoke represented the incense-perfumed prayers of the saints as they prayed for a speedy end of the world, and the vengeance of God upon His foes (Revelation 6:10-11).

The letters to the SEVEN CHURCHES was introduced by Christ in the place of power (Revelation 1:5, 12-20). The opening of the “SEVEN SEALS” was introduced by Christ as the “Lamb” who “took the book out of the right hand of his that sat upon the throne” (Revelation 5:6-7). The sounding of the SEVEN TRUMPETS is opened by a prelude of “the prayers of the saints” (Revelation 8:4). Those who have persecuted His Church are about to be punished. As in Ezekiel 10:2, the FIRE OF GOD, like coals from the altar, is cast “into the earth” with awe-inspired phenomena as the trumpet angles prepare to sound (Revelation 8:5).

I. THE FIRST TRUMPET: HAIL, FIRE, BLOOD (Revelation 8:6-7)

“And the seven angels... seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound” (Revelation 8:6) The “trumpet” gave signals. They could “sound an alarm” (Joel 2:1,30-31), or “assemble yourselves... into the defended cities” (Jeremiah 4:5), or “warn the people” (Ezekiel 33:1-8), or call His people to worship (I Chronicles 24-28).

There can be little doubt as to the meaning of the visions that follow the sounding of the trumpets. The prophet is here describing the divine judgments that precede the return of Christ. The punishment is not universal. Only one “third part of men” was “killed” (Revelation 9:18). Only one-third part of the earth was affected. The purpose of the judgments is to lead MEN TO REPENT. The doom pictured here is not final.

“And the first angel sounded... hail... fire mingled with blood” (Revelation 8:7): The first four trumpets introduce judgments that affect nature in the earth, sea, rivers and heavenly bodies. The last three trumpets concern the inhabitants of the earth, and are called “WOES”!

The “PLAGUES OF EGYPT” were literal. No less than FIVE (5) of the NINE (9) PLAGUES of Egypt were repeated during the tribulation period.

“Hail and fire mingled with blood.” In this retribution, the SEVENTH Egyptian plague is magnified – “blood” is added (Exodus 9:23-26). The “Plague of Hail” was a great electrical storm. Result: “The third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.”

II. THE SECOND TRUMPET: THE BURNING MOUNTAIN (Revelation 8:8-9)

“And a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea.” (Revelation 8:8) This immense meteoric mass ablaze with fire brought terrible devastation to the sea: “The third part of the sea BECAME BLOOD” 1 It reminds us of the FIRST Egyptian Plague (Exodus 7:20-21). “The third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life died.” God used the storm to destroy the Spanish Armada, and we should remember that “the sea, as well are the productions of the earth, can be used by God as His agent by which to punish and warn mankind.”

III. THE THIRD TRUMPET: “THE STAR.... WORMWOOD” (Revelation 8:10-11)

“And there fell a great star.” (Revelation 8:10) The falling of the stars in Matthew 24:29 is a part of the general picture of the approach of the last judgment. We may conclude, therefore, that the burning star or “torch” (R. V.) of this vision symbolizes an act of judgment sent upon an unrepenting world.

“It fell upon the third part of the rivers... fountains of waters.” The places where men drink are poisoned. The bitter waters of Marah (Exodus 15:23) are recalled by the effect of the third trumpet, except that the miracle is here reversed: SWEET WATERS are MADE BITTER, and many “men of the waters, because they were made bitter.”

“Wormwood.” is a perennial herb, very bitter, and is used in the manufacture of “Absinthe.” Read Jeremiah 9:13-15, Lamentations 3:19.

“It is hardly possible,” says Alford, “to read of this third plague, and not think of the deadly effect of those strong SPIRITUOUS DRINKS, which are, in fact, WATER TURNED INTO POISON!”

IV. THE FOURTH TRUMPET: DARKNESS (Revelation 8:12)

“And the fourth angel sounded... sun... smitten... moon... stars.” (Revelation 8:12) This takes us back to the NINTH (9th) Egyptian plague (Exodus 10:21-23). Total darkness of the sun, moon and stars for one third of the day and night are meant. Almighty God can turn the influence of the sun and the planets into means of destruction of the wicked. Our Lord speaks of some of the “Signs” in the SUN, and MOON, and the STARS, and upon the EARTH DISTRESS of NATIONS, with PERPLEXITY (Luke 21:25-28). Judas, and all who depart from the Lord, go out into ETERNAL NIGHT (John 13:30).

V. “AN ANGEL” WARNING: THREE “WOES” ANNOUNCED (Revelation 8:13)

“And an angel... Woe, woe, woe.” (Revelation 8:13) The Revised Version has “Eagle” for “angel” (KJV). If God could make Balaam’s “ass” speak as a man, He can use an “Eagle” to announce a message of three-fold “Woe”. The fact of the Eagle’s proclamation is evidence of the long-suffering of God, as it comes in the MIDST OF THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS! He flew “in the direct line of the sun,” a most conspicuous place, where it could be seen and heard by the inhabitants of the earth.

VI. THE FIFTH TRUMPET: THE FIRST “WOE” OR LOCUSTS (Revelation 9:1-12)

“And the fifth angel sounded...” (Revelation 9:1-12) The “woe-trumpets” introduce wonderful and woeful things in the spiritual real.

“I saw a star fall from heaven into the earth.” The “star” is a symbol of a leader. Is this “star” Satan himself (Isaiah 14:12).

“And he opened the bottomless pit... arose a smoke... locusts.” (Revelation 9:2-3) As Satan opened the “bottomless pit,” swarms of “locusts” or demonic creatures. Paul warned Timothy of “giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines or devils” or demons (I Timothy 4:1). They are loosed “upon the earth.”

“The destroying ‘locusts’ symbolize destroying armies,” Johnson thinks. Notice their power and time are LIMITED by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD (verses 3-5). They cannot “kill” those who have the “seal of God in their foreheads” (Revelation 9:4).

Arabia was preeminently a land of locusts. It was Arabia that Islam originated!

“And ... tormented five months.” (Revelation 9:5) This means their period of work is limited. Natural locusts worked from May until September. A “scorpion” sting becomes inflamed, hard, red and painful.

These “locusts” were not like the “locusts” of the “eighth EGYPTIAN PLAGUE” (Exodus 10:3-20).

“And in those days shall men seek death... not find it.” (Revelation 9:6) So terrible is the locust torment that men will desire death. Death is universally regarded as the greatest evil, but such is the state of misery here that it is sought as a relief. How often is the life of a man rendered intolerable because of his sins, and he has recourse to the razor, the rope, the river, or the poison!”

“And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses...” (Revelation 9:7). These hellish tormentors were shaped like horses. They have crowns of gold, their faces were like men’s, they have “hair as the hair of women,” “their teeth were as the teeth of lions” (verse 8), “breastplates” as of iron, and “wings” that sounded like chariots and horses rushing to war (10). Their king is “the angel of the bottomless pit” named “ABADDON” (Hebrew) or “Apollyon” (Greek for Destroyer). In verses 7-10 we have SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS of the locusts; their power to torment is complete. Satan is the DESTROYER of MAN – his character, his hope and his very life (see John 8:44, for example).

Do these “locusts” refer: 1) To the rise and spread of Islam? 2) To the “tribulation” period of the “Last Days?” 3) Or, could they refer to both?

Islam

In the seventh century A. D., Islam swept across Eastern World like a tidal wave. Christianity was BLOTTED out in Southwest Asia, North Africa, the Euphrates and Nile Valleys, the Eastern and Southern borders of the Mediterranean – lands in which the Bible originated and grew! Lands in which God nurtured and trained the nation of Israel for 2,000 years for the coming of Christ; lands which were the cradle of Christianity for 600 years – Mohammed with one fell blow of the SWORD BLOTTED OUT CHRISTIANITY and ESTABLISHED ISLAM.

For 600 years these lands were Christian. For 1300 years these lands have been Mohammedan. There are more Muslims now in the world than Protestant Christians!

Mohammed (570-632 AD) in Mecca, Arabia, declared himself to be the prophet of God, and set out at the head of an army to propagate his religion. Syria fell in 634 AD. Jerusalem fell in 637 AD; Egypt fell in 638 AD. Persia fell in 640 AD. North Africa fell in 689 AD. In Europe, Spain fell in 711 AD. At Tours, France, the Mohammedan Army was met and defeated by Charles Martel, grandfather of Charlemagne, in 732 AD. Tours was one of the decisive battles of the ages. “EXCEPT FOR THAT VICTORY, MIGHT CHRISTIANITY HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY EXTERMINATED FROM THE EARTH?”

The “five months” of Revelation 9:5 takes on new meaning. As the normal stay of “Locusts” is May to September, about 150 days, which on the YEAR-DAY interpretation of Ezekiel 4:6 would be 150 years. This approximates the period of 630-786 AD in which Islam continued its effort at WORLD CONQUEST. With Haroun-Al-Raschid (786-809 AD), the idea of CONQUEST was ABANDONED at the height of Mohammedan glory and power, and BEGAN TO CULTIVATE PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS!

VII. THE SIXTH TRUMPET: SECOND “WOE” (Revelation 9:13-21)

“And the sixth angel sounded... voice from the four horns of the golden altar.” (Revelation 9:13) A “voice” from the “golden altar” before God (Revelation 8:3) declares the command.

“Loose the four angels...” (Revelation 9:14) These chain-bound “angels” represent a destructive force that had been restrained until this moment. The Euphrates was Israel’s natural boundary, and defense from the northeast (Genesis 15:18; I Kings 4:21). God’s longsuffering is at an end (II Peter 3:9), and terrible foes are now loosed.

“And the four angels were loosed... prepared for an hour... day ...month... year.” (Revelation 9:15) Were they waiting for the exact time appointed of God?

On the YEAR-DAY interpretation of Ezekiel 4:6, 365 plus 30 plus 1 is 396 days, that is, 396 years. From 1057 A. D. when the Turks crossed the Euphrates, to the FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE in 1453 AD was 396 years!

“Slay the third part of men.” This army of “Infernal Cavalry” of 200,000,000 was not made up of ordinary horses (verses 16-19). “The third part” may refer to the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire (1453 A. D.), the last remaining “THIRD” of the original Roman Empire, at the hands of the Turks.

B. Impenitence (Revelation 9:20-21).

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“And the rest of the men... repented not.” (Revelation 9:20) In verse 20, man’s sins AGAINST GOD are mentioned. In verse 21 man’s sins again man are mentioned. Punishments and warnings will not turn from the worship of FALSE GODS, impurity and crime. Men in the days of Jesus and John and NOW “LOVE DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT” (John 3:19). When calamities come, like Pharaoh, they hardened their hearts. Their depraved hearts (Matthew 15:10-20) will learn at the judgment at the last day that “The way of transgressors is hard” (Proverbs 13:15).

While the SEVEN SEALS and the SEVEN TRUMPETS seem to have portrayed an “Exact outline of the GREAT FEATURES of WORLD HISTORY thus far, a more complete fulfillment may be yet in the making.” Was the Persecuting Roman Empire the Antichrist? (It is not mentioned in Revelation. It occurs in I John 2:18, 22; 4:3, II John 7) Or was Antichrist Islam? Or was Antichrist the Papacy? Or was Antichrist Russian Atheistic Communism?

We do know with Paul, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand!” (Romans 13:12)

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What is mentioned in the opening of the “seventh seal” (Revelation 8:1)?
2. What was offered with the incense upon the “golden altar” (Revelation 8:3)?
3. What happened when the angel cast “fire” upon the earth (Revelation 8:5-6)?
4. What followed when the “first angel sounded” (Revelation 8:7)?
5. What was “cast into the sea” (Revelation 8:8)? What resulted (verses 8-9)?
6. The “smoke” from the pits did what (Revelation 9:1-3)?
7. What voice ordered the “loosing” of the “four angels” (Revelation 9:13)?
8. John saw what coming out of the ‘horses’ mouths (Revelation 9:17)?
9. The “four angels” were given power to slay how many (Revelation 9:17)?
10. How many trumpets are sounded in Revelation (Revelation 9:1-13)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. As the first angel sounded a _____ part of _____ and all was burnt up (Revelation 8:7).
2. The _____ part of the sea became “blood” at the sounding of the _____.
3. At the sounding of the third angel a third part of the _____ became _____ (Revelation 8:10-11).
4. A third part of the _____, _____, and _____ were smitten at the fourth trumpet sound (Revelation 8:12).
5. An _____ flying through heaven said, “_____, _____, _____ to the inhabitants of the earth” (Revelation 8:13).

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6. The “locusts” had faces like _____, hair like _____, and teeth _____ (Revelation 9:7-8).
7. At the sounding of the _____ trumpet a falling (fallen)star is mentioned.
8. The horses had power in their _____ and in their _____ (Revelation 9:19).
9. Only seven “angels” are mentioned in Revelation 8:2,3). _____

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The angel with “a censer” cast “incense” upon the earth. _____
2. “Blood” is mentioned when only two of the angels sounded in Revelation 8:7-8). _____
3. Men are pictured as dying because the waters were “made bitter” (vs. 11). _____
4. Both “scorpions” and “locusts” are said to have come out of the “smoke” (Revelation 9:3). _____
5. Those riding the horses are said to have “breastplates of iron.” _____
6. “Death” is spoken of as fleeing from man (Revelation 9:6). _____
8. When the fifth angel sounded all the grass and trees were killed. _____
9. The “locusts” had tails “like... serpents” (Revelation 9:19). _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. John saw (1) four, (2) six, (3) seven “angels which stood (stand). _____
2. Ships were destroyed at the, (1) second, (2) third, (3) fourth trumpet sound (Revelation 8:9) _____
3. “Wormwood” was the name of (1) an angel, (2) a man, (3) a star. _____
4. (1) Three, (2) four, (3) five, trumpets are sounded in Revelation 8. _____
5. A fallen (1) angel, (2) star,(3)man, was given the “keys of the bottomless pit” (Revelation 9:1). _____
6. (1) Locusts, (2) scorpions, (3) beasts, came out of the smoke from the pit. _____
7. Locusts were given power to torment men, (1) five months, (2) ten days, (3) forever (Rev 9:9). _____
8. “Abaddon” is a (1) Latin, (2) Greek, (3) Hebrew name (Revelation 9:11). _____
9. The river, (1) Jordan, (2) Nile, (3) Euphrates, is mentioned at the sixth trumpet sound (Revelation 9:14).
10. John saw horses with heads like, (1) men, (2) lions, (3) serpents (vs. 17).

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Fourth Quarter

Lesson 43

Page 1

Revelation 10

Memory Verse: Revelation 10:9

Memory Verse:

“And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, ‘Give me the little book.’ And he said unto me, ‘Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey” (Revelation 10:9)

THE LITTLE BOOK

It was “a book... with seven seals” in Revelation 5:1. “A little open book” is featured in Revelation 10:2. The “open book” is one of the messages of the “SEALED BOOK,” for it appears under the SIXTH TRUMPET, which came out of the SEVENTH SEAL.

An Interlude

As between the OPENING of the SIXTH and SEVENTH SEALS (Revelation 7:1-17), so between the SOUNDING of the SIXTH and SEVENTH TRUMPETS, there is an interlude or pause during which the TWO INTERMEDIATE VISIONS APPEAR.

The FIRST VISION is found in Revelation 10, our study for today, and the SECOND VISION in Revelation 11:1-13. In Revelation 11:14-19 we have the SOUNDING of the SEVENTH TRUMPET.

The “Little Book” vision differs from the consolation message introduced between the OPENING of the SIXTH and SEVENTH SEALS. THAT VISION emphasized the SAFETY and the GLORY of the PERSECUTED PEOPLE OF GOD (Revelation 7:1-17). This message describes a mingling of the “sweet” and the “bitter” (Revelation 10:1-11). It speaks of PERSECUTION and TRIBULATION, of UNFAITHFULNESS and PUNISHMENT, but also of LOYALTY and DELIVERY.

I. THE ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE BOOK (Revelation 10:1-4)

“And I saw another mighty angel...” (Revelation 10:1) Who this “angel” is we do not know, UNLESS it is CHRIST HIMSELF. He is not one of the “seven” or “four angels,” but like the other “strong angel” in Revelation 2 and 18:21, or the other “strong angel” in Revelation 14:6, 15. He is a “mighty angel.” He comes “down from heaven,” enveloped “with a cloud,” a symbol of the glory of the Lord (Rev. 1:7).

“A rainbow was upon his head.” A token of the covenant of mercy (Revelation 4:3, Genesis 9:13-17), of peace and hope.

“His face was as it were the sun.” It is bright and glorious. He shall spread light and intelligence.

“Feet as pillars of fire.” Consuming as he advances. Symbol of strength.

“And he had in his hand a little book OPEN...” (Revelation 10:2) Two characteristics of the book are mentioned:

1. It is “a little book” in comparison with the “BOOK... sealed with SEVEN SEALS” (Revelation 5:1). Its contents do not directly concern so many people.

2. It is “a little book OPEN,” not “sealed” as the former book, indicating that its decrees are to be forthwith executed.

“Right foot... sea... left foot... earth.” What a colossal figure! It dwarfs the “Colossus of Rhodes,” one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.” His POSITION suggests that the words he was about to utter were for the WHOLE WORLD, and that he claims BOTH LAND and SEA for the CREATOR. Both land and sea are about to be purged of the usurper and his followers.

“And cried with a loud voice...” (Revelation 10:3) A “voice” loud, distinct and terrible. The voice was universally heard, like the voice of the “strong angel” (Revelation 5:2). Was the voice of the “Lion of the tribe of Judah?” This angel was EITHER CHRIST, or His representative (Revelation 1:14-16; Exodus 3:2-18; Revelation 4:3).

Johnson in “The People’s New Testament with Notes,” page 454 of Volume II, thinks the fulfillment of this prophecy is the REFORMATION, begun with John Wycliffe (1320-1384), the English religious reformer and Bible translator, and John Russ (1374-1415), Bohemian religion reformer. The Reformation FLOWERED with Martin Luther (1483-1546), the great German leader. It was a movement in which Christ came in spirit, a movement of peace and hope, a movement to spread light, a movement for the Whole world, a MOVEMENT DUE to the INFLUENCE of the OPEN BOOK – The BIBLE.

The REFORMATION was the WORK OF THE BOOK. Whatever the Roman Catholic clergy now claim, they TOOK THE BOOK FROM THE PEOPLE. The Catholic Church opposed the spread of the Bible, “and in many in-stances persons have been burned for no other crime than having the Bible in their houses.” The Bible was left sealed up in DEAD LANGUAGES and the people, in Europe for example, could not read the Bible in their language. This mighty angel, however, had an “OPEN BOOK” in his hand.

We rejoice in every voice that is raised today in an appeal to get people to read and study God’s Work. As never before, let us follow II Timothy 2:15 and BE LIKE THE BEREANS (Acts 17:11). Let us BOLDLY, like Peter and John, declare without apology, “Neither is their salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED!” (Acts 4:12-13)

“And when the seven thunders... SEAL UP those things.” (Revelation 10:4) The message of the “seven thunders uttered.” Their message was one of horror. The apostate power, which took away and CLOSED GOD’S OPEN BOOK of the New Testament, was called the SEVEN-HILLED CITY and is alluded to as the woman that sat on SEVEN MOUNTAINS (Revelation 17:9). Thunder has been used to describe threatenings issued by the SEVEN-HILLED POWER AGAINST ITS ENEMIES. “The opening of the BOOK by the Reformation may then be called the SEVEN THUNDERS called forth the loudest voices of the SEVEN THUNDERS... hurled at Martin Luther and his supporters.”

II. THE ANGEL’S OATH (Revelation 10:5-7)

“And the angel... lifted up his hand to heaven” (Revelation 10:5) This was a solemn gesture. It was customary among the Jews in swearing (Genesis 14:22; Deuteronomy 32:40). In Daniel 12:7 BOTH HANDS are uplifted, here only the right hand – in the other was “a little open book” (verse 2).

“And swore... that there should be TIME NO MORE” (Revelation 10:6): He “swore” by the ETERNAL ONE “that liveth forever and ever,” by the Creator of all things. The decree was irrevocable.

“Time no longer.” Or, DELAY NO LONGER. “There shall be no further delay” (Berkeley). This does not mean that CHRONOS (time), Einstein’s “fourth dimension” (added to length, breadth, height), will cease to exist, but only that there will be NO MORE DELAY in the fulfillment of the SEVENTH TRUMPET (Revelation 10:7) in answer to the question, “HOW LONG” (Revelation 6:10). NOW the martyrs are to WAIT NO LONGER. In the days of the SEVENTH TRUMPET blast, the LAST Judgment

KILL FALL, the END BILL COME, the mystery of God will be “FINISHED” (verse 7). Amid the “wreck of matter and the crash of worlds,” we shall want and have a Friend, the Rock of Refuge, our Lord Jesus Christ who has power to PRESERVE AND PROTECT US (Hebrews 7:25). In Him is “rest” and eternal security (Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 13:5-8).

“Then let the earth’s old pillars shake, And all the wheels of nature break.
Our steady souls fear no more than solid rocks when billows roar!”

III. THE BOOK DEVoured (Revelation 10:8-11)

“And the voice... Go and take the little book” (Revelation 10:8): The charm of this symbolism is so clear that he who reads may run. God’s REVEALED WILL or PLAN is entrusted first to the “MIGHTY ANGEL” (verse 1) and then by him to the beloved apostle John. The same process of transmission is given in Revelation 1:1-3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme Revealer. “God... HATH... SPOKEN unto us by HIS SON” (Hebrews 1:1-2). He commissions all the angelic hosts. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST” (II Peter 1:21).

“The angel... Take it (‘the little book’), and eat it up.” (Revelation 10:9) John is to make this revelation his own; he is to “eat” or assimilate it, to IDENTIFY himself with it, and to PROCLAIM IT. It will be “sweet” to his taste, yet in reality its CONTENTS will PROVE “BITTER!” It will be a Joy to receive the revelation of divine purposes and to anticipate the blessings in store for the people of God, but it will be “BITTER” to receive the predictions of the persecutions and distress which the church is to ENDURE. A similar vision came to Ezekiel by the river Chebar (Ezekiel 2:9-3:4, see also Jeremiah 15:6f).

Read Psalm 19:10f; 119:11, 103 for the SWEETNESS of the roll of “little book.” “Every revelation of God’s purposes... is ‘bitter-sweet,’ disclosing judgment as well as mercy” (Swete).

“And I took the little book... and ate it up” (Revelation 10:10): This is PROMPT OBEDIENCE. John studied and assimilated the book. He made it a part of his mental-self. The angel knowing the contents of “the little book” mentions the “bitter” first (verse 9). The writer John narrates his experiences in historical order. “The little book” was both “bitter” and “sweet”.

At first John was delighted because he was receiving the message from heaven. When John saw the FUTURE “The little book” REVEALED – the “lamentations, and mourning, and woe” he was deeply grieved. “Honey in the mouth became bile in the stomach.”

“And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again...” (Revelation 10:11) “Prophecy” means to declare God’s righteous acts and judgments. What John had learned from “the little book,” he was to declare and teach “before many peoples, and nations, and tongue, and kings.” “The little book” does not REVEAL TIDINGS OF MERCY TO A SINFUL WORLD that would not have GRIEVED THE SEER. The judgment of the world was disclosed in the larger book, the book with the “seven seals”. “The little book” does not concern so many people. It reveals the FAITHLESSNESS AND FATE OF A PORTION OF OUR LORD’S CHURCH. This explains why the book was “little,” and why John was grieved when he read it. Read Matthew 7:13-14, II Peter 3:9. The contents are made known in the chapters that follow.

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What did the “mighty angel” have in his hand (Revelation 10:2)?
2. From whence did this “mighty angel” come (Revelation 10:1)?
3. To what was the “angel’s” voice compared (Revelation 10:3)?
4. When will the “mystery of God... be finished” (Revelation 10:7)?
5. How did “the little book” taste (Revelation 10:8-10)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. A “mighty angel” from _____ was clothed with a _____, had a _____ on his head, and his face was as the _____ (Revelation 10:9).
2. _____ said to the _____, “Give me the little book.” (Revelation 10:9).
3. _____ was told that he must “prophesy again before many _____, and _____, and _____, and _____” (Revelation 10:11).

TRUE OR FALSE

1. John saw an angel with “feet as pillars of fire.” _____
2. As there was an interlude between the opening of the SIXTH and SEVENTH SEALS (Revelation 7:1-17), so there is an interlude between the sounding of the SIXTH and SEVENTH TRUMPETS (Revelation 9:13; 10:7, 11:15). _____
3. The “seven thunders” uttered their voices before the “mighty angel” cried (Revelation 10:3-4). _____
4. The One who created heaven and earth is referred to in Revelation 10:6. _____
5. The “mighty angel” show his intention to take possession of “sea” and “land” (Revelation 10:2, 6, 7). _____
6. His “left foot” was placed upon the “sea.” _____
7. John was told to “Seal up” the “seven thunders” (Revelation 10:4). _____
8. The “mighty angel” said there should “be time no longer!” _____

YES OR NO

1. We are not told which foot the angel placed on the “sea” and “earth.” _____
2. Was John to write that uttered by the voices of thunder? _____
3. Did John see an angel raise his hand and swear? (Revelation 10:5-6) _____
4. Did the “angel” give John a CLOSED book? (Revelation 10:8) _____

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 44

Page 1

Revelation 11

Memory Verse: Revelation 11:15

Memory Verse:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever ‘and ever.’” (Revelation 11:15).

THE TWO WITNESSES

In Revelation 10:1-11 we saw “the little book” in the hand of a “mighty angel.” The particular message of the OPEN BOOK seems to be the prophecy about the TEMPLE being measured, and the TWO WITNESSES of Revelation 11:1-13. This was a prophecy that made John SICK AT HEART: “It was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter” (Revelation 10:10).

In addition to this, the “LITTLE BOOK OPEN” (Revelation 10:2), coming as it does just before the SEVENTH TRUMPET, may suggest an ERA OF THE OPEN BOOK (or BIBLE) just preceding the END OF THE WORLD!

“If so, it exactly fits in with the course of History. Strange as it may seem, the Church, or RATHER THE THING THAT CALLED ITSELF THE CHURCH, in the Middle Ages, TOOK THE BIBLE FROM THE PEOPLE.” The Catholic Church made it heresy, punishable by death, TO READ THE BIBLE!

The Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther RESTORED THE BIBLE TO THE PEOPLE. Modern HISTORY IS AN ERA OF THE OPEN BOOK. Every blessing of modern civilization is a direct product of the OPEN BIBLE. Civil and religious liberty, social reform, popular education, liberty of conscience, and freedom of speech are by-products of the OPEN BIBLE.

Revelation 11 falls into three parts:

I. THE TEMPLE MEASURED (Revelation 11:1-2)

A. The “Times of the Gentiles” to end in forty-two months (Revelation 11:1-2).

“And there was given me a reed... measure the temple of God.” (Revelation 11:1) Note the instruction, “Rise, and measure.” The idea of measuring was taken from the Old Testament (Ezekiel 40:1-49, Zechariah 2:1-12). God measures in ORDER TO KEEP (Zechariah 2:5). Marking of a part of the “temple of God” is parallel to the “seal” of the 144,000 (Revelation 7:1-8).

“Reed like unto a rod.” Among Israel a “reed” came to denote a fixed length six long cubits, or nine feet. This refers to the Canon of Scripture.

1. Who measures? The “reed” is given to John the apostle, not to an angel.
2. The measure used. It is a divine measure given by our Lord to the last living apostle.
3. What is measured? “The temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” This “reed” is, I believe God “incorruptible seed... the WORD OF GOD” (I Peter 1:23f).

“Measure the temple of God”: The temple was not standing when John wrote the book of Revelation. The “temple” was a symbol of the TRUE CHURCH. “Ye are the TEMPLE OF GOD” (I Corinthians 3:16). This “measuring” was a symbol of PRESERVATION and not of DESTRUCTION (read Zechariah 2:1-5).

“Altar.” Symbol of worship, of the prayers offered before it. “Them that worship therein” means the TRUE WORSHIPPERS.

“But the court without the temple leave out...” (Revelation 11:2) John was NOT to measure “the court,” the temple area representing the UNFAITHFUL PORTION OF CHRIST’S CHURCH. Why this prohibition? The “church” has fallen under the influence of “the Gentiles,” the nations, the spirit of the world, for “forty and two months,” or three and one-half years, the entire period of the Christian Dispensation. This period of time, in measurement of which a month is estimated as thirty days, is the equivalent of three and one-half years, or 1260 days! It denotes a “broken, troubled period.” It measures the TRIBULATION which is caused by “the beast” who is first mentioned here (Revelation 11:7), and is the central figure in the visions which immediately follow.

II. THE TWO WITNESSES (Revelation 11:3-13)

A. The Two Witnesses to prophesy forty-two months (Revelation 11:3-12).

“And I will give power until my two witnesses...” (Revelation 11:3) Their number is sufficient. “In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established” (Matthew 18:16; Deuteronomy 19:15). God has often sent out his witnesses in pairs: Moses and Aaron; Elijah and Elisha; the disciples (Luke 10:1). The “two” witnesses cannot be identified, some writers think, AS INDIVIDUALS, but as the Lord’s PEOPLE IN EVERY AGE who DECLARE and DEFEND HIS TRUTH. At this, and every time, of distress and DANGER THE TRUE CHURCH WILL BEAR ITS FAITHFUL TESTIMONY.

“They shall prophesy 1260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” This is “forty and two months” (verse 2), thirty days to the month, or three and one-half years, the entire period of the Christian age, some think. God’s “two witnesses” do their work “in sackcloth,” in sadness, not in radiant robes, but in robes of mourning. It is not a light thing to stand up against a corrupt world and condemn its sins.

“These are the two olive trees... two candlesticks” (Revelation 11:4): The olive trees supplied the candlesticks, the candlesticks diffused the light. The testimony of the “two witnesses” shall be fed with streams of HEAVENLY OIL – the Holy Spirit. The TRUE CHURCH and the WORD OF GOD conquer “NOT BY MIGHT, nor by POWER, but by MY SPIRIT, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

“And if any man hurt them, fire... devoureth their enemies.” (Revelation 11:5) Note the power with which their testimony is borne. “FIRE... out of their mouth” would consume their enemies, as Elijah CALLED FIRE FROM HEAVEN to consume the enemy king’s messengers, Ahaziah, king of Israel (II Kings 1:10-15).

“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not...” (Revelation 11:6): Elijah “shut heaven” (I Kings 17:1, James 5:16-17). God gave Moses power to TURN WATER INTO “BLOOD, and to smite the earth with all plagues” (see Exodus 7:20). For rebellious men, common daily blessings may be turned into a CURSE, or judgment.

“And when they shall have finished their testimony...” (Revelation 11:7) These “two witnesses” are irresistible until their work is done. If the TRUE CHURCH and the WORD OF GOD are the “two witnesses,” the KILLING of the “two witnesses” by “The BEAST” may be a symbol of the BLOODY PERSECUTION OF SAINTS by Papal Rome.

In St. Bartholomew’s Massacre, Catherine de Medici, mother of the king, an ardent Romanist and willing tool of the Pope, gave the order, and on the night of August 24, 1572, 70,000 HUGUENOTS, including most of their leaders, were MASSACRED. There was GREAT REJOICING IN PAPAL ROME, The Pope and his College of Cardinals went, in solemn procession, to the Church of San Marco, and ordered

the Te Deum to be sung in thanksgiving. The Pope struck a medal in commemoration of the MASSACRE, and sent a Cardinal to Paris to bear the King and Queen Mother the CONGRATULATIONS OF POPE AND CARDINALS.

The Inquisition, called the “Holy Office,” was instituted by Pope Innocent III (1198-1216 A.D.). The Inquisition was the main agency of the Papacy to CRUSH PROTESTANT REFORMATION under Martin Luther. It “is stated that in the thirty years between 1540 and 1570 no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death in the Pope’s war for the extermination of the Waldenses” (Halley’s Bible Handbook, twenty-fourth Revised Edition 1965, Second printing, pages 777-785). Secure this book from the Christian bookstore and read the FACTS OF “CHURCH HISTORY” by Halley. Your eyes will “pop!”

“And their dead bodies shall lie in the street...” (Revelation 11:8) “The great city” represents the DEGENERATE CHURCH. Like Sodom, she is CORRUPT like Egypt, cruel and tyrannical.

“And they... shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.” (Revelation 11:9) Those who have preached the gospel have suffered ridicule, persecution, and humiliation during all ages. “Earth shall rejoice over them” (verse 10) which doubtless means the world and the degenerate church, having been “tormented” or disturbed by the preaching of the word, not congratulate themselves over their triumph (see our Lord, Luke 23:12). However, the DEATH, defeat and overthrow of the “two witnesses” is but for a brief period of time.

“And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them... stood upon their feet... Come up hither.” (Revelation 11:11-12) Having suffered with Christ, the “two witnesses” shall also REIGN WITH HIM. “Though rejected, killed, and humiliated before the world, like the Lord Jesus they shall rise and this doubtless is a PICTURE of the PURIFIED CHURCH and GOD’S WORD AGAIN BECOMING FREE AND PROMINENT IN THE WORLD under the LEADERSHIP OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION. It is impossible to overestimate the influence of the Lutheran movement in RESTORING THE WORD OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE. It was indeed like a resurrection from the DEAD OF GOD’S WITNESSES TO THE WORLD! “Truth CRUSHED TO EARTH SHALL RISE AGAIN!” Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and REJOICE, CHRISTIANS.

B. The Second Woe (Revelation 11:13).

“And there was a great earthquake.” (Revelation 11:13) Of those who deserved Divine judgment, none escaped.

“The remnant... gave glory to the God of heaven.” The “survivors grew awe-stricken and ascribed glory to the God of heaven.” The Devil cannot ultimately win OVER THE CHURCH OF OUR LIVING LORD. Many turn in repentance to God. Evil’s triumph will be brief; it will usher in the end and the final subjugation of the devil.

III. The ULTIMATE TRIUMPH (Revelation 11:14-19)

“The second woe is past... third woe cometh quickly.” (Revelation 11:14) This is the last of the THREE TRUMPETS OF WOE. To the WICKED, this is a TRUMPET OF DOOM. To the RIGHTEOUS, it is a TRUMPET OF Joy. The ULTIMATE DEFEAT of the one and the ultimate TRIUMPH of the other are simultaneous.

This is the END of the SECOND parenthetical passage.

The TRUMPET Judgments are resumed.

A. The Seventh Trumpet: The Third Woe (Revelation 11:15-19).

“And the seventh angel sounded...” (Revelation 11:15) The “THIRD WOE” will follow the sounding of the SEVENTH TRUMPET. Then will come the final triumph. Then the PERFECTED REIGN OF CHRIST WILL BEGIN!

“The Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets, thus, in an outline panorama, seem to have given a bird’s eye view of the COURSE OF HISTORY.”

The “Third Woe” is God’s final judgment on the wicked (Revelation 11:18).

“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord... he shall reign for ever and ever.” The battle between RIGHT and WRONG is ended, resulting in the TRIUMPH of RIGHT. The victory is complete. The usurper is ousted, and shorn of his power. The VICTORY is permanent. “Our Lord” and “His Christ... shall reign for ever and ever” (I Corinthians 15:24-28).

The sounding of the “SEVENTH TRUMPET” brings Revelation to its climax, to the dramatic action of the book. His Kingdom has come “in earth, as it is in heaven.” HOWEVER, the whole of this passage is ANTICIPATIVE. The Kingdom HAS COME BY ANNOUNCEMENT, BY ANTICIPATION. Christ HAS NOT YET COME. Everything is now ready for His coming and the attending events thereof. The apostle goes back to review the ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH, to PICTURE its GREAT ENEMY “THE BEAST,” and the SUFFERING THE CHURCH will endure under “the beast” before Christ returns and the final triumph is complete.

Thus the “SEVENTH TRUMPET” marks the end of what is regarded as the first half of Revelation 1-11, and it introduces the second half of the Apocalypse, Revelation 12-22.

“And the four and twenty elders... worshipped God.” (Revelation 11:16) No sooner was the great announcement made than we hear this outburst of THANKSGIVING, a SONG OF DELIVERANCE (see Exodus 15).

1. The singers are the “four and twenty elders,” who represent the glorified church; they are battle-scarred veterans (see Revelation 4:10-11; 5:8f). They “Sat before God” in EXALTATION. They “fell upon their faces, and worshipped God.”

2. The OBJECT of their praise is the “Lord God Almighty, who art and who was.” The familiar expression, “and art to come” is omitted, because the Lord has now come (see Revelation 1:8).

3. The GROUND of praise: “Because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned” (verse 17). The praise is PROPHETIC. It gathers into a great summary, AS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED, all the SIGNAL EVENTS WHICH FUTURE HAS IN STORE! By anticipation the REDEEMED WORSHIPPERS REGARD THAT UNIVERSAL REIGN AS ALREADY BEGUN.

“And the nations were angry...” (Revelation 11:18) The worshippers view as already past the LAST GREAT ASSAULT BY A REBELLIOUS WORLD UPON THE SUFFERING CHURCH. God’s wrath meets man’s wrath. God rewards the saints; no saint shall go unrewarded (Hebrews 6:10). God “destroys them which destroy the earth.” This is retribution in kind (study II Thessalonians 1:5-9).

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven...” (Revelation 11:19) In this verse we have two contrasting scenes:

1. God’s Temple in Heaven was opened.” This is the “secret place of the Most High.” It was open for vision. “The ARK OF HIS TESTAMENT” or “covenant” is the PLEDGE of God’s FAITHFULNESS in saving His people.

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2. A Storm was upon the earth. “There were lightning flashes, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a terrific hailstorm” (Berkeley). Lightning playing upon a sky of darkness and gloom. “Voices” whose words are unrevealed. We hear the rumbling of thunder that warns men of impending disaster and an “earthquake” makes all earthly foundations tremble. “And great hail” that symbolizes of God’s WRATH against sin (see Revelation 16:21, Hebrews 12:25-29).

“GONE OUT – WILL BE BACK SOON!”

A physician was a strong, stalwart Christian. From his sunny nature radiated good cheer to his patients. He had enough sunshine also for the frail, little wife who needed all the vigor of his personality to sustain her. When the doctor suddenly passed away to be forever with the Lord, friends said, “It will kill her! This will be the end of her! But the faith that the two had shared together did not fail her. By the doorway of the living room she hung the card the doctor had sometimes left on his office door. It read, “Gone out – will be back soon!” The doctor’s widow cherished the Blessed Hope of being again with her loved one when Christ comes to summon the righteous dead from the dust of the earth!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What was John told to “measure” (Revelation 11:1).
2. How long did the “witnesses” testify (Revelation)?
3. What three things do the “witnesses” have power to do (Revelation 11:5-6)?
4. Who would make war against and kill these “witnesses” (verse 7)?
5. How long were the bodies of the “witnesses” exposed (verse 11)?
6. At the sound of the SEVENTH TRUMPET, the elders did what (verse 16)?

FILL THE BLANKS WITH THE RIGHT WORDS

1. The outer court was given to the _____; they would “tread” the “holy city” under foot _____ (Revelation 11:2).
2. The witnesses are “the _____, and the _____ standing before the God of the earth” (Rev 11:4).
3. Men who would hurt the witnesses are devoured by _____ that proceed out of their _____ (verse 5).
4. Those on earth would rejoice over the death of the _____ they _____ them (Revelation 11:10).
5. “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our _____ and of his _____,” was sounded when the _____ sounded (Revelation 11:15b).
6. The bodies of the witnesses would lie in the street of the city _____ called _____ and _____ (Revelation 11:8).
7. The “temple of God was opened in _____,” and “the _____ of his testament” was seen (Revelation 11:19).

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YES OR NO?

1. Does the writer say the witnesses came from heaven in a cloud (verse 3)? _____
2. Does John mention people sending “gifts one to another” (verse 10)? _____
3. Did a voice say, “Come up hither,” to the people of Sodom and Egypt (verse 12)? _____
4. Were the bodies of the “witnesses” buried by their fiends (verse 9)? _____
5. Does John mention the SECOND and THIRD WOE in Revelation 14:14)? _____
6. Does the word “earthquake” appear more than twice in Revelation (verse 13, 19)? _____

TRUE OR FALSE

1. John was instructed to measure the court outside the temple (verse 2). _____
2. While they prophesied, the witnesses were clothed in white linen (verse 3). _____
3. John said the witnesses would be killed before they finished their testimony (Revelation 11:7). _____
4. Of Christ it is said, “He shall reign forever and ever” (verse 15). _____
5. “Thy wrath to come” was said by the four living creatures (verses 16-18). _____
6. 7,000 persons were killed when the witnesses ascended (verse 13). _____

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 45

Page 1

Revelation 12

Memory Verse: Revelation 12:11

Memory Verse:

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” (Revelation 12:11).

HOW TO OVERCOME SATAN

The persecution from which the Church has suffered is to continue, and is to deepen into a “GREAT TRIBULATION” as the AGE DRAWS TO A CLOSE. This is the main fact that lies back of the entire Apocalypse. The purpose of Revelation: ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS TO BE STEADFAST IN SUFFERING!

The First Half of Revelation

Revelation 1-11 shows the judgments that are to FALL UPON THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST, and the ULTIMATE SAFETY of our Lord’s followers. Revelation 11:15, 18 deals largely with the FATE OF THE WORLD.

The first half of the book is divided into three sections:

- I. The Prologue (Revelation 1:1-8).**
- II. Letters to the Seven Churches (Revelation 1:9-3:22).**
 - 1. Preparatory Vision (Revelation 2:1-7).
 - 2. To Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7).
 - 3. To Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11).
 - 4. To Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17).
 - 5. To Thyatira (Revelation 2:16-29).
 - 6. To Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6).
 - 7. To Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13).
 - 8. To Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22).
- III. “THE SEVEN SEALS” (Revelation 4:1-8:1)**
- IV. “THE SEVEN TRUMPETS” (Revelation 8:2-11:19)**

The Second Half of Revelation

The second half of Revelation pictures the POWERS OF EVIL WHICH OPPOSE THE CHURCH (Revelation 12:1-22:5, with the Epilogue (Revelation 22:6-21)).

The triumph of Christ and the GLORY of HIS CHURCH are painted in visions of matchless splendor!

- I. CHIEF ENEMIES OF THE CHURCH (Revelation 12-14)
- II. "THE SEVEN BOWLS" (Revelation 15-16)
- III. "THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST" (Revelation 17-20)
- IV. "THE NEW JERUSALEM" (Revelation 21:1-22:5)
- V. THE EPILOGUE (Revelation 22:6-21)

In this central section of the book the GREAT ENEMIES of CHRIST and HIS CHURCH are PERSONIFIED as "A GREAT RED DRAGON," and "THE BEAST OF THE SEA," and "THE BEAST OF THE LAND" (Revelation 12-14). In Revelation 14 we are given a VISION OF ENCOURAGEMENT – the Lamb and His FOLLOWERS will be victorious!

There is NO CHRONOLOGICAL RELATION between Revelation 12 and chapter 11. The book of Revelation is NOT A CONTINUOUS HISTORY, but a REVIEW of the struggle between sin and righteous RECAPPED OVER AND OVER under different aspects and under different symbols. In Revelation 12 we have a picture of the first enemy of Christ and His Church, the dragon, and the mighty conflict that ensued. Look now at a RECAP of the church, her enemies, and

I. SIGNS IN HEAVEN (Revelation 12:1-6)

A. The Sun-Clothed Woman (Revelation 12:1-2).

"And... a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun." (Revelation 12:1) Two signs appear in this section, one of righteousness, the woman; the second, a red dragon. Controlling all the enemies of the Church is Satan, the Enemy, and that behind all the powers of evil is the Evil One.

"Great wonder." Should read "a great sign," therefore it is symbolic.

"A woman..." The "woman," about to give birth to a child, seems up to Revelation 12:6, to represent Israel; and from Revelation 12:6 onward to represent the Church. The imagery may possibly be taken from Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9.

God cared for the Jewish nation for the PURPOSE of BRINGING CHRIST into the world. The NATION PERSONIFIED a "Queen, in Heavenly Glory, giving birth to the Child of the Ages," Jesus Christ our Lord!

"And she... travailing in birth." (Revelation 12:2) The "child" was Christ, the Messiah (Anointed One), for from Israel "as concerning the flesh Christ came" (Romans 9:4-5). Since the "Promised Seed" was to come through Israel, Isaiah prophesied "UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN" (Isaiah 9:6).

B. "A Great Red Dragon" (Revelation 12:34).

"And ... a great red dragon." (Revelation 12:3) The "dragon" is "red" in the color of blood, marks of his cruel malice and deadly hate of Christ and His Church. The "dragon" is identified as the "Devil, and Satan" (verse 9), a "murderer" and "liar" from the beginning (John 8:44).

"Seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns..." These emblems show the universal power and earthly domain, and typify the sevenfold perfection of Satan's power. He is the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), and "prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). The "dragon" is NOT GOD. He

is not all-powerful, he does not know every-thing, and he FEARS the NAME OF CHRIST, and his DOOM is INEVITABLE.

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven...” (Revelation 12:4) Angels are spoken of as “stars” (Job 38:7). They were thrown out of heaven with the red “dragon!” The Devil here also influences church leaders to apostasy, marshalling them against God and His Word. Remember the “God Is Dead” issue?

“The dragon stood before the woman...” Note the position he occupies. The Devil TRIED to DESTROY Jesus at the time of His birth through Herod the evil king (Matthew 2:3, 8-16).

The red “dragon” tried to keep the “seed of the woman” or CHRIST (Genesis 3:14-15) from being born by having Cain slay Abel (Genesis 4:8) so the male line of descent would be destroyed.

We are reminded of Pharaoh’s efforts to destroy Moses (Exodus 2:5-10). Read Esther 3:8-15; 6:1-11 to show how God preserved Israel.

The “dragon” tried to destroy Jesus before He died on the cross as Nazareth (Luke 4:28-30). The history of the Church is one long struggle between Satan and God’s people, and Satan is going to lose (I Thessalonians 2:18).

C. The Man-Child: Christ (Revelation 12:5-6).

“And she brought forth a man child... rule all nations.” (Revelation 12:5) Satan’s watch to “devour” the child was futile. Christ was born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18-2:2, Luke 2:3-7). Our Lord shall “rule all nations with a rod of iron.” His will shall be done “in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

“Her child was caught up unto God... his throne”: Our Lord is now seated at the Father’s right hand (Hebrews 1:3, 12:2).

The church will be “CAUGHT UP” to be with Christ in the air (I Thessalonians 4:17).

“And the woman fled into the wilderness...” (Revelation 12:6) The Church escapes the “dragon,” as the Israelites escaped from Pharaoh in the “wilderness” (Exodus 13:20-22), and God fed her in “a place prepared of God... a thousand two hundred and threescore days,” or 1260 days, or three and one-half years. This is the entire period of the Christian dispensation (I Peter 1:1-5).

II. WAR IN HEAVEN (Revelation 12:7-12)

“And there was war in heaven. Michael... angels fought against the dragon.” (Revelation 12:7) Satan—infuriated-- by his “failure to destroy Christ, followed Him in His ASCENSION, and made bold to storm the bulwarks of heaven. There he met a crushing defeat at the hands of “Michael and his angels,” Satan, or the “dragon”, lost forever any further power to harm Christ or the souls of the redeemed (John 12:31, Hebrews 2:14).

“And the great dragon was cast out...” (Revelation 12:8-9) All the angels or “stars” that followed Satan were also cast out of heaven. This dethronement of Satan was accomplished by the birth, ministry, the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Study Job 1:6-7, Luke 10:18 and Revelation 12:7-9 help explain one another. Such is the meaning of “war in heaven,” when the “great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (verse 9).

“Michael” (verse 7) is the Archangel, Prince of Angels, who had some previous experience in “contending with the Devil” (Jude 9). He was the guardian angel of Israel (Daniel 12:13-21). He will be on hand at the time of the end in the “great tribulation” (Daniel 8:17; 12:1, 9, 13), and when our Lord COMES

AGAIN (I Thessalonians 4:16). Michael may be fighting our battles now, here on earth, more than we realize (Ephesians 6:12-20).

“And a loud voice... Now is come salvation.” (Revelation 12:10) Celestial music celebrates the VICTORY ‘our Lord WON by His death upon the cross for every sinner who will “TRUST AND OBEY!” “Hallelujah! What a Savior!” This sounds a NOTE OF TRIUMPH, and of WARNING AS WELL.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...” (Revelation 12:11) “There Is Power in the Blood” when a sinner BELIEVES and OBEYS Christ, and is willing to DIE FOR HIM, if need be.

“There rejoice, ye heavens... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth.” (Revelation 12:12) The Enemy, the Devil, IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN “DESTROYED,” but actually he has power ON EARTH FOR A SEASON. “The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time,” three and one-half years to vent his wrath on the inhabitants of the earth before he is CHAINED and CAST INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT! Was Luke 10:18 future? Study Job 15:15.

III. WAR ON EARTH (Revelation 12:13-17)

“And when the dragon... cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman who brought forth the man child” (Revelation 12:13): The devil knows his time of doing harm to man is limited. In boiling rage he is POWERLESS against the Son of God. For a time he can persecute the WOMAN, so the scene shifts “unto the earth.”

“Persecuted the woman”. The dragon now directs his “persecution” against the woman – the Lord’s Church. This is the ACTUAL CHURCH, the CHURCH OF HISTORY. Satan persecuted the church through a Nero in the burning of Rome in 64 A.D., and in a thousand ways with hand, tongue, and pen.

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle... fly... wilderness” (Revelation 12:14) The woman sought refuge from the dragon in the “wilderness.” Is this the church driven UNDERGROUND BY PERSECUTION? It was in the “Wilderness” that Babylon, the Harlot Church, developed (Revelation 17:3). ONE DAY THE TRUE CHURCH WILL NOT BE A “Wilderness,” BUT A MOUNTAIN WITH THE Glory OF GOD (Revelation 21:10-11).

“Woman... nourished.” As Israel escaped pharaoh on “Eagles’ WINGS” (Exodus 19:4), so God will “PREPARE A PLACE” for His people NOW and HEREAFTER (Exodus 19:3-4; John 14:1-6, 27), “nourished” and cared for through three and one-half years, the time covering the entire Christian era.

“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water...” (Revelation 12:15): This may refer to the persecutions of the church by the Roman Empire. “Let not the water-flow overwhelm me, neither let the deep swallow me up” (Psalms 69:15, 90:5).

“And the earth helped the woman...” (Revelation 12:16) This may refer to the conversion of the Emperor Constantine and the Christianizing of the Roman Empire, which put an end to the persecutions. The church can never be destroyed, but individual Christians can be made the victims of Satan’s hatred and spite. But we are on the VICTORY SIDE. (I Corinthians 15:57).

“And the dragon... went to make war with the remnant of her seed.” (Revelation 12:17) A “remnant” or “rest” of the church was faithful, and did not forsake Christ for the friendship of the world. Prayerfully read Revelation 3:4; Romans 11:5; Isaiah 61:9. Leaving the degenerate portion of the church, the serpent went in pursuit of “the rest” of the church, the faithful few scattered over the face of the earth!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What section of Revelation do we now enter (Revelation 12:1-22:5)?
2. How was the “woman” John saw “clothed” (Revelation 12:1)?
3. Why did the “woman” cry with pain (Revelation 12:2)?
4. Who were the opposing forces engaged in war in heaven (Revelation 12:3, 7)?
5. Can you give three terms applied to the “dragon” (Revelation 12:3)?
6. When cast to the “earth” the “dragon” did what (Revelation 12:4)?
7. How long was the “woman” in the “wilderness” (Revelation 12:6)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH THE RIGHT WORDS

1. The _____ dragon had _____ heads, _____ horns and _____ crowns.
2. A _____ part of the _____ of heaven was cast into the dragon’s _____.
3. _____ accused _____ before God (verses 3, 10).
4. God gave the woman two _____ of a great _____ that she might fly into the _____ (Rev 12:14).
5. The _____ helped the woman by swallowing the _____ which the _____ cast out of his (Revelation 12:16).

YES OR NO?

1. Did the “dragon” catch the “man child” to whom the woman gave birth (verse 5)? _____
2. Did God prepare the place for the woman in the wilderness (verse 6)? _____
3. Does John speak of the “angels” of the dragon (verse 9)? _____
4. Did the woman have “seed” other than this “man child” (verse 17)? _____
5. “Our brethren” “overcame” the dragon “by the blood of the lamb” (verse 11).

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. John say the “wonder” or “sign” of a woman” in heaven” (verse 1). _____
2. The “man child” was to “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (verse 5). _____
3. The “woman” took her child into the “wilderness” (verse 5). _____

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 46

Page 1

Revelation 13

Memory Verse: Revelation 13:11

Memory Verse:

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Revelation 13:11).

THE BEAST AND THE ANTICHRIST

Let us continue our study of the ENEMIES OF THE CHURCH. The “great red dragon” (Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9) is the PRESIDING GENIUS OVER THESE ENEMIES – all the forces of evil. In the primary sense, this DRAGON, the Devil, or Satan (Revelation 12:9) is the ARCHENEMY OF CHRIST, and of all mankind – he is the ANTICHRIST. As the “prince of the power of the air” (see John 14:30; 12:31; 16:11; Ephesians 6:10-20), the Dragon or Devil works “in the SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE” (Ephesians 2:2).

As the ARCHENEMY of MANKIND, the Devil has those who SHARE as his AGENTS and CO-WORKERS. Our lesson identifies Satan’s CO-WORKERS – one under the figure of “a beast” who rises “up out of the sea,” the other “another beast coming up out of the earth” (Revelation 13:1, 11).

I. THE BEAST OF THE SEA (Revelation 13:1-10)

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea.” (Revelation 13:1) The Dragon, or Devil, having failed to destroy the church by persecution, now installs himself in this “BEAST” against the saints of God (Revelation 12:9, 13-13:1). This seems to be the “beast” who killed the TWO WITNESSES (Revelation 11:7). He is more fully described in Revelation 17.

Of WHAT is “the beast... of the sea” a symbol?

A. He IS a Symbol of a KINGDOM, or a POWER OR INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD.

“Beast... out of the SEA.” Restless, discontented people.

“Seven heads and ten horns... ten crowns.” “Ten horns” denote a fullness of power. The “head” is the controlling and guiding part of the body – that part to which the members of the body are subject.

“Seven heads” represent the WORLD POWERS that had persecuted God’s people in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a SEVENTH POWER YET TO BE IDENTIFIED. This last is the MOST POWERFUL – on it the “ten horns” are grouped together (see Daniel 7:20).

B. The “Beast” Is a Symbol of an Evil Power (Revelation 13:2).

“The name of blasphemy.” Toward God the dragon controlled “Beast” is arrogant. He claims for himself AUTHORITY that is ONLY the ALMIGHTY GOD’S, the Father. The “beast” is the symbol of EVIL POWER against God’s people.

“And the beast... like unto a leopard.” (Revelation 13:2) The “beast” combines the feline cruelty and swiftness of the “leopard,” the massive strength of “a bear,” and the terrifying roar of “a lion” (see I Peter 5:8). The last may picture some sudden edict of persecution against our Lord’s Church. The Dragon gave the “beast” “his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

C. He Is a Symbol of a Power of Amazing Vitality (Revelation 13:3).

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“And I saw one of his heads... wounded to death.” (Revelation 13:3) The SIXTH HEAD, or the Roman Empire, was smitten. But the “beast” “was healed!” See Revelation 17:8-11. It is with the “beast” in his resurrection state that we are to deal, as “the world wondered” after his resurrection.

D. He Is a Symbol of an Idolized Power: Object of Worship (Revelation 13:4-8).

“And they worshipped the dragon... beast.” (Revelation 13:4) He is a symbol of an idolized power – an OBJECT of FALSE WORSHIP. His followers ascribe to him the praise that is DUE GOD ALMIGHTY ALONE. See Exodus 15:11; Psalms 35:10; 71:19.

Rome fell in 476 A. D. “But IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, and BY THE AID OF THE CHURCH, ROME CAME TO LIFE AGAIN. AND PAPAL ROME RULED THE WORLD ON A VASTER EXTENT, and for a LONGER TIME, and with a MORE DESPOTIC HAND, THAN EVER PAGAN ROME HAD DONE, or any WORLD POWER BEFORE IT!”

“Power... forty and two months.” (Revelation 13:5) On the YEAR-DAY interpretation, this is 1260 years, the APPROXIMATE DURATION of the Papacy as a WORLD POWER from the 7th – 18th centuries A. D.

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God...” (Revelation 13:6) Such things as the claim to Papal infallibility (1870 A. D.), the power to forgive sin, and to hold the PLACE OF GOD ON EARTH.

“And ... make war with the saints.” (Revelation 13:7) Historians estimate that in the Middle Ages and Early Restoration Era, more than 50,000,000 (yes, FIFTY MILLION) MARTYRS PERISHED at the hands of the Papacy – the cruelest and most brutal chapter in the history of mankind. Make a study of “The INQUISITION” in any reputable history book, and impartial scholars will unfold the terrifying story. Note those who “worship” and those who are “slain” (verse 8).

E. He Is a Symbol of Destructive Power (Revelation 13:9-10).

“If any man have an ear, let him hear” (Revelation 13:9): Because of the destructive power of the “beast” the necessity of the admonition of verses 9 and 10. Let all who read give heed. The words to be heeded are in verse 10.

The “BEAST” of the “SEA” may be the WORLD POWER as a WHOLE, or the CONCENTRATION and PERSONIFICATION of the World Power continuing as ONE ENTITY THROUGH THE WHOLE PERIOD OF HISTORY, under various forms and various degrees in various ages.

Prior to our modern era, SEVEN WORLD POWERS have largely dominated history. Egypt was a World Power about 400 years (1600-1200 BC); Assyria ruled 300 years (900-600 BC); Babylon, 70 years (606-536 BC); Persia, 200 years (536-330 BC); Greece, about 200 years (330-146 BC); Rome, 600 years (200 BC-400 A.D.); Papal Rome – 600-1800 A.D.

“He that leadeth into captivity... captivity.” (Revelation 13:10) “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). If the “beast” and his followers lead the “saints” into captivity, they shall experience “captivity.” God will, in the end, right all wrongs and He exhorts us to “patience and the faith of the saints.”

II. THE BEAST OF LAND (Revelation 13:11-18)

A. His Origin (Revelation 13:11a).

“And I beheld another beast... out of the earth” (Revelation 13:11a) To the Hebrew mind “the sea,” in its barrenness and restlessness, was a symbol of the heathen world.

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“The earth”: In its quiet, and fruitfulness may depict a settled state of law and order. Some think “the earth” is a symbol of the Jewish nation, God’s chosen. Hence, the “beast” had his ORIGIN among God’s people – the church. When law and order prevail, false religions may flourish.

B. His Characteristics (Revelation 13:11b).

“Two horns like a lamb... spake as a dragon.” (Revelation 13:11b) This beast LOOKED like a LAMB, but he talks like the devil, He is deceptive (Matthew 7:15). The first “beast” looked like a “leopard.” They were allies. The Leopard-Beast was killed (Revelation 13:3). The LAMB-BEAST brought him to life (Revelation 13:15).

The Leopard-beast represents secular or worldly power. The Lamb-beast represents PRETENDED Christian power. The “Dragon” unites them into ONE WORLD POWER. This uniting of power is later called “Babylon,” and is described in Revelation 17-18.

C. The Authority He Exercises (Revelation 13:12-17).

“And he exerciseth... power of the first beast.” (Revelation 13:12) He is the Slave of the first “beast”: he possesses the same spirit, and stands for the SAME PRINCIPLES. How?

1. He Causes Carnally Minded People to “Worship the First Beast” (Verses 12).

2. He Works “Great Wonders” or Signs (Revelation verse 13; Matthew 24:24; II Thessalonians 2:2-10). He is the “false Christ” and the “man of sin!”

3. He Orders an Image Erected to the First Beast (verse 14b).

“Make an image to the beast...” (verse 14b) He idolizes the world, and the things therein. “Nothing is worthy to be worshipped,” he says, “BUT THAT WHICH IS VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE.”

“And he had power...” (verse 15): He gives “life” to the IMAGE – tries to make a corpse life-like. He gives it a power to “kill” all that will not worship the “image.” He first tries deception. If that fails – then blood and violence. Violence has always been a method of FALSE RELIGION – in any age.

4. He Brands His own (Revelation 13:16-17).

“And he caused all ... receive a mark ... right hand ... foreheads.” (Revelation 13:16) As a master brands his slave, so the “beast” brands his own on the “right hand” and “foreheads.” All who do not CONFORM to CARNAL RELIGION will be CUT OFF from SOCIAL and COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE! Do you remember the N.R.A. (National Recovery Act)? Everyone had to have the STAMPS, or you received no food, or any of the necessities of life. Does this suggest that FALSE RELIGIONS definitely have their MARKINGS, too? The Councils of Tours, Constance, and Lateran expressly forbade any intercourse with “heretics,” or “Protestants!”

C. The Man and His Number (Revelation 13:18).

“Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast...” (Revelation 13:18) The “mark,” the “name” and the “number” are all identical. God’s servants are never stamped with a “number,” but with a “NAME OF MY GOD” (Revelation 3:12).

“The man” is NOT GOD’S SERVANT. The number FALLS SHORT of the Divine. Among the Jews there was a doom upon the number six (6), even when it stood alone. It fell hopelessly short of the SACRED NUMBER SEVEN (7) – denoting perfection.

“His number is 666.” The number 666 represents worldliness at its zenith, expressing all that it is possible for human wisdom and power, when directed by an evil spirit, to achieve.

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The “Man” or set of men; or, an INSTITUTION headed by a MAN or SET OF MEN. It seems to mean a NAME, the LETTERS OF WHICH, when thought of as NUMERALS, total 666.

“Irenaeus, a pupil of Polycarp, who was a pupil of John (the apostle), understood the 666 to be the equivalent of the Greek work “LATEINOS”: 30; A, 1; T, 300; E, 5; N, 50; 0, 70; 5, 200. Total: 666. “Lateinos” means “The Latin Kingdom. Pope Gregory I, 600 A.D. made Latin its official language. It still is. Some of Rome’s canons, missals, prayers, breviaries, decrees, bulls, blessings and cursings are in LATIN – not the language of the peoples of the world.

QUESTIONS AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. Can you describe the “beast... of the sea” (Revelation 13:1)?
2. “The sea” is symbolic of whom (Revelation 13:1)?
3. How long was this “beast” given power to continue (vs. 5) 7
4. Who was forbidden to “buy or sell” (verses 16-17)?
5. What is the number of the “beast” (verse 18)?

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE RIGHT WORDS

1. The “sea” “beast” blasphemed _____, his _____, his _____, and them that dwell in (Revelation 13:6).
2. It was given the “beast to make war with the _____, and to _____ them” (Revelation 13:7).
3. The “earth” “beast” made _____ come down from _____ on the earth in the sight of _____ “(Revelation 13:13).
4. He that “killeth with the _____ must be _____ with the _____.”
5. The second beast required all to receive a mark in their _____, or in their _____” (Rev 13:16).

YES OR NO?

1. Did the “deadly wound” on the head of the beast heal (verse 12)? _____
2. Did the dragon and the “beast” from the sea have an equal number of crowns (Rev. 13:1, 11)? _____
3. Is “If any man have an ear let him hear,” in Revelation 13 (verse 9)? _____
4. Did the second “beast” have the power of the “first” (verse 12)? _____
5. Was the “image” of the “beast” given power to “speak” (verse 15)? _____

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. The first “beast,” Revelation 13, had more crowns (diadems) than he had heads (verse 1)? _____
2. The words “lamb” and “dragon” are used in describing the second “beast” (Revelation 13:11). _____
3. The first “beast” received his power tom the dragon (verse 2). _____
4. The first “beast,” John said, FORCED PEOPLE to worship the second “beast” (Rev. 13:4, 15). _____
5. The “blood of the lamb” played apart in overcoming the dragon (Revelation 12:11). _____
6. The second beast deceived the people using miracles. (Verse 4) _____
7. The beast that came out of the “earth” was given a death-stroke. _____

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 47

Page 1

Revelation 14

Memory Verse: Revelation 14:13

Memory Verse:

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

THE HARVEST AND THE VINTAGE

The Lord never keeps His people too long in the shadows. God REMOVES, at just the right time, the overhanging cloud and sends GOLDEN RAYS upon His people.

John had just seen a vision of a BEAST PRETENDING TO BE THE LAMB (Revelation 13:11), and “he spake as a dragon”! Now the apostle sees a vision of the LAMB HIMSELF (Revelation 14:1).

Note the abrupt change from cruel persecution to a message of CHEER! As between the SIXTH and SEVENTH SEALS, as between the SIXTH and SEVENTH TRUMPETS, an episode was introduced. Here when the TWO BEASTS have been fully described (Revelation 13), before their defeat and destruction are depicted (Revelation 14:14-20), there is introduced this INTERLUDE to CHEER and ENCOURAGE the SAINTS to look beyond all tears, sorrows, and persecutions. FINAL VICTORY IS INEVITABLE!

I. THE LAMB ON MOUNT ZION (Revelation 14:1-5)

“And I looked... a Lamb stood on the mount Zion” (Revelation 14:1): What a relief to LOOK upon the LAMB, after looking at the DRAGON and the TWO BEASTS of the “sea” and “earth” (Revelation 12:3-17; 13:1-18). The Lamb was slain upon the cross. NOW He affirms, “I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Revelation 1:18).

“On the mount Zion.” Zion is God’s dwelling place. “Sing praise to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion” (Psalm 9:11). Our Lord “loves” “mount Zion” (Psalm 78:68). It is the place whence comes Salvation (Psalm 2:6-7), the place to which the ransomed of the Lord shall return (Isaiah 35:10). It is the “CITY OF THE LIVING GOD” (Hebrews 12:22-24), a place of holiness lifted above the pagan world!

“And with him 144,000... Father’s name written in their foreheads.” The Lamb’s faithful followers were MARKED with “His Father’s name,” just as the followers of the PRETENDER-LAMB were marked with his name (Revelation 13:16). In Revelation 7:4, the same number are spoken of as “sealed” from the twelve tribes of Israel. There we are told they are “sealed;” here we are told WHY. “A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations... stood before the throne” (Revelation 7:9). They were “clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands.” So here, the Church of our Reigning Lord, in its IDEAL COMPLETENESS and BLESSEDNESS, is represented by “144,000” with a LAMB, standing on mount Zion.

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Here is the LAMB'S TRUE CHURCH, in contrast to the FALSE CHURCH of the PRETENDER-LAMB; the FAITHFUL WIFE in the wilderness (Revelation 12:14), while the UNFAITHFUL WIFE was reveling in her ADULTERY with the WORLD (Revelation 17).

“And I heard a voice from heaven...”(Revelation 14:2) Concerning the “voice” that John heard:

1. It came “from heaven.”

2. It was musical. There was beauty for the eye, and melody for the ear. Like a “voice of many waters,” the melody was uninterrupted. It swelled, at times, into a volume “as the voice of a great thunder,” then sank into the soft strain “of harpers.”

3. It was vocal of victory: victory over the “dragon” and “beast” of the “sea,” and “beast” of “the earth.” It was never “sung” before, because such a conflict had never been fought before. Hence it was “a NEW SONG” (verse 3). ONLY the REDEEMED can UNDERSTAND what REDEMPTION MEANS (see I Corinthians 2:14).

“These... were not defiled... virgins.” (Revelation 14:4) They were TRUE TO CHRIST, in contrast to the “Harlotry” of the FALSE CHURCH (Revelation 17:5). We are NOT to understand that they were literal celibates (NEVER MARRIED), for the New Testament nowhere regards marriage as SINFUL, but rather as a shadow of the union of Christ and His Bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). The allurements of idolatry and the worship of the “beast” had not led them astray. They “follow the Lamb,” a picture of blessed and perfected fellowship with Christ.

“Firstfruits.” The idea is not so much of priority as superiority (James 1:18).

“And in their mouth... no guile... without fault” (Revelation 14:5): Or, LIE. Rather the “new song” occupied their lips. An UNSAVED PERSON CANNOT KNOW THE Joys OF THE REDEEMED. In heaven everybody will sing, so why not START SINGING HERE in the church on earth? “Unspotted” Christians have a glorious prospect (I Peter 1:19, James 1:26-27).

II. THE HARVEST AND THE VINTAGE (Revelation 14:6-20)

A. The Gospel Angel (Revelation 14:6-7)

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven” (Revelation 14:6) Our Gospel is ETERNAL.” It was meant for “every creature” (Mark 16:15-16). Does this symbolize the GENERAL EVANGELIZATION of the WHOLE WORLD? Or, coming just before the fall of Babylon (Revelation 14:8), may it not be a picture of our Modern ERA OF WORLDWIDE MISSIONS?

“Fear God... the hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14:7) The CERTAINTY of “the hour of his JUDGMENT IS COME”! As a preliminary to this “judgment,” the Gospel must be preached in “all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

An angel could not tell CORNELIUS HOW TO BE SAVED, but Peter could (Acts 10:3-6, 34-48). Have you told “THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL” to a single, unsaved soul today? Remember, as a Christian YOU ARE subject to Christ’s “GO...” (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4).

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Professor R. C. Foster borrowed from John “The Everlasting Gospel” as the title for one of his many books. We who have read the book agree that no more appropriate title could have been chosen for the magnificent messages of Professor Foster’s volume!

B. She Denunciation Angel (Revelation 14:8)

“And there followed another angel” (Revelation 14:8) This “angel” speaks as though judgment HAD ALREADY FALLEN ON BABYLON. He ANTICIPATES the DOOM OF BABYLON, which is described at length in Revelation 17-18. Her doom is justified. She had been untrue to Christ, the Bridegroom. She had corrupted the world with her false doctrine and life!

Here called “Babylon,” she is called “spiritually Sodom, and Egypt, and where our Lord was crucified” (Revelation 11:8).

“Wine.” This is the intoxicating allurements of her luxuries and idolatries.

“Babylon” is probably a “synonym for Rome, and may be regarded in the Apocalypse as the symbol of the worldly and godless spirit which in any age makes men unfaithful to Christ and INDIFFERENT TO HIS CLAIMS.” Study Revelation 18:2-4.

C. The Judgment Angel (Revelation 14:9-11).

“And the third angel... If any man worship the beast and his image.” (Revelation 14:9) This is a mark of IDENTIFICATION – the CHARACTER OF THE UNGODLY. To “worship the beast and his image” fixes one’s DOOM. This is one of the most dreadful pictures of punishment in the Bible.

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God... tormented with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 14:10) This is God’s “HOLY HATRED OF SIN; it has nothing in common with HUMAN ANGER or PASSION.” The “fire and brimstone” and “smoke of torment” are taken from the story of Sodom.

“Wine of wrath.” Followers of the “beast” made the nations drunk. Now God shall make them drunk with the “wine of the wrath of God” – unmixed with mercy. Here is the UNHAPPY LOT of the Beast’s followers in SAD CONTRAST to the Joy UNSPEAKABLE of those who belong to the Lamb (verse 3). Their evil doom is more fully described in Revelation 19-20. This contrasting of the FATE of the REDEEMED and the LOST are stressed by John in Revelation, and by Jesus in the Gospels. The doom of the wicked is “for ever and ever” (verse 11).

D. The Blessed Dead (Revelation 14:12-13).

“Here is the patience of the saints.” (Revelation 14:12) “Patience” of SUFFERING SAINTS can be FIRM in tribulation when they know that the forces of evil will ultimately be overtaken by a just punishment of the Leopard-Lamb-Beast (Revelation 13:19, 20). The suffering of the “martyrs” is over. The time prayed for in Revelation 6:9-11 is come at long last! God’s SAINTS ARE SAVED AND HAPPY FOREVER, be-cause they “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus!”

“And ... write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.” (Revelation 14:13) The dangers which the “SAINTS” are daily exposed from the “beast and his image” called forth from the aged apostle these strong words of encouragement.

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These words COMFORT ANY FOLLOWER of Christ IN ANY AGE AND PLACE, yet the first application was to the Christian martyrs who were to suffer the “great tribulation” under the beast. Dying “in the Lord,” they were like their crucified Saviour, as they bore witness to His name, and were kept by His grace! They would “rest from their labors,” the usual tasks of life, and from its hardships, persecution and pain. Their reward was in “their words” in the character acquired, the influence exerted and the results attained – all would follow these martyrs into the life beyond earth. See Matthew 6:19-21.

E. The Harvest and the Vintage (Revelation 14:14-20)

1. The Son of Man (Revelation 14:14).

“And I looked... white cloud... one sat like unto the Son of man.” (Revelation 14:14) This is the Lord Jesus presiding over the harvest of the world. Revelation begins with a vision of the “First-Fruits” (verse 4) of the Gospel. Then comes the Era of worldwide Gospel Preaching (verse 6). Now comes the vision of the FINAL HARVEST.

The HARVEST of the HUMAN RACE had been spoken of long centuries before, “Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down for the press in full... for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:13-14).

The Seven Seals and the Seven Trumpets (see charts) in Revelation 6-11 carried the panorama forward to FINAL VICTORY, dwelling mostly on the EARLY part of the story.

Revelation 12-14, the central portion of the book, reaches its climax. It contains another series of pictures running to the END, dwelling more fully on the MIDDLE PART OF THE STORY, yet detailing more fully some scenes of the END-Time. The visions seem to portray the RISE of an APOSTATE CHURCH, seated on the Throne of a World-Empire. The TRUE CHURCH, meanwhile, continues FAITHFULLY to BEAR ITS WITNESS TO THE ENTIRE WORLD, and then comes THE HARVEST under the SON! Christ was the “SOWER.” He shall be the “REAPER!” Note the VICTOR’S CROWN OF GOLD.

2. The Angel of the Harvest (Revelation 14:15-16).

“And another angel... Thrust in the sickle... time is come ...reap” (verse 15) Waiting for this may be one of the reasons WHY the Lord DELAYS His coming. This hour, hidden from all but the Father (Matthew 24:36), has now arrived. “The harvest of the earth is ripe.” For this hour the PERSECUTED CHURCH has PRAYED. Read the parables of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23, 36-43); the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30).

“And... the earth was reaped” (verse 16): All the FAITHFUL were saved, without the LOSS OF ONE! John the Baptist predicted the time when ONE “MIGHTIER” than himself would “gather his WHEAT into the garner,” but would “BURN UP” the CHAFF with UNQUENCHABLE FIRE!

3. The Angel and the Vintage (Revelation 14:17).

“And another angel came out of the temple.” (Verse 17) Like the angel of the HARVEST, this “angel” came from the presence of God. As the harvest seems to be of the SAVED, the “VINTAGE” is that of the lost. Note the “wild grapes” of Isaiah 5:1-7, and “Israel is an EMPTY VINE, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself” (Hosea 10:10. Prayerfully study Matthew 21:33-43, John 15:5. “The ministry of mercy is the Lord’s chosen office; the ministry of wrath His STERN NECESSITY” of Justice. See Matthew 13:41-42.

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4. The Angel from the Altar (Revelation 14:18).

“And another angel came out from the altar.” (Verse 18) The “Altar” represents the prayers of the “saints” for judgment on the wicked (Revelation 6:9-10; 8:3). The “angel” here has power over the FIRE OF GOD’S AVENGING WRATH (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). The “angel... with a loud cry,” sends forth “the sickle... vine of the earth... her grapes are fully ripe.” **THEY ARE READY FOR CRUSHING.**

5. The Angel of the Winepress (Revelation 14:19-20).

“And the winepress was trodden without the city.”(Verse 20) A crushing punishment was brought upon the willfully ungodly **OUTSIDE THE HOLY CITY**. For such the judgment of the church is wholly exempt. The “harvest” has already ended. The “winepress” is trodden and the result is appalling: **“BLOOD... EVEN UNTO THE HORSE BRIDLES!”** This is **COMPLETE** and worldwide tragedy. This is the last stroke in the drama-tic picture of the **RISE**, the **REIGN**, and the **UNIVERSAL RULE** of the **DRAGON** who **ONCE** had **UNIVERSAL SWAY**. **NOW THE CHURCH SHARES IN THE GLORY OF THE TRIUMPHANT LORD**. The same event is more fully described in Revelation 19:14-21.

“1600 furlongs.” Is 200 miles in our measure. Its meaning must be in the number 1600, rather than in the actual distance. 1600 is 4 x 4 x 100, thought to be a symbol of **COMPLETE DESTRUCTION**.

WHAT THEY SING IN HEAVEN

A woman asked her minister to go talk to her husband. He talked with the man for a few minutes about his physical condition and then asked about his soul.

“Well, I think my chances for getting to heaven are pretty good.”

“You believe that Heaven is a reality, and that your soul is a reality, and that you hope soon to be happy in **HEAVEN FOREVER**. You must have **SOME REASON** for this. Will you please tell me what it is?”

The husband replied, “Well, I have always been kind to my wife and children, and I have not intentionally wronged my fellow men.”

Minister: “That is all very good. **BUT** what kind of place do you think Heaven **IS**? And what do you think they **DO THERE**?”

Man: “I thing there is **NO SIN** or **SORROW THERE**. It must be a happy place, and I thing they **SING THERE A GOOD DEAL**.”

Minister: “**YES**, they do **SING** there, and I’ll read you one of the songs they sing.” He read Revelation 1:5b, 5:9, 10. “That is **WHAT** they **SING ABOUT**; **NOT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE**, but **WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE**. Suppose you were there, and got there the way you hope to get there, because you have been good to your family, and had never wronged your fellowmen; would you be able to **Join IN THAT SONG**?”

There was **SILENCE**; at last the husband said: “I had never thought of that before.”

THINK NOW. Accept the Saviour “today” (Hebrews 3:15) before “The Harvest and the Vintage” comes!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What did John see on Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1)?
2. What three things are used to describe the “voice” John heard (verse 2)?
3. The second angel of Revelation made what announcement (verse 8)?
4. Who “shall drink of the wife of the wrath of God” (verse 9)?
5. Who are said to have “sharp sickles” (verses 14-17)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. John saw an _____ in the midst of the _____ having the _____ to preach to them that dwell on earth (verses 1, 6).
2. Those who worship the _____ and his image, or receive his mark _____ shall be tormented with and (verses 9-11).
3. A voice from _____ said, “Blessed are the _____ which die in the _____ “(verse 13).
4. One like unto the _____ was seen on a white _____, having on his head a _____” (verse 14).
5. _____ gave the order each time for the sickle to be used (verses 14-19; Matthew 13:24-30, 41-42).

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. God always removes the “dark cloud” and sends the GOLDEN RAYS of HOPE upon His people at just the right time. _____
2. The final VICTORY of Christ and His followers is inevitable! _____
3. All having “names written in their foreheads” are condemned. _____
4. All men learned the “new song” sung by those before the throne. _____
5. John said the 144,000 had some fault. _____

YES OR NO?

1. Did the 144,000 sing before the throne? _____
2. The 144,000 were referred to as “firstfruits” (verse 4). _____
3. The term “virgins” means the 144,000 were never married. _____
4. Professor R. C. Foster borrowed the title, “THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL,” for one of his many books from Revelation 14:6. _____
5. The “smoke” of those in “torment” ascend up “for ever and ever.” _____
6. The Lamb said, “Her grapes are fully ripe” (verse 18). _____
7. The “winepress was trodden” WITHIN the city (verse 20). _____
8. A “Blessed” is pronounced on the Christian in verse 13. _____
9. 1600 furlongs is a symbol of complete destruction (verse 20). _____

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 48

Page 1

Revelation 15-16

Memory Verse: Revelation 15:3

Memory Verse:

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints” (Revelation 15:3).

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD’S WRATH

Again we are reminded that the VISIONS of Revelation do not come in chronological order. In Revelation 14 judgment came upon the wicked (Revelation 14:18-20). We are brought to the time of the judgment as the wicked are trodden in “the winepress of the wrath of God” (verse 19).

Now we naturally expect the picture of the NEW HEAVEN and the NEW EARTH and the splendor of the perfected Kingdom of Christ. BUT AGAIN THERE IS A PAUSE. As a surprise, there is now a NEW SERIES OF Judgments. The prophets REVIEWS, RECAPS, and ENLARGES upon the scene he already has sketched.

Revelation 15-16 picture judgments of God by which the power of the BEAST IS BROKEN (Revelation 15:2, 16:2, 10-13). That is, the Leopard-Lamb-Beast of Revelation 13:1-2, 11-18, identified as “Babylon” in Revelation 16:19 and more fully described in Revelation 17-18.

In Revelation we have an introductory vision of “The Overcomers and the Seven Angels.” In Revelation 16, their SEVEN VIALS or BOWLS or PLAGUES are executed. Hence both chapters are included in this lesson, as they constitute a unit.

I. THE OVERCOMERS AND THE SEVEN ANGELS (Revelation 15:1-8)

A. “In Them Is Finished the Wrath of God” (Revelation 15:1).

“And I saw another sign in heaven.” (Verse 1) This is another “sign” or “wonder.” It was “great and marvelous,” because it “FILLED THE WRATH OF GOD,” that is it COMPLETED the pouring out of the accumulated “WRATH OF GOD.”

John shows in more detail what the SEVENTH SEAL has disclosed, and what the seventh trumpet has announced. He represents with NEW IMAGERY what “the... winepress... of the wrath of God” may denote by the emptying out of “seven golden vials (bowls) of the wrath of God” (verse 7).

B. The Sea of Glass (Revelation 15:2-4).

“And I saw it were a sea of glass.” (Revelation 15:2) This is the same “Sea of Glass” before the Throne in Revelation 4:6. Then it was unoccupied; now it is occupied. Then it was clear; now the surface is “fiery,” with the “fiery trials” of its occupants (read I Peter 1:6-7). The figure re-minds us of the deliverance of Israel from Pharaoh (Exodus 14). They had “gotten the victory;” they were OVERCOMERS!

“And they sing the song of Moses... and the song of the Lamb.” (Verse 3) Their song reveals their identity. They come from both Jewish and Christian dispensations. They have “Harps of God!” Theirs is

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complete VICTORY (verse 4). The theme of their song is the POWER, the HOLINESS, and the Justice of God. They are secure, no matter what HORRORS MAY DESCEND. God's people are DELIVERED under Moses (Exodus 15:5) and Christ (I Corinthians 15:57, Philippians 4:11, 13, 19).

C. The Tabernacle of Testimony (Revelation 15:5-8).

“And after that I looked... temple of the tabernacle... seven angels.” (Revelation 15:5-6) Here again we see the Heavenly Temple. We are introduced to the “seven angels,” referred to in verse 1, and they are described. Notice

1. From Whence They Came: “The temple of the... testimony” (verse 5), the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God. They came at God's bidding. “The testimony.” Tables of stone. Bears witness to the holiness and justice of God's government.
2. Their Dress: “Clothed in pure and white linen... breasts girded with golden girdles.” (Vs. 6)
3. Their Mission: They had “the seven golden vials or bowls, full of the wrath of God” (verse 7). They were ministers of DIVINE WRATH.

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God.” (Verse 8) “No man was able to enter into the temple” or AVERT THE Judgments OF GOD. The time is one of terror, and all outward things correspond. The DAY OF INTERCESSION WAS PAST.

“Temple... filled with smoke.” “Smoke” covered Mt. Sinai when the law was given there (Exodus 19:18). The “Cloud filled the house” when the Temple was dedicated (I Kings 8:10-11), and when Isaiah was granted his vision (Isaiah 6:4).

II. THE FIRST SIX BOWLS (Revelation 16:1-12)

“And I heard a great voice out of the temple.” (Revelation 16:1) The “seven angels” were standing in readiness. Nothing could be done without God's command. God gave the command: “God your ways, and pour out the vials (bowls) of the wrath of God upon the earth!” The command was given! The response was immediate. Let us be quick to OBEY GOD (Hebrews 5:9, I John 5:2). The pouring out of the “seven bowls” depicts the FINAL Judgments of God upon the enemies of Christ and His Church!

A. The First Bowl: Boils (Revelation 16:2).

“And the first... poured out his vial upon the earth... men... mark of the beast... worshipped the image.” (verse 2): Study the chart on “The Seven Vials and the Egyptian Plagues.” This plague of “grievous sores” of boils reminds us of two former plagues: the SIXTH PLAGUE of Egypt which affected the people of that land (Exodus 9:8f); the plague of the FIRST TRUMPET which affected LOWER CREATION (Revelation 8:7). The “vial” judgments are still in the future. Here is the fulfillment of Revelation 14:9-11.

B. The Second Bowl: Blood-Sea (Revelation 16:3).

“And the second angel... vial... sea... as the blood of a dead man.” (Verse 3) “Every living soul died in the sea.” This judgment recalls the milder judgment of Egypt (Exodus 7:17-21). In a former vision a similar judgment had fallen on a third part of the sea (Revelation 8:8-9), but not on the WHOLE “sea!” Note the ascending CLIMAX.

C. The Third Bowl: Rivers-Blood (Revelation 16:4-7).

“And the third angel poured... rivers... became blood.” (Verse 4) Since the beast worshippers had “shed the blood of the saints and prophets” (Revelation 16:6), they received retribution in kind; it was their due reward (verse 6).

“And ... Thou art righteous, O Lord ... because thou hast judged thus.” (Verse 5) In the Egyptian plagues only the waters of that country were smitten (Exodus 7:17-21). When the THIRD TRUMPET sounded only ONE-THIRD of ALL WATERS was smitten (Revelation 8:10). Here we HAVE THE CLIMAX! ALL WATERS WERE SMITTEN. The angel of the element acknowledged the justice of this plague in question, and he reaffirmed, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments” (verse 7).

D. The Fourth Bowl: Great Heat (Revelation 16:8-9).

“And the fourth angel poured... upon the sun.” (Verse 8) The “sun” was made to bless man. Here it was smitten with a curse to “scorch men with fire.” God created the “sun” for man’s comfort; it becomes a means of punishment.

“And men... blasphemed... they repented not.” (Verse 9) The effect of this judgment was PAIN in the BODY, REBELLION in the HEART. Afflictions will HARDEN the SINNER, if they do not melt his heart in “godly” sorrow!”

E. The Fifth Bowl: Darkness (Revelation 16:10-11).

“And the fifth angel poured... seat of the beast... darkness.” (Verse 10) The throne, or center of influence, which had been set up in arrogance and opposition to God’s throne, is reached. The results: “DARKNESS!” “Darkness,” like the NINTH Egyptian plague (Exodus 10:21-23). When men PREFER “darkness” to light, God will humor them (John 3: 16-21).

“Gnawed their tongues for pain.” “Darkness” made the pain worse.

“And blasphemed the God of heaven.” (Verse 11) “Darkness,” “pain,” and “blasphemy” were the three results of the fifth bowl judgment. Men blamed God for that which their own sins HAD BROUGHT! Have you ever heard WILLFUL SINNERS cry out: “WHY did GOD DO THIS TO ME?” He didn’t. Their CHOICE DID IT! IMPENITENCE and HARDNESS of heart resulted from their choice.

F. The Sixth Bowl: Euphrates dried up (Revelation 16:12).

“And the sixth angel poured... his vial... river Euphrates.” (Verse 12) This literally is the drying up of the Euphrates. The action of the “sixth angel” prepared the way for the assembling of a mighty host.

“Kings of the east.” Note their royalty. They were “kings” from the sun rising. Read Revelation 1:6, I Peter 2:5, 9. The sun rising is the origin of light and hope (Revelation 7:2, Matthew 2:1). They reminded us “of the remnant of the Israel of God as they returned from all places whither they had been led captive.” Do they symbolize the forces of RIGHTEOUSNESS? Study carefully Isaiah 11:15-16, Matthew 25:31-46.

III. EPISODE: THE GATHERING of The Kings (Revelation 16:13-16)

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs.” (Revelation 16:13) The coming of the “kings from the sun rising,” under the leadership of the King of Kings, was a challenge to the three ANTI-CHRISTIAN POWERS. The DRAGON, BEAST and FALSE PROPHET accepted the challenge, and sent forth their “SPIRITS,” or apostles, like UNCLEAN and NOISY “FROGS,” to assemble the forces of evil. The origin of

the “apostles” reveals their nature. “Out of the mouth of the dragon” (the Devil) came the apostle of INFIDELITY; “out of the mouth of the false prophet” came the apostle of FALSE RELIGION; “out of the mouth of the beast” came the apostle of worldliness. These form the MONSTROUS TRINITY OF EVIL: the DRAGON, SATAN; the BEAST, WORLD GOVERNMENT; FALSE PROPHET, the APOSTATE CHURCH – ALL in ALLIANCE. Read Revelation 12:9, 14:1, 7.

“Demons, working miracles.” The Frog-like demons will deceive countless thousands with “miracles” as they marshal their forces to fight against “that great day of God Almighty.”

“Behold, I come as a thief.” (Revelation 16:15) As in the case of the SEVEN SEALS and the SEVEN TRUMPETS, there was an interruption, interval, or episode between the SIXTH and SEVENTH of the series. So HERE between the POURING OUT of the SIXTH and SEVENTH “vials” or bowls of judgment there is a brief parenthetical episode.

Are God’s people alarmed? The narrative is interrupted that Jesus may warn and CONSOLE HIS PEOPLE.

“Blessed is he that watcheth.” To “come as a thief” is to come suddenly and unannounced. A blessing, one of the SEVEN of REVELATION, is pronounced on the one who shows constant and wakeful vigilance. Christians must be like sentinels on duty. They do not take off their clothes to sleep, lest the enemy come suddenly and find them OFF GUARD (Matthew 25:13).

“And he gathered them together... Armageddon.” (Verse 16) Armageddon is a compound, derived from “the Hebrew tongue,” meaning the mountain of Megiddo. The plain of Megiddo (or Esdraelon) was famous for great slaughters. There Deborah and Barak overthrew the kings of Canaan (Judges 4-5). Gideon defeated Midian (Judges 6:33). Saul’s died at the hands of the Philistines (I Samuel 31; see II Samuel 4:4); Josiah was slain in battle with Pharaoh-nechoh (II Kings 23:29-30); Ahaziah fell and was killed there (II Kings 9:27). The town of Megiddo guarded the pass of the easiest caravan route between the Plain of Sharon and the Valley of Jezreel, and the low mountains around were silent witnesses to more bloody encounters than any other spot on earth. Hence the appropriateness of this place for the vast conflict pictured in Revelation 16. However you interpret Revelation, this is the conflict SUPREME in the FINAL EFFORT OF THE POWERS OF WICKEDNESS TO OVERTHROW THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

IV. THE SEVENTH BOWL: GREAT HAIL (Revelation 16:17-21)

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air.” (Verse 17) The action of the “seventh angel” affected the “air,” including Satan “The prince of the powers of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). Four “great” things follow:

“A great voice... It is done.” The world’s history is finished. The “vial” or bowl is emptied. This “seventh” bowl is the last of the seven plagues. The series is now complete.

“And ... there was a great EARTHQUAKE.” (Verse 18) It was without parallel, and attended with “thunders,” voices, “and lightnings.” Society will be in upheaval to its very foundations. Atheistic Russian Communism is determined by world revolution to DESTROY, not BUILD a stable society, “And the great city was divided into three parts” (Verse 19) “The great city of Babylon, the corrupt church,” the woman that sitteth on the beast (Revelation 17:5). Heathens, “the cities of the Gentiles,” or nations also fell.

“Three parts.” The Roman Empire fell into “three parts” (Revelation 8:7-12; 9:18), so in THREE STAGES will the final ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORLD GOVERNMENT GO DOWN: Babylon, Beast, and False Prophet.

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“And every island fled away... mountains were not found.” (Verse 20) “Islands” and “mountains” denote earthly powers. Old national lines shall fall. Shall there be ONE nation, ONE KINGDOM, ONE PEOPLE, ONE KING OF KINGS – Jesus Christ?

“And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven.” (Verse 21) “About the weight of a talent,” or 100 pounds, another symbol of “the wrath of God.” Because of this, men “blasphemed God,” proving that the time of their destruction was fully ripe! Truly this is a “VISION OF VICTORY” for the “SAINT” of GOD!

Some feel that the hailstones of approximately 100 pounds are a prophecy of Airplanes and A-bombs. I don't know. You ask John the writer when “we all get to heaven!”

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What did John see in heaven (Revelation 15:1)?
2. What was “filled up” in the last SEVEN PLAGUES (verse 1)?
3. Who had the “harps of God,” and over what they victors (verse 2)?
4. Can you name the song they sang (verses 3-4; Exodus 15:1-21)?
5. What was next “opened” in heaven (Revelation 15:5; 4:1; 11:19; 15:5; 19:11)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. Where was each bowl (vial) poured: (1) _____ (Revelation 16:2); (2) _____; (3) _____; (4) _____; (5) _____; (6) _____; (7) _____ (verse 17).
2. When the _____ bowl (vial) was poured out “every living soul died in the _____” (Revelation 16:3).
3. Men are said to have “blasphemed” God (or His name) when the _____, _____, and _____ bowls were poured out (verses 9-11).
4. The gathering for the war of the GREAT DAY OF GOD was in a place called in Hebrew _____ (Revelation 16:16).
5. As the _____ bowl was poured out a great voice out of the _____ from the _____ said, “IT IS DONE” (verse 17).

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. The BEAST SAID, “Go your ways, and pour out the bowls upon the earth.” _____
2. The word “GREAT” appears in the description following the emptying of the four bowls, or “vials.” _____
3. When the last bowl was poured out there were “voices,” “thunders” and “lightnings!” _____
4. Men praised God because of the plagues (verses 9, 11). _____
5. The “three unclean spirits like frogs,” worked “miracles,” and were the “spirits of devils” (verse 13). _____
6. “All nations” shall never come and worship the Lord (Revelation 15:4). _____
7. The “seven vials” (bowls) were filled with “the wrath of God” (verse 7). _____
8. The “temple was filled with” light “till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled” (Rev. 15:8). _____
9. God gave the command for the seven plagues to be carried out (Revelation 16:1). _____
10. “Great Babylon” is not mentioned in Revelation 16. _____

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 49

Page 1

Revelation 17,18

Memory Verse: Revelation 17:14

Memory Verse:

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

“BABYLON THE GREAT” AND HER FALL

Revelation is a book of good cheer. It appeals to our faith. Its prophecy of ultimate VICTORY OF CHRIST over HIS ENEMIES is clear as crystal. These facts can not be stated too frequently.

However, the foes of Christ are very real. Their power, cruelty and hatred for Christ and His church are appalling. The “dragon,” the “beast,” and “Babylon the great” are the most prominent of His enemies.

Fitting indeed it is that the climax should open with an introductory VISION of Babylon and the “beast” (Revelation 17).

With lurid colors “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen... in one day” (Revelation 18:2, 8).

Christ triumphantly appears and overthrows the “beast” (Revelation 19).

The “dragon,” chief of all foes, is bound and destroyed (Revelation 20).

Today we study the “great whore (harlot),” continue with “the beast that carries her,” point out the relation between the two (Revelation 17), and conclude with “Fallen, fallen is Babylon” (Revelation 18).

I. BABYLON AND THE BEAST (Revelation 17:1-18)

A. The Woman (Revelation 17:1-6).

“And there came one of the seven angels... vials... I will show thee the judgment of the great whore.” (Revelation 17:1) The church is spoken of as the BRIDE of Christ (Ephesians 5:25, 32). Jesus likened His coming to a Marriage FEAST (Matthew 25:10). The GLORIFIED CHURCH is called the Lamb’s WIFE (Revelation 19:7, 21:2, 9). Here, however, the CHURCH (Bride) is seen as a “whore” (KJV), “great harlot” (Berkeley), even as Israel, the Lord’s Bride, in her IDOLATRY was playing the HARLOT (Ezekiel 16:14-18).

“The great whore (harlot)” “Adultery” and “fornication” was used to describe God’s APOSTATE PEOPLE – those who had been joined to God in covenant relationship ONLY to BREAK THE SPIRITUAL MARRIAGE VOW OF FAITHFULNESS. Such false affections for false gods are “prostitution” or departure from God in violation of the most sacred ties. Such joining the heart in a false alliance is hateful to Almighty God.

“Judgment... of the great whore.” One of the seven angels that had the seven vials or bowls of wrath reminds us of the close relationship of this lesson and the seven-bowl judgment.

“With whom the kings of the earth hath committed fornication.” (Revelation 17:2) “The great harlot” is in illegitimate relation with “the kings of the earth”; they have “been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” Her associates are evil.

“I saw a woman sit upon a... beast... seven heads and ten horns.” (Revelation 17:3) The “seven heads” denote universality of (earthly) dominion, and the “ten horns” denote fullness of power (Plummer).

The “woman” revels in “purple and scarlet” and “filthiness of her fornication” (verse 4) – colors highly figurative and repellent. She is pictured as sitting upon “a scarlet-colored beast” (verse 3).

“Seven heads and ten horns.” (Verse 3) The Leopard-Lamb-Beast had them (Revelation 13:1). Here the Harlot-Beast, Babylon, has them. They are understood to symbolize World-Government.

“And ... a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON the GREAT, the MOTHER OF HARLOTS” (Revelation 17:5) She is “drunken with the blood of the saints... martyrs of Jesus.” (verse 6).

The “woman” of Revelation 12 represents the TRUE CHURCH; the “woman” of Revelation 17 represents the HARLOT or UNFAITHFUL CHURCH.

The TRUE CHURCH, Bride of Christ, Wife of the Lamb, is also called a “CITY,” the New Jerusalem, the Holy City (Revelation 19:7, 21:2, 9). TWO CITIES: Babylon, and the New Jerusalem – in antithesis to the other. The one seated in power on a throne of worldly splendor, driving UNDERGROUND the other in PERSECUTION. This all seems to identify Babylon the Harlot of Revelation 17 with the Leopard-Lamb-Beast of Revelation 13.

MARKS OF THE UNFAITHFUL CHURCH

1. Her Association Was Evil: The Wild Beast, by Whom She Was Supported (Revelation 14:1).
2. Her Attire was Unfitting, Scarlet and Purple, Like the Beast and Dragon Instead of WHITE (Revelation 12:1, 19:8).
3. Her Treasures Were Earthly. Gold, pearls, precious stones. Her interest was in the material and temporal, not spiritual.
4. She was a “Whore,” a “Harlot”. This means she had broken her marriage vows, and was united with another. In the latter relationship UNHOLY CHILDREN were born – she was the “MOTHER OF HARLOTS” (verse 5). In her sin she was shameless. How very different to the chaste virgin, “espoused” to Christ!
5. She Was “Drunken with the Blood of the Saints... Martyrs.” (Verse 6). She was a persecuting power. She is a symbol of the UNFAITHFUL PORTION of Christ’s church.
“When I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” (Verse 6) Or “great wonder.” It was a mystery to John how the FAITHFUL WIFE – the TRUE CHURCH – would PROVE UNTRUE to her husband – the Lord Jesus!

The Woman (Revelation 12) And the Woman of Revelation 17 Contrasted

1. The One is Pure – The Other Foul As Corruption, Fit for Fire of Destruction.
2. The One Belongs to the Lamb – The Other Associated with a wild “Beast” who Ultimately Will Destroy Her (Revelation 17:16).
3. The One Is Clothed with Fine White Linen (Revelation 19:8), “Clothed with the Sun and Crowned with a Coronet of Stars” of Heavenly Glory – the Other Is Attired in “Purple and Scarlet Color... Decked with Gold” (Revelation 17:4, 5).
4. The One Is Represented as a Chaste Virgin, “Espoused to Christ” – the Other is “MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (verse 5).
5. The One Is Persecuted Hard by the Dragon, Driven into the Wilderness and Almost Overcome – the Other is Drunken with “The Blood of Martyrs,” and Seated on a “Beast” Which Has Received Its Power from the Persecuting Dragon (verse 6).

6. The One Sojourns in Solitude of the Wilderness (Revelation 12:14). The Other Reigns “in the Wilderness” Over Peoples, and Nations, and Kindreds, and Tongues” (Revelation 17:9, 15).

7. The One Goes in With the Lamb to the Marriage Supper (Revelation 19:7); the Other is Stripped, Insulted, Tom and Destroyed by Her Guilty Lovers (Revelation 17:16).

8. We Lose Sight of the Bride amid the Heavenly Glory (Revelation 19:9-10). The Harlot Is Cast into the Gloom and Darkness of the Smoke that “Rose Up” from the “Lake of Fire Burning with Brimstone” (Revelation 19:20).

B. “A Scarlet-Colored Beast (Revelation 17:7-15)

“And the angel... I will tell thee the mystery of the woman... beast.” (Revelation 17:7) The “woman” is “a great city” (verse 18). She is a “Harlot” seated on and in alliance with the BEAST, called “BABYLON,” a throne of world government, ruling over kings of the earth. This “woman” is ROME, IMPERIAL ROME, the type of EVERY CITY or SYSTEM that is GODLESS, cruel, idolatrous, and opposed to our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Babylon.” The symbol is significant. That ancient city on the Euphrates was the historic and heartless enemy of Israel, Jehovah’s BRIDE. It was the embodiment of luxury, license, idolatry and impurity. No NAME could SUM UP MORE FULLY the corrupting and seducing influences, all the false religion and bloody tyranny, which John associated with the city of the Caesars.

“The beast... was, and is not.” (Revelation 17:8) This indicates the “beast” will re-embody the cruelty and power of one of the previous “seven” (Revelation 13:3). “Babylon” is the “great city” reigning over the kings of the earth (verse 18).

The description of BABYLON THE GREAT HARLOT, seated on the “Seven-headed and ten horned BEAST,” could have reference to a situation YET TO APPEAR, BUT IT EXACTLY FITS PAPAL ROME, while NOTHING ELSE IN WORLD HISTORY DOES FIT IT.

The Church began to aspire for world POWER. In the 4th century the Roman Empire ceased its persecutions and made Christianity the STATE RELIGION. The SPIRIT and PATTERN OF IMPERIAL ROME PASSED INTO THE CHURCH and the Church gradually developed into the pattern of the Empire it had conquered.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO a pyramid form of government. There was an Emperor, his advisors, governors, lieutenant governors, etc. Constantine encouraged a similar set-up for the Roman State Church.

In time the exalted bishops of the leading districts became elevated above their fellow bishops and were given the title of “Patriarch” (chief father).

See James M. Tolle, *The Church, Apostasy, Reformation and Restoration*, p. 9.

FINALLY, BECAUSE ROME WAS THE LEADING political center of the world, its bishop or patriarch, Boniface III, assumed a position of special prominence not enjoyed by his peers. This resulted in his being elected in 606 A.D. as the first “universal bishop” or “pope” over the newly organized church thus rejecting Christ as the only Head of THE CHURCH (Ephesians 1:22, Colossians 1:18). This complex organization, from its lowest parish priests, graduated through its bishops, “patriarchs”, etc. to the “pope,” is as unlike God’s New Testament pattern as black is from white.

See Bower’s, *Lives of the Popes*, vol. ii, p. 546 ed. London, 1750.

Rome fell. However, Rome came to LIFE AGAIN as a WORLD POWER in the NAME OF THE CHURCH. The Popes of Rome were the HEIRS and SUCCESSORS of the CAESARS of Rome. The Vatican is where the PALACE of the Caesars was. The Popes have claimed all the power the Caesars

claimed – and more. The Papal Palace all through the centuries and today is the most luxurious in the entire world. Popes have lived in splendor unsurpassed by earthly kinds. The city of Rome was first pagan, then Papal, and has been the DOMINATING POWER OF THE WORLD from 200 BC to 1800 A.M.

Popes “blaspheme” (verse 3) in that they claim to hold the place of God on earth, forgive sins, grant indulgences, and that obedience to them is necessary to salvation.

“Scarlet” is the COLOR of the “BEAST” and the “HARLOT” and also of the “Dragon” (Revelation 17:3-4; 12:3), and it is the color of the PAPACY. The Papal Throne is “scarlet” and is borne by twelve Swiss guards clad in “scarlet”. The Cardinals’ hats and robes are “scarlet.” This was originally the Devil’s color (Revelation 12:3), and it has become the COLOR of ATHEISTIC RUSSIAN COMMUNISM. Have you not heard of the Reds, Red Territory, and Red Square in Moscow? The Devil is again marshalling his forces from without.

It is not pleasant to write such things, but FACE THE FACTS. History is HISTORY. And it all seems exactly pre-figured in Revelation. No wonder it made John the Apostle SICK AT HEART (Revelation 10:10)!

“Seven heads are seven mountains.” (Revelation 17:9) Rome literally was built on seven mountains, and is known as the “Seven-Hilled City.”

“Seven kings: fire is fallen.” (Revelation 17:10) At the time John wrote, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece had fallen. “One is”: ROME, the SIXTH. “The other is not yet come”: BABYLON, THE HARLOT!

“And the beast... is the EIGHTH.” (Revelation 17:11) This looks like a revival of the beast, after the “seven heads and ten horns” have passed, PERHAPS POINTING TO THE FINAL FORM THE ANTI-CHRIST WILL ASSUME!

“These shall make war with the Lamb.” (Revelation 17:14) “The Lamb,” of course, shall “overcome them!” The Lord gives His OWN VICTORY (I Corinthians 15:57).

C. The Relation Between the Two (Revelation 17:16-18)

“And ... these shall hate the whore (harlot)... burn her with fire.” (Revelation 17:16) “The beast” and the “harlot,” the FALSE CHURCH, are in partnership (verses 3, 18). Note the Romans supported the Jews in CRUCIFYING our Lord. The “partnership” of the “beast” and the “woman” is dissolved. When the church sinks to the level of the world, the world eventually turns and rends the church. Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Evil men hate and abuse the “Harlot” in every age.

II. “FALLEN, FALLEN IS BABYLON” (Revelation 18:1-24)

A. The Announcement of Her Fall (Revelation 18:1-8).

“And ... angel... great power.” (Revelation 18:1) The description of this angel is proportionate to his vital message.

“And he cried... Babylon the great is fallen.” (Revelation 18:2) The angel repeats and makes more specific the sentence of doom already pronounced on “Babylon” (Revelation 14:8). The overthrow is complete. Read ancient Babylon’s overthrow (Isaiah 14:1-27). Old Testament Babylon was originally called Babel where human rebellion against God began (Genesis 11:1-9). It became the WONDER CITY of the ancient world; it enslaved Israel. Its name is given to the World Power that would ENSLAVE the CHURCH. This chapter sounds like Jeremiah’s dirge against Babylon (Jeremiah 51).

YEAR 7 - LESSON 49 - PAGE 5

“Come out of her, my people.” (Revelation 18:18:4) “Babylon” is the prophetic name of the Papacy. This seems to us a FORECAST of the Protestant Reformation. In the Middle Ages, the corrupt and diabolical Papal System (verses 5-7) still had sonic of God’s people in it! When Martin Luther gave his clarion call to break away from the “Harlot,” a MIGHTY EXODUS and BREAK AWAY from PAPAL ROME BEGAN. It spread over Germany, Scandinavia, England, Scotland, Canada and the ignited States.

The BLESSINGS of this BREAK AWAY? The modern era of the OPEN BIBLE out of which our own WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE has come in God’s Providence, Liberty of Conscience educated by the Word of God, Freedom of Speech, Education for the Masses, “Government of the people, by the people, and for the people” UNDER GOD! How much the world OWES MARTIN LUTHER!

“Therefore shall her plagues come in one day.” (Revelation 18:8) “Babylon’s” destruction will be sudden – and complete “in one day.” It may refer to some feature of the FINAL CONFLICT with ANTICHRIST, not yet come to pass.

“Babylon the Great Harlot” may be Heaven’s name for APOSTATE CHRISTENDOM AS A WHOLE!

Never has the Church had so many fine preachers, seminaries, fine churches, organizations and movements headed by pastors and leaders of unswerving loyalty and unquestionable faith.

On the other hand, never has the church been so humanized, so full of worldliness, indifferent, half-hearted, pleasure-seeking members unbelief in pulpits and seminaries runs rampant with some theological professors espousing the “GOD IS DEAD” movement to gain a little notoriety. It is my sincere belief that such “ANTICHRISTS” ought to be stripped of their professorial and church robes and put to work on garbage trucks for our cities. This would stop their peddling “spiritual garbage” to innocent yokels who come to theological schools to be taught the WORD of God, and graduate two-fold more “sons of hell” than their infidel professors. No wonder we have Bishop Pikes, and other pikers, who profess to preach the gospel, and who are as far from the truth as heaven is from hell! No wonder unbelief caused Pike’s son after a year at Oxford with his father to commit suicide in New York before he returned hopeless to his California home, “WITHOUT GOD” and Christ for time and eternity. You may be sure that NO SEANCE will bring Bishop Pike “comfort” if God’s Word and its resurrection message is rejected (John 11:25-26), unless he enjoys self deception.

B. Reactions to Babylon’s Fall (Revelation 18:9-20).

1. The Mourning (Revelation 18:9-19).

“And the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 18:9) The dirge of the kings is the prelude to the lament of the doomed city of Babylon. They had shared in her impurity, cruelty and luxury. Judgment has come “in one hour” (verse 10).

“And the merchants... weep and mourn.” (Revelation 18:11) Their sorrow is selfish. “No man buys their merchandise any more” (verses 12-17a).

“Every SHIPMASTER... cried.” (Revelation 18:17-19) All who gain their living from the sea are gravely affected. They all lament over the sudden, devastating fall of Babylon. When the minister of today preaches to reach the pocket book of some elders, deacons, trustees, teachers, and members the CRY TO HIGH HEAVEN is so sore as though the “grace of giving” were grievous, not joyous (II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9, 24; 9:6-8, 15).

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C. The Rejoicing (Revelation 18:20).

“Rejoice over her... God hath avenged you on her.” (Revelation 18:20) Three classes of worldly men lamented the fall of Babylon. Three classes of righteous men, saints, apostles and prophets, are called upon to “rejoice over her!”

D. The Finality of Her Fall (Revelation 18:21-24).

“And... great millstone... great city... be found no more.” (Revelation 18:21) The disaster pictured by this dramatic action brings Babylon TO AN END IN ONE HOUR! “No more” occurs SIX TIMES concerning the solemn fact of Babylon’s DESTRUCTION (verses 21-23). All that pleases the eye and ear is seen and heard one moment; the next moment the proud city SINKS INTO THE DEPTH OF THE SEA.

“In her was found the blood of prophets” (Revelation 18:24) The inner life of the city and the CAUSE OF HER DESTRUCTION was revealed – the cruel persecution and oppression of the people of God!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. Who showed John the judgment of the “great whore” (Harlot, Revelation 17:1)?
2. What was in the cup the “woman” had in her hand (17:14)?
3. What was written on the harlot’s “forehead” (17:5)?
4. This “woman” is sitting upon what three things (17:2,3,7,8,1-10).
5. Upon what was the woman “drunken” (17:6)?
6. What would the ten horns and (of) the beast do to the “harlot” (17:16)?
7. What did the angel say Babylon “is become” (18:2)?
8. Why are God’s people told to “come out of Babylon” (18:4)?
9. What two classes wept when Babylon is punished (18:9, 11, and 17)?
10. What demonstration showed how Babylon would be thrown down (18:21)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. John saw a _____ colored beast full of names of _____ having _____ heads and _____ horns” (17:3).
2. Those on earth were drunken with the _____ of the _____ and _____ (17:6).
3. _____ told _____ the mystery of the woman and the beast (17:7).
4. Of the seven kings, five are _____, the one _____, the other is not _____ (17:7-8).
5. The “ten horns” are ten _____ that receive power as _____ one _____ with the beast (17:9-13).
6. The kings of the earth committed _____ with _____, and the _____ were made rich through her (Revelation 18:9-10).
7. _____ said, “I sit a _____, and am no _____ and shall see no _____.”(18:7)
8. Those wailing over Babylon stood afar off because they were _____ of her _____ (18:10).
9. “In one day,” appears _____ (18:8), and “in one hour” _____ (18:10, 17, 19).
11. Babylon’s destruction would be so complete that the light of a _____ would _____ no more in her (18:23).

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Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 50

Page 1

Revelation 19

Memory Verse: Revelation 19:8

Memory Verse:

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

TWO GREAT SUPPERS

Christ will come again. “I go to prepare a place for you... I WILL COME AGAIN.” (John 14:2-3). The crucified and risen SAVIOUR and LORD will reappear again, as heaven CONFIRMED (Acts 1:11), and as His Word has so fully revealed.

“The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...” (II Thessalonians 1:7). His coming is the hope of the BELIEVING CHRISTIAN and the despair of those who reject Him (II Thessalonians 1:8-12)

The “VISION OF VICTORY” is becoming REALITY in Revelation 19. The triumphant Lord “shall rule” the “nations” “with a rod of iron” (Revelation 19:15). The exact time of His coming has not been revealed (Matthew 24:36), but HIS COMING has been to central message of Revelation. Again and again the whole stage of history seems to have been set for His coming. Then a pause or episode has occurred. Once he pictured the Son of Man seated on a cloud and reaping the harvest of the earth (Rev. 14:14-16).

The corrupt church, symbolized by “Babylon” (Revelation 18), having been destroyed, the MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB and the GLORIFIED CHURCH, “His wife” (Revelation 19:7), is announced. Between the fall of “Babylon” (Revelation 18) and the fall of the “beast” (Revelation 19:11-21), an episode or pause is introduced. The thought is TURNED BACK to the FALL OF BABYLON, and FORWARD to the “marriage supper of the Lamb” which is to follow the destruction of the Lamb’s foes.
Note

I. “A GREAT VOICE” (Revelation 19:1-10)

“And after these things I heard a great voice” (Revelation 19:1) Following the preceding scenes. The interlude consists of the “Hallelujah Chorus.” “Hallelujah is a compound Hebrew word “HALL-E-LU-JAH,” “Praise Ye JAH.” It occurs 24 times in the Old Testament, and 4 times in the New Testament. Four times in this chapter “Hallelujah” is uttered, not only by a great multitude but also by the “Four Living Creatures,” and by the “Four and Twenty Elders.” It is the CRY OF VICTORY over the punishment of the wicked.

A. The First Chorus (Revelation 19:1-5).

“A great voice...” (Verse 1) These songs of rejoicing and thanksgiving are seen in Revelation whenever any GREAT TRIUMPH or blessing is about to come, for example, Revelation 5:13; 7:12; 11:15; 12:10.

“For true and righteous are his judgments...” (Revelation 19:2) This is shown by the judgments on the spiritual “Babylon.” Can saints “rejoice” over the doom of a “great city,” or in the destruction of their foes? We must DISTINGUISH between the SINNER and the SIN, between OFFENDERS and the OFFENSE.

God LOVES THE SINNER, but GOD HATES SIN. It is impossible to believe that VICE and VIRTUE HAVE THE SAME REWARD, or that CRIME and CRUELTY have the SAME GOAL as INNOCENCE and SYMPATHY and LOVE. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Heaven rejoices in the destruction of evil, not in the sufferings of men. BUT THOSE WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH EVIL MUST SHARE THE FATE OF EVIL! God may not pay off every Saturday night, but he will "AVENGE THE BLOOD OF HIS SERVANTS" as surely as truth is truth. God will avenge the "great whore," or "harlot" church.

"And again they say, Alleluia..." (Revelation 19:3) Again the "Hallelujah Chorus" is sung over the destruction of Babylon the "harlot" church.

"And ...Amen. Alleluia." (Revelation 19:4) "So be it." "Praise Ye the Lord." The voice from the throne called for RENEWED PRAISE and the response was immediate (verse 5).

B. The Second Chorus (Revelation 19:6-10).

"And I heard... Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!" (Revelation 19:6) This is demonstrated in the overthrow of the wicked.

What was the basis of such rejoicing?

1. God's Power Is Manifested. Unto Him belong "Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power" to save the believer. He is able to cast down the proud and naughty, even mighty Babylon.

2. God's Justice Is Executed. He hath judged and avenged evil in HARMONY WITH THE LAW OF Justice. (Verse 2)

3. God's Mercy Is Available. Upon those who are ready to perish, God's love is given. He "adorns" the lowly with loveliness, and "made them fair, though He found them foul" (verse 8).

4. God's Faithfulness. God keeps His marriage vow. He is true to His Bride, "His wife" (verse 7). This is the blessed union of the Lord with His Bride, the Church. The completion of this "marriage" is described in Revelation 21:2. The Lamb's wife is the TRUE CHURCH (Revelation 21:9).

"And to her... arrayed in fine linen." (Revelation 19:8) It was "granted" by God's GRACE. The church is "arrayed" in "fine line, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." Read Ephesians 5:25-27.

"And ... Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9) John is commanded to "write." He does not describe the "marriage supper"; he announces and declares its blessedness with this fourth of the seven BEATITUDES that occur in Revelation. "These are the true sayings of God" is the solemn confirmation.

"Worship God..." (Revelation 19:10) Here and in Revelation 22:7-8 John, over-awed, fell at the angel's "feet" in the attitude of worship of devotion. He is reminded that GOD ALONE IS TO BE WORSHIPPED in the glorious city of God (Matthew 4:10).

II. THE GREAT WARRIOR (Revelation 19:11-16)

"And I saw heaven opened..." (Revelation 19:11) In this vision (reread Revelation 4:1; 11:19) we have a series of pictures symbolizing the closing events that usher in the Millennium.

"Behold a white horse." If this "white horse" is the same as that of the FIRST SEAL (Revelation 6:2), THEN this is the FINAL TRIUMPH of which that was the beginning.

If the “white horse” represented the Kingdom of the World, then this “white horse” has **BECOME VICTOR OVER THAT ONE!**

“He that sat upon him... called Faithful and True.” This is the Lord; He now comes as the “**WORD**” OF GOD! He is the **GREAT WARRIOR** who appears with His heavenly host. His name is an index to His character. He embodies all that is “faithful” and true. Until His final triumph, the “marriage supper” cannot take place. He has already conquered; He now comes forth to inflict **PUNISHMENT** upon the willful, wicked rejecter of Christ (II Thessalonians 1:7-10).

“His eyes were as a flame of fire...” (Revelation 19:12) See Revelation 1:14.

“Upon his head were many crowns.” Diadems. He has all **KINGLY** authority. He is “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**” (Matthew 28:18, Revelation 19:16).

“A name written, that no man knew, but he himself.” We know some aspects of our Lord’s nature, or we could not love and follow Him. There are depths of His nature that we cannot fathom. “No man knoweth (completely) the Son but the Father” (Matthew 11:27, John 10:15).

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword...” (Revelation 19:15) This is His **WORD** (Hebrews 4:12-13; Ephesians 6:17). The “sword of the Spirit” is the **GOSPEL** by which He saves the obedient and overcomes the disobedient.

The qualities of this Warrior are seen: He appears on a “white horse,” symbol of victory. His cause is **RIGHTEOUS**. “No one imagines,” writes Charles R. Erdman, “that such statements are literal. Never shall we see the ‘white horses,’ the sword projecting from the mouth of the conqueror, or the birds gorged with the flesh of the fallen warriors.... These are the **FACTS** that correspond to these figures. The **SYMBOLS** are intended to **EXPRESS VITAL REALITIES**.” The return of Christ is the **CLIMAX** of history! There is to be a **VISIBLE APPEARING**. “Every eye shall see him.” “His eyes are a flame of fire”: He is omniscient, all wise; nothing good or bad can escape His notice. “Many crowns” is an allusion to the ancient custom of a conquering king wearing the diadems of the vanquished; His righteous shall prevail **UNIVERSALLY**.

“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood” (verse 13): The blood is not literal, but symbolic, indicating the completeness of **HIS VICTORY**. The armies that follow Him from heaven are “clothed in fine linen, white and clean” include angels and glorified saints. (Verse 14) The vision is one of **COMPLETE VICTORY FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH!**

III. “A GREAT SUPPER” (Revelation 19:17-18)

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun” (Revelation 19:17): A place befitting his glory and also whence he can appropriately issue his summons “to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven.”

“Come and gather yourselves... supper.”: The “fowls that fly in the midst of heaven” are vultures and eagles. These birds of prey are invited to glut themselves upon the fallen enemies of Christ: “Eat the flesh of kings ... captains... mighty men... horses... them that sit on them...flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great” (verse 18). The figure seems to have been borrowed from the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 39:17-20).

In the **LAST DAY** there shall be **TWO GREAT SUPPERS**. As Christians we shall have the joy of eating with the Lamb, the Victorious Son of God, **OR WE OURSELVES SHALL SUPPLY REFRESHMENTS TO THE BIRDS OF PREY!** “Choose you this day **WHOM YE WILL SERVE**” (Joshua 24:15). “The Lord is not... willing that any should **PERISH**, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). God wants “every creature” (Mark 16:15-16) to “**COME**” (Revelation 22:17)!

IV. A GREAT VICTORY (Revelation 19:19-21)

“And I saw the beast... kings... their armies” (Revelation 19:19): Here we have the final overthrow of the “beast”, the “false prophet” or the unfaithful church and their followers. The four enemies of the Lamb were the DRAGON, the BEAST, the FALSE PROPHET, and BABYLON. In Revelation 18 “Babylon,” the “working alliance of beast and false prophet FALL!” Their destruction is now seen, as “the beast, and ... the false prophet... and them that worshipped his image” were “CAST ALIVE INTO A LAKE OF FIRE BURNING WITH BRIMSTONE” (verse 20). The “false prophet” is the “lamb-like dragon” of Revelation 13:11, “the false spiritual despotism, the apostate church.” But the final judgments of God over every form of political tyranny and false religion shall be completely destroyed (verse 21).

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. Who fell down and worshipped God (Revelation 19:4)?
2. John compared the voice he heard to what three things (verse 6)?
3. What did the clothing of the Lamb’s “wife” represent (verses 7-8)?
4. The rider of the “white horse” does what” in righteousness” (verse 11)?
5. What did John say about the rider’s garments (verse 13)?
6. Who gathered to “make war” against the white horse rider (verse 19)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. A “great voice” was heard saying, “_____”; _____ and _____, and _____, and _____ unto the Lord our God. (Revelation 19:1).
2. “Let us be glad and rejoice for the _____ of the Lamb is come and His _____ hath made herself ready.
3. “Blessed are they which are called unto the _____ of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:9).
4. The rider of the white horse had eyes like a _____ or _____ and on his head “_____” (verse 12).

Which Number is Correct?

1. God’s “judgments” are said to be (1) harsh, (2) unjust, (3) “true and righteous” (verse 2). _____
2. (1) John, (2) an elder, (3) an angel said, “See thou do it not” (verse 10). _____
3. The one on the “white horse” is called (1) death, (2) “faithful and true”, (3) an angel (verse 11). _____
4. The armies of heaven were clothed in (1) gold, (2) “fine linen,” (3) sackcloth (verse 14). _____
5. Out of the “white horse” rider’s “mouth” proceeded a “sword,” (2) sickle, (3) “rod of iron.” _____
6. (1) Birds, (2) beasts, (3) men, ate the “flesh” of those killed by the rider of the “white horse” (Revelation 19:17, 21). _____

YES OR NO?

1. Did God “avenge” his servants at the hand of the “harlot” or “whore” (verse 2)? _____
2. The great “harlot” was clothed in “fine white linen” (verses 7-8). _____
3. It is proper to “worship” angels (verse 20). _____
4. Was it the rider of the “white horse” to “rule” the “nations” with a “rod of iron” (verse 15). _____
5. Did an angel call the fowls (birds of prey) to a “feast” (verses 17, 21)? _____
6. Were the dead bodies of the “beast” and “false prophet” cast “into the lake of fire” (Revelation 19:20)? _____

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 51

Page 1

Revelation 20

Memory Verse: Revelation 20:15

Memory Verse:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).

THE DRAGON’S DOOM

In Revelation 18 and 19 we saw the FINAL FALL of two great enemies of the church. The DEFEAT of the third enemy is reserved for Revelation 20.

THE OVERTHROW OF THE “DRAGON,” not the millennial reign, is the THEME of this chapter.

In Revelation 17, 18, and 19, “Babylon,” the “beast” and the “False Prophet” were AGENCIES through which the “Dragon” worked. They are “destroyed.” NOW the “Devil’s” time has come at last.

The Millennium

The “thousand years” occurs SIX times in Revelation 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. This is the only place in the Bible that mentions the millennium, or “thousand years.”

The Lord’s SECOND COMING is mentioned over 300 times in the New Testament, but the Millennium is mentioned ONLY HERE. Remember that Revelation abounds in Oriental imagery, figures of speech, in “mystery” in the most mysterious part of the Bible. Some interpreters jump on the “white horse” and gallop into some of the most absurd positions imaginable.

As students of God’s Word let us be reminded:

1. We LIVE in the BLESSED HOPE of ultimate VICTORY IN CHRIST.
2. It is our privilege to “STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

All of us WANT to be FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS, and “rightly divide the” WORD OF GOD. To have a “THEORY” about the millennium is a horse of another color.

Some think the MILLENNIUM will be an AGE OF BLESSEDNESS IN THIS PRESENT WORLD. Others are persuaded that it will be one of the AGES OF ETERNITY AFTER THE “FLESH AND BLOOD” ORDER OF EXISTENCE HAS PASSED. Some people TALK as though they knew ALL ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM. Frankly, I am neither “pre” nor “post,” nor “A,” but “PRO” – if our blessed Lord wants it anyway, or anywhere I’m FOR IT, for I’m going to be WITH HIM (John 14:1-6)!

I. THE DRAGON BOUND (Revelation 20:1-3)

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven...” (Revelation 20:1) At the close of Revelation 19 we were carried to FORWARD to the END OF TIME. Now we return to the DAWN OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA, when the “Sun of Righteousness” arose with healing in His beams.

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“Angel... key... bottomless pit... great chain in his hand”: “The bottomless pit” or abyss is named in Revelation 9:1, 11; 11:7; 17:8. Here EVIL is RESTRAINED by DIVINE POWER. The “angel” is the representative of our Divine Saviour and Lord.

Satan was expelled from Heaven in Revelation 12:3, 4, 9f). He tried to “kill” our Lord when He was born in Bethlehem (Revelation 12:5, Matthew 2:3-16) and at His ascension. Here Satan’s BINDING is connected with the COMING AGAIN of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“And he laid hold on the dragon... “ (Revelation 20:2): Here Satan is called by four different names – “dragon... old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan.” The “angel” RESTRAINS him. The “Devil” is the destroyer of all righteousness. His place of confinement is the “bottomless pit” or abyss, the present abode of the “Devil” and his angels, whence they direct their hellish operations in opposition to God. The place of FINAL PUNISHMENT will be the “Lake of Fire” (verse 10).

“A great chain.” This is the instrument of RESTRAINT. Is not this God’s POWER or “DYNAMITE” of the Gospel to “SAVE” from sin (Romans 1:16; Luke 19:10; Matthew 1:21). Man may be a drunkard, a deceiver or the Devil’s agent. IF THAT MAN REPENTS, or DIES DAILY to his sin (I Corinthians 15:31; Romans 6:11-13, 23; Acts 17:30-31), he is SAVED and FREED FROM SATAN’S RULE – here and now, and forever if he is “faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10c).

With the Word of God, Jesus DEFEATED the “DEVIL” in the temptation experience (Matthew 5:3-4, 5-7, 8-11; Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 91:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:16, 13; 10:20). See also Matthew 12:29; Luke 10:17-18; John 12:31-32; 16:7-11, 33; Matthew 28:1-10, 18-20; Acts 2:1f).

Thank God that the HEAVENLY RESTRAINS the EARTHLY, even HOLDS BACK THE SATANIC.

“Bound him a thousand years.” This is the duration of the “dragon’s” restraint. We do not give a literal interpretation to 1000 years, just as “the key” and “the great chain,” “I am the door... way... bread” are not to be literally interpreted. The emphasis is upon the imprisonment and his FINAL OVERTHROW when the 1000 years are ended.

“And ... shut him up... thousand years.” (Revelation 20:3): In Revelation 12:12 Satan made trouble for the earth. Here he is kept from making trouble. The “bottomless pit” is Satan’s domain over which he, or one of his angels preside (Revelation 9:11). NOW the “bottomless pit” BECOMES SATAN’S PRISON! “After that (the 1000 years) he must be loosed a little season,” and return to the earth, and until the FINAL EFFORT of his long struggle AGAINST GOD SHALL RESULT in God’s ultimate and complete VICTORY over the Devil.

II. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN (Revelation 20:4-6)

“And I saw thrones... judgment was given unto them.” (Revelation 20:4) A “throne” is symbolic of RULE! They that “sat” upon the “thrones” exercise a moral judgment over mankind.

“I saw the souls of them... beheaded...” There were the martyrs. Note that John “saw the souls,” NOT BODIES. The binding of the “dragon” is followed by a period of great spiritual progress. The martyrs are highly exalted. They are mentioned, doubtless, to ENCOURAGE THE FAITHFUL IN THEIR TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS.

“They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” This reign of the saints will last 1000 years. “The Millennium” is from the Latin words “Mille” (1000) and “Annum” (year). Some think this is a LITERAL 1000 years, foreshadowed as a Sabbath Rest after 6000 years of man’s history. Others think it is

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an indefinitely LONG TIME. In God's chronology, "One day is with the Lord as a 1000 years, and a 1000 years as one day" (II Peter 3:8). Study Ezekiel 37:12-14.

Some Bible teachers think that the risen saints reign with Christ in Jerusalem as the seat of power – Christ's Capital on earth!

When Martin Luther was engaged in his deadly struggle with the papacy, Pope Adrian VI (1522-1523 A.D.) sent a brief to the German Diet at Nuremberg, containing these words, "The HERETICS HUSS AND JEROME are NOW ALIVE AGAIN IN THE PERSON OF MARTIN LUTHER." The 1000 years are, I believe a period of great duration designed to show the followers of God that the earth made foul with sin shall know a GOLDEN PERIOD of GOD'S RULE – this is, in essence, the FUTURISTIC VIEW, of Revelation.

"The first resurrection..." (Revelation 20:5) A second resurrection is not MENTIONED. The expression, "But the REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE 1000 years were finished" seems to IMPLY that there will be TWO RESURRECTIONS, ONE BEFORE and ONE AFTER the millennium.

The first time we meet the expression "THE FIRST RESURRECTION" is in I Thessalonians 4:16, "The DEAD in Christ shall RISE FIRST." No mention is made of the WICKED DEAD. It is here a simple statement to show the LIVING CHRISTIANS in Thessalonica, now called Salonika, that they shall not be CAUGHT AWAY BEFORE the "dead in Christ" shall be "raised". This passage speaks of two separate resurrections, yea three "resurrections"!

1. The Resurrection of the Body from the Actual Tomb (John 14:19b; 6:44; Revelation 1:18; 20:5).
2. The Resurrection of the Wicked dead from an Actual Tomb (John 5:28-29). It is entirely possible that 1000 years separate those who "come forth... unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29). Yes, TWO RESURRECTIONS 1000 years APART. Jesus' "RESURRECTION of the JUST" (Luke 14:14) seems to support this position.
3. The Resurrection of the SOUL from the Tomb of Sin (Romans 6: 1-10). This "resurrection" of the soul from sin's tomb is taking place on the gospel age. Today ALL who "HEAR" and "OBEY THE GOSPEL" "SHALL LIVE" – spiritual lives here and now. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins ... And hath RAISED US UP TOGETHER, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:1, 6).

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection... " (Revelation 20:6): Those who are "RAISED" with Christ and WALK WITH HIM (Romans 6:1-4) have a three-fold blessing:

1. "On Such the Second Death Hath No Power." They are immune to the "second death," or ETERNAL and EVERLASTING SEPARATION from God in the "lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10; 21:8).
2. "They Shall Be Priests of God... Christ": They enjoy priestly privileges – access to the THRONE OF GRACE. Now we Christians are invited to "COME BOLDLY unto the THRONE OF GRACE, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).
3. "And Shall Reign With Him a 1000 Years." They EXERCISE KINGLY POWER. They "rule" by their influence (see Matthew 5:14-16; Revelation 1:5).

III. THE DRAGON'S DOOM (Revelation 20:7-10)

“And ... Satan shall be loosed.” (Revelation 20:7) As the evening shadows of the MILLENNIAL DAY COME TO AN END, the “angel” who imprisoned Satan will “loose” or UNLOCK the “prison house” of the “Bottomless Pit,” and Satan will come forth embittered by his forced confinement to VENT HIS ANGER UPON THE PEOPLE OF GOD. This refutes the claim some make that the MISERIES OF PERDITION WILL LEAD TO REPENTANCE. Satan will still be the same old Satan of evil after his 1000 years of confinement that he was before. His HATRED OF GOD and HIS PEOPLE are unquenchable.

“And he shall go out to deceive the nations...” (Revelation 20:8) As soon as Satan is loosed from his prison in the “Bottomless Pit,” he will find a vast number ready to believe his lies, and to serve and obey him. He will father his evil followers from the “four quarters of the earth.”

For some cause, wrapped in the darkness of the future, righteousness will wane; wickedness shall revive; the great adversary shall regain great influence over the entire human race – Satan shall “deceive the Nations,” the whole earth.

“Gog and Magog...” “Gog” is the prince or ruler, and “Magog” is the general name of Japheth’s posterity (Genesis 10:2; Ezekiel 38:2). These names are probably used here as general names for the WICKED OF ALL NATIONS from the “Four Corners of the earth.” This is Satan’s last, vicious attack on the saints of God.

Josephus says that “Magog” represented the Scythians, a great race spread over the country now occupied by Southern Russia!

HOW could Satan “muster such a vast following, when he had been bound for 1000 years?” Some have suggested that since this is the time for the “general resurrection,” vast multitudes of vile, wicked men and women of all centuries and nations are raised from the dead. They furnish Satan a fertile field for his devilish work.

“And ... fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” (Revelation 20:9) This is Satan’s last battle. Spiritual Jerusalem is saved from destruction BY DIVINE HELP (study II Thessalonians 1: 7-10; I Timothy 4:1f; II Timothy 3:13; II Peter 3:12-13).

“And the devil... was cast into the lake of fire... tormented day and night forever.” (Revelation 20:10) “The lake of fire” is the final destination, the END OF THE ROAD for the Devil, that old serpent! The old DRAGON has some fellow-sufferers – the “beast” (the worldly or irreligious people), and the “false prophet” (the corrupt church).

IV. THE FINAL JUDGMENT (Revelation 20:11-15)

“And I saw a great white throne...” (Revelation 20:11) Future punishments and REWARDS forms an essential part of the system of “Doctrine and Deed” of the Christian faith. The scenes of history are fast approaching completion. Very definitely they present the characteristics of the end of the world, and the finality in the affairs of men. That these are described in symbolic language do not make the punishments seem less dreadful and the rewards less glorious. Both are beyond the power of human speech to express.

“Babylon,” the “beast,” the destruction of the DRAGON, and evil influences, are in hell forever. Finally the judgment of the dead and the time has come for the assignment of every human individual to his final habitation.

In verses 11-14 we have a word-picture of the last judgment.

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“A great white throne”: Note the authority of it. It is a “great white throne.” Decisions that come from it are unchangeable. The Judge has “ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18-20).

“White.” “White” is a symbol of purity. “We know that his judgment is according to the truth.”

“From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.” The dread terror of it! The statement that “the earth and heaven fled away” from “the face” of the Judge indicates this. Is this “fleeing” by the “FIRE” of II Peter 3:10-12.

“And I saw the dead... stand before God.” (Revelation 20:12) This is the UNIVERSALITY of the judgment. “The dead, small and great, stand before God.” From the sea, from death and Hades they come. The judgment is upon the “dead,” indicating that the final issues of human society have come. This implies a “resurrection” has taken place!

“They were judged every man according to their works.” (Revelation 20:13) This is INDIVIDUAL Judgment. “They were JUDGED EVERY MAN.” There was no escape in the multitude. “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).

“According to their works.” This is a Just Judgment. Since men would not have “grace,” they are judged according to “works.” This means CONDEMNATION. “This is the day when “God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Romans 2:16). “For we must ALL appear before the JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

“Books were opened... book was opened... book of life.” (Verse 12) The judgment is in accordance with CLEAR EVIDENCE. The figure of written “books” denotes a RECORD and a REMEMBRANCE of all the deeds of each one who stands before the “great white throne.”

“Book of life.” Clearly this is the ROLL of those who are citizens of the New Jerusalem.

“And death and hell... lake of fire ... second death.” (Revelation 20:14) Final doom is distinguished from physical death that is the lot of all humanity. It is called the “lake of fire (read Matthew 25:41). “Death” will never again rear its ugly head (Revelation 21:4). This is the FINALITY of the Judgment. Only those in God’s FAMILY RECORD BOOK will be saved. OBEY, live by and DIE in the Gospel HOPE and HEAVEN IS YOURS THROUGH HIS GRACE!

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QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. Who bound Satan, and with what did he “bind him” (Revelation 20:1)?
2. Where was Satan “cast,” and for how long (Revelation 20:2-3)?
3. Upon whom will the “second death” have no power (Revelation 20:6)?
4. According to what were the dead “judged” (Revelation 20:12)?
5. What is the “second death” (Revelation 20:14)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. John said, “The rest of the dead lived not again until the _____ were finished” (Rev. 20:5).
2. When Satan is “loosed out of his he “shall go out to _____ deceive the nations which are in the _____ of the earth” (verses 7-8).
3. The devil was _____ and _____ where the _____ and the _____ are” (verse 10).
4. The “earth _____” from the face of Him who “sat” on “a great white throne” (verse 11).
5. “The _____ gave up the dead which were in it; and _____ and _____ delivered up the _____” in them (Revelation 20:13)
6. All were cast into the “_____,” except those whose names were written the _____” (Revelation 20:14-15).

WHICH NUMBER IS CORRECT?

1. After being bound Satan was loosed for a (1) little time, (2) “thousand years,” (3) long time. _____
2. John “saw” the (1) bodies, (2) “souls,” (3) images of those who “were beheaded for the witness of Jesus.” _____
3. The term “thousand years” appears (1) three, (2) four, (3) six times in Revelation 20. _____
4. Christ in Revelation 20 is mentioned on “earth” (1) once, (2) twice, (3) not at all. _____

YES OR NO?

1. Did John see an “angel” with both a “key” and “a great chain”? _____
2. Was Satan “loosed for a little season” after being “cast into the lake of fire” (verses 3, 10)? _____
3. Were the “dead... judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works” (verse 12)? _____
4. Does Revelation 20 say that Jesus WILL REIGN ON EARTH at his coming? _____
5. I am a “PRO-Millennialist” for wherever Jesus is, I will be with Him. _____

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WHOLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Year VII

Fourth Quarter

Lesson 52

Page 1

Revelation 21-22

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:1,2,27

Memory Verse:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:1, 2, 27).

OUR ETERNAL HOME

The storm clouds have disappeared NEVER TO RETURN TO THE SAINTS OF GOD! Their sky is clear. The ENEMIES of God’s people have been finally and fully conquered, and “cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:10). The dreadful doom of the “Dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan” (verse 2), “where the beast and the false prophet are, and they shall be tormented day and night forever!”

“Judgment” is over (Revelation 20:11-12), and the state of things, as we now know it, has passed away. The beloved John is still on Patmos. God gives him a vision, bright and beautiful above words to describe, of another DWELLING PLACE in which the REDEEMED LIVED FOREVER – “IN A LAND WHERE WE’LL NEVER GROW OLD!”

Mother Prayed to Be “With the Lord!”

My dear mother who was eighty-eight (88) years young February 1, 1967, prayed after receiving the Lord’s Supper from her minister-son April 23, 1967, something she had never done before. As I always had the benediction, she prayed, “Oh, Lord, I thank Thee that my son and I have had the privilege of ‘eating this bread, and drinking this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come’ (I Corinthians 11:26). Dear Lord, if it be Thy will allow my spirit SOON to leave my body to be ‘At home... with the Lord’ (II Corinthians 5:6-8).” On Monday night April 24, 1967, at 10:00 P.M. her SPIRIT was “absent from the body, and ... present with the Lord.” On April 27, I conducted her memorial services at Latonia Christian Church, where she had been a member since February 3, 1964. On April 28, at the Bethel Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Tennessee, where we had grown up as a family of eight children, her final memorial service was held before a church full of old friends and neighbors. Her body lies buried in her girlhood church graveyard, Union Church of Christ, awaiting the day when “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (I Corinthians 15:53).

This is the blessed HOPE of all Christians some “GLAD DAY!” We all love “NEW” things. Note the SEVEN NEW THINGS God has prepared for them that love Him.

I. THE NEW HEAVEN (Revelation 21:1a)

“And I saw a NEW heaven...” (Revelation 21:1a) The word “heaven” here and in Genesis 1:1 is in the singular number. This is not just a new social order in this present world. It is the ETERNAL HOME of

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God's redeemed. It is Jesus' "HOUSE OF MANY MANSIONS" (John 14:1-6). "For, behold, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS..." (Isaiah 65:17, 66:22).

Isaiah did not describe a NEW SOLAR SYSTEM and a NEW PLANET. He indicated a GREAT MORAL and SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION by which the people of God would be delivered from all "evil." A MUCH BETTER AGE WOULD BE BORN. It will be far more glorious than this present age that it is called "A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH" as the Apostle John also affirms.

II. THE NEW EARTH (Revelation 21:1b-2)

"And a new earth..." (Revelation 21:1b) The first "heaven" and the first "earth" were created in the dateless past. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Genesis 1:2 affirms "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep."

That THIS EARTH was not originally created "formless and void" is clear from the Gospel Prophet. "For thus says the Lord, who CREATED THE HEAVENS; He is the God who FORMED THE EARTH, FASHIONED IT and FIRMLY FIXED IT; He CREATED IT NOT IN VAIN, but made it for HABITATION: I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:18, Berkeley).

What caused the "earth" to become a WASTE after its original creation is not expressly stated. It is clear from the "sin" or "FALL OF ADAM AND EVE THAT SIN EXISTED BEFORE MAN WAS CREATED." From Ezekiel 28:12-19 and Isaiah 14:12-14 we infer that when the earth was originally created that Satan was placed in charge of it, and that he and his angels REBELLED and LED ASTRAY THE INHABITANTS OF THE ORIGINAL EARTH. We also learn that the Pre-Adamic race are now the "demons" who -- as they are permitted liberty -- seek to RE-EMBODY THEMSELVES IN HUMAN FORM THAT THEY MAY DWELL ON THE EARTH. Does this not EXPLAIN how even some church members ACT SO MUCH LIKE THE DEVILS, whose they are?

A certain "elder," a modern Diotrephes (III John 9-11) admitted before some fellow-elders and their wives and members he had made a SCAPEGOAT of a faithful preacher who had led the church in a new building program. The work growing in every way, he was asked WHY he treated the preacher as he did: "I'VE GOT THE DEVIL IN ME!" That good preacher is in a new church in another state. I happen to be the type of preacher who would lead the congregation to "fire" an elder who admits the "devil is in me," and elect to stay with the church!

It is easier for modern Devilish Diotrephes to FIRE THE PREACHER than it is to REPENT, but REPENTANCE IS WHAT SUCH MEN and CHURCHES NEED, my beloved ones! "Fire" your faithful Preacher by daily praying for him, by being faithful at all the services of the church, and by dedicating yourself daily to soul-winning (Acts 8:4; Mark 16:15-16).

"The first heaven and the first earth were passed away..." (Revelation 21:1b). "Scoffers" "willfully ignore the fact that from of old there were heavens, and an earth standing partly above and amidst water by the word of God. By these waters THE THEN EXISTING WORLD WAS DESTROYED, DELUGED AS IT WAS BY WATER" (II Peter 3:6, Berkeley). Was this the Original Earth that Satan made into chaos?

"But the heavens and the earth, WHICH ARE NOW, by the same word are KEPT IN STORE, reserved unto FIRE against the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (II Peter 3:7). Peter adds, "We... look for a new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (verse 13). The Flood(s) did not "destroy" the globe, but did introduce a BETTER AGE.

What amount of CHANGE in the physical universe will occur, we do not know. When John speaks of a “new heaven and a new earth,” is he intimating that a NEW PHYSICAL UNIVERSE of stars and a NEW WORLD are to be created? I rather think he is declaring that a NEW AGE IS TO DAWN so much better and more glorious than this present age that Isaiah calls it a “new heaven and a new earth.” Is this not the age to which Christ referred when he spoke of the “REGENERATION when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of HIS GLORY” (Matthew 19:28)? Does Acts 3:19-21 help clarify the new age?

Now we can not comprehend to what extent, with our glorified, “incorruptible” spiritual bodies, we may be confined to any material planet, or star, or be free to roam in the limitless spheres of space (I Corinthians 15:52-58). How we would love to know. Some day we shall, of course!

“And there was no more sea.” There was a “pure river” there (Revelation 22:1) but “no more sea.” John was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos when he wrote. He thinks the world would be blessed when there is “NO MORE SEA!” Had the “fire” by which the earth was consumed left “no more sea?” If the “river of the water of life” is not literal water but a beautiful symbol of the LIFE WHICH IS IN CHRIST, then the “sea” of unrest, the “sea” of anxiety shall be no more (study John 4:10, 13-15, 23-24; Revelation 22:17).

“And I John saw the holy city coming down from God out of heaven.” (Revelation 21:2) The New Jerusalem represents God’s people. There shall be a NEW ENVIRONMENT, OLD PEOPLE with NEW BODIES fitted for the “new heaven and the new earth.”

1. They are a Heavenly People: Heavenly-Minded. They came “down from God out of heaven.” They are the opposite of earthly “Babylon.”

2. They Are Attired With the Beauty of Holiness: As a “Wife Hath Made Herself Ready” for Her Husband (Revelation 19:7-8). God’s people are unlike the “harlot,” who was adorned with dazzling earthly splendor (Revelation 17:4-5).

III. THE NEW PEOPLES (Revelation 21:3-8)

“And... the tabernacle of God is with men... dwell with them.” (Revelation 21:3)

A. They (Glorified Christians) Are On Intimate Terms with God the Father. They belong to Him; He belongs to them, “That they ALL MAY BE ONE ... ONE IN US” (John 17:20-21). In the Garden of Eden God “drove out the man” (Genesis 3:24) because of sin (Genesis 3:1-13) from the immediate presence of God. Here God is “dwelling with them (His saints), and they shall be his people, and God Himself shall be their God.” God removes “tears... death... sorrow... crying” (verse 4). PARADISE LOST is now PARADISE REGAINED! All these “former” or “first things” shall have “passed away” (verse 4).

“And ... Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5) God on His throne has promised that “Old things, worthy to live, shall be made NEW. Paradise, WRECKED BY the FALL, shall be restored.” John is commanded: “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

“It is done.” (Revelation 21:6) All things are come to pass that God has promised.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega...” God adds His word of encouragement since He has the power to fulfill the promises:

1. The Thirsty May Drink Freely from the Fountain of Life (verse 6b).

2. The “OVERCOMER Shall Inherit All Things... Be My Son” (verse 7).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving...” (Revelation 21:8) Since these had no part in the FIRST RESURRECTION, they shall “have their part in the lake that burneth with fire ... which is the second death.” Men daily in this Christian age are making CHOICES. YOU today are deciding WHERE YOUR SOUL

WILL SPEND ETERNITY! Many church members are guilty of the sins mentioned in verse 8, and we are not the “judge,” but God knows where to draw the line. To God only two classes exist: Those who are His, and those who are not His!

IV. THE NEW JERUSALEM (Revelation 21:9-21)

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels...” (Revelation 21:9) The angel to whom John owed the vision of verses 9-10 was one who had “the seven vials full of the seven last plagues” (see Revelation 17:1a).

“Come... I will show thee the bride, the lamb’s wife.” The Bible begins with “A GARDEN EASTWARD IN EDEN” (Genesis 2:8) and ends with “the HOLY CITY, New Jerusalem, Bride of Christ, Wife of the Lamb (verses 2, 9, 10). Trodden under foot in Rev. 11:2, “the HOLY CITY” shines forth in all its glory – the very opposite of “Babylon,” the Adulterous Church. “The Lamb’s WIFE” instead of being a WOMAN, John is shown “the Holy City.” Hence it is clear that the BRIDE and the CITY are IDENTICAL. The New Jerusalem is the HOME and residence of the BRIDE, hence the same as the BRIDE. Note

A. The Brightness of the City (verse 11, 12:1, 19:8).

“Having the glory of God...” (Revelation 21:11) God lights “the Holy City” by His DIVINE PRESENCE AND GLORY. This is the Shekinah, “the pillar or fire” and cloud of God’s glory such as guided Israel. John dwells first upon the structure of the City in detail (verses 9-27), and then upon its inner life and blessedness (Revelation 22:1-5), concluding with The Epilogue (Revelation 22:6-21).

“Her light was like... a jasper...” Here we see “Jerusalem the Golden” -- HEAVEN.

B. The Security of the City (verse 12).

“And had a wall...” (Revelation 21:12) It is a SECURE place. No enemy can penetrate it. The old serpent can never get into it as he did in the Garden of Eden.

C. The Accessibility of the City (verse 13, Matthew 8:11).

There were “twelve gates... twelve angels and names written on which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates...” (verse 13), as there were “three gates on the north, south and west.” See Numbers 2 and Ezekiel 48).

D. The Permanence of the City (verse 14).

“And the wall of the city had twelve foundations...” (Revelation 21:14) The “twelve apostles” of “the Lamb are the foundations of “the Holy City,” Jesus Christ being the “chief corner-stone.” John measured the “city” with “a golden reed” (verse 15).

E. The Perfection of the City (verse 15-17).

“And the city lies foursquare...” (Revelation 21:16) The Celestial City was not made by mortal hands. It will take up its abode upon “the new earth,” renovated by “fire”. It is 12,000 furlongs of 1500 miles. The measurements are in multiples of twelve, which seems to be a symbol and signature of God’s People. One thousand times 12 represents the Glorified Capital of God’s Redeemed Universe. Twelve times 12 (144) the walls (verse 17). The New City, 1500 Miles square, would reach from Main to Florida, and from the Atlantic Seaboard 600 miles to the west of the Mississippi River – an area more than one-half of the United States!

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Johnson in his “NOTES” believes that the dimensions “are intended to indicate the vastness of the city, rather than its exact size.” One thing is sure: THERE WILL BE NO HOUSING SHORTAGE IN HEAVEN! And no “slums,” either.

If literally the “city lies foursquare,” it is a CUBE of which the Holy of Holies was a type. The Tabernacle was a cube 15 feet each way. In Solomon’s Temple, the Holy of Holies was a cube 30 feet each way.

The Celestial City “lies foursquare” (verse 16), and with its Walls and “River... of life.” (Revelation 22:1) may have been suggested by the pattern of Ancient Babylon which was “foursquare,” its walls 60 miles around, 300 feet high, 100 brass Gates, and divided in the midst by the Euphrates River.

F. The Splendor of the City (verses 18-21).

“And the... wall... jasper... city was of pure gold.” (Revelation 21:18) The materials of which it is built emphasize The SPLENDOR of the city. “Jasper” is described as “clear as crystal” (verses 11, 18). The City itself gleams like a mass of gold, so “pure” it seems to be as transparent as “glass.”

“And the foundation... garnished with... precious stones.” (Revelation 21:19) These “stones” are similar to the names of the 12 stones on the Breastplate of the High Priest. He had the names of the 12 tribes over his heart (Exodus 28:15-30). Here the colors are thought to represent: Jasper, diamond; Sapphire, blue; Chalcedony, sky blue; Emerald, green; Sardonyx, red and white; Sardius, fiery red; Chrysolite, golden; Beryl, sea green; Topaz, transparent green; Chrysolite, purple; Jacinth, red; Amethyst, violet (verses 19-21). Think of a CITY OF GOLD, WALLS OF DIAMOND, GATES OF PEARL, FOUNDATIONS OF PRECIOUS STONES! Whether literal or symbolical “HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE”!

V. THE NEW TEMPLE (Revelation 21:22)

There was no Temple in Heaven (verse 22). “And I saw no temple therein...” (Revelation 21:22) “No Temple” is needed. The entire city is a HOLY OF HOLIES. The universal presence of God makes it ONE SPACIOUS SANCTUARY. The SHADOW has given way to the SUBSTANCE. REALITY HAS COME. THE SYMBOL IS NOT NEEDED.

VI. THE NEW LIGHT (Revelation 21:23-27)

It is a City where no Sun is needed. (Verse 23). “And the city had no need of the sun...” (Revelation 21:23): The city needs no created light. “The glory of God DID LIGHTEN IT... LAMB IS THE LIGHT THEREOF.” The redeemed of all “nations shall walk in the light of it” (verse 24). “The gates” shall never be “SHUT... NO NIGHT THERE” (verse 25) and because the ideal citizens are glorified “saints.” All evil is excluded forever; all of God’s “SAVED” are included “which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (verses 26-27).

VII. THE NEW PARADISE (Revelation 22:1-5)

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life...” (Revelation 22:1). The “River of Life” has its source in the Throne of God, which throne probably rests on the summit of that “Pyramidal Mountain.” It is from such that the “water” flows down in cascades from terrace to terrace to feed that wonderful “River of Life.”

“In the midst... tree of life.” (Revelation 22:2) The Tree of Life was lost by sin (Genesis 3:1-13). The fruit of the “tree of life” has health-giving leaves that banish sin and death. The Bible opens with a Paradise Lost in a Garden. Here is a picture of a GARDEN in GOD’S CITY – a Celestial City because redeemed humanity will form a saved fellowship, the family of God in Heaven, the Church glorified. In this GARDEN OF GOD we shall realize fully all that God wants His people to have (study Genesis 2:9-10; Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 4:14; 6:35, 51).

VIII. THE EPILOGUE (Revelation 22:6-21)

A. The Affirmation (Revelation 22:6-9).

“These sayings are faithful and true...” (Revelation 22:6) The VISIONS OF REVELATION HAVE ENDED. Now comes RATIFICATION and enforcement. The Divine word concerning the authority and value of the book is that “these words are trustworthy and true.”

“Behold, I come quickly...” (Revelation 22:7) These words are repeated in verses 12 and 20. It is the coming of Christ that is meant.

“Blesses...” Such saints will be found faithful when He comes. There are SEVEN “blesseds” in Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

“And I... fell down to worship... the angel... See thou do it not.” (Revelation 22:8-9) John was so overcome by the beautiful vision that he paid undue homage to the angel. He had fallen into the same error, and was similarly reprovved in Revelation 19:10. The “angel” affirms “I am THY FELLOW SERVANT... WORSHIP GOD,” the true OBJECT OF WORSHIP.

B. The Words of Christ (Revelation 22:10-15).

Seal not...” (Revelation 22:10) The time had come for complete fulfillment. Visions are not to be kept secret!

“He that is unjust... filthy... let him be filthy still.” (Revelation 22:11) There is little time left for repentance and change of life. Character crystallizes with the choices made by each individual. There comes a time when a CHOSEN COURSE CANNOT BE CHANGED! There is solemn reality in “TOO LATE”! Accept Him “TODAY” (Hebrews 3:15).

“And behold, I come quickly...” (Revelation 22:12) Accept and OBEY THE GOSPEL in the short time that remains, or forever your DESTINY IS DOOM with the “DEVIL and his angels” (Revelation 20:10, Matthew 25:41).

“My reward is with me...” When the Lord comes in glory, then each one shall receive the “WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23). We shall “REAP” what we “SOW” (Galatians 6:9). “Be not DECEIVED,” dear ones, any longer!

“I am the Alpha and Omega...” (Revelation 22:13) The same terms are employed in the Prologue, as here in the Epilogue (Revelation 1:8).

“Blessed are they that do his commandments...” (Revelation 22:14) Jesus used the word “Blessed” nine times in Matthew 5:13-11 and now in the closing words of the last book of the New Testament – the SEVENTH time in Revelation. See Revelation 22:7. They have access to the “tree of life” (see Genesis 3:1-13 and II Peter 1:10-11).

“For without are dogs...” (Revelation 22:15) Not all may enter into the “Holy City.” “Dogs” are symbols of that which is offensive, uncontrolled and unclean. “Dogs” refer to Sodomites. “Sorcerers” are those who practice imposture in religion. “Murderers” are private assassins, who HARBOR HATRED IN THEIR HEARTS (I John 3:15).

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C. The Final Things (Revelation 22:16-21).

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify...” (Revelation 22:16) Jesus speaks to John confirming the angelic testimony. Jesus is “a shoot out of the stock of Jesse,” a “branch out of his root” (Isaiah 11:1, Romans 1:3). He is the LONG-PROMISED and EXPECTED MESSIAH. He is thus connected with EARTH, and HEAVEN.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come...” (Revelation 22:17) Observe the (1) ONES WHO ARE INVITING, “COME” and (2) the ONES WHO ARE INVITED. Life at its longest is BRIEF. “COME” NOW (II Corinthians 6:2, John 4:13-14).

“If any man shall add unto these things... “ (Revelation 22:18) A blessing is attached to those who “READ... HEAR... AND KEEP” (Revelation 1:3) the “things which are written” in Revelation. There is a SOLEMN WARNING AGAINST ITS ABUSE of the Revelation. To “add” to, or to “take AWAY FROM the words of the book... “ (Verse 19) means that “God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” The “plagues” include the SEALS (Revelation 6), the “plagues” of the TRUMPETS (Revelation 8, 9, 11), the “plagues” of the vials or bowls (Revelation 16), and the DOOM of “BABYLON” (Revelation 18). This warning is designed to GUARD THE INTEGRITY of the book (see Deuteronomy 4:2). Why not accept God’s WORD Just AS IT IS, and BEWARE of TAMPERING WITH OR TREATING LIGHTLY any part of it as it is “rightly divided” (II Timothy 2:15).

“Surely I come quickly.” (Revelation 22:20) As Revelation 1:7 opens, so it closes with this PROMISE in the “anchor” and stay of the saint. It is the sound of ALARM and WARNING CRY to the sinfully disobedient. This is the last promise of Jesus to His people.

“Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” John’s response is a PRAYER.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” (Revelation 22:21) The apostle adds the usual BENEDICTION. This is the last benediction. The book closes, as it began with “GRACE” (Revelation 1:4). Let us ALL UNITE with John in this earnest and confident PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.

God be with you!

QUESTIONS: AND YOUR ANSWERS

1. What did John see “coming down from God out of heaven” (Revelation 21:2)?
2. What is said of the words John is told to “Write” (Revelation 21:5)?
3. Who shall “inherit all things” (Revelation 21:7)?
4. In what shall the wicked “have their part” (Revelation 21:8)?
5. Can you locate the “gates” of the “holy city” (Revelation 21:13)?
6. Of what are the wall, gates, streets of the city composed (Revelation 21:12-21)?
7. How often does the “tree of life” yield fruit (Revelation 22:2)?
8. What shall happen to the one who “adds to or takes away from this book” (Revelation 22:18-19)?
9. Who showed John the BRIDE, the “Lamb’s” wife (Revelation 21:9)?
10. Can you give the last verse in the Bible by memory (Revelation 22:21)?

FILL IN BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. John saw a new _____ and a new _____ for the first _____ and the first _____ are passed away” (Rev. 21:1)
2. A “great voice” the out of the _____ was heard saying: “Behold the _____ of God is with men” (Revelation 21:3).
3. The city lies _____; the length, breadth and height are _____” (Revelation 21:16).
4. The city was _____ like unto _____
5. A river of water of _____ came out of the throne of _____ and of the _____ (Revelation 21:16).
6. Names of the _____ were on the “foundations”; on the “gates” were the names of the _____ (Revelation 21:12-14).
7. Those who _____ “have right to the tree of life” (verse 14).
8. The “reward” will be to “every man _____” (verse 12).
- 9 _____ said, “I am the _____ and _____ of David, and the _____ and star” (Revelation 22:16).
10. And “_____ will” is invited to take _____ of _____ freely” (Revelation 22:17).

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. “Tears” are mentioned in Revelation 21:4. ____
2. “Behold I make all things new” is in Revelation 21:5. ____
3. The “second death” is mentioned in Revelation 21:8. ____
4. One of the angels that had the “seven bowls” is mentioned in Revelation 21:9. ____
5. “Him (or he) that is athirst” is mentioned in both Revelation 21:6 and Revelation 22:17. ____
6. John saw “angels” at the “gates” of the “New Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:12). ____
7. The city measured 12,000 furlongs by the reed (Revelation 21:15-16). ____
8. John said, “There were many golden streets in the city” (Revelation 21:21). ____
9. The “gates” of the city shall be shut at night for protection (Revelation 21:25). ____
10. The expression, “Come quickly” is used three times in Revelation 22 (verses 7, 12, and 20). ____

YES OR NO?

1. Does John speak of a time when there shall be no more “death” (Revelation 21:4)? ____
2. Are “liars” mentioned among the wicked to be punished (Revelation 21:8)? ____
3. Will candle or sun “light” be needed in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:23)? ____
4. Did John say he “saw” a “temple” in the “Holy City” (Revelation 21:22)? ____
5. Is there anything in the New Jerusalem for the “healing” of the “nations” (Revelation 22:2)? ____
6. Did John “fall down” to “worship” “the angel” (Revelation 22:8-9). ____
7. Was John told to “seal” the prophecy of this book (Revelation 22:10)? ____
8. Are the words “Alpha” and “Omega” found in Revelation 22:13? ____
9. Is the Devil mentioned in the last chapter of the Bible? ____
10. Are the expressions, “I come quickly” and “come, Lord Jesus” in the same verse (Revelation 22:20)? ____