

REVELATION

Part 2

...bringing it to completion

Tulsa, Oklahoma
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LESSON 12

Review of Revelation Chapters 11—13

Those who were with us during Revelation Part 1 know that God has a good and perfect plan for His people... a plan to prosper them and to give them a hope and a future. You know also that we as Gentile believers have been grafted into the family of God—and for this we are very grateful—but when it comes to the Bible as a whole, we have seen that it is not the story of the Church, it is the story of God’s *originally* chosen people... the Jews. As far back as the 12th Chapter of Genesis, the selection and the setting-aside begins, later to be sealed with an everlasting covenant with Abraham, which is then confirmed with Isaac and finally Jacob.

The word we don’t want to minimize here is “everlasting.” God’s promise to the Jews (to have a land of their own, to become a nation so far-reaching and so large its members cannot be counted, and to have Him as their God forever) is a promise that remains in effect throughout eternity. Because God is a covenant-keeping God, His promises will be accomplished. Nothing can change that.

The study of New Testament promises, however, creates confusion for some. God makes it clear that no one comes to Him except through His Son Jesus Christ. This means quite simply that ultimately, in order for the Jews to be saved, they too must believe and receive Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God. Throughout history, many have done just that and then become a part of the Church universal where there is neither Jew nor Gentile. But *as a nation*, the Jewish people have yet to comply. Is it possible then that their disobedience would cause God to turn His back on them and thus break an everlasting covenant? That simply defies the character and nature of God. So—how is God going to bring His people the Jews back to Himself? What efforts is He going to make to insure that His people the Jews are saved *as a nation* through belief in His Son Jesus Christ?

Enter the book of Revelation that lays out the story of God’s bringing His chosen people back to Himself...

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. In last week’s lecture we reviewed Revelation chapters 4-10 which describe the breaking of the seven seals that sealed up the scroll in the hand of the One who sits on the throne. We know that out of the 7th Seal which the Lamb breaks comes forth the sounding of seven trumpets by seven angels. In this week’s lesson we are going to review all the events that surround the sounding of the 7th Trumpet...
2. Read Revelation chapters 11-13. As you read, note the two “whats” each chapter is about and record in the space provided below.

Chapter 11 – two _____

Chapter 12 – two _____

Chapter 13 – two _____

3. Students who have not taken Revelation Part 1 will need to do a little extra work at this point. Those who have taken Part 1 will need to check to be sure the following has been done.
 - In Chapters 11—13, mark in a distinctive manner everything the seventh angel (or loud voice in heaven) says that will help us identify the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. (This is one of the most critical markings we have in Revelation. Be sure you can easily recognize these 7th Trumpet identifying statements.)
 - In the upper right-hand corner of each chapter, indicate whether the action is taking place on earth or in heaven. This will help you in following the narrative of Revelation, so be sure to record enough information to help you remember what passages take place where.
 - Mark every reference to those who dwell on the earth with its own identification.
 - Mark the following references to duration of time in the same manner: [New students need to know that these are all the same quantity of time.]
 - 1260 days
 - 42 months
 - time, times and half a time
 - Mark references to the Beast out of the sea and the Beast out of the earth, each with its own identifying symbol, highlight or underline color.
 - Mark the word “given.”
 - In Revelation 11:14, mark the second and third “woes”; then go back to Revelation 9:12 and mark the first “woe.” In Revelation 8:13, mark each of the “woes” mentioned there and note what it tells you about what the three woes are.
4. Based on your overview of Chapters 11—13, list below the events that happen at or around the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. As much as you are able, try to put the events in chronological sequence.

5. Now... take the events you've listed above and add them to your "Seals, Trumpets and Bowls" Chart that you started in Lesson 5. New students will need to obtain a partially completed chart from their instructor.

II. DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read through Chapter 11 one more time and then answer the following questions:

- Who gives authority to the two witnesses?
- What powers do they have during the 1260 days of their prophesying?

- Why do those who dwell on the earth rejoice and celebrate at their death?
- Who resurrects the two witnesses at the end of the 3½ days?
- Mark references to an earthquake in Revelation 11; then in the same way mark the references to earthquake in Revelation 6:12 and 8:5... noting when each of these occurs.
- Where is the temple of God in which the ark of His covenant appears? In addition to the hailstorm and the earthquake, what else accompanies the appearance of the ark? What do you associate these with?

2. Read through Chapter 12 again. When you have finished, answer the following questions concerning Chapter 12:

- Who is the child who is caught up to God and to His throne?
- If the child is the Messiah, who would the woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars be? [Refer to Genesis 37:9-11 if necessary.]

- This chapter refers to Satan’s being thrown down to earth in two separate passages: vv.3-6 and vv.7-17. Determine the approximate times each of these occurs and record below. Explain the reason for your determinations.

3. Finally, read through Revelation Chapter 13 and answer the following questions:

- Who are the principle characters in this passage?
- What is the relationship between the following:
 - The dragon (Satan) and Beast out of the sea
 - The Beast out of the sea and the Beast out of the earth
 - The Image of the Beast out of the sea and the Beast out of the earth
- Write in the area provided the requirement for anyone wishing to buy and sell during this period of time.
- If when Satan is thrown to earth at the 7th Trumpet he knows that his time is short (Revelation 12:12), when would he most likely give his power to his “ambassador”? When then would the events of Revelation 13 most likely take place?

III. WRAPPING IT UP

From our review this week of Revelation Chapters 11, 12, and 13 we begin to form a picture in our minds of what is going to happen at the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. Already we can see that this is a rather significant period of the end times described in the book of Revelation—when God takes His great power and begins to reign... when His wrath finally comes and it is the time to judge the dead, to reward the bond-servants and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Also in these chapters we were introduced to the Beast who will play a significant role in the disciplining of the entire world—all those who choose not to worship the one true God, but to follow the one who sets himself up to be god among men. During the coming week, we will review other passages in scripture to determine what the rest of the Bible has to say about the one who exalts himself above God and tries to convince the entire world that he is indeed the ruler of the universe.

LESSON 13

Review of “Beast-Figures”

At the sounding of the 7th Trumpet, the dragon (that serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan and who deceives the whole world) is thrown down to earth. At that time also, a Beast comes up out of the sea with seven heads and ten horns and a ruler’s diadem on each of the ten horns. This Beast receives his power from Satan himself; and because Satan knows he has only a short time, he most likely gives his power to the Beast immediately after being cast down. This would mean the Beast receives his authority at the sounding of the 7th Trumpet.

The beast’s authority is good for a period of 42 months, thus defining for us a period of 42 months (3½ years) *following* the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. During the 1260 days (3½ years) *preceding* the sounding of the 7th Trumpet, the two witnesses were prophesying, and we now have a seven-year period with a mid-point where all hell breaks loose.

The author of Revelation refers to the one who wars with the saints as the “Beast that comes up out of the sea.” Authors of other books of the Bible use different names for what appears to be the same entity. Your review this week will take you to the descriptions of these different “beast-figures” for you to renew your determination as to how they all fit and relate to one another.

I. THE PRINCE WHO IS TO COME (Daniel 9:24-27)

1. Read Daniel 9:24-27.
 - As you read, mark in a distinctive manner every reference to “the prince who is to come,” “the one who makes desolate,” and any pronouns referring to either of these identities. [If you took Revelation Part 1, you have already done this.]
 - List below everything you learn about “the one who makes desolate,” also known as “the prince who is to come.”

2. Read the passage a second time and this time mark the following, using the symbols specified for each: [Once again, Revelation 1 students have already done this.]
 - “Seventy weeks” (v.24)—Use a highlighter and write the number “70” right over the words in the scripture
 - “Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks” (v.25)—Write “69” with a highlighter
 - “Sixty-two weeks” (v.26)—Write “69” with a highlighter
 - “One week” and “the week” (v.27)—Write the numeral “1” over each

3. List the things that must be accomplished in the 70-week period according to v.24.

4. Have all the events described above been accomplished as of this age we live in now? What does this tell you?

5. List what happens during the 69-week period according to vv.25-26.

6. Have these events been accomplished? And if so, when? What does this tell you?

7. Write below the events that will happen in Daniel's "70th Week."

8. Compare what happens at "mid-week" in Daniel with what happens at the 7th Trumpet (in Revelation Chapters 11-13).

II. THE LITTLE HORN (Daniel 7:1-28)

1. In vv. 1-14, we are given a description of the dream/vision that Daniel experiences during the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. If you haven't already, be sure to mark the description of each of the four beasts with a 1, 2, 3, or 4 with a circle around it.

2. In the course of this study, we will call the 4th beast "DT." Record below everything you learn about DT from vv.7-8, 11.

3. The interpretation of Daniel's dream/vision is given in vv.15-27. Read the passage several times and answer the following questions:
 - What do the four beasts represent?
 - According to v.18, who ultimately will receive the kingdom and possess it forever?
 - Record in the area provided in Question No. 2 above any additional information you learn about DT from vv.15-28.
 - Record below what you learn about the other horn (called the "little one" in v.8).

- Is there anything about "little horn" that reminds you of the prince who is to come in Daniel 9:27?

III. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Matthew 24)

1. All of Matthew 24 is vital to the study of end times, and we will be spending a lot of time in it before we are through. But in our review this week, we need only cover the portion that deals with the "beast-figure" so that we can relate this back to the 7th Trumpet and the Beast that comes up out of the sea.
2. Read Matthew 24:15-31 and answer the following questions:
 - In v.15, to what other "beast-figure" does the author relate the abomination of desolation? Compare this with Daniel 9:27. Can you relate the abomination of desolation to the prince who is to come of Daniel 9? And if so, what timing would you put on the abomination of desolation's standing in the Holy Place?

 - According to v.21 what occurs after the abomination of desolation stands in the Holy Place? Compare this with what happens after the prince who is to come (Daniel 9) puts a stop to the sacrifice and grain offering.

IV. THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2 Thess 2)

1. In Matthew 24, the abomination of desolation stands in the Holy Place. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and record below any action of the man of lawlessness that might appear to be similar.
2. What happens after the man of lawlessness exalts himself above every so-called god and takes his seat in the temple of God?
3. What has to happen *before* the man of lawlessness takes his seat in the temple of God so that the day of the Lord begins? List everything that must happen in the space provided below.

V. THE KING WHO EXALTS HIMSELF (Daniel 11:35—12:13)

1. Read Daniel 11:35 through 12:13, paying particular attention to Daniel 11:35-37 and 12:1-13.
2. The man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2 is described as one who “exalts himself above every so-called god.” Re-read Daniel 11:35-37 and note any similar descriptions that are used for the principle character of this passage.
3. According to Daniel 12:1, what is going to happen at the same time that the king exalts himself above every God and speaks monstrous things against the God of gods?
4. According to Daniel 12:6-7, how long will this time of distress (such as has never occurred since there was a nation until that time) last? Does this sound like anything you’ve read about before? Where?

VI. WRAPPING IT UP

Daniel, Matthew, Paul all refer to the same entity—the one John calls the Beast who comes up out of the sea in Revelation 13 and antichrist in 1 John 4. Through a composite examination of all six of these “beast-figures,” we are able to capture the “big picture” of what’s happening at the sounding of the 7th Trumpet and during the 3½-year period that follows which both Daniel and Matthew refer to as a time of distress such as has never occurred before.

LESSON 14

Revelation Chapter 14

Revelation Part 1 left off with the study of Chapter 13 and all the events surrounding the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. In our first two lessons of Revelation Part 2, we reviewed these events as well as the events of the previous six trumpets and those of the seven seals that preceded them. Now we're ready to move on into new territory and begin our exploration of the seven bowl judgments and the period both Matthew and Daniel refer to as a time of such tribulation that it has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. Matthew goes on to tell us that it is a period of such great tribulation that had the days not been cut short no life would have been saved. We believe this period to coincide with the last 3½ years of Daniel's 70th week and the 42-month period following the sounding of the 7th Trumpet when Satan is persecuting woman Israel (and God is nourishing her in the wilderness that He prepared for her refuge.) It's also the time when the Little Horn of Daniel 7 wears down the saints for time, times, and half a time and the "mystery of God" is being accomplished and brought to its fruition. During this time as well, the Beast of Revelation 13 is in full swing making war against (and overcoming) the saints. We call this period of time the "3rd Woe."

It is indeed a time of great tribulation.

The actual narrative that advances the saga of the seals, trumpets and bowls left off at the end of Revelation Chapter 11 and will not pick up again until Revelation Chapter 15:1. This week's study of Revelation Chapter 14 foreshadows the action in upcoming chapters and will help prepare us for a more detailed study of the bowl judgments in weeks to come.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. After you have prayed for God's wisdom and before you begin to read Revelation Chapter 14, take a pencil and draw a short line *after* Revelation 14:5.
2. Read Revelation 14 at least three times before you begin this study. Then answer the following questions:
 - What is the main thing being talked about in vv.1-5?
 - What is the main subject of vv.6-20?
 - Using both of these, create a title for Chapter 14 and record in the space provided at the beginning of the chapter. Record also the key verses from which you made this determination.
3. Where does the scene described in vv.1-5 occur?

4. What about the action in vv.6-20—where does it take place? [Record in the upper right hand corner on the first page of Chapter 14.]
5. There are two significant time phrases in Revelation 14. Mark these in the same manner you've marked significant time phrases in previous chapters. List both in the space provided below:
6. Mark the following key words, each in its own distinctive way. Be sure to use the same markings as you used in previous chapters (if applicable).
 - 144 thousand and all pronouns referring to them
 - wrath of God [go back and mark this phrase in the following verses as well]:
 - Rev 6:16-17
 - Rev 11:18
 - Rev 14:10, 19
 - Rev 15:1, 7
 - Rev 16:1, 19
 - Rev 19:15
 - Angel(s)
 - Lamb
 - Sitting (sat) on a cloud
 - “the hour of His judgment has come” and “the hour to reap has come” [Mark both as a significant time phrase.]

II. DIGGING DEEPER (144K Described in Heaven)

1. Re-read the passage concerning the 144K (vv.1-5).
2. Where have we read about the 144K before? Go back and review what you learn about the 144K from that passage. [You should have these listed in the margin of Revelation Chapter 7 if you participated in Revelation Part 1. If not, read Revelation 7:1-8 and list them now.]
3. In the margin of Revelation 14, list what you learn about the 144K here.
4. In Revelation 14:4 we read that the 144K “follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” In all of Revelation there are 27 references to the Lamb with a capital “L” (i.e., a reference to the sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ)—even more if we were to count the pronouns “He” that refer specifically to the Lamb with a capital “L”. In all the rest of the New Testament, there are only two direct references to Christ as the Lamb. What does this tell you about the book of Revelation? [Record your thoughts below.]

III. DIGGING DEEPER (Angels Preview Bowl Judgments)

1. Re-read the message contained in Revelation 14:6-20 to have it fresh in your mind as we dig a little deeper into the activities of the angels in mid-heaven.
2. You have already marked each reference to an angel. After you read the passage, go back and label each of these as to whether it is the “1st,” “2nd,” “3rd,” etc. Careful... it’s a little tricky around vv.17-19!
3. One more time, where are the angels flying? And in relation to the seals, trumpets, and bowls, when does this happen?
4. What is the angel in v.6 preaching? Again, when is he doing this? What does this say to you?
5. Now meditate on v.7 for a few minutes, then answer the questions below. (As if the truth of v.6 isn’t mind-blowing enough, v.7 gives us an incredible standard for worship.)
 - Revelation 14:7 tells us that “The hour of His judgment has come.” What does this phrase mean to you?
 - According to v.6, to whom is the angel preaching?
 - What does v.7 tell us about what those who live on the earth are supposed to do *because* the hour of God’s judgment has come?
 - What does this teach us about the meaning of true worship?
6. Read Revelation 14:8-20 one more time... this time, read it as if it were an overview of the events to come during the last 3½ years. Then write a description of these last years in the space provided below. After we have studied the details of the seven bowl judgments in a future lesson, we will compare what is written here with what is described in those bowls.

7. Revelation 14:9 refers to what will happen to the ones who worship the Beast and receive his mark on their forehead or hand. Read Revelation 13:12, 15-17 and list on the left side of the T-account all the things the one who receives the mark can do.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Advantages	Disadvantages

8. Now list on the right side of the Chart in #7 above the consequences of worshipping the beast and taking his mark according to Revelation 14:9-11. Does it appear to be worth it?
9. How severe is their torment and how long does it last? Read also Matthew 3:12, 13:41-42, Mark 9:47-48, Luke 16:23-24 and incorporate in your answer.
10. Revelation 14:17-20 appears to be talking about a time when a final judgment is made. What do you think the great wine press of the wrath of God refers to?

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

In Revelation Chapter 14, we were given a brief overview of the time-period following the sounding of the 7th Trumpet which is also referred to as the Great Tribulation. We will be learning much more about this period in weeks to come, but already we can see that it is a time of final judgment when those who worship the Beast are plucked from the earth and cast into fire and brimstone. Revelation 14:7 describes this time of harvest as “the hour of His judgment.” Isn’t it incredible to think that before God brings this final judgment He has an angel flying in mid-heaven preaching the gospel to those who remain on the earth? And to think, this is long after the Church has been caught up into heaven. The 144,000 are gone as well, and are also in heaven. Yet God is not finished with his redemptive efforts. After all His other messengers have left, God then sends an angel to continue the mission of bringing infidels to Christ.

The Lord is patient... and He does not want ANY to be lost!

LESSON 15

Revelation Chapters 15-16

Revelation Chapter 14 gave us the picture of an angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to all who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. And all the while he’s preaching, this angel proclaims in a loud voice that “the hour of His judgment had come.” Then additional angels come forth announcing—among other things—the fall of Babylon, the eternal torment of those who worship the beast and receive his mark, the ultimate harvesting of the wicked from this earth and their being cast into the great wine press of the wrath of God. All of this gives us an preview of the seven bowl judgments to come.

As we move now into Revelation Chapters 15 and 16, the author begins to flesh out that overview he laid out for us in Chapter 14 and takes us deeper into the description of the actual events he only briefly touched upon in the overview. You will spend two weeks on the study of these two chapters. In this week’s lesson, we overview the two-chapter segment in its entirety and begin a detailed study of Chapter 15. Next week, we will finish up with Chapter 15 and delve into the details of Chapter 16, completing our study of the seven bowl judgments that bring an end to the period of great tribulation—ushering in the return of Christ Jesus and the setting up of his kingdom here on earth.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Before you read this week’s assignment, set the context by re-reading Revelation 11:14-19. The intervening chapters (Chapters 12, 13, & 14) contain parenthetical information that does not advance the chronological order of events of the seals, trumpets, and bowls. Chapter 15 begins where Chapter 11 leaves off.
2. Read Revelation Chapters 15 & 16 in one sitting... as if there were no break between the end of Chapter 15 and the beginning of Chapter 16. [Remember that chapter breaks are man-made and do not exist in the original manuscripts.] When you have finished reading the chapters, mark at the top right-hand corner of each chapter where the action takes place.
3. Mark the significant time phrase “It is done” in the same way you’ve marked the time phrases relating to the sounding of the 7th Trumpet.
4. Now read both chapters again (in one sitting) and this time mark the following words in a unique, distinctive manner so they can be easily identified later.
 - Beast (as marked previously in Chapter 13)
 - Angel(s) (as marked previously in Chapters 3, 5, 7, & 8)
 - Temple
 - Wrath of God

- Did not repent
 - Earthquake (as marked previously in Lesson 4)
 - Flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder (as marked previously in Lesson 3)
 - Babylon (and all synonyms and pronouns that refer to Babylon)
5. Now go back and designate the angels in Chapter 16 as to whether they are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.
 6. Using the “Seals, Trumpets, Bowls” chart, record what you learn about each bowl in the appropriate box. After you have finished doing this, take a few minutes and compare the 1st Bowl with the 1st Trumpet and the 1st Seal, the 2nd Bowl with the 2nd Trumpet and the 2nd Seal, and so forth. Make a notation on the chart of any similarities you find.
 7. In Chapter 15, re-read vv.1-4. What is the main thought expressed in these verses?
 8. Now re-read vv.5-8. What is the main thought in these verses?
 9. Using both of these themes, write a theme for the entire chapter and record it in the space provided at the beginning of Chapter 15. Record also the Key Verse(s) from which you obtained this information.
 10. Re-read Chapter 16 and record the main theme of the chapter in the space provided at the beginning of the chapter.

II. DIGGING DEEPER (Chapter 15)

1. In Revelation 15:1 we learn that the author sees *another* sign in heaven. If this is “another” sign, what sign(s) have preceded it? List below.
2. What is the sign that John sees in Chapter 15?
 - The text tells us that these seven plagues are the last... the last *what*?
 - Why are they called “the last”?
 - Check back in previous chapters of the book of Revelation and determine where the “wrath of God” began? [Mark “wrath” in that reference in the same manner you’ve marked it in Chapter 15.]
3. Who is standing on the sea of glass?

- Check back in previous chapters of Revelation and see where else we've read about the "sea of glass." Record that reference here.
 - How is the sea of glass described in the first reference?
 - How is the sea of glass described here in Chapter 15?
4. What does the phrase "come off victorious from the beast" mean to you? [Keep in mind where the victorious ones are when this phrase is used.]
 5. What would it mean to come off victorious from "the number of his name"? [See Revelation 13:16-17 for an understanding of the purpose of "the number of his name."]
 6. What event does the "song of Moses" commemorate? What event does the "song of the Lamb" commemorate? In what way are these two related?
 7. What words are used in the song of the victorious that are also used to describe the sign in heaven that's mentioned in v.1? [Point of Interest: The combination of these two adjectives is not used any other place in the New Testament.]

III. WRAPPING IT UP

In these two chapters (Revelation 15 & 16), we have the account of the seven angels pouring out the seven bowls of God's wrath upon the earth... and in them, the wrath of God is finished. The seals, the trumpets, the bowls... a chronological sequence of God's wrath unfolding before human eyes—all for the purpose of accomplishing His plan to bring His people the Jews back to Himself through a belief in His Son Jesus Christ.

In this week's lesson, we overviewed this two-chapter segment concerning the bowl judgments and began a close-up study of Revelation 15. Next week we will complete our detailed study of both chapters and lay the preliminary groundwork for a detailed study of the fall of Babylon and the return of Christ Jesus.

LESSON 16

Revelation 15 & 16 (Cont'd)

In the breaking of the seven seals, the sounding of the seven trumpets, and the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath, we witness God's judgment upon the world and upon those who dwell in it. Through this sequence of seals, trumpets, and bowls God is systematically encouraging, guiding, and urging infidels to make a choice for themselves—a choice that, although it brings additional agony while on this earth, will ultimately save the one who makes it from an eternity of torment. Everyone will have the opportunity to escape, but not everyone will accept. Only God in His infinite wisdom knows when the time is ripe and everyone who is going to make a decision for Christ has done so... so only God in His infinite wisdom knows the timing of the return of Christ.

In our overview last week, we saw that the bowls of the seven plagues are the last of God's wrath. When the seventh bowl has been poured out, God Himself will proclaim, "It is done." The task has been accomplished. Everyone living at that time who is going to make the choice has done so... and the rest of mankind is lost to an eternity of torment and damnation.

In this week's assignment, you will take an "up-close-and-personal" look at each of the seven bowls and consider their impact upon the world. You're invited to step into the horror of it all and imagine what kind of person it is that could experience such things and still not repent—still not make a decision for Christ, but insist on living for self alone. Can you pity such a person? Or do you feel it unjust that God would allow a person to choose damnation for himself? These are hard-hitting questions that every believer must answer for himself.

I. REVIEW OF LESSON 15

1. Before beginning a detailed study of the seven bowls of God's judgment, re-read all of Chapters 15 & 16 in one sitting. After your "read," check out your chapter titles from last week and make any adjustments you feel appropriate. The more familiar you are with the material, the better your theme or chapter titles will be, so up-grade your titles as you learn. No one's perfect right off the bat.
2. Re-read Revelation 15:1-4 and refresh your memory as to what this section is about. Then answer the following questions:
 - Who is standing on the sea of glass and what are they doing?
 - Is there a significant time phrase in this passage that might relate to the seals, trumpets, and bowls in some way? Mark that phrase as you have other significant

6. Read Exodus 40:34-35 and compare what you learn there with Revelation 15:8.

III. DIGGING DEEPER (Chapter 16)

1. Scripture does not tell us the specifics, but by applying a little reason we can surmise who the “loud voice from the temple” in Revelation 16:1 might be. In your opinion, who most probably would be the one giving the order to pour out the bowls of God’s wrath onto the earth? Give the reason for your position.
2. According to v.2, who receives the wrath contained in the bowl that’s poured out by the first angel?
 - In Lesson 14, you compared the advantages and the disadvantages of receiving the mark of the beast.. How does what you read in Revelation 16:2 compare with what is written in Revelation 14:9-11? [Can you see how these are referring to the same event? (Remember, Revelation Chapter 14 is an overview of what happens in Chapters 15 & 16.)]
 - On your Revelation Worksheet for Chapter 16, in the space *following* v.2, fill in the additional information you glean from Revelation 14:9-11. Be sure to list also the scripture reference from which you are getting this information.
 - Read Exodus 9:9-11, Job 2:7 and Luke 16:21 for insight into the “loathsome and malignant sore” that comes upon the men who took the mark of the beast.
3. On what does the second angel pour his bowl of wrath?
 - How does this compare with what happens when the second angel sounds his trumpet? [You have this recorded on the chart “Seals, Trumpets, Bowls.”]
 - Compare with Exodus 7:20-25 and record your insight below.
4. What becomes of the fresh water when the third angel pours his bowl of wrath on all its sources?
 - Read Revelation 11:6. What power did the two witnesses have over the fresh waters?
 - What about the men who had taken the mark of the beast—what condition were they in after the pouring out of the first bowl? What impact would the lack of fresh water have upon them?

- Read Revelation 16:5-6 carefully. Then circle every reference to “they,” “them,” or “their” in vv.5-11. Determine who you think the “they/them/their” is referring to. Jot down your rationale for this position.
 - Now go back and underline with a pencil the reference to “men” (and its pronouns) in vv.2, 8, 9. Is there a relationship between “they” and “men”?
5. What happens to the men who are scorched by the sun when the fourth angel pours out his bowl?
 6. Using a unique symbol, highlight or underline color, mark the phrase “did not repent” in Revelation 9:20, 21 and Revelation 16:9, 11.
 - What do you learn from these verses about the hearts of those who dwell upon the earth?
 - Compare this with Jesus’ command to the churches in Revelation 3:3, 19.
 7. Revelation 16:13 tells us about three unclean spirits which go out to the kings of the world to gather them together for the war of the great day of God.
 - Where do these three unclean spirits come from according to v.13?
 - What is the name of the location to which they gather the kings according to v.16?
 8. Compare Revelation 16:17 with 16:1. Once again, who do you think is speaking?
 - Mark the words that are spoken with the same symbol, highlight or underline color you have used to mark other significant time phrases.
 - Compare this phrase with the time phrase in Revelation 15:1 (mark that phrase as a “significant time phrase” as well). What’s the relationship between the two?
 9. Re-read Revelation 16:17-21. What happens to Babylon in this passage?
 - What happens to Babylon in Revelation 14:8 (mark Babylon in that passage the same way you marked it in Chapter 16).
 - What is the relationship between these two passages?

- What does this tell you about the timing of both?

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

There we have it...the wrath of God—expressed in the breaking of the seals, the sounding of the trumpets, the pouring out of His bowls of thunder—is finally over. In the words of the voice that comes out of the temple from the throne, **“IT IS DONE.”**

On the other hand, the revelation of Jesus that was given to John to write down for the bondservants is far from over. We have a long road yet to travel. And if God has already accomplished His purpose in the seals, trumpets and bowl judgments upon the earth, what can possibly be addressed in the remaining six chapters of the book of Revelation?

Stayed tuned. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming quickly... what could be more exciting than that? And we can be assured that God has plenty to tell us about *that!*

LESSON 17

Revelation 17 & 18 (Part 1)

By the end of Revelation Chapter 16, the saga of the seals, trumpets and bowls has been brought to fruition. The complete sequence of events has unfolded, the goal has been accomplished, God's wrath has brought about His purpose. The strange fact is we still haven't witnessed the "fruit" of His wrath. Never fear, that is yet to come... we have six chapters left—plenty of time still...

Before our study of the pouring out of the bowls of God's wrath in Revelation Chapters 15 & 16, we discovered that Chapter 14 gave a preview of the Big Picture that would be fleshed out in the two chapters that followed (15 & 16). Now, as we move into Chapters 17 & 18, we're going to see both of these give an even closer look at one of the events only briefly mentioned in the Chapter 14 preview and subsequently amplified in Chapters 15 & 16. Understanding the way in which the chapters fit together helps us put the events in order sequence-wise. And this helps us glean a better understanding of the message God has for us.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Read Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 in one sitting. As you read, look for words that we have marked as key words in previous chapters. Mark these in the same manner as they were marked previously. [At the least, this should include "those who dwell on the earth," "beast," and "angel(s)."]
2. Read Chapters 17 and 18 a second time... this time marking the following key words with their own unique symbol, highlight or underline color:
 - Babylon and related pronouns [Once you determine who the great harlot (v.4) and the woman (v.6) are, mark these in the same manner you mark Babylon.]
 - Immorality/sensuality/sin/iniquities (all with the same symbol, highlight or underline color)
 - Judgment (first used in 14:7—mark this occurrence as well)
3. Based on your markings, what is the character/personage most often talked about in this two-chapter segment? [Obviously, then, both Chapter 17 & Chapter 18 will have this character/personage in its chapter title/theme.]
4. Re-read Revelation 17:1-7. Who is the character/personage most talked about here? What is the name that is given to this personage in this passage? [Record this as the first half of your chapter theme at the top of Chapter 17 WordSheets.]
5. Now re-read Revelation 17:8-18. Underline or highlight "the ten horns," its synonyms and pronouns referring to the ten horns/kings. Can you see how the second half of Chapter 17 is largely concerned with the "ten kings"? Write this as the second half of your theme for Chapter 17. Record your key verse(s).

6. A quick glance at what we've marked in Chapter 18 shows us immediately what this chapter is about—Babylon! Re-read the entire chapter and determine what specifically is being addressed concerning Babylon. Record as your chapter theme at the top of Chapter 18. Record your key verse(s).

II. DIGGING DEEPER (Chapter 17)

1. Re-read Revelation 17:1-7. Mark the phrase “in the Spirit” in the same way you marked it in Lesson 3. [New students: Mark the phrase in 1:10, 4:2, 17:3.]
2. What does one of the seven angels say to John in v.1?
3. If you did not pick up on it in the Overview (Lesson 17, Part I), let's make sure we see it now. Who is the great harlot in v.1... and how do we know? [HINT: What is written on her forehead in v.5?]
4. Record below everything you learn about the great harlot, the woman sitting on the scarlet beast, the mother of harlots, who carries the name “Babylon”.
5. Take a moment to reflect on each element of her description listed above. Jot down a few notes beside each element as to the impression that element/characteristic makes on you.
6. Now list below everything you learn about the beast upon which she sits.

7. Add this information about the Beast of Revelation 17 to the chart “Comparison of Those Who Oppose Christ.” [After completing this assignment, that chart should be complete.]
8. This is as far as we’ll go in Chapter 17 during this week’s lesson. However, next week’s lesson is a long one, so you might want to use what study time you have left to get a jump start on Lesson 18.

III. WRAPPING IT UP

Our study of Babylon covers three weeks’ lessons as we look at Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 as a two-chapter unit. There is much debate among scholars and commentators as to the meaning of this great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. And whenever there’s much debate, there’s often much difficulty in interpretation. That’s why we’re going to take our time, slow ourselves way down, and let the Word of God tell us what it’s trying to tell us. There is no better commentary on the scriptures than the scriptures themselves. Our job is to be patient and let God do the teaching as He takes us through the book of Revelation and its related cross-references.

So enjoy your study—don’t rush through it. The extra time you devote to study now will pay huge dividends in the form of better understanding later.

LESSON 18

Revelation 17 & 18 (Part 2)

Seven seals are broken by the Lamb who is worthy. Then in the breaking of the seventh seal, seven angels sound their seven trumpets. And in the sounding of the seventh trumpet, seven angels pour out their seven bowls filled with the wrath of God. Finally, in the pouring out of the seventh bowl, the “wrath of God is finished” and a loud voice from the throne declares, “It is done”. At that moment, a cataclysmic phenomenon erupts upon the earth and Revelation Chapter 16 draws to a close. With it, the saga of the seals, trumpets and bowls is complete.

Last week we discovered that Chapters 17 & 18 give details of Revelation 16:19c,—the fall of Babylon. We saw that the woman who sat upon the beast of Revelation 17 was called “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth.” This week, we will examine “up-close-and-personal” the beast upon which woman Babylon sits.

This is a long lesson. You will need to allow extra time for study.

I. REVIEW OF REVELATION CHAPTER 17

1. In order that we continue to hold the “big picture” in mind as we move in close to view the beast of Revelation 17, read Chapters 17 and 18 one more time in one sitting. As you read, pay close attention to everything you learn about the beast upon which woman Babylon sits.
2. In Revelation 17:7, the angel tells John that he will explain the mystery of the woman and the beast that carries her and then he begins to speak in vv.8-18. What two things would you expect the angel to be talking about in these verses? (Do not over-think this question. The question is as simple as the answer seems.)
 - a.
 - b.
3. Re-read the angel’s explanation of the “mystery” in vv.8-18 and list below the order in which he explains the identity of the two. [Give verse references for each of your answers.]
 - a.
 - b.
4. Complete the following equalities, as explained by the angel to John in Revelation 17:8-18.

- 7 heads =
 - 10 horns =
 - waters =
 - woman =
5. Examine the description of the beast in Revelation 17:8 (it is actually stated twice). Write that description below.
 6. What does the following phrase tell you about the beast: that “he was and is not and is about to come” (or will come)?
 7. What is true about the seven kings according to v.10?
 8. Still in v.10, who is the one who “is”? [i.e., what empire was in power at the time the book of Revelation was written?]

NOTE: Historically speaking, this would make the “five who have fallen” to be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece (i.e., starting at Rome, counting backwards into history).

9. Who do you think might be the one who “has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain a little while”?
10. What will be the “end” of the beast (Antichrist) and his empire according to v.11?

II. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM AND INTERPRETATION

1. Revelation 17:8-18 refers to “seven kings” (v.10) and “ten kings” (v.12). In order to begin to get an understanding of who these “seven kings” and the “ten kings” are, we begin with Nebuchadnezzar’s vision and its interpretation in Daniel 2. Read Daniel 2 in its entirety and then answer the following questions.
 - Who has a dream/vision and what two things does he demand of his magicians, conjurers, sorcerers and Chaldeans?

- What does he promise as punishment if they are unsuccessful and as reward if they are successful?
 - a. punishment—
 - b. reward—
 - How does Daniel become involved in all this? (v.13)
 - Where does Daniel turn for wisdom and what is the result? (vv.17-19)
 - As succinctly as you can, record the specifics of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as given by Daniel in vv.31-35.
 - Now for the interpretation... (vv.36-45)
 - head of gold—
 - breast & arms of silver—
 - belly & thighs of bronze—
 - legs of iron—
 - feet & toes of clay & iron
 - a stone cut out of the mountain without hands—
2. NOTE: Historically speaking, if Babylon is the head of gold (as stated in Dan 2:38), then the three kingdoms that followed would be Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.
 3. List what you learn from Dan 2:42-44 about the kingdom God will set up in the days of “those kings” (the ten toes of v.42).
 4. Does such a kingdom now exist, or has it ever? Then, what can you conclude about the timing of such a kingdom?

- What additional information is given about the 4th beast?

 - What are the ten horns on the head of the 4th beast?
 - What arises *in addition* to the ten horns?
 - What does this *additional one* do?

 - Can you relate this *additional one* to anything else you have learned. [New students may not have the background for this. Do not worry about it because we will cover everything you need to know in class.]
6. Before we leave our discussion of the ten kings, read Revelation 17:12 one more time. Based on what you read here, do you believe it is possible to determine today the identity of *any* of these ten kings?

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

When we started our study of Revelation Chapters 17 & 18, we determined that both chapters had some aspect of Babylon as a main theme. We have just completed our second week of study on these two chapters and so far we haven't talked a whole lot about Babylon specifically. That will change next week as we bring together the pieces of our study and see what "all of scripture" has to say about Babylon.

If Babylon receives the full brunt of God's wrath when the last bowl of judgment is poured out by the seventh angel (Revelation 16:19), it seems important that we know who (or what) Babylon really is. Did she exist in the past? Does she exist today? Will she exist one day in the future? And if she does, will she be a revived literal city with walls, residents and a local government or is she some sort of a spiritual entity?

Scripture is the best commentary we have on scripture. So as we search for answers to questions like these, we will continue to let the Bible be our teacher and the primary source of all our information. We want to be careful not to add to what God is saying—our objective is simply to understand to the fullest extent possible the revelation He intends for us to receive.

LESSON 19

Revelation 17 & 18 (Part 3)

The study of Revelation Chapters 17 & 18 is complex... and a little difficult to say the least. In our first two weeks on these chapters, we saw that “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth”—whatever that entails—will one day sit upon peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. In other words, she will rule the entire world with absolute control. But scripture tells us clearly that her time is limited—her destruction is announced in Revelation Chapter 17. Then, in Chapter 18 we’re given detailed description of that destruction and the impact it will have on the world and those who dwell in it.

For us the question remains—who (or what) is this “Babylon the Great,” this “Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth”? To answer this for yourself is a worthy objective for this week’s study. Be comforted by the fact that commentaries give many different opinions and this most probably means there’s not one clear-cut, definitive answer we can expect to find. The good news is, this makes for exciting study—it takes the pressure off and frees us to read and form our own opinions. You’ll find this week’s study guide filled with related scriptures that are useful in bringing your thoughts to a realistic conclusion.

As you study, be careful not to become bogged down in the reading. Keep your eyes focused on the obvious—the plain things that are clearly stated. Look for who (or what) Babylon was and what she one-day will become. Look for connections between the two. This is a long lesson, so be sure to allow yourself ample study time.

I. REVIEWING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Refresh your memory concerning Babylon by reading Revelation 16:17 through the end of Chapter 18 (in one sitting). Although it will be new material you have not yet studied, continue reading through Revelation 19:5 so that you will have the complete picture concerning Babylon. Mark “the great harlot” and related pronouns in 19:1-5 in the same manner you marked Babylon in previous chapters.
2. Re-read the following verses and jot down the gist of what each is saying.
 - Rev 14:8
 - Rev 16:19**b**
 - Rev 17:16
 - Rev 18:2

3. Your statements above should all pretty much be saying the same thing. Now read Revelation 18:4-24 and determine how this passage relates to the verses listed above and the determination you made of what each is saying.

4. Quickly read through Revelation 18:4-18 one more time and list below everything you find in that passage which indicates total-ness, completeness, or permanence as far as the destruction of Babylon is concerned.

II. BABYLON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Read Genesis 10:1-10. Cush, the son of Ham (who was one of the three sons of Noah who survived the flood), became the father of Nimrod, the “mighty one.”
 - According to v.10, where did Nimrod’s kingdom begin?

 - [Optional] If you have Hebrew/Aramaic word study tools, look up the following:
 - a. Babel—
 - b. Erech—
 - c. Accad—
 - d. Calneh—
 - e. Shinar—

 - Conclusion?

2. Read Genesis 11:1-9.
 - Where does the action take place according to v.2?

 - Because the people are trying to build a tower in their city that would reach to heaven, God confuses their language, stops their work, and scatters them over the face of the whole world. What name does He then give to the city they were trying to build?

 - Since we know that “Babel” is also translated “Babylon,” what conclusion can you make about the origin of Babylon?

3. Read Isaiah 13, concentrating your attention specifically on vv.1, 10-13, and 19-22. After you have read the entire chapter and studied these specific passages, write a succinct statement summarizing the main thought of these passages. [NOTE: Isaiah 13 is written while the Assyrians were in power... when Israel was taken captive in 722 BC. This would have been *before* Judah was overcome by Babylon.]

4. Read Isaiah 14:22-27 and write a brief statement in the space provided below about what God says He will do to Babylon.

5. Now read Jeremiah 50 in its entirety, giving particular note to vv.4, 9, 13-15, 18-20, 39-40. As you read, mark all phrases that remind you of something you've read in Revelation 17-18. When you have finished, write a brief statement in the space below about what is going to happen to Babylon. [NOTE: Jeremiah prophesied before and during the Babylonian captivity of Judah. Israel was already gone... in essence, she was no more.]

6. Re-read Jeremiah 50:18-20 and determine what, if any, clues there might be as to when the destruction of Babylon is going to happen. Record your answer below.

7. Read Jeremiah 51. Be alert to the description as to the extent of Babylon's destruction, as well as any statements that seem to say something similar to what's being said in Revelation 17 & 18. Record your findings below.

8. Review the following references and record beside each exactly how long Babylon's total and complete destruction will last.
 - Jeremiah 51:61-64—
 - Isaiah 13:20—
 - Jeremiah 51:26—

9. One final scripture reference and then we're done. Read Zechariah 5, paying particular attention to the prophecy described in vv.6-11. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the name of the woman who is sitting in the ephah (basket)?

- Where do the two women with wings take the ephah with the woman inside?
- For what purpose are they taking her there?

III. BABYLON IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Review what you recorded in question 4 of Section I above (evidence of the degree of total-ness, completeness, and permanence of the destruction of Babylon as recorded in Revelation Chapter 18). Note similarities or dissimilarities between that list and your observations in questions 8 & 9 of Section II above.
2. Based on these findings, would you say the prophecies concerning Babylon in Revelation are the same prophecies concerning Babylon in the Old Testament?
3. At this point, what is your opinion as to whether the Babylon of Revelation 18 & 19 is a literal city with walls, residents, and a local government **OR** more a spiritual entity that represents all the evil power in the world? If a literal city, do you see it as a revived Babylon from Old Testament times or a newly created Babylon in or near the site of the original? Record your thoughts for discussion in class.

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

For some, this may have been a difficult lesson... especially those who have not had much experience reading and interpreting prophecy. If this describes you, you may not have been able to come to any conclusions on your own, and that is okay. During our class discussion, we will read most of these scriptures together and discuss line-by-line what is being said. You will best be prepared to learn at that time if you've taken the time to read the assignment before-hand at home. We ask only that you hang in there and allow the Holy Spirit to continue to be your teacher.

The last bowl of God's judgment has been poured out upon the earth... and in it, Babylon has fallen. Her destruction is total, complete and forever...`

LESSON 20

Revelation 19 (Part 1)

Our study over the last three weeks has taken us deep into the details of Revelation Chapters 17 & 18 and the destruction of Babylon—an event that actually happened sometime during the pouring out of the last bowl judgment upon the earth. What we’re going to study next in this week’s lesson takes place *after* the last bowl has been poured out... in other words, after that period of time often referred to as the Great Tribulation has been entirely completed. Our primary text for this particular study will be Revelation Chapter 19.

To set the context for our reading and understanding of Revelation 19, we need to look back at the passage Revelation 16:17-21—which describes the pouring out of the seventh (and last) bowl of God’s wrath upon the earth. In v.19 of that paragraph, we read that “Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.” This, we know, is a reference to the total and complete destruction of Babylon, which is elaborated on later in Chapters 17 & 18. Revelation Chapter 19, then, goes back and picks up where we left off at the end of Chapter 16.

The last bowl has been poured out, Babylon has been destroyed... now what???

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. In one sitting, read through Revelation Chapter 19 looking for the main thought(s) of the chapter. As you read, mark any key words that you’ve marked in previous chapters. Be sure to mark any time phrases.
2. Read through the chapter a second time, this time paragraph by paragraph as indicated below. After you have read each section, record the main event described in that passage.
 - a. vv.1-5—
 - b. vv.6-10—
 - c. vv.11-16—
 - d. vv.17-18—
 - e. vv.19-20—
 - f. vv.20-21—
3. Taking into consideration all the events listed above, write the chapter theme in the area provided at the top of your Worksheet for Revelation Chapter 19. List the verse(s) from which you make this determination.

4. Looking once again at the list of events that take place in Chapter 19 (your list in #2 above), determine which you would consider to be the most significant happening. Record that event here.

II. DIGGING DEEPER (Rejoicing over the Harlot's Judgment)

1. Read Revelation 19:1-4. What is the "time phrase" that begins this segment?
2. Relate this phrase to Revelation 16:17-21 and then record below *when* the events described in Chapter 19 take place.
3. In Revelation 19:1-2, the great multitude in heaven praises God because He has judged the great harlot and avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her. As a point of review, where in Revelation was the judgment of the harlot described?
4. Read Revelation 19:3 one more time, reflecting on the duration of Babylon's (the great harlot's) lying in ruins. What does this tell you about the "degree" of her destruction?

III. DIGGING DEEPER (Marriage Supper of the Lamb)

1. Read Revelation 19:5-10. For what purpose is the great multitude in heaven praising God according to these verses?
2. Look up the following references and record below what scripture tells us about who the "bride" of Christ would be.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 11:2—
 - b. Ephesians 5:22-24—
3. The most common model of marriage in the ancient world included three major aspects: (1) The marriage contract (often negotiated by the parents while the couple were still children); (2) the wedding ceremony (occurring after the couple reached adulthood), during which the bridegroom and his friends would go to the house of the bride and escort her to his home; and, (3) the marriage supper, to which guests were invited and a great celebration ensued. Consider this model and write a brief description of how you feel the relationship between Christ and His Church fulfills the ancient model of marriage.

4. How is the bride described in Revelation 19:8?

5. Carefully re-read vv. 5-10 looking for the identify of the “he” who speaks to John in v.9. Record your determinations below.

6. Who are the ones “who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”?

IV. DIGGER DEEPER (Second Coming of Christ)

1. Read Revelation 19:11-16. What is the major theme of this passage? Be prepared to explain why you think this is the theme.

2. Where does the action in this passage begin?

3. What does John see when heaven opens? [Record the entire description that’s given.]

4. Many commentators teach that the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is the same event as what is being described here in Revelation 19:11-16. Read both passages carefully and answer the following questions.

	1 Thess 4:13-18	Revelation 19:11-15
What is Christ’s “destination” in each of these references?		
What does Christ do upon reaching the destination?		

What conclusion might you draw from this observation?

5. Who are the armies that are following Jesus on white horses? [Give rationale for your position. You may find it helpful to examine vv. 7-8, 14 and 19 for clues.]

6. Zechariah 14 appears to be a parallel prophecy dealing with the return of Christ and the millennial reign that follows. Read Zechariah 14 through so that you grasp the general context; then re-read vv.3-5 and relate what you read about the Second Coming to what you read in Revelation 19.

7. Now read the Matthew 24:27-31 account of the Second Coming of Christ. Look for similarities with the Zech 14 and the Revelation 19 account. Record your findings below.

V. WRAPPING IT UP

After the judgment of the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls... after the total, complete and forever destruction of Babylon... the way is cleared for the Second Coming of Christ. And with His coming, the Church returns to an earth it left perhaps as much as seven years before. As exciting as this event should be, Christ and His Church do not arrive quietly, nor does the earth open her arms and accept them eagerly.

Evil resists perfection. The greater the perfection, the greater the resistance. In future lessons, we will take a look at the extent of the resistance when Christ returns, but before we get to that we will spend some time examining a number of the parables of Matthew's gospel in light of Christ's return.

LESSON 21

The Parables of Matthew 24 & 25

One of the greatest blessings of becoming thoroughly familiar with the teachings of Revelation is the deeper understanding we gain in regards to interpretation of other books of the Bible. This week, as you work through Lesson 21, you will have the opportunity to experience that blessing first hand.

Although this week's study takes us away from our text in Revelation, it is nonetheless closely related to what we've been studying in Revelation Chapter 19—the Second Coming of Christ. In Matthew's gospel, God has much to tell us about the return of Christ which will follow a period of great tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. In fact, through His servant Matthew, God tells us that, had those days not been cut short, no one would have survived them at all—they were that bad.

Would Jesus leave us alone to be totally surprised by a period of such devastation upon this earth? Most certainly not! In addition to Biblical prophecy throughout the Old and New Testaments, we have Jesus' direct teaching in a series of parables beginning in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew and continuing through the twenty-fifth chapter. Five of these parables will be the topic of this week's study.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Read through Matthew 24:36 – Matthew 25:46 in one sitting so as to get the overall context of the passage. As you read, draw a line in your Bible directly under the conclusion of each parable. Then write a name for each parable in the margin beside its beginning verse.
2. What major time phrase do you see about mid-way through Chapter 25? What does this tell you about the parable that is told *after* the time phrase (i.e., in vv.32-46)?
3. What additional references to time are made in Matthew 24:36-37, 39, 42, 44 and Matthew 25:13? What does this tell you about the timing of the parables contained in Matthew 24:42 – Matthew 25:30?
4. Highlight each of the time references mentioned in #3 above in the same color. Based on the content of these statements, what would you expect to be the gist of the parables in Matthew 24:42 – 25:30 to be about?

II. DIGGING DEEPER (The Parables of Matthew 24)

1. Read Matthew 24:36-44. Notice how many times in this passage reference is made to uncertainty regarding the timing of Jesus' return [You marked these references in section I(4) above.] Two examples are given. List these with the corresponding verses below.
 - a. vv.37-42—
 - b. vv.43-44—
2. Relate the parable of the Faithful House Owner in vv.43-44 to the story of Noah in vv.37-42. How is the parable in vv.43-44 similar to the situation of the people in Noah's day and the coming of the flood. What is the lesson for us today as far as the coming of the Son of Man is concerned?
3. Read Matthew 24:45-51. What is the lesson to be learned from this parable as it relates to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ?
4. The point is being made that the believer is to be ready at all times because Christ may come sooner than expected. As we move into Matthew Chapter 25, the idea of preparedness remains but another dimension is added.

III. DIGGING DEEPER (The Parables of Matthew 25)

1. Read Matthew 25:1-13. Once again, what is the basic lesson (as spelled out in v.13)?
2. What's the additional wrinkle in this one... what distinguishes five of the virgins from the other five?
3. What happens to the bridegroom and his party?
4. When this happens, what happens to the five virgins who are not prepared? And what is the bridegroom's response to them when they knock on the door?

5. What is the lesson in this parable to us today as it relates to the coming of Jesus Christ?
6. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What is the gist of this parable?
7. Each of the parables we've looked at has to do with the return of the Lord... the return of Jesus Christ.
 - Thus far we've seen that Jesus is admonishing us to be prepared for His return because it can happen at any time and no one knows when.
 - He also admonishes us to be prepared for a delay as well and to keep in mind that there will be no second chances for the unprepared.
8. What additional teaching does He give in the parable of the talents that relates to His coming again?

IV. DIGGING DEEPER (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Mark each of the following key words with its own distinctive symbol, highlight or underline color.
 - Nations
 - The sheep (and any synonyms/pronouns)
 - The goats (synonyms/pronouns)
 - The phrase "these brothers of mine" and "the least of these"
2. What does the Son of Man do when He comes in His glory? Who does He gather before Him? For what purpose?
3. What happens to the "sheep"? What reason does Jesus give for their receiving a reward?
4. Did the "sheep" think they had done such things for Jesus? What is Jesus' response?

5. What happens to the “goats”? What reason does Jesus give for their receiving a punishment?
6. If Jesus is addressing the “nations,” who would “these brothers of mine” be in v.40? What about the reference to “one of the least of these” in v.45?
7. Did the “goats” think they deserved such a punishment? Why not? What is Jesus’ response in this situation?
8. One more time—when does the separating of the sheep from the goats take place?
9. What is the lesson in this today for us as it relates to the coming of Jesus?

V. WRAPPING IT UP

Jesus is coming again! When the judgment of the seals, trumpets, and bowls is finally complete, He is coming on the clouds! And at His return, Jew and Gentile alike will have already made their choice—whether to follow Jesus or to continue living for self. The time of accountability is upon every living soul... Jesus is coming and He has His reward with Him. Not everyone will receive Him eagerly.

Your lesson next week will lead you into an examination of more of the activities that take place at His return as we finish looking at the last of Revelation Chapter 19.

LESSON 22

Revelation Chapter 19 (Part 2)

Since evil resists perfection, what kind of resistance should we expect when the perfection of Jesus returns and confronts an earth that's saturated in evil? Doesn't it make sense that the forces of evil would unite in a last-ditch effort to maintain control... that Satan would muster all of his power to come against Perfection and prevent its setting up His reign on earth... that kings and armies would rush to Satan's defense in hopes a victory will give them any power and control they might not already have?

We've seen that Christ was born to rule the nations with a rod of iron... that while He is called Faithful and True, He comes to judge and wage war... that He brings with Him His two-edged sword. Perfect holiness meets total evilness! Without a doubt, the world is in for the most horrible experience known in human history—the war to end all wars.

The stage is set for the collision of two worlds—Evil against Perfection.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Read Revelation 19:11-21. In an earlier lesson, we saw that this particular section describes a number of events. However, as we look at the passage as a whole we see that one unifying theme—"The Events Surrounding the Second Coming of Christ."
2. As a point of review, list the individual events that surround the second coming of Christ.
 - a. vv.11-16—
 - b. vv.17-18—
 - c. v.19—
 - d. vv.20-21—
3. The passage vv.11-16 was covered in Lesson 20, so we will focus our study this week on vv.17-21. These verses deal with the confrontation between Evil and Perfection immediately following the Lord's return.

II. DIGGING DEEPER (The Great Supper of God)

1. Read vv.17-18 and record below the first thought that strikes you on reading this short passage.

2. What does the phrase “standing in the sun” in reference to the angel who is speaking mean to you?

3. To whom is this angel speaking? So *who/what* is being invited to the “great supper of God”?
 - Contrast this “invitation list” with the “invitation list” for the marriage supper of the Lamb outlined in 19:9.

 - What happens at the “great supper of God”?

 - Compare this with Matthew 24:28 and record your insights below. [Be sure to include the timing of both passages.]

 - If birds are going to be feasting upon the flesh of kings, commanders, mighty men, horses, their riders and all other kinds of men, what does it sound like has happened? [HINT: What kind of event must have happened in order for there to be so much death in one location?]

III. DIGGING DEEPER (War of the Great Day of God Almighty)

1. Read Revelation 19:19. What does John see here?
 - Where did we read about the armies *being* gathered for war? [HINT: See Revelation 16:12-16]

 - Is it possible that the war that’s alluded to in Revelation 16:16 actually takes place here in Revelation 19:19?

2. Carefully re-read Revelation 19:19... then read the context surrounding it (i.e., vv.17-21). Do you see any evidence that a war is being fought in this passage and if so, what is the evidence? Give the reasons for your position.

3. The “happening” of Revelation 19:19 is popularly known as the “Battle of Armageddon” based on the name of the place where the kings gathered according to Revelation 16:16. This popular name may be misleading. Instead of a single battle, this was a major war that consisted of a series of battles that are described elsewhere in scripture.

Commentators vary widely in their opinions as to how the battles fit together. For the purpose of this study, we will not attempt to set up a sequence but simply familiarize ourselves with what scripture has to say about the different battles.

4. Okay, what do we have so far?
 - Beast, False Prophet and Satan (the unholy trinity) gather the kings at HarMagedon (Revelation 16:16.)
 - The Beast and ten of the world’s kings move on Babylon and destroy her (Revelation 17:16)
 - Write these on a separate sheet of paper, leaving room to add to the list. Title your list “The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty.”
5. To prepare yourself for discussion in class, read Zechariah Chapters 12, 13, and 14. As you read, make notations in the margin of your Bible as to the general nature of what is going on.
6. Now read again Zechariah 14:1-3. These verses can be confusing, but do your best to determine what each of them is saying. Write your explanation for each in the space provided below.
 - a. Verse 1—
 - b. Verse 2—
 - c. Verse 3—
7. While there may be diverse opinions regarding v.1, v.2 seems to be straight-forward. In a nutshell, what is happening to Jerusalem according to v.2? Add this to your list we started for you in #4 above (“The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty”).
8. What’s the connecting word at the beginning of Zech 14:3? In v.2 God is telling us that He will gather the nations against Jerusalem in battle and a series of events ensues. Looking at that list of events, would it appear to you that the action of v.3 follows *immediately* on the tail of the events of v.2 or is there a interval of time separating it from what happens in v.2? Explain your position.

9. What does v.3 in Zechariah 14 tell us that the Lord does next... i.e., after the plundering, the ravishing, and the exiling of half the city's population is complete, what does He do?
10. Now read Isaiah Chapters 34, 35, 63:1-6. As you read, jot notes in the margin that tell you what's going on in these particular passages. Do not be concerned if you do not understand everything that is being said at this time. Just grasp what you can and record this in the margin so that you will see it the next time through. We will cover the material in class.
11. Re-read Isaiah 34:1-6. Some scholars feel this passage explains Zechariah 14:3 and tells us where the Lord goes. Determine the name of the area mentioned in Isaiah 34:1-6 and record it (with what you learn in question #9) on the chart "The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty." [NOTE: Bozrah is a city in Edom]
12. According to Isaiah 34:5-17, what happens to Edom at the hand of God?
13. According to Isaiah 35:8-10, what will come out of Edom?
14. Re-read Isaiah 63:1-6. Who is pictured coming out of Edom? Record this on the list "The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty." Give justification for your answer in the space provided below.
15. Read Joel 3:2, 9-17. What happens to the nations according to this passage? Record this as another event on your chart "The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty."
16. Read Zechariah 14:4. How is Jesus described in this verse? Record this as the last event on your chart "The War of the Great Day of God, the Almighty."

IV. BEAST, FALSE PROPHET THROWN INTO LAKE OF FIRE

1. Read Revelation 19:20-21.
2. What is the final destination of both the beast and the false prophet?
3. What happens to the kings and the rest of the armies?

V. WRAPPING IT UP

Reading and understanding prophecy is never easy. Accurate understanding takes work and the willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to be the teacher. Every time we read a prophetic passage, we glean a little more understanding than we had before. So patience is our key... patience and the desire to learn., and the willingness to put in the time it requires. We must read, re-read, and read again. We must pray for illumination. Then, we must learn to listen with the ears of our heart to what God has to say.

LESSON 23

Revelation Chapter 20 (Part 1)

The wrath of God (as the world will witness it in the seals, trumpets and bowls) is complete, and the end is in sight. But as of the close of Revelation 19, the end has not yet come. After the last bowl judgment is poured out, the armies of the world capture Jerusalem, destroy Babylon, and confront Jesus in the valley of Jehoshaphat, where they finally meet with defeat. In triumph, Jesus then stands on the Mount of Olives and clears the way for the return of the children of Israel to the Holy City. Jerusalem is restored. Antichrist and his false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire. The way is just about cleared for the setting up of Christ's millennial reign that will be established on the earth.

Only one obstacle remains...

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. Read Revelation Chapter 20 in one sitting. As you read, mark all the key words you have marked in previous chapters. [This should include at the very least Satan (and synonyms), angel(s), given, judgment, throne, and book(s).]
2. Read Chapter 20 a second time in its entirety. This time as you read, mark the following new key words, each with its own distinctive symbol, highlight or underline color.
 - thousand years
 - lake of fire
3. Read Chapter 20 a third time, but this time, you are to read by sections. As you read each "paragraph" write a short label in the left margin that describes what's in the paragraph. Use the following divisions as your paragraph breaks.
 - vv.1-3
 - vv.4-6
 - vv.7-9
 - vv.10
 - vv.11-13
 - vv.14-15
4. After you have given each paragraph a description, determine the theme/title of the entire chapter and write this in the area at the top of Revelation 20 WordSheet. On the second line, record the key verses from which you made this determination.

II. A CLOSER LOOK (Satan in vv.1-3)

1. Read the passage vv.1-3 again. According to these verses, by what other names is the dragon known? List these names below.

2. Read Genesis 3:1-7. What is the one called who tempts the woman in the garden? Match this up with the names of the dragon in Revelation Chapter 20. What might you conclude from this?

3. What happens to the “serpent of old” according to Revelation 20:2-3a?

4. What happens then after the thousand years is complete?

III. A CLOSER LOOK (Reign of the Saints)

1. Re-read Revelation 20:4-6. After you’ve read through it carefully, list below the events that occur in the passage. List only the action that takes place. The first two are given to help you get started.
 - a. “They” sat upon thrones
 - b. Judgment was given to “them”
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

NOTE: You may have a different number of events depending on how you look at the passage. That’s okay. Just list what you think best.

2. Who are “those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God”? [Include scripture reference where you first saw them.]

3. Who are “those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand”? [Include scripture reference.]

4. What “part” of these people does John actually see? [i.e., think about what is lacking as far as the people are concerned.]
 - What happens to the bodies of those described in #2 and #3 above?
 - What is this event called?
 - What happens to the “rest of the dead” and who would the “rest of the dead” be?
5. How is the “first resurrection” defined? [When does it happen? Who does it include? What are its blessings? Include everything you learn about the “first resurrection.” We will cover this subject in more detail next week.]

IV. A CLOSER LOOK (Satan in vv.7-10)

1. Read the passage vv.7-10 again.
2. What happens to Satan when the thousand years are completed and after he has been released for a short time? [List the events in chronological order in the space below.]
3. What is the ultimate destiny of Satan?

V. A CLOSER LOOK (Great White Throne of Judgment)

1. Read vv.11-13 again. When you have finished, write a concise sentence to describe the general idea of what’s going on in this paragraph.
2. Use vv.12 & 13 and list below all those who are judged before the great white throne.

3. We will conduct a more in-depth study on all the “books” mentioned in Revelation in Lesson 24. For now, simply re-read vv.11-13 and determine how many books you think there are based solely on what you read in this passage.

VI. A CLOSER LOOK (Death & Hades into the Lake of Fire)

1. Re-read Revelation 20:14-15.
2. Where are Death and Hades thrown?
3. List below all the people/entities that are now in the Lake of Fire. You will have to check back in previous chapters for a complete answer.

VII. WRAPPING IT UP

Revelation Chapter 20 contains a lot of information and we have barely scratched the surface. By the close of this lesson, you should have a fairly good idea of the “big picture” that’s being discussed in the chapter. In our next two lessons, we will continue our study of Revelation 20 by moving in much closer and examining the details of each individual topic.

As has been our practice throughout this study, we will add to what we learn in Revelation by researching what the rest of the Bible has to say. Using other scripture to flesh out the brief descriptions given in Chapter 20 enables us to achieve the level of understanding God intends for us to have.

LESSON 24

Revelation Chapter 20 (Part 2)

In last week's lesson, we "walked" through Chapter 20 to get a general idea or "overview" of its content. Then we moved in for a closer look—examining the content in a little more detail—but still at the "observation" level. Now we're ready to move even closer and interpret its meaning by cross-referencing scripture outside the book of Revelation.

There is so much crammed into this late chapter. It's almost as if, as the author nears the completion of his book, he realizes how much he has left to cover and—determined to get it all in—he steps up the tempo. Obviously, with more subject to cover, there's going to be considerably less detail. No matter to us, however—the rest of scripture contains all the detail we need to glean an accurate understanding of what Author God is wanting us to know. This is what makes *true* study of the Word of God so exciting. God never intended for us solely to pick up the Bible and get a quick-fix for whatever ails us at the moment. His grand purpose was to lay out before us a well-scripted manual of truth... with a context so skillfully interwoven that we would have to devote a life-time to its study. In this manner, God keeps us close by His side and dependent upon Him for wisdom and knowledge.

At this point in our study, we have worked through Revelation Chapter 20 several times—a quick overview, and then back again for a closer look at the paragraphs that make up the chapter. Now we want to go back through it one more time and this time look at the individual topics in a more in-depth study. We'll start this "super close-up" in this lesson and finish up with it in Lesson 25.

I. DIGGING DEEPER (History of Satan)

1. Although we looked briefly at the history of Satan in Revelation Part 1, let's review it now that we have the information Chapter 20 makes available to us. Read the following references and record a brief description of what the passage tells you about Satan.

- Ezekiel 28:11-19—

- Isaiah 14:13-14—

2. NOTE: If you cannot see the relevance of the above scriptures (this may be especially true for students who did not take Revelation Part 1), do not be concerned. We will cover this material in detail during our class time together.
3. Record below what you learn from vv.8-9 about Gog and Magog.

II. DIGGING DEEPER (The First Resurrection)

1. In last week's lesson, we determined that the "first resurrection" was defined in Revelation 20 as the event wherein tribulation martyrs receive their glorified bodies and begin to reign with Christ for the next 1000 years.
2. Read Daniel 12:1-2 and answer the following questions:
 - What time reference do you recognize that helps you place the specific timing of this passage?
 - What people does the phrase "your people" refer to in v.1?
 - List below the two resurrections that are mentioned in v.2.
 - Compare Daniel 12 passage to Revelation 20:4-6 and relate Daniel's resurrections with the resurrections mentioned in Revelation.
 - Based on what you learn from both passages, do you see how the Old Testament saints *might* be included in the number who participate in the "first resurrection" of Revelation Chapter 20?
3. What does Revelation 20:6 tell you about the blessings those who participate in the "first resurrection" will receive?
4. What do you think the "second death" is? [Read Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8 for additional insight. Also Revelation 14:9-11; Matthew 13:40-42.]

III. DIGGING DEEPER (Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years)

1. You marked the phrase “thousand years” in Lesson 23. Now re-read Revelation 20:1-7 in light of those markings and list the events of the passage on the appropriate side of the T-account below (depending on whether it happens at the beginning of the 1000-year period or at the end of the 1000-year period.)

@ Beginning	@ End
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. Read Revelation 20:4-6 again, reviewing who the two groups of v.4 are and what is going to happen to them. Based on this and what you read in Daniel 12:1-2 in II(2) above, list below ALL peoples who receive their glorified bodies at this time.
 - Revelation 20
 - Daniel 12
3. Think back to what we’ve learned in past lessons concerning the resurrection of believers. Who have already received their glorified bodies (according to 1 Thess 4:13-18 and 1 Cor 15:20-23)? It might be helpful for you to make a new list and include below everyone who now has a glorified body (i.e., has been a part of the “first resurrection.”) [Keep your answer in a simple form as possible.]
4. Recalling what you learned from the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Lesson 21), who will enter into the Millennial Reign and there’s no evidence of their receiving a glorified body?
5. According to Matthew 24:31, who else will reign during the Millennial Reign (but again there’s no evidence of their receiving a glorified body)?
6. Read the following scriptures and note from each what it tells you about that period in time when the saints will reign with Christ. [You cannot possibly list *everything* about this period; just list the plain things.]

- Isaiah 65:20-25

 - Joel 3:16-21

 - Amos 9:11-15

 - Zephaniah 3:12-20

 - Zechariah 14:8-11, 16-21
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. According to this passage, what is the purpose of the 1000-year reign on earth? [i.e., why isn't the "eternity" kingdom set up immediately upon Christ's return?]

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

What an exciting chapter Revelation 20 has turned out to be! It begins with an angel descending from heaven to bind Satan and cast him into the abyss... it ends a thousand years later with Satan's release and his last ditch effort to incite the nations to war against the King. In the intervening years, Christ sets up His kingdom on earth and reigns with His saints.

Next week, we will look at the events that occur at the end of this millennial reign on earth.

LESSON 25

Revelation Chapter 20 (Part 3)

Revelation 14 previews the seven bowls of God's judgment... Chapter 15 shows the seven angels being given seven bowls... Chapter 16, these seven angels pouring out their bowls and Babylon being destroyed. In Revelation Chapters 17 & 18, we're given details as to that destruction and then the saga of the seals, trumpets and bowls comes to an end. Immediately after the tribulation of those days (according to Matthew 24), the Son of Man comes on the clouds—we have an account of that coming in Revelation Chapter 19. Revelation Chapter 20 then takes us into the 1000-year reign that follows Christ's return and the events that occur at the end of this reign.

This is our third and concluding lesson on Revelation 20. We began two weeks ago by “walking” through the chapter to get the big picture of what's going on. In the second week, we dug in and examined what the rest of scripture has to say about what happens in the first half of the chapter. Now in this last lesson, we'll finish up our in-depth study of Chapter 20 with what happens at the end of the 1000-year reign.

I. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE OF JUDGMENT

1. Re-read Revelation 20:11-15.
2. What is the scene of this passage? (i.e., what is going on here and Who is doing it?)
3. Compare Revelation 20:11 with 21:1 and determine the timing of the event in the current text (20:11-15).
4. Re-read vv.11-15 and answer the following questions.
 - Who is being judged?
 - On what basis? [Be sure you give a complete answer... don't bail out too soon.]
 - What is their destiny?
5. Now read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:10-12 and answer the following questions.
 - Who will stand before the judgment seat of Christ?

- On what basis will he be judged?
 - Is there anything said about the ultimate destiny of this person in either of these two references?
 - According to 2 John 1:8, what is the possible outcome of this judgment?
6. At this point what do you see as the major differences between the “great white throne” of judgment of Revelation 20 and the “judgment seat of Christ” of Romans 14 and 2 Corinthians 5? Indicate by completing the chart below.

	Great White Throne	Judgment Seat of Christ
Who?		
On what basis?		
Outcome?		

7. Review what you learned in Lesson 21 about the Judgment of the Nations as depicted in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Answer the same three questions about this particular judgment: Who is being judged? On what basis? Outcome of the judgment?

II. THE BOOKS

1. The judgment of non-believers before the great white throne is made on the basis of information contained in “books.” Read the following references in Revelation to glean as much as you can about the different “books” referred to. Be sure to read enough context around each reference in order to know what is being said about the “book.” Write a concise description of each book after the reference.
- Revelation 3:5—
 - Revelation 13:8—
 - Revelation 17:8—
 - Revelation 20:12-15—
 - Revelation 21:27—

2. Look for similarities between the different books and determine which ones are the same. Draw an arrow between the references above to indicate “same” books.
3. Now re-read Revelation 20:11-15. Carefully observing the plural and singular uses of the noun “books,” determine what is the least number of books that can be involved?
4. Keeping that number in mind, make a list below of the different “books” you think are being described in all the Revelation passages.
5. Now read the following cross-references that give additional light on the “books” of Revelation. As you did in #1 above, write a concise description of each book after the reference. Then relate each book to the different books of Revelation.
 - Daniel 7:9-10—
 - Daniel 12:1-2—
 - Psalm 69:28—
 - Luke 10:20—
 - Philippians 4:3—
 - Hebrews 12:23—

III. THE LAKE OF FIRE

1. Revelation 20:14 tells us that death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. We will study this in more detail in class, but for now we want to determine from scripture the list of people who will be in the lake of fire.
2. Read the following references and indicate who will be there.
 - Revelation 20:14—
 - Revelation 20:10—
 - Revelation 19:20—
 - Matthew 5:22—
 - Matthew 25:41—
 - Luke 12:5—

IV. THE DAY OF THE LORD

1. One last assignment before we move on to Revelation Chapter 21—What is the day of the Lord... when did it begin... when does it end? We will answer these questions thoroughly in class but to prepare yourself for the teaching, read the following references and record what you learn about the day of the Lord from each. [As you read, mark every reference to “the day of the Lord” and any synonyms with the letters “DOL.”]

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12—

- Acts 2:15-21—

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11—

- 2 Peter 3:1-13—

2. Look over your notes for the above references and do your best to answer...

- When does it begin?

- When does it end?

V. WRAPPING IT UP

As Revelation Chapter 20 comes to an end, Antichrist and his false prophet are in the lake of fire... Satan also is there... as well as death and Hades and all those whose names were not written in the book of life. Evil has reached its ultimate destiny, only goodness remains, and the Lord our God reigns! The new has come, the old has passed away, the kingdom of “eternity” is beginning...

LESSON 26

Revelation Chapter 21

We began our study of Revelation many weeks ago with a picture of Jesus appearing to John and instructing him to write about (among other things) what would be happening during the “end times.” Obediently, John then—after recording his encounter with Jesus and writing the letter to the churches that Jesus dictates—begins writing down everything Jesus tells him about these future events. From the vantage point of the throne room of God, John watches as the Lamb breaks the seals one-by-one and reveals what is going to take place. John records what he sees (and we read about it) in Revelation Chapters 6-18.

The revelation concerning end times which God gives Jesus—who in turn gives it to John—is contained entirely within the scroll sealed with seven seals. This means that when the seventh seal is broken, the mystery of God is completely revealed. The seventh seal, however, contains seven trumpets... and then the seventh trumpet, in turn, contains the seven bowls. In effect then, the seventh and last seal contains all the judgments of the seven trumpets and the seven bowls. Since the Lamb is the only one worthy to break the seals, He is the one then who controls the unfolding of all that happens during end times.

The saga of the seals, trumpets and bowls is complete by the end of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation. Chapter 19 begins a new segment of the book that deals with what happens *after* the period of great tribulation... when Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom here on earth. During our study last week, we explored what happens during the thousand year reign on earth. This week, the subject of our study will be the events that take place at the end of this millennial reign.

I. OBSERVING THE BIG PICTURE

1. After sufficient prayer and asking God to reveal the truths of this chapter to you, begin by reading all of Chapter 21 in one sitting. As you read, look for and mark all the key words you've marked in previous chapters. (You should have these listed on an index card so you know exactly what to look for.)
2. Now read the chapter a second time and this time mark with its own distinctive symbol, highlight or underline color the following key words/phrases:
 - holy city, new Jerusalem, bride and related pronouns
 - God
 - Lamb
 - the phrase “coming down out of heaven from God”
3. What is the main object or entity talked about in Chapter 21? Accordingly, create a title for the chapter and record it in the space provided at the beginning of the Chapter 21 WordSheet. List the key verse(s) that helped you come up with your chapter title.
4. Record in the upper right hand corner of the WordSheet for Chapter 21 *where* the action is taking place.

5. When do the events of Chapter 21 happen in relation to the rest of the book of Revelation?
6. On the chart, “Revelation Time Line of Seals, Trumpets, & Bowls” (from Revelation Part 1), record the events of Revelation chapters 13, 17, 19-21 on the appropriate line. The events should include the following:
 - 2nd coming
 - beast and 10 kings wage war
 - battle of Armageddon
 - beast/false prophet thrown into lake of fire
 - rest killed with a sword from His mouth
 - Satan bound 1000 years
 - saints reign 1000 years
 - Satan released
 - battle of Gog and Magog
 - Satan thrown into lake of fire
 - great white throne of judgment
 - new heaven/new earth/new Jerusalem

II. DIGGING DEEPER (New Heaven & New Earth)

1. It’s important to discern the difference between this *present* earth/heaven/Jerusalem and the *new* earth/heaven/Jerusalem. The chapter doesn’t give any explicit information about the “present,” but by analyzing what it tells us about the “new” we are keenly aware of the vast contrast between the two. Use the T-account below to record everything you learn about the new Jerusalem.

What Won't Be There	What Will Be There

2. Review the list you made in #1 above and think about what the author must be saying about this present earth if he describes the new Jerusalem in this manner. Consider whether you agree with his evaluation and record your insights below.

3. Now read Revelation 21:1 again, this time with Revelation 20:11. Does it sound to you like the author is telling us that this present earth is “renewed” or is it completely destroyed and replaced with a totally new and different earth? In determining your position on this, consider also the following scripture:
 - Matthew 24:35—
 - Mark 13:31—
 - Luke 16:17, 21:33—
 - 2 Peter 3:10—

III. DIGGING DEEPER (No Temple in New Jerusalem)

1. According to Revelation 21:22, what interesting fact do we learn about the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God?

2. What reason does that same verse give for there not being a temple in new Jerusalem?

3. [Optional] If you have Greek word study tools, look up the two Greek words translated “tabernacle” and “dwell” in v.3. What do these words have in common?

4. How does the meaning of these two words relate to the description of the temple in v.22?

5. Think back to what you know about the tabernacle in the wilderness during Moses' day and the temple in Jerusalem from Solomon's day until 70 A.D. What was the purpose then? Why is there no need for a temple throughout eternity?

IV. DIGGING DEEPER (The Nations of the New Earth)

1. According to v.23, what will illumine the new Jerusalem throughout eternity?
2. Because of this illumination, who will be able to walk?
3. Who are the nations and kings of the earth in this passage? [Are they saved or unsaved? Jew or Gentile? Are they inside or outside the new Jerusalem?]
4. What do the kings of the earth do with their glory and honor?
5. What similarities (or contrasts) do you see between the action of the kings of the earth here in Chapter 21 and the corresponding action of the kings of the earth in Chapter 18?

V. WRAPPING IT UP

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "...if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." As we conclude our study of Revelation 21, we see that this same promise applies to the world as a whole... and to heaven and to the holy city Jerusalem! Have no doubt about it, for everyone who is in Christ there is a day coming when there will be a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem—not a remake of the old, but an entirely new creation! This is the promise of God according to the Word of God.

The glory of the new Jerusalem that is to come down out of heaven from God is beyond our ability to comprehend. This is the ultimate provision of a loving God—a restoration of the original perfection He desired for all mankind from the very beginning. What a blessing it will be for those who love Him to spend eternity in the presence of Him who loves us all and to be eternally separated from the presence of sin!

- any phrases indicating “time sequence” of events
3. Read the entire chapter a third time. As you start your reading, mark the “he” in v.1 with its own symbol or color. Then as you read through the chapter, continue to mark every “he” (or synonym) referring to this same entity.
 4. After you have finished reading and marking as indicated in #3 above, ask yourself *who* the “he” of v.1 is. Record your answer.
 5. Now use this same marking and go back to Chapter 21 and mark every reference to the same entity mentioned in that chapter. Add any additional information you glean about this entity to your answer to #4 above.
 6. Draw a bracket around the blessing in Chapter 22 and write “A blessing” in the margin beside it. Then draw a bracket around the curse and write “A curse” in the margin beside it.
 7. Now we need to determine *where* this scene takes place. Our clue is found in v.2 where it reads, “...in the middle of its street.” To what does the word “its” refer? [HINT: You may have to follow it back into previous chapters as we did to determine the “he” in v.1 (#4 & #5 above.) This is an important study tool you can use on your own to help you interpret the Bible more accurately.] After you have determined what the “it” refers to in v.2, record this in the upper right hand corner of the Revelation 22 WordSheet.
 8. Check the answer you just wrote down in #7 against the context of Revelation 22:1 and ask yourself if it makes sense.
 9. What seems to be the *main thing* Chapter 22 is talking about? Record this after “Chapter Theme” at the top of the WordSheet for Chapter 22. Record also the key verse(s) that back up your determination.
 10. Read Revelation Chapter 1 (that’s right, Chapter **One**) again and compare with Chapter 22. Mark in a way that you can easily identify the similarities and “repeats” you find in Chapter 22. [Mark them in Chapter 22 as that is the chapter we’ll be discussing.]

II. DIGGING DEEPER (Tree of Life, Water of Life)

1. In v.1, what do we see coming from the throne of God (and of the Lamb)?
 - Where does the river flow?
 - What’s on either side of that street?

2. During your observation of Chapter 22, you marked the term “tree of life” with a distinctive symbol, highlight or underline color. Locate these now and list below everything you learn from Revelation 22 about the tree of life.

3. What do you learn about the tree of life from the following scripture:

- Genesis 2:9—
- Genesis 3:22-24—
- Revelation 2:7—

III. HEALING OF THE NATIONS

1. According to v.2, what is the purpose of the leaves of the tree of life?

2. Although you may not be able to come up with a definitive answer at this point, think about who the “nations” (v.2) might be and record your thoughts below. You might also refer to what is said about the “nations” in relation to the new heavens in 21:22-27, as well as the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46).

3. Review Lesson 24, III(1-4), as it relates to those who don’t have glorified (resurrected) bodies. How might this shed light on the need for a “tree of life” in the New Heaven... a tree whose leaves the nations will use for “healing”?

IV. REWARDS RENDERED ACCORDING TO DEEDS

1. Re-read Revelation 22:7, 12. In the space provided below, record what you think these two verses mean.

2. According to vv.1-5, John has been looking at a vision of the New Jerusalem. How do you see the timing of v.7 in relation to the verses that precede it and those that follow? Answer the same question for v.12.

3. According to this chapter, when does Jesus distribute rewards to Christians according to the work they have done?

4. Compare this with what you studied about the Great White Throne of Judgment in Lessons 23 & 25 (Revelation 20:11-13). Record everything you know about the GWT of Judgment in the appropriate column below.

GWT of Judgment	Judgment Seat of Christ

5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Romans 14:7-12, and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Record everything you learn about the Judgment Seat of Christ in the appropriate column above. Do these two events appear to be different events? Why or why not?

6. If Jesus is bringing His rewards with Him (as stated in Rev 22:12), to whom would He be giving rewards? When would He give rewards to the Church and to those believers who were martyred during the Great Tribulation? State your rationale for this position.

7. One of the most difficult verses to understand in all scripture is Revelation 22:11. Read this verse several times and without consulting any footnotes or other commentary, write down what you think the verse means.

V. THE SEVEN BEATITUDES OF REVELATION

1. We are familiar with what is commonly called “The Beatitudes” that Jesus presents at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. In order to refresh your memory, read Matthew 5:3-11 now.
2. The book of Revelation also presents a list of “beatitudes” or blessings for us. Look up the following references and jot down the specific blessing that’s stated in each.
 - Rev 1:3—
 - Rev 14:13—
 - Rev 16:15—
 - Rev 19:9—
 - Rev 20:6—
 - Rev 22:7—
 - Rev 22:14—
3. What would you say is the common theme of the “beatitudes” of Revelation?
4. Looking at the 7th and last beatitude that’s given in Revelation 22:14, what does the phrase “those who wash their robes” mean to you? If you have access to a King James Version (KJV) or the New King James (NKJV), look up the same verse and note any differences. What do you think the KJV is trying to say? Which translation do you prefer and why?

VI. INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

1. What is the timing of vv.16-21? Are these verses a part of the vision John has been shown or are they directed towards the reader of John's day? What's the clue?
2. What is the invitation that's given in these verses? To whom is it given?
3. What is the warning in vv.18-19? Compare this with the blessing in v.7.

VII. WRAPPING IT UP

And there we have it. God has closed the book on the final chapter. The story of His people is complete.

Beginning with the selection of Abraham, the subsequent building of a nation through his seed, the Bible tells the story of how God's chosen people turn away from His love, repent and return, only to turn away again—a cycle that's repeated over and over throughout scripture.

The Forgiveness of our Lord, however, is eternally faithful. Whenever His people repent and call upon His name, He is there... because that is His promise—forever and ever. So when God's people the Jews reject Messiah when He comes, we can be confident that the day is coming when they will repent and call upon His name and He will be there.

The book of Revelation has brought us full circle. God has brought His people back to where they belong... with Him, with Christ, in the new heaven and the new earth and the new Jerusalem. Forever.

LESSON 28

The objective in this lesson is “Review”—nothing new for you to tackle and digest, just putting everything you already know into one simple package so you’re able to use it again and again. As you work through the assignment, you will walk through the book of Revelation chapter by chapter. You’ll create a time line that records each event as it relates to another. At the end, you’ll be able to tell the story in your own words as if you were telling it to a friend who has never read the book before.

Not to make light of the complexity of this book, but right up front we need to debunk the myth that many good teachers and preachers hold to... that Revelation is “too controversial and too difficult” for the lay person to understand. Difficult, yes. Too difficult, absolutely not! God wrote this book and called it the Revelation of Jesus Christ for a reason (Rev 1:1.) The Greek word translated “Revelation” creates the picture of “taking the cover off” and gives the idea of an “unveiling” (as of a mystery.) The point is this—God is unveiling the mystery of the ages to come. He gives this “unveiling” to Jesus for Jesus to show to His bond-servants. Obviously then, God has in mind that we the bond-servants should be able to understand and that means the “revelation” *is* understandable. Myth debunked!

During this last assignment, you will again be reading through the entire book of Revelation. You need to allow enough time to accomplish this at a leisurely pace. The benefit you gain is largely derived from the process so the more time you devote to study the better your understanding will be. From the beginning we’ve said, the key to understanding is diligence and patience.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE “UNVEILING” BY CHRIST

1. Read Revelation Chapter 1 and record below the author’s purpose in writing this book as intimated in the first two verses.
2. In v.19, Jesus instructs John to write about three specific subjects. Record these in the space below and after each, give the chapter numbers that deal with each.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Write a concise statement describing the action that takes place in Chapter 1. [HINT: How does John receive his instructions?]
4. Read Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. Write a concise statement to describe what the two chapters are about.

5. In the Appendix Section of your workbook you will find a four-page chart entitled “Revelation in Review.” You will be using this chart for the completion of this lesson. Take out the four pages at this time and follow the instructions in the right margin to assemble into one continuous form.
6. There has been much debate over the years concerning the status of the Church during the period described in the chapters that follow Revelation 1-3. The position of this study is that the church is caught up into heaven with Jesus *prior* to the beginning of Chapter 4. Read about this in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and record in the box for 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 in the upper left-hand corner of the chart “Revelation in Review.”
7. In Revelation Chapter 4, the scene switches dramatically from Chapter 1—when Jesus appeared to John on the island called Patmos. Read Revelation 4 and determine where the action now is taking place. Then describe the complete scene in the space provided below.
8. On the chart “Revelation in Review” locate the box for Revelation 4:9-11 and record the main thought of what happens. [You don’t have much space within the box!]
7. Now read Revelation 5 and answer the following questions:
 - What is in the hand of Him who sat on the throne?
 - Why is John weeping?
 - Who is worthy to open the book and its seven seals? Why is He worthy?
 - On the chart “Revelation in Review” locate the box for Revelation 5:5 and enter what the verse says.
 - What happens when the Lamb takes the book from the hand of Him who sat on the throne?

II. LAMB BREAKS THE SEVEN SEALS (Rev 6—8:1)

1. In Revelation Chapter 6 through Chapter 18, we the bond-servants of Christ are privy to the contents of the book that’s in the hand of Him who sat on the throne. As the Lamb breaks each of the seven seals, we see the plan of God unfolding before us.

When the seventh seal is broken, we hear the sounding of seven trumpets and witness the second phase of God's wrath. Then, at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, seven angels receive seven bowls full of the final wrath of God. These bowls are systematically poured out one after the other.

2. Read through Revelation Chapter 6 and, using columns 1-6 under "Seals" on page 1, record the events of each of the seals that are mentioned in Chapter 6.
3. Locate the box for Revelation 6:16-17 at the bottom of the 6th Seal. There are many things that happen at the breaking of the 6th Seal, but of particular importance is the time phrase we read in v.17. Record this time-phrase in the box.
4. Revelation Chapter 7 is an "interlude" chapter—in other words, the telling of the story about the seals, trumpets, and bowls is temporarily suspended and we are told instead about other events that are going on at the same time.
 - Read Revelation 7:1-8 and determine what the passage is about. Record your findings in the box for Revelation 7:4 (upper left-hand corner of page 2, "Revelation in Review".)
 - Now read Revelation 7:9-17. What is the principal subject discussed in this passage? Record in that same box after the notation, "Revelation 7:9, 14."
5. Read Revelation 8:1-2 and record what you learn in the column for the 7th Seal (page 2, "Revelation in Review".) Now we see that all seven seals have been broken and out of that 7th Seal, seven angels being to sound their seven trumpets.

III. SEVEN ANGELS SOUND SEVEN TRUMPETS (Rev 8—13)

1. Read Revelation Chapters 8-13. This section covers the sounding of the seven trumpets that come out of the breaking of the 7th Seal.
2. Chapter 8 records the breaking of the 7th Seal and the first four trumpets. You have already recorded the 7th Seal on your chart. After you have read the chapters, record the information about Trumpets 1-4 in the columns provided on page 2 of the chart.
3. Chapter 9 tells about the sounding of the 5th and 6th Trumpets. Additional "names" are given to each of these trumpets. After you have recorded the description of the 5th and 6th Trumpets in their respective columns, record their additional "names" on the lines directly beneath the column headings "5" and "6."
4. At the bottom of the column for the 6th Trumpet, there is a box for Revelation 10:1-11. In it, record a succinct statement to summarize the action that takes place in Chapter 10.
5. Revelation Chapter 11 deals with the two witnesses God commissioned to spread the gospel during the time leading up to the 7th Trumpet. On the chart "Revelation in Review" there is a thin line that runs directly beneath the main time-line (that thicker black line that runs from margin to margin). The thin line begins at a point near the

end of the 6th Trumpet and, running to the left, ends in the notation “???” Label this line with the information you glean from Revelation 11:3.

6. Locate the box “Revelation 11:7, 12-14” above the column for the 6th Trumpet. Record what you learn about the two witnesses from these verses.
7. In 11:14 the 7th Trumpet is also given another “name.” Record its “other name” on the line directly beneath the column heading “7.”
8. What happens in Revelation 11:19? Record this information in the box at the upper left-hand corner of page 3 “Revelation in Review.”
9. A lot of things happen around and during the time of the 7th Trumpet and it’s important that we are able to recognize every reference to the sounding of this trumpet. Use the following scripture to fill in the shaded boxes under “The Trumpet Defined” on page 3. All these phrases are just another way of referring to the 7th Trumpet.
 - Revelation 10:7
 - Revelation 11:14-15
 - Revelation 11:17
 - Revelation 11:18
 - Revelation 12:10
 - Revelation 14:7,15
10. Using the following scripture references, fill in the boxes that tell us about the events occurring at the time of the 7th Trumpet.
 - Revelation 13:4, 7
 - Revelation 12:6, 14
 - Revelation 13:5
 - Revelation 12:9 & 13:4, 7
 - Daniel 7:25
 - Daniel 9:27**b**
 - Daniel 11:36
 - Matthew 24:15
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 3-7

IV. SEVEN ANGELS POUR OUT SEVEN BOWLS (Rev 14-18)

1. Read Revelation Chapters 14-18.
2. Right beneath the seven shaded diamonds that represent the seven bowls of God’s wrath, there is a long thin line that’s labeled at the front-end, “Revelation 15:1.” Record what you learn from 15:1 on this line.
3. Write a description of each of the bowls and record in the appropriate column on pages 3 & 4 of your chart.

4. We read about the pouring out of the 7th Bowl upon the air in Revelation 16:17-21. Included in this description is a reference to the fall of Babylon.—an event that is referred to four other times in Revelation. Look up the following verses and record what they say about Babylon in the four boxes at the bottom of the column for the 7th Bowl.
 - Revelation 14:8
 - Revelation 17:1, 5
 - Revelation 18:2
 - Revelation 19:2

V. THE THOUSAND-YEAR REIGN (Rev 19-20)

1. Read Revelation Chapters 19-20.
2. Look again at the chart, “Revelation in Review.” The vertical dotted line at mid-point on page 4 represents the most important event in Revelation. Read Revelation 19:11 again, this time with and Matthew 24:30. and write the event in the oval near the top of that line.
3. At the second coming of Christ, a number of significant events occur. Read the following cross-references and record the events in the appropriate boxes.
 - Daniel 9:27d
 - Daniel 7:26
 - Daniel 12:1
 - Daniel 12:2
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:8
 - Revelation 19:20
 - Revelation 19:19 [to know the name of the place where they gathered, refer back to the pouring out of the 6th Bowl in Revelation 16:12-16]
4. In addition to the events you listed that happen at the return of Christ, two very significant things happen over the years that *follow* His return. Read Revelation 20:2 and Revelation 20:4-6 and record on the two lines that run from the time Christ returns to the end of the 1000 years.
5. Now look at Revelation 20:11-15 and record what happens in the oval at the end of the 1000 years.
6. After the 1000 years are complete and after Satan has been released from prison, he makes a last-ditch effort to deceive the nations into warring against the Christ, His people and His holy city.
 - According to Revelation 20:8, what is this event called? [Record in the appropriate box at the end of the 1000-year reign.]
 - According to v.10, what is the ultimate outcome for the devil who deceived them? [Record in the appropriate box.]

7. Finally, in Revelation 20:14-15 we see the final “casting into the lake of fire.” In the box for Revelation 20:14-15, record the names of these last two to be thrown in.

VI. ETERNITY (Rev 21-22)

1. Read Revelation Chapters 21-22, the last two chapters in Revelation.
2. In Revelation 15:1, we were told that in the pouring out of the seven bowls the fierce wrath of God would be finished. Then in Revelation 16:17—when we read about the pouring out of the last bowl—we learn that “It is done.”
3. This is the end. This is the climax of the ages. This is what we’ve been waiting for—a restoration of all that mankind lost when sin first entered the world through the first Adam. Revelation 21 and 22 lay out for us a description of the eternity that we will spend with God—an eternity that is ours because of what the second Adam did when He offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice in our stead. In the space provided below, list what you consider to be significant about the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem. [Relax... this is an “opinion” question! There can be no wrong answers.]
4. In the box for Revelation 21:6 (also stated or implied in Rev 15:1, 16:17), record God’s perspective on all the work accomplished throughout the whole drama of human history prior to the eternal state. [Your answer can be stated in three words.]
5. What is significant about the fact that there will be no temple in the new Jerusalem?

VII. WRAPPING IT UP

It’s been a long journey. Perhaps we still don’t have all the answers, but hopefully, we have established a foundation upon which we will continue to build as we study the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way of truth. Don’t waste the time you’ve invested, but enroll in another study of a book of the Bible. The Word of God is so interrelated that, no matter what book you choose to study, it will reinforce what you have learned this year in Revelation.

And in all that you do, be sure to put on “...the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” [Ephesians 6:7 (NASB)]