

Wednesday Night BIBLE CLASS

Brown Missionary Baptist Church

"Stretching our Minds"

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The Book of Revelation

BACKGROUND ISSUES

HISTORICAL FEATURES

- ⇒ Who wrote Revelation? *Author: John, apostle of Jesus; only one of John's writings in which he named himself; believed by early church.*
- ⇒ When was Revelation written? *probably about AD 95, near the end of the rule of Domitian (AD 81-96)*
- ⇒ Where was Revelation written from and to? *Patmos, an island 8 x 4 miles, 35 miles off shore from Asia. Seven cities in Asia all connected by the great Circular Road. Listed in postal order.*
- ⇒ Who was Revelation written for? *persecuted Christians, living in the seven cities, now also in a state of spiritual decline*
- ⇒ What prompted Revelation to be written?

Background

Domitian demanded worship as "Dominus et Deus" (Lord and God)

The Christians (who refused) were persecuted; some were martyred

Believers in Asia needed encouragement

Occasion

John, now aged, had been banished to Patmos

The exalted Jesus appeared to him and gave him four visions of the future

John was commanded to write the visions down and send them to the seven churches

LITERARY FEATURES

- ⇒ How does Revelation use the Old Testament?
- ⇒ Should Revelation be called an "epistle"?
- ⇒ Why is Revelation filled with colors, numbers, and sounds?

NUMBERS

- ⇒ Fractions: incompleteness
- ⇒ 4: the earth or world
- ⇒ 5: punishment

- ⇒ 6: evil
- ⇒ 7: God or heaven; the most prominent number
- ⇒ 10 and 12: completeness

COLORS

- ⇒ WHITE: purity
- ⇒ EMERALD GREEN: life
- ⇒ PALE GREEN: death
- ⇒ GOLD: value
- ⇒ RED: sin
- ⇒ BLACK: famine

THEOLOGICAL FEATURES

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION?

- ⇒ Jesus will return to earth as conquering King and righteous Judge
- ⇒ The evils of the world and the devil cannot overcome true commitment to Jesus
- ⇒ Christians must be faithful in the face of overwhelming evil

WHAT IS REVELATION'S CENTRAL THEME?

- ⇒ Jesus the Lord of history will return without fail to earth to bring history to its proper conclusion

WHAT IS THE KEY TEXT?

- ⇒ Revelation 1:7

WHAT IS THE KEY TERM?

- ⇒ Prophecy

WHAT MAJOR DOCTRINAL THEMES ARE DEVELOPED IN REVELATION?

- ⇒ The second coming of Christ; The sovereignty of God in history
- ⇒ The wrath of God against evil; The holiness and justice of God
- ⇒ The limited, but vicious power of evil;
- ⇒ The person of Christ; slaughtered Lamb and conquering King

WHAT MAJOR PRACTICAL THEMES ARE DEVELOPED IN REVELATION?

- ⇒ Importance of worship for believers; Reality of persecution for God's people
- ⇒ God's protection of His people; Need for lukewarm Christians to repent
- ⇒ Reality of final judgment for all humanity

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR APPROACHES FOR INTERPRETING REVELATION?

- ⇒ **Preterist:** events fulfilled in first century
- ⇒ **Historical:** Revelation sketches all history from AD 90s until Christ's return
- ⇒ **Symbolic:** general portrait of spiritual truths of good vs. evil
- ⇒ **Futurist:** everything from chapter 4 deals with events surrounding Christ's future return

OUTLINE

Four Visions ("in the Spirit")

- ⇒ Prologue (1:1-8)
- ⇒ 1. Jesus and his people between his two comings (1:9-3:22)
- ⇒ 2. Jesus and events surrounding his return (4:1-16:21)
- ⇒ 3. Jesus and the two rival cities (17:1-21:8)
- ⇒ 4. Jesus and his bride throughout eternity (21:9-22:5)
- ⇒ Epilogue (22:6-21)

THE PAST ~ GLORY OF CHRIST

THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN 1:1-20

Prologue 1:1-8

⇒ Introduction (1:1-3)

The Name of the book (1:1) *The Revelation of Jesus Christ.*

The author and the Author of the book (1:1-2). Jesus is the Author. John is the author.

Revelation is the Greek word from which the English word **Apocalypse** comes. It means “to uncover, or to reveal or to unveil)

The perspective of the book (1:1) **Heavenly** (II Peter 3:8)

The validity of the book (1:2) John wrote what he saw.

The benefit of the book. Blessings on those who read and heed (1:3)

The type of book. **Prophecy**. It is a “forth telling” of God’s will (**Direction**) and a “fore telling” of God’s will (**Prediction**).

⇒ Greetings and praise to Jesus (1:4-8)

Greetings from the author and the Author (1:4-5a)

Typical greeting: Author ~ Addressee ~ Greeting

Grace: “great privilege of the Christian age”

Peace: “great privilege of the Old Testament age” (Numbers 6:26)

The source of these blessings is the Trinity:

1. God, the Father (Exodus 3:14)
2. Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2)
3. Jesus: *faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, prince of the kings*

⇒ Praise to Jesus Christ (1:5b-6)

For His Amazing Love.

For His Amazing Grace.

For His Amazing Power.

⇒ Central theme announced (1:7-8) *Notice the contrast provided by this thesis statement*

First Coming	Second Coming
Humble beginnings	Glorious Return
Private, few saw	Public, all will see
Some pierced/rejected Him	Those who reject Him are judged
Rejoicing over His death	Mourning about His victory over them

Vision One ~ The Glorified Christ 1:9-18

⇒ Opening scene: Jesus among his churches (1:9-20)

John in tribulations

Brother by blood

Companion in tribulation

Subject of the kingdom

Patiently enduring

John in touch

In the Spirit

On the Lord’s Day (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2)

What do you get out of worship? Come steady! Come surrendered! Come seeking!

The Glorious Christ

His voice was like a trumpet. *Note the uses of the trumpet . . .*
His location was among seven golden candlesticks. The golden candlesticks represent **the seven churches** (v. 20) Relate this to Matthew 5:14.

His title “Son of Man”

This is the title most used by Jesus during His earthly reign.

*This title refers to the **Humanity** of Jesus.*

*This title also has a reference to Daniel 7:13-14 and thus alludes to the **Deity** of Jesus.*

His clothing represents His priestly role (See Ex. 28:4; 29:5)

His hair was like wool, as white as snow represents His wisdom and dignity (Proverbs 16:31; Leviticus 19:32)

His **omniscience**

His eyes were like a blazing fire and represented the penetrating sight of Jesus Christ. He sees all. (Hebrews 4:13; Psalms 139)

His **omnipresence**

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace and represented His judgment.

His **omnipotent**.

His voice like many waters is another symbol of His authority.

His right hand held the seven stars which are the pastors of the churches. *Consider the right hand . . . **place of favor (protection, pleasure, and power)***

His weapon is a long sword coming out of His mouth. What does imply about His “Words?” **Hebrews 4:12 ~ two-edged sword; Ephesians 6:17 ~ sword of Spirit is Word of God**

His face was radiant like the sun, representing the glory of His deity. **See Matthew 17**

The worshipful response to Christ (1:17)

Submission. *I fell at His feet.*

Stillness. *As dead.*

The comforting blessing of Christ (1:17-18)

His power over time.

His power over life.

His power over sin.

His power over death.

The command of Christ (1:18-19)

Write down the visions relating to the now and distant future.

THE PRESENT ~ GRACE IN THE CHURCH AGE

“The things which are . . .” (Revelation 1:19) ~ Chapters 2 – 3

⇒ Introduction

The method used to write the letters.

The form of other apostolic letters: (1) author and recipient named; (2) formal greeting; (3) prayer; (4) main message; and (5) formal conclusion.

The form of Jesus letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor

Characteristics of the sender

Compliment to the recipients

Criticisms against the recipients

Command to the recipients

Commitment to all who overcome

The message of the letters

The **contextual** message. The letters had special meaning for the hearers, those suffering saints living in the first century.

The **contemporary** message. The letters speak to church issues which we face today.

The mood of the letters.

Despite criticism contained in some of the letters, the overall temperament of these letters is one of **Grace**.

The church is the product of an **AWESOME GOD** who had **AMAZING GRACE** on those who were **ABSOLUTELY GUILTY**.

⇒ The Seven Churches

Ephesus ~ The Loveless Church (2:1-7)

How to test the validity of professing church leaders (Galatians 1:6-24)

The **Gospel** test. Examine their preaching content. Is it spelled **do, doing, or done**?

The **Grace** test. Examine their public and private conduct.

The **Glory** test. Examine their praise recipient.

Smyrna ~ The Persecuted Church (2:8-11)

The shortest of the seven letters. It received no criticism.

Pergamos ~ the Compromising Church (2:12-17)

How does the church of today compromise with immorality and idolatry?

Thyatira ~ the Corrupt Church (2:18-29)

This is the longest of the seven letters.

Sardis ~ the Dead Church (3:1-6)

Are you on the FF list? **The Faithful Few**

Philadelphia ~ the Faithful Church (3:7-13)

This church received no criticism.

Laodicea ~ the Lukewarm Church (3:14-22)

This church received no compliment.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Church	Commendation	Complaint	Correction	Judgment	Promise
Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rejecting evil • patience • labor • testing false 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lost their love for Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •remember •repent •do the first works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •removal of lampstand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •access to the Tree of Life
Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enduring suffering and poverty 	None	none	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the crown of life
Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faithfulness to Christ – even in the face of martyrdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tolerated immorality, idolatry, and heresies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sword of Christ’s mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hidden manna • a white stone • a new name
Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • love • service • faith • patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tolerance of Jezebel and her wickedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • casting of Jezebel’s consorts into the Great Tribulation and killing her children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rule over nations • possession of the morning star
Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • few who have remained faithful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deadness despite reputation for life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repent • strengthen what remains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approach of Christ Himself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clothed in white garments • permanent listing in the Book of Life • confession of name before the Father
Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faithfulness 	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open door • deliverance • permanent place • new name
Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indifference • over-estimate of status before God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repent • seek genuine spiritual riches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expulsion from the mouth of the Lord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing Christ’s throne

THE FUTURE ~ THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

In chapter 4, we receive a glimpse of the Glorious Throne Room of God. The admission to **look** is free. But the admission to **live** in the Lord's presence is costly – **saved and surrendered**. Get your ticket early! Make sure it has been stamped by the Blood of Jesus and it has the seal of the Holy Spirit.

THE RAPTURE

Dr. Adrian Rogers describes Revelation 4:1 as a parallel to the Rapture of the church. Compare I Thessalonians 4:15-17 and Revelation 4:1.

	I Thessalonians 4:15-17	Revelation 4:1
Sound	Trump of God	Trumpet
Invited	Saints – living and dead	John
Action	Caught up	Come up here
Reason	Be with the Lord	See things to come

Biblical support for the church **not** going through the Great Tribulation is Matthew 24:38-41.

BEHOLD THE THRONE

The Sight John saw *“A door was opened in heaven”*

This is not the only time the heavens have been opened.

For Ezekiel

Ezekiel 1:1

For Jesus

Matthew 3:16

For Stephen

Acts 7:6

For Peter

Acts 10:11

For our Conquering Lord

Revelation 19:11

The Sound John heard *“A voice like a trumpet”*

Remember the two uses of a trumpet: **War (Joshua 6:4)** **Worship (Lev. 25:9)**

The Spiritual Experience John had *“I was in the spirit”*

What other saint in the New Testament had a similar incident?

Paul recorded in **II Corinthians 12:1-4**

What was the difference in the two? **Paul couldn't tell what he saw but John could.**

The Sureness John could expect *“things which must be hereafter”*

The Sovereignty John witnessed *“and behold, a throne was set in heaven”*

Thrones symbolize **power** and **rule** and this throne refer to the sovereignty of God.

THE PERSON ON THE THRONE

His Splendor is indescribable.

John uses jasper and a sardine to describe the Lord. In Revelation 21:11 a jasper is described as **clear as crystal**. Some view jasper as a diamond. Sardine is perhaps like a ruby and is reddish in color.

Compare the stones listed on the High Priest breastplate in Exodus 28:15-21.
What is the first and last stone? **Sardius and Jasper**

Although this sight is indescribable, it reveals to us that God is great in **Grace** and that God is great in **Glory**.

His Covenant is eternal. *(Rainbow reminder: God keeps His covenant and Storm is over)*

There is a rainbow around the throne. The rainbow for Noah (Genesis 9:13-16) was a reminder of the covenant God was making with mankind. Now we see that the rainbow did not begin in **Earth** but in **Heaven**.

His Judgment is inescapable.

Notice what proceeds out of the throne in v. 5 **Flashes and Lightning**.

Read Exodus 20:18. This similar sight occurred when God gave His law. The lightning and the thunder helped to place **fear** in the hearts of the people and to remind them about the **holiness** of God.

THE PEOPLE BEFORE THE THRONE

Who are they? Let's examine the facts. They were sitting on "seats" (KJV). The word for "seat" is also the word for "throne." Read this verse out of the NIV. Why are they not angels? Nowhere in scripture do we find angels

- Seated on thrones
- Wearing crowns
- Singing (Revelation 5:8)

Therefore, we conclude that they are men and not angels. Their white garment is a symbol of their **consecration**. Their wearing crowns mean that they are **co-heirs** with Christ. Read II Timothy 4:8. Compare with Revelation 1:5-6. Saints are described as **Kings** with **Crowns**. It is believed by many that these twenty-four (24) is a representation of saints of all ages: Old Testament Saints (12) and New Testament Saints (12).

THE PRAISE UNTO THE THRONE

The Seven Lamps represent the **Holy Spirit** and has reference to seven pronged lamp which stood in the temple to cast light on the ark.

The Sea of Glass, resembling the large basin of the temple, represents **Word of God**.
Ephesians 5:25

The "beasts" can be best understood as **creatures**. Represented in these four are the lion (king of the untamed animals), the calf (the animal used for sacrifices), man (God's steward over His creation) and the eagle (king of the birds). In essence all of **creation** is called on to worship God. (Psalm 150). We are called on to give God glory (**praise**), honor (**value/high respect**) and thanks (**thanksgiving**)

WORSHIP: What do we learn from this chapter and from the Bible? Consider Psalm 5:7; Psalm 22:27-31; Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 66:1-4; Psalm 86:9-10; Psalm 95:1-7; Psalm 97:1-10; Psalm 99:4-5 **God has created us for worship.**

THE FUTURE ~ THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

THE SCROLL AND THE LAMB – CHAPTER 5

Chapters 4 and 5 serve as a prelude to the future events about to unfold in Revelation 6 – 22. Chapter 4 reveals the **Worship** of God. Chapter 5 reveals the **Wrath** of God. The **joy** of Chapter 4 is about to be replaced by the **judgment** of Chapter 5. The judgment of God is going to be ushered in by the Lamb who opens the scroll of judgment.

The Scroll

- The Scroll Detailed
 - Where was it located? **In God's right hand.**
 - How was it written upon? **On both sides (inside and outside)**
 - What was on the outside? **Seals**
- The Scroll Defined
 - The position of the scroll states that this is God's **plan** of judgment for the world and the fact that God has the **power** to carry out this plan.
 - The writing on both sides suggests the **multitude** of judgment awaiting this world.
 - The seals denote the **privacy** of the document which could only be opened by an **authorized** individual.
- Supportive Scriptures
 - Ezekiel 2:9-10, Exodus 32:15-16, Daniel 12:4
- A look ahead: Relation between Breaking the Seals, Opening the Scroll, and Looking at the Contents

First	Second	Third
Breaking the seals	Opening the scroll	Looking at the contents
John sees seals opened	John hears trumpets blown	John eats a little scroll
Revelation 6-7	Revelation 8-9	Revelation 10

The Search

- The search is made by a strong angel who is not named. Two other references are made about a “mighty” angel in Revelation 10:1; 18:21. One possibility is that this angel is **Gabriel** (Luke 1:19) but this cannot be verified.
- No one is found worthy! What three areas were searched? Who do these three areas represent?

The Sorrow of John

- Why is John saddened?
- Saints are not only looking for victory but also vindication. One day, God is going to **reward** the saint and take **revenge** on the sinner.

THE SCROLL AND THE LAMB – CHAPTER 5 (cont.)

The Lamb

- The Elders' view of Christ
 - As Lion of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9-10) Christ Jesus has **majesty** and **sovereignty** for He is KING!
 - As the Root of David (Isaiah 11:1, 10) Christ Jesus' connection with David denotes His **royalty**. The Jews long looked for one who would once again sit on the throne of David. Christ Jesus' identification with the root denotes His **divinity**. (See also Romans 15:12)
 - As the one who Prevailed. What has Christ overcome? Satan (the **source** of sin), Temptation (the **seduction** of sin) and Death (the **sentence** for sin) [Colossians 2:15; Luke 4; I Corinthians 15:20, 25-26)
- John's view of Christ
 - A Slaughtered Lamb
 - Malachi 1:14 **unblemished (II Cor. 5:21 – no sins)**
 - Exodus 12:5 **without blemish, male, tender, from flock**
 - I Peter 2:22 **no sin, no deceit in His mouth**
 - Leviticus 9:24 **consumed by fire ~ suffering**
 - Hebrews 9:20 **blood**
 - John 6:53-55 **eating of lamb**
 - Where did John first hear of this title of Christ? **John the Baptist**
 - Christ as a sacrifice
 - For Adam and Eve it was **one sacrifice for one person**
 - For the Passover, it was **one sacrifice for one family**
 - For the Day of Atonement, it was **one sacrifice for one nation**
 - In John 3:16, it was **one sacrifice for the world**
 - A Standing Lamb. *Christ Jesus is no longer dead.*
 - A Strong Lamb. *The seven horns symbolize the complete power of Christ Jesus.*
 - A Sighted Lamb. *The seven eyes symbolize His complete knowledge and wisdom. He sees all. How does He search? Through the Holy Spirit. (See I Corinthians 1:24)*
- The Actions of Christ (5:7) **Took the scroll**
- The Worship of Christ (5:8-14) *How does this prove that Jesus is God?*
 - Note the participants. As Dr. Easley points out notice as the “camera” of John's attention began to pull back.
 - Note the instruments. (Harps)
 - Note the prayers. (Psalm 141:2)
 - Note the praise. (Sang a new song.)

THE SEVEN SEALS OPENED

Chapter 6

- Introduction: What others has said about the Great Tribulation
 - Jesus ~ Matthew 24:21-22
 - It will be a **severe** time of judgment
 - It will be a **shortened** time of judgment
 - Jeremiah ~ Jeremiah 30:6-7
 - The focus will be on **Jerusalem**.
 - In spite of their **suffering** God will grant them **salvation**.
 - Daniel ~ Daniel 12:1
 - A time of trouble like no other time.
 - A time of triumph for those written in the Book of Life.
 - *In Revelation 6, John is now witnessing the events of the period of the Great Tribulation.*
 - There is a change in the scene from the **worship** of God to the **wrath** of God.
 - There is a change in the setting from **heaven** to **earth**.

➤ Overview of Six Seals

#	THE SEAL	SYMBOL	SIGNIFICENCE	REF.
1	Rider on white horse	Antichrist	False Peace	Matt. 24:5
2	Rider on red horse	War	Temporary Peace	Matt. 24:6-7
3	Rider on black horse	Famine	Bankrupted Peace	Matt. 24:7
4	Rider on pale horse	Death	Deadly Peace	Matt. 24:7
5	Slain souls under altar	Martyr	Delayed Peace	Matt. 24:9
6	World chaos	Disruption	Forsakened Peace	Luke 21:25-26

➤ Details of Six Seals

- As, the Lamb, **Jesus Christ** opens each seal, one of the four beast/creature summons a rider on a horse to come forth. The phrase “come and see” (KJV) is best translated as “come” and is spoken by the living creatures to the rider and horse. The four living creatures represent **all of creation**. There is a parallel vision of colored horses found in **Zechariah 6**.
- The First Seal ~ the Anti-Christ ~ Revelation 6:1-2
 - Notice the conquest of the rider
 - White horse symbolizes conquest.
 - The bow was also a symbol of military conquest (I Chronicle. 5:18; Psalm 18:34)
 - Even the crown is a symbol of victory.
 - Notice the counterfeit of the rider (*Many say that this is Christ because Christ is depicted as riding a white horse in Revelation 19:11. But a careful examination reveals just the opposite. This is really the **Antichrist**.)*
 - Why the look-a-like? (Matt. 24:5; John 5:43; II Corinthians 11:14)

- He has a bow but no arrows which say that his power and conquest will come through peaceful means. Our Lord's weapon is a sword proceeding out of His mouth (Revelation 19:15).
- The word for *crown* in Revelation 6:2 is *stephanos*, which means "the victor crown." The crown that Jesus Christ wears is *diadema*, "the kingly crown" (Rev. 19:12). Antichrist could never wear the diadem because it belongs only to the Son of God. This crown is given to Satan (Revelation 17:17)
- The Second Seal ~ War ~ Revelation 6:3-4
 - The international peace treaty drawn up by the Anti-Christ will not last long. (Matt. 24:6-7).
 - Red is a color associated with terror and carnage. In Revelation we have:
 - red horse of war (6:3-4), the red dragon (12:3), and the red beast (17:3).
 - Note that God gives Antichrist authority to take peace from the earth; this is all a part of the divine plan. Antichrist exchanges his arrowless bow for a great sword, and men begin to kill each other. The word for sword is not the large two-edged sword but the dagger used in hand-to-hand combat.
 - This indicates clearly that methods of international agreement and diplomacy will not bring lasting peace.
- The Third Seal ~ Famine ~ Revelation 6:5-6
 - Famine and war often go together; see Matt. 24:7. The color black makes one think of famine; see Jer. 14:1-2 and Lam. 5:10.
 - The rider (still Antichrist) holds a pair of balances, indicating that his government has established control of food. "To eat bread by weight" is a Jewish phrase indicating that food is scarce (Lev. 26:26). A penny (denarius) a day was a standard wage for laborers (Matt. 20:2) but, of course, it had much greater buying power than the common penny does today.
 - There is no scarcity of oil and wine for the rich. The rich get richer and enjoy their luxuries, while the poor get poorer and can hardly get enough to eat. It is worth noting that grain, oil, and wine were the key products of Israel (Hosea 2:8). Since Antichrist has made his covenant with Israel, he would want to protect its resources.
- The Fourth Seal ~ Death ~ Revelation 6:7-8
 - The word "pale" suggests a leprous color (Lev. 13:49, "greenish").
 - Death rides this horse, and "Hades" rides with him. Death claims the body, Hades the soul.
 - God gives them authority to kill one-fourth of the earth's population!
 - Four methods are used:
 - the sword (violence and war);
 - hunger (famine);

- death, or pestilence (disease accompanies war and famine);
- and beasts (nature takes over when civilization falls apart). Read Ezek. 14:21 for a parallel. See also Matt. 24:7.
- The Fifth Seal ~ The Martyrs ~ Revelation 6:9–11
 - The Greek word *martus*, which gives us our English word *martyr*, simply means “a witness”
 - The OT priest poured the blood of the sacrifice under the brazen altar (Lev. 4:7); and since the blood speaks of the life (or soul, Lev. 17:11), we witness here the souls of the martyrs under the heavenly altar.
 - In this age saints are told to pray for those who persecute them, and this is what Christ, Stephen, and Paul did (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60; 2 Tim. 4:16). But the time will come when God will avenge those who have died for the faith.
- The Sixth Seal ~ World Chaos ~ Revelation 6:12–17
 - This passage parallels Luke 21:25–26; see also Joel 2:30–31, 3:15 and Isaiah 13:9–10, 34:2–4.
 - Three earthquakes are mentioned in Revelation (6:12; 11:13; 16:18–19).
 - The Sixth Seal produces an upset in nature and an uproar in man as people attempt to flee from the wrath of God. *Ponder this question: What has been your direction in relation to God? Are you walking **with** Him or running **from** Him?*

THE SEVEN SEALS OPENED CONT.

Chapter 7 ~ A Pause in the Midst of Judgment

Overview of Seven Seals by John MacArthur. Each of the scroll’s seven seals (cf. 5:1) represents a specific divine judgment that will be poured out sequentially on the earth. The seals encompass the entire period of the Tribulation (3:10), culminating with the return of Christ. It seems best to understand the first four seals as taking place during the first half of the Tribulation, the fifth stretching from the first into the second half, (called the “great tribulation” in 7:14 and lasting three and one-half years; 11:2; 12:6; 13:5) and the sixth and seventh taking place during that “great tribulation.” Apparently the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments (8:1–11:19) and the seventh trumpet (11:15) contains the seven bowl judgments (16:1–21). The seven seals thus contain all the judgments to the end when Jesus Christ returns.¹

- The Pause Granted ~ Revelation 7:1-3
 - Wind in the Bible is a symbol of judgment. (See Proverbs 1:27; Daniel 7:2)
 - Four angels hold back the pending judgment of God.
 - A fifth angel comes from the east which is the direction of the sun-rising and speaks of the blessings he brings.

¹MacArthur, J. (1999). *Revelation 1-11* (Re 6:3). Chicago: Moody Press.
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- A seal denotes both **ownership** and **protection**. (John 6:27; Ephesians 1:13)
This answers the question of Revelation 6:17 that only those divinely protected will be able to stand.
- The People
 - The **SERVANTS OF GOD SEALED** ~ Revelation 7:3-8
 - The first group is **Jews** by birth.
 - They are identified as servants and this speaks of their **salvation** and their **service** to Almighty God. (See Isaiah 60:1-3)
 - What are the peculiarities about the listing of the twelve tribes?
 - The **SAINTS AROUND GOD** ~ Revelation 7:9-17
 - This number represents the multitude that will be saved during the Tribulation.
 - Will individuals who have heard and rejected the gospel receive a “second chance” during the Tribulation? (Read II Thessalonians 1:7-9, 2:11-12)
 - The saints have been redeemed which is evidenced by their white robes and palms which symbolize **celebration, deliverance, and joy**.
 - The saints are **rejoicing** around the throne.
- The Persecution Endured
 - Tribulation saints will pay a great cost for choosing Christ ~ their very life.
 - What form of capital punishment will be re-introduced? (Read Revelation 20:4)
 - What physical mistreatment will they undergo?
 - How do we know that they paid the ultimate sacrifice?
- The Privilege Enjoyed
 - They are before the throne of God.
 - They serve God day and night
- The Provisions Given
 - God sustains them.
 - God shields them.
 - God satisfies them.

THE SEVENTH SEAL – THE TRUMPETS
Chapters 8 – 9

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

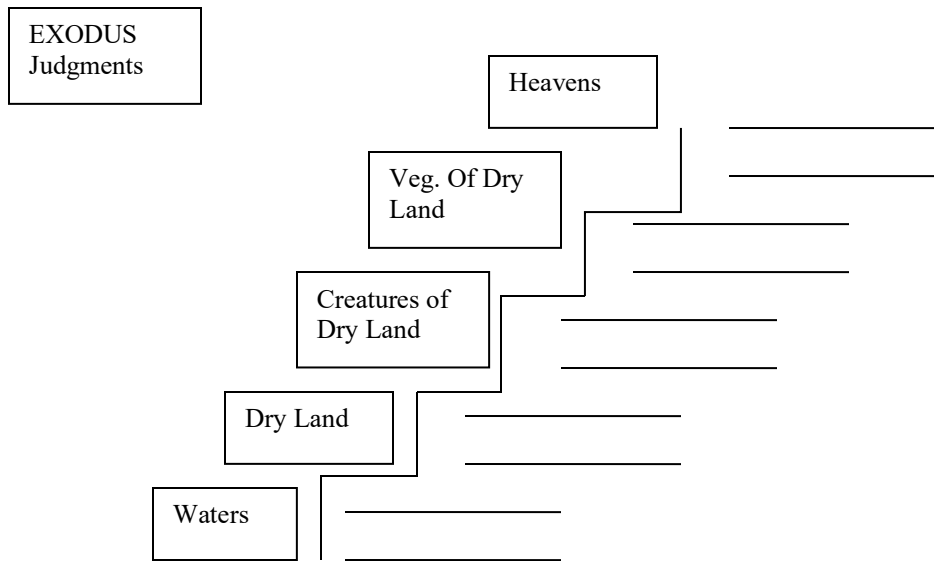
- The numbers, three (3) and seven (7), are numbers of **completion**. God reveals His final plan and judgment with three sevens.
 - The Seven Seals
 - The Seven Trumpets
 - The Seven Bowls
 - These judgments are **sequential**. The seventh seal “contains” the seven trumpets. The seventh trumpet (Revelation 10:7, 11:15-17) “contains” the seven bowls (Revelation 15:1, 16:1).
- **Day of the Lord**
 - It is a day when the **wrath** of God will be poured out (Amos 5:18-20)
 - It is a day when the **will** of God will be completed (II Peter 3:10-13)
 - It is a day when the **worship** of God will begin for eternity (Revelation 21)
- **Perspective ~ Genesis to Revelation**

- A Summary of Creation

Genesis	Exodus	Revelation
1:6, 10, 14	20:4, 11	5:13, 10:5, 6
<u>Heavens</u>	<u>Heavens</u>	<u>Heavens</u>
<u>Waters</u>	<u>Waters</u>	<u>Waters/Sea</u>
<u>Earth</u>	<u>Earth</u>	<u>Earth</u>

- A Summary of Judgment
 - Revelation

<i>The Trumpets</i>	<i>The Judgment</i>	<i>The Bowls</i>
1. 8:1–7	The earth	16:1–2
2. 8:8–9	The sea	16:3
3. 8:10–11	The rivers	16:4–7
4. 8:12–13	The heavens	16:8–9
5. 9:1–2	Mankind—torment	16:10–11
6. 9:13–21	An army	16:12–16
7. 11:15–19	Angry nations	16:17–21



▪ A Summary of Re-Creation

<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Revelation</i>
Heavens and earth created, 1:1	New heavens and earth, 21:1
Sun created, 1:16	No need of the sun 21:23
The night established, 1:5	No night there, 22:5
The seas created, 1:10	No more seas, 21:1
The curse announced, 3:14–17	No more curse, 22:3
Death enters history, 3:19	No more death, 21:4
Man driven from the tree, 3:24	Man restored to paradise, 22:14
Sorrow and pain begin, 3:17	No more tears or pain, 21:4

➤ **SILENCE** ~ Revelation 8:1

- Shouts of **Praise** are replaced with a **Pause of Silence**.
- There are times when silence before God is fitting.
 - In the **Praise** of God (Habakkuk 2:20)
 - In the **Presence** of God (Zephaniah 1:7)
 - When the **Power** of God is displayed in judgment (Psalms 76:8-9)

➤ **SOUNDING** ~ Revelation 8:2

- **Seven** angels who stand before God receives **seven** trumpets
- **Angels**: their **Ranks** and their **Roles**.
 - **Cherubim** (Genesis 3:24); **Seraphim** (Isaiah 6:2), **Archangel** (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 9), thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities (Colossians 1:16), and **Powers** (Ephesians 6:12)

- Angels' primary role is **ministering** to the God's people (Hebrews 1:14). Jesus also made it clear that angels would play a great role in God's eschatological judgments (e.g., Matt. 13:39–41, 49–50; 16:27; 25:31)
 - According to Dr. K. Easley, Jewish and Christian tradition has held that there are seven archangels (Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqael, Gabriel and Remiel).
 - Trumpets
 - **Trumpets** are the most significant musical instruments in Scripture, being associated with many different events. In the Old Testament, trumpets were used to summon the congregation of Israel (Num. 10:2), to sound the alarm in time of war (Num. 10:9; 2 Chron. 13:12; Ezek. 33:3), at religious feasts (Num. 10:10; Ps. 81:3), to announce news (1 Sam. 13:3), to acclaim new kings (1 Kings 1:34, 39), and in worship (1 Chron. 16:6, 42; 2 Chron. 5:12–13). Zephaniah 1:14–16 associates trumpets with the Day of the Lord. The New Testament teaches that a trumpet will announce the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16) and this chapter associates them with the judgments of that Day (8:6ff.).²
 - This is not a trumpet for **making music** but **signaling** (I Corinthians 14:8)
- **SUPPLICATIONS ~ Revelation 8:3-5**
- The Angel
 - This angel's identity: Although this angel seemingly is in a **priestly** role, he is not **Jesus Christ**. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is never identified as an **angel**. In Revelation, Jesus Christ is clearly identified whenever He is mentioned (1:5, 13, 17, 18; 2:18; 3:7; 3:14; 5:5; 6:1, 16; 7:17; 8:1; 19:11, 13, 16). Further, the word for "another" in Greek is **allos** which means another of the same kind.
 - The angel's role is **presenting** the prayers to God and not **mediating** between man and God.
 - When **fire** from the golden altar is mixed with the prayers and hurled to the earth, it produces an array of **sight**, **sounds** and **shakings**. This is a **signal** for the angels to prepare to sound their trumpets. JUDGEMENT is coming.
 - The Prayers
 - The power of these prayers can be seen in the fact that it **rose** up, **reached** God and God **responded** to the prayers.
 - James 5:13-18 speaks to us about effective praying.
 - ⦿ Start praying for yourself (James 5:13)
 - ⦿ Sing about answered prayer (James 5:13)
 - ⦿ Seek others to pray for you (James 5:14)
 - ⦿ Ask in faith (James 5:15)
 - ⦿ Ask through forgiveness (James 5:15)

²MacArthur, J. (1999). *Revelation 1-11* (Re 8:2). Chicago: Moody Press.
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- ◉ Acknowledge Christ (James 5:15)
- ◉ Intercede for one another in prayer (James 5:16)
- ◉ You don't have to be a super Christian but you ought to be a sincere Christian (James 5:16)
- ◉ Keep on praying (James 5:16)
- ◉ Pray in accordance with will of God (James 5:17-18)

➤ **The First Four Trumpets Overview**

Trumpet	What	Where	Results	Comparison
Angel #1 (v.7)	Hail and fire mingled with blood	Earth	1/3 trees and all grass	Plague 7: hail
Angel #2 (vv.8-9)	Great mountain of fire	Sea	1/3 of sea	
Angel #3 (vv.10-11)	Burning star from heaven	Rivers	1/3 rivers	Plague 1: blood in fresh waters
Angel #4 (vv.12-13)	Sun smitten	Heavens	1/3 moon, stars darkened	Plague 9: darkness

➤ **The Purpose of the First Four Trumpets ~ Nature (Creation)**

- Man's **stewardship** over the creation was declared in the beginning (Genesis 2:28).
- Man's **sin** in the Garden of Eden affected creation (Genesis 3:17-19).
- Sin not only have brought **death** to man but **destruction** to creation (II Peter 3:10)
- Praise be to God who one day will give us a new body (II Corinthians 5:1-4) and a new heaven and a new earth (**Glorification**)
- Dry Land ~ Trumpets 1
- Waters ~ Trumpets 2, 3
- Heavens ~ Trumpets 4
- Notice the rotation: Dry Land (1), Waters (2,3), Heavens (4)
- The first four trumpets all deal directly with the **earth**. The trumpet judgments are **actual, literal, physical** events that will affect the whole earth. God will use nature to punish sinners in that day.
- The Trumpet Judgments are only **partial** judgments as noted by the repeated use of the word **third**.

➤ **The Power Behind these Trumpets ~ GOD through JESUS**

- According to Colossians 1:16 -17, Christ Jesus is the **creator** of all things and the **sustainer** of all things.
- By opening the Seven-Sealed Book, Christ Jesus unleashes the judgment of God upon this world and all therein.

➤ **The Punishment of these Trumpets**

- *The First Trumpet* is sounded and hail and fire mingled with blood fell upon the earth. Hail (cf. Ex. 9:13–25; Job 38:22–23; Ps. 105:32; Isa. 28:2; Hag. 2:17) and fire (cf. Gen. 19:24; Ps. 11:6; Ezek. 38:22) are associated with **Divine Judgment**. Immediately a third part of the trees and all green grass is destroyed. What other industries will this affect?
- *The Second Trumpet* is sounded and something “like” a burning mountain was cast into the sea (saltwater oceans). Again great destruction is poured out as 1/3 of sea creatures and 1/3 of ships are destroyed and the waters are polluted (became blood). What other industries will this affect?
- *The Third Trumpet* is sounded and a great star, called Wormwood, falls into the freshwater supply rendering them undrinkable. Wormwood is a bitter plant and in the Old Testament (Deut. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; 6:12) is associated with bitterness and punishment. With this trumpet, we find the first direct mention of this affecting *man*.
- *The Fourth Trumpet* is sounded and the sun, moon and stars are smitten and the result is darkness. (Isaiah 13:9–10; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Luke 21:25-28)

WOE! WOE! WOE!
You haven't seen anything yet!

Revelation 8:13 ~ Verse numbers are not **symbolic** and were not a part of the original manuscript. However, this is one **13** that is really **bad news**. KJV describes it as an angel but a better rendering is that of an **eagle**. The **sight** of this eagle will be visible. The **sound** of this eagle's voice will be audible. The **statement** of this eagle will be plain. The eagle's message is directed to the inhabitants of the earth.

Woe is used throughout Scripture, an expression of **judgment**, **destruction**, and **calamity** (cf. Num. 21:29; 1 Sam. 4:7–8; Job 10:15; Ps. 120:5; Eccl. 10:16; Isa. 3:9; Jer. 4:13; Lam. 5:16; Ezek. 13:3; Hos. 7:13; Amos 6:1; Mic. 2:1; Nah. 3:1; Hab. 2:6; Zeph. 2:5; Matt. 11:21; Jude 11).

- *The Fifth Trumpet* is sounded and a star is seen which had fallen from heaven.
 - Permission granted. (v.1) This star is best identified as **Satan** (cf. Job 38:7; Ezek. 28:12–16; Luke 10:18). His fall is also talked about in **Isaiah 14:12-19**.
 - Plan initiated. (v.2) Man has repeatedly rejected God's plan (Jeremiah 29:11) for Satan (II Corinthians 4:4). God is going to use the very thing man is craving for to punish him. Satan unleashes a host of the worst demons upon the earth. The bottomless pit is the place where they are presently being kept. (Luke 8:31; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:1)
 - Power unleashed. (v.3)
 - Notice these vile demons **traits**. As locusts they are *insatiable*. As scorpions they are *intolerable*. As horses they are *irresistible*. With crowns they are *invincible*. With a man's face they are *intelligent*. With the hair of a woman, they are *insidious*.
 - Notice these vile demons' **torments**. (vv.4-5) They are commanded not to harm the earth. What are possible reasons for

this limitation? They are prohibited from harming ***believers***. They are commanded to torment only the men who do not have the ***seal*** of ***God*** in their foreheads.

- Notice these vile demons' ***time***. (v.5) ***Five months*** is the normal life span of ***locusts***. These demons were limited in ***power*** and ***time***.
- Notice these vile demons' ***triumph***. (vv.8,11) They had a king over them. They were ***organized***. They had breastplates of iron and crowns (***stephanos***) on their head. They were ***unstoppable***.
- Pain unrelieved. (vv.6-11)
 - ***Torment*** describes punishment in Revelation (11:10; 14:10–11; 18:7, 10, 15; 20:10; the only exception is 12:2; “pain” is the same Greek word elsewhere translated “torment”).
 - This is not only a picture of ***punishment*** from God but also the ***patience*** of God. Why do you suppose?

Verse 12 – “More to Come”

- ***The Sixth Trumpet*** is sounded and four demonic angels are loosed from the Euphrates River. (Revelation 9:13-21)
- The Release of Demons. (9:13-16)
 - The Voice from the Altar cries out.
 - In the tabernacle and temple of the Old Testament, the altar was a place where ***incense*** was burnt (Exodus 30:1-10), symbolizing the peoples' ***prayers for mercy*** rising to God.
 - In John's vision the golden altar became an altar of ***imprecatory intercession***, as the martyred saints pleaded there with God for merciless ***vengeance*** on their murderers (6:9–11).
 - Then in 8:5 the altar became an ***altar of judgment***, as an angel took his and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth.”
 - The ***altar of mercy*** becomes the ***altar of judgment***. (Hebrews 10:28-31)
 - The ***identity*** of the four angels.
 - They are ***bound*** which indicates that they are demons (Jude 6) who have been ***judged*** by God in the past and has been kept in prison.
 - Read Daniel 10:13. What is taught in this verse concerning spiritual warfare?
 - The ***site*** of the four angels. The Great River Euphrates
 - The Euphrates flows more than seventeen-hundred miles before emptying into the Persian Gulf. It is the ***longest*** and ***most important*** river in the Middle East.

- It was one of the four rivers into which the river that flowed out of the Garden of Eden divided (Gen. 2:14).
- It was near the Euphrates that **sin** began, the **first lie** was told, the first **murder** was committed, and the tower of **Babel** was built.
- The region near the Euphrates was the central location of three world powers that oppressed Israel: **Babylon, Assyria, and Persia.**
- It was on the banks of the Euphrates that Israel endured seventy long, bitter, wearisome years of captivity (cf. Ps. 137:1-4).
- It is the river over which the enemies of God will cross to engage in the battle of Armageddon (16:12-16).
- The **size** of their army. Two hundred million (200,000,000)
- The **description** of the riders (9:17).
 - Breastplates of **fire, jacinth, and brimstone** represent these demonic beings will be **indestructible** and **protected**.
 - The **color of fire** is **red**; that of **hyacinth**, **dark blue** or **black like smoke**; that of **brimstone**, a sulfurous **yellow**, describing the rock which, when ignited, produces a burning flame and suffocating gas.
 - These colors are the colors of hell. (cf. 14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8)
- The **description of the horses** (9:17)
 - The horses are the actual **agents** of **destruction**.
 - Horses refer to their **warfare**.
 - Their power is in their **mouths, heads, and tails**.
- The Return of Death. (9:17-19)
 - The holiday of death (Revelation 9:5-6) is ended.
 - Their mission is kill **one-third** of mankind. (Revelation 9:15) Do the math 1/4 killed during the fourth seal + 1/3 killed now = **7/12 (over one-half)**.
 - They will kill with the **plagues** of **fire, smoke, and brimstone**. The word, plagues, is not found in the KJV but it is in the original text. The word **plagues** will appear frequently in the remainder of Revelation (11:6; 15:1, 6, 8; 16:9, 21; 18:4, 8; 21:9; 22:18) as a term for the destructive final judgments.

Their Response of Defiance. (9:20-21)

- The purpose of judgment is to bring **repentance**. (Amos 4:6-13)
- God's judgment is revealed in the **one-third that died** but His mercy is revealed in the **two-third that He spared**.

- They repented not of their sins.
 - The Sin of **Idolatry**. (Exodus 20:4, I John 5:21)
 - The Sin of **Murder**. (Exodus 20:13, I John 3:15)
 - The Sin of **Sorcery**. Interesting note: Sorcery comes from the Greek word (pharmakon) from which our English word, **pharmacy** comes. It means magic and it includes all kinds of **witchcraft, the use of drugs, or spells** used to gain control over one's life or the life of another.
 - The Sin of **Immorality**. This is the broad word, porneias, and it includes all kinds of immoral and sexual acts.
 - The Sin of **Theft**. (Exodus 20:15; I Peter 4:15) In our world, we like to **rank** sin as big and little. However, for God, all unrighteousness is sin (I John 5:17). God includes **stealing** among this list of gross sins. Is there dishonesty in your life?

THE SEVENTH SEAL – BLOWING THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Chapters 10 and 11 ~ Interlude and the Final Trumpet

➤ INTRODUCTION

- Between the sixth and seventh seal, chapter 7 provided a **pause/interlude**. Now between the sixth and seventh trumpet, we have another interlude, 10:1 to 11:14.

➤ An Unusual Angel

- The Identity of this Angel is unknown. There are two possibilities:
 - Some believe this Angel refers to **Jesus Christ**. According to Warren Wiersbe, “The symbols used here take us back to the description of the glorified Christ given in 1:12–16. The **cloud and rainbow** refer to 1:16; the **feet of fire** to 1:15; the **face as the sun** to 1:16. The **voice like the lion** certainly refers to 5:5; see also Hosea 11:10 and Joel 3:16.³
 - However, John MacArthur noted several factors argue identifying this as not Christ
 - First, the use of, **another**, which in the original language means of the same kind.
 - Second, whenever Jesus Christ appears in Revelation John gives Him an unmistakable title. He is called “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth” (1:5), the son of man (1:13), the first and the last (1:17), the living One (1:18), the Son of God (2:18), “He who is holy, who is true” (3:7), “the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God” (3:14), “the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David” (5:5), the Lamb (6:1, 16; 7:17; 8:1), Faithful and True (19:11), the Word of God (19:13), and “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords” (19:16)

³Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1997, c1992).

- Third, other strong angels, who clearly cannot be identified with Christ, appear in Revelation (5:2; 18:21). While the preincarnate Christ appeared in the Old Testament as the Angel of the Lord, the New Testament nowhere refers to Him as an angel.
- Fourth, it is inconceivable that Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, could make the oath that this angel makes in verses 5 and 6 (Hebrew 6:13)
- Finally, this angel came down out of heaven. Would this mean another coming of Christ?⁴
- Although, this Angel is left nameless, the description of his attire is clear. (10:1)
 - Clouds represent judgment.
 - Rainbow represents covenant.
 - Shining face represents splendor and majesty.
 - Fiery feet represents holiness.
 - The GLORY of our God is revealed in His HOLINESS as He honors His COVENANT and executes His JUDGMENTS.
- The Angel has in his hand, a little book. This contains the Words of God for the people (10:11)



- The Angel's Action (10:2-3)
 - By setting his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth and crying with a loud voice, he claims the earth for Christ (Joshua 1:3).
- The Angel's Announcement (10:4-7)
 - He swears by God that there will be no more delay.
 - The seventh trumpet will finish the mystery of God. (Romans 16:25-26)
- The eating of the little book (10:8-11)
 - John is commanded to take the book.
 - There had to be effort on John's part. We too must use our energy in the study of God's Word.
 - John is command to eat the book. To eat the book means to read and believe its contents. Compare this with Ezekiel 2:9-3:3.
 - What are the similarities?
 - Why does John experience sweetness and bitterness?
 - John is re-commissioned to proclaim the book.

⁴John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999).
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- The measuring of the temple (11:1-2)
 - Measuring can mean three possible things:
 - For Protection (Zechariah 2:1-5)
 - For Destruction (Lamentations 2:8; II Samuel 7:14)
 - For Ownership
 - John does not identify the reason for measuring this temple but these verses teach several truths:
 - The rebuilding of the temple. The Bible speaks about five (5) temples: Solomon built the first, Zerubbabel built the second after the exile, Herod built the third (during the time of Christ), and the Lord Himself will build the fifth during the Millennium (Ezek. 40–48; Hag. 2:9; Zech. 6:12–13). The temple John saw in this vision was the fourth temple, which will be built in Jerusalem during the Tribulation (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4), and, along with it, the Jewish sacrificial system will be restored (cf. Dan. 9:27; 12:11).⁵
 - God will make a distinction between those who are “within” and those who “without”.
- The ministry of the two Witnesses.
 - The identity of these witnesses are unknown but possibly **Elijah** and **Moses** because of their previous work (Luke 9:30; Matthew 17)
 - The number of these witnesses are **two** because the Bible requires the testimony of two people to confirm a fact or verify truth (Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Matt. 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28).
 - Their responsibility will be to **prophecy**. Prophecy in the New Testament does not necessarily refer to predicting the future. Its primary meaning is “to speak forth,” “to proclaim,” or “to preach.”
 - Their time of ministry is **forty-two** months which refer to the second half of the 7-year Tribulation.
 - Their attitude revealed in their clothing is one of **mourning**.
 - Olive tree and lampstands are pictures from Zechariah’s vision (chs 3-5), the rebuilding of the post-exilic temple by Joshua the high priest (Zech. 3:1–10), the religious leader, and Zerubbabel, the political leader.
 - Their power is from God (11:5-6)
 - Their death and resurrection (11:7-13)

⁵John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999).
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- *The Seventh Trumpet* is sounded and the triumph of Christ's kingdom is announced. (Revelation 11:15-19)
 - Introduction. Revelation 11:15-19 presents a summary of the **condemnation** of the world and the **coronation** of Christ. Although the trumpet sounds in Revelation 11:15, the judgments associated with the trumpet are not described until Revelation 15.
 - The Saints Rejoice. (Revelation 11:15-17)
 - This is the third of the heavenly praises. In 4:10–11, the twenty-four elders praised Him as **Creator**; in 5:8–10, they praised Him as **Redeemer**; and here, they praise Him as the **King and Judge**.
 - Rejoice is for the **transfer** of **title**. (v.15)
 - Who is presently in charge of the kingdom of this world? Read II Corinthians 4:4; Luke 4:5-8; Ephesians 2:2
 - Soon Christ will reign! (v.17) Notice, the attributes of God praised: His Omnipotence, His Eternity, and His Sovereignty.
 - Side note: pride has no place in worship.
 - Rejoice is for the **sentence** against the **sinners**. (v.18)
 - There will be no escape. (Isaiah 24:17-23)
 - Rejoice is for the **reward** for the **righteous**. (v.18)
 - Rewards will be personal. (I Corinthians 3:8)
 - Rewards will be for the slave preachers.
 - Rewards will be for the sanctified people.
 - The Sinners Rage. (Revelation 11:18a) Read Psalm 2:1-3; Acts 4:24-29
 - No repentance.
 - No remorse.
 - Only rejection.
 - Only revenge.
 - The Seat Revealed. (Revelation 11:19)
 - This speaks of fellowship with God.
 - This speaks of the faithfulness of God.
 - This speaks of the fury of God.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE TRIBULATION**Chapters 12 and 14 ~ The Seven Performers of the Tribulation****➤ INTRODUCTION**

- Seven performers/actors appear in chapters 12-13: (1) a woman clothed with the sun, representing **Israel** (12:1-2); (2) the red dragon with seven heads and 10 horns, representing **Satan** (12:3-4); (3) the male Child, representing **Christ** (12:5-6); (4) the archangel Michael, casting Satan out of heaven (12:7-12); (5) the offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17); (6) the beast out of the sea, representing the future **World Dictator** (13:2-10); (7) the beast out of the earth, representing the **False Prophet** (13:11-18). These chapters do not advance the narrative chronologically, but present events and situations that are concurrent with the soundings of the trumpets. Chronological progress of events resumes in chapter 16.
- Chapters 12–14 are a digression, taking readers back through the Tribulation to the point of the seventh trumpet by a different path. They describe the Tribulation not from God’s perspective, but from Satan’s. Chapters 4–11 focused on Christ’s taking back what is rightfully His by means of the seal and trumpet judgments. Chapters 12–14 focus on the ultimate human usurper, the final Antichrist, whose career spans the same time period as the seal and trumpet judgments.⁶
- The Woman. (Revelation 12:1-2)
 - The word, “wonder” in KJV is best rendered **sign**, which means this woman is a **symbol**.
 - Her identify is better understood by reading Genesis 37:9-11 and Isaiah 9:6.
- The Red Dragon. (Revelation 12:3-4)
 - Satan’s description. He has some power and is full of bloodshed and he is in control of the kingdoms of this world. (Daniel 7:7-8, 24; Revelation 13:1)
 - Satan’s deception. He deceived other angels to rebel with him. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19)
 - Satan’s desire. He has always wanted to destroy Jesus.
- The Man-Child. (Revelation 12:5-6)
 - This is clearly a reference to Christ. (Psalm 2:9-12)
 - His ascension is mentioned in verse 5.
 - Protection will be given to the nation of Israel according to verse 6.
- Michael, the archangel. (Revelation 12:7-12)
 - The place of war.
 - The prevailed of the war.
 - The power of the overcomers.
- Michael, the archangel. (Revelation 12:7-12) cont.

⁶John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999).
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- The place of war.
 - This war will take place in heaven where Satan still has access. (Job 1:6-7; Zechariah 3:1-2)
 - The time of this war points to the mid-point of the Seven-year Tribulation.
 - The description of Satan is detailed in verse 9. The great dragon refers to his strength. The old serpent refers to his schemes (John 8:44) of deception. The word devil refers to his slanders (I John 2:1). Satan refers to his struggles against God and the Lord's people. Satan never lets up (v. 10)
- The prevailed of the war.
 - Michael is the archangel whose job is to protect the nation of Israel. (Jude 9; Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1)
 - Pending victory of God and Christ is announced (v. 10).
 - Heaven rejoices but the inhabitants of the earth should brace themselves because of the fury of Satan.
- The power of the overcomers.
 - The blood of Christ. They have been forgiven.
 - The word of their testimony. They have been faithful.
 - Their commitment. They have been fearless.
- The offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon. (Revelation 12:6, 13-17)
 - The flight of Israel (v. 6)
 - The suffering of the remnant (v. 13)
 - The sparing of the remnant (vv. 14-16). (Zechariah 13:8-9; Exodus 19:4)
 - The sustaining of the remnant. (Matthew 24:15-16)
 - The faithful in Israel (v. 17)
 - They are known by their obedience.
 - They are known by their testimony.
- The beast out of the sea/the future world dictator/the Antichrist. (Revelation 13:1-10)
 - His person. (v. 1)
 - He is the political leader of the revived Roman Empire consisting of ten nations (Daniel 7:24)
 - He is also known as (1) the little horn, Dan. 7:8; (2) the prince that shall come, Dan. 9:26; (3) that man of sin, II Thess. 2:3; (4) the son of perdition, II Thess. 2:3; the antichrist, I John 2:18)
 - He rises from the sea which is reference to mankind (Revelation 17:15)
 - He has a blasphemous name.
 - His power. (v. 2)
 - His power comes from Satan (v. 2)
 - The seven heads possibly refers to the seven world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the Revived Roman Empire.
 - This power was offered to Christ but He refused (Matthew 4:8-10)

- Satan granted unto him his temporary throne.
- His praise. (vv. 3-4)
 - Satan has always desired worship (Isaiah 14:14)
 - Through the miraculous healing of the Antichrist, Satan and the Antichrist will be worshipped (v. 4)
- His profanity. (vv. 5-6)
 - He blasphemes God, the name of God, the house of God and the people of God.
- His persecution. (vv. 7-8)
 - Do or die time.
 - The exception will be the 144,000.
- His punishment. (vv. 9-10)
 - His terror is short-lived.
 - His time is shortened.
 - But his tormenting punishment will be eternal.

What do Christians need the most in the face of persecutions and difficulties? FAITH and PATIENCE! Faith believes in the purposes of God. Patience endures because of the power of God.

- The beast out of the earth/false prophet. (Revelation 13:11:18)
 - The Unholy Trinity
 - The dragon, the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth make up the false trinity.
 - Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet vs. God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit.
 - Consider the place of religion.
 - His deceptive appearance (vv. 11-12)
 - He looks like a lamb. He speaks like a dragon. He works miracles like the divine.
 - His diabolical agenda (vv. 12-18)
 - Religion. Economy. Political.

- Preview of Victory (Revelation 14)
 - The guarantee of God revealed. (14:1-5)
 - A sight to behold. (14:1) *see also Isaiah 24:23; Hebrews 12:22*
 - A seal for the battles. (14:1)
 - A song to sing. (14:2-3)
 - A sanctification to have. (14:4-5)
 - Their purity. (14:8; see James 4:4; Exodus 34:15; II Corinthians 11:2).
 - Their obedience. (Matthew 16:24; John 14:15, 15:14)
 - The grace of God extended. (14:6-7)
 - The message. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)
 - Fear God. (Proverbs 9:10) *Believe Him.*
 - Give Him Glory. *Behold Him.*
 - Worship Him. *Bow down before Him.*
 - The messenger. (I Peter 1:10-12)
 - The magnitude of the message. (Matthew 24:14)
 - The greatness of God displayed. (14:8-11)
 - The fall of Babylon. (14:8)
 - The system of evil. Babylon represents the political-religious-commercial system set in place by the Antichrist.
 - Wine – *intoxication.*
 - Wrath – *indignation.*
 - Fornication – *immorality.*
 - The fate of its citizens. (14:9-11)
 - Their torment. *Full strength.*
 - The time of their torment. *Forever.*
 - The gift of God for His saints. (14:12-13)
 - Their redemption.
 - Their rest.
 - Their reward.
 - The gathering of the harvest. (14:14-20)
 - The Lord of the harvest. (see Matthew 13:24-30, 37-42)
 - The law of the harvest.
 - You reap what you sow.
 - You reap later than you sow.
 - You reap greater than you sow.
 - The lesson from the harvest.

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH POURED OUT

Chapters 15 and 16 ~ God's Wrath Completed

➤ INTRODUCTION

- The Book of Revelation contains a series of three judgments of sevens: **Seven Seals** ~ **Seven Trumpets** ~ **Seven Bowls**. As each of these is released, the judgment of God intensifies against Satan and his evil workers. The Seven Bowls of Wrath completes the judgment of God and it brings the world to the end of the Seven Years of Great Tribulation.
 - Chapter 15 previews the seven bowls of judgment by announcing them and then giving us a glimpse of the saints who were victorious through the Great Tribulation.
 - Chapter 16 reveals the pouring out of these seven bowls of judgment.
- The Victory of the Saints. (Revelation 15:1-4)
- Their Standing.
 - These saints represent the **tribulation saints** who have endured the tribulation and resisted the temptation of Satan.
 - They now stand on the **Sea of Glass**. This sea of glass (see 4:6) represents the Word of God. The fact that it is solid and mingled with fire speaks of the peace that has been accomplished through judgment and tribulation.
 - Their Song.
 - They hold in their hands, **harps**, instruments of praise.
 - They have on their lips, songs. *If Moses had a song (Exodus 15) and Jesus had a song (Psalm 22), then what is your song?*
 - They praise God for His **works**, His **ways**, His **worthiness** to be worshipped.
- The Vengeance of the Sovereign. (Revelation 15:5 – 16:21)
- The Agents of Judgment.
 - Seven angels are clothed in white linen (God's purity) and girded with golden girdles (God's righteousness) and they have seven bowls of wrath (God's punishment).
 - The Awesomeness of God's Glory.
 - The **Mercy Seat** becomes a **Judgment Seat**.
 - The **glory** of God is revealed not only in His **works** but through His **wrath**.
 - The Acts of Judgment.
 - Bowl 1 ~ Sores
 - Bowl 2 ~ Sea becomes blood
 - Bowl 3 ~ Fresh water becomes blood
 - Bowl 4 ~ Sun's heat burns men
 - Bowl 5 ~ Darkness which produces pain and sores
 - Bowl 6 ~ The Euphrates River is dried up
 - Bowl 7 ~ The end of judgment is accomplished with an earthquake and hailstorm.

BABYLON'S FALL DETAILED**Chapters 17 - 19 ~ Destruction of the Religious, Political and Armies of Babylon**➤ **INTRODUCTION**

- What is summarized in chapter 16 is detailed in chapters 17 – 19.
- Chapter 17 deals with the destruction of Babylon, the Religious System.
- Chapter 18 deals with the destruction of Babylon, the Political System.
- Chapter 19 deals with the destruction of Babylon, her armies, and leaders.

➤ The Doom of the “Great Harlot” [Revelation 17]



- A look at the False church. In the end times, the false church will arise full of hypocrisy, lies and deceit. The progression of this false church is Babel (Genesis 11:9) □ Babylon (Jeremiah 51:13) □ Rome (city of seven hills). Read Revelation 2:20-23. The **True Church** is being corrupted today by the “**Jezebels**.” What is emerging is the **false church**.

- Her appeal. (v.1)

- Her alliance. (vv. 2-3)
- Her adorning. (v.4)
- Her abominations. (vv. 5-7)
- Her adversary and end. (vv. 15-18)
- Lessons to learn.
 - Victory belongs to the Lamb. (v. 14)
 - Vengeance belongs to the LORD. (vv. 15-18)
 - Which church do you belong to?
 - Know the marks of a false church. (Jeremiah 6:10-15)
 - Closed ears to the Word of God.
 - Coveting eyes for the things of this world.
 - Corrupted leaders who want the praises and the pocketbooks.
 - Compromising message which tolerates and even condones sin.
 - The desire to **include** all has **excluded** Christ Jesus out of many churches.

- The Destruction of Political/Commercial Babylon [Revelation 18]
 - A Word about the Wicked. (18:1-3)
 - God's powerful messenger: loaded, lighted and loud. (18:1)
 - The sentence against Babylon. (18:2)
 - The sin of Babylon ~ Spiritual Adultery with Excessive Luxuries. (18:3)
 - A Word to the Wise. (18:4-8)
 - Separate to avoid partaking and punishment.
 - God received the sin; remembers the sin; reward for the sin. Double the double (See also Exodus 22:4,7,9; Isaiah 40:2; Jeremiah 16:18)
 - Pitfall of Pride
 - A Word about the Weepers. (18:9-19)
 - The politicians.
 - The businessmen. *Which Prophet/Profit do you listen to?*
 - Her judgment will be swift and severe.
 - A Word to the Winners. (18:20-24)
 - Rejoice – God has avenged.
 - There will be no more presence of sin.
 - There will be no more pleasures from sin.
 - There will be no more prosperity from sin.

- The Destruction of the Armies of Babylon” [Revelation 19]
 - The Chorus
 - Praise the Lord! Alleluia is the Hebrew word, “Hallelujah,” and it means “Praise the Lord.”
 - Praise the Lord because of Sin's Judgment. (19:1-4)
 - Praise the Lord because of His Sovereign Reign. (19:5-6)
 - Praise the Lord because of our Savior's Marriage. (19:7-10)
 - The Conqueror
 - His Arrival
 - Revelation 19:11 speaks about the Second Coming of Christ which is different from the Rapture of the Church
 - Jesus declared it. (Mark 13:24-27)
 - Man doubted it. (II Peter 3:3-4)
 - But from the beginning it has already been determined. (Jude 14-15)
 - His Attributes
 - He rides a white horse, the symbol of a conquering king.
 - He is called by many names.
 - Faithful and True, Unknown Name, Word of God, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords

- He judges and makes war in righteousness.
- He has eyes as a flame of fire. He sees and judges sin.
- He is crowned with many crowns. He reigns.
- He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood. (Isaiah 63:1-6)
- He has a sharp sword coming from His mouth. (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- He rules with a rod of iron.
- His Army
 - His army will be His bride. (Revelation 17:14)
 - His army will also consist of His angels. (Matthew 25:31)
 - His army is dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
 - His army also rides on white horses.
- His Attack
 - His attack will be swift and severe.
 - His victory is predicted. (19:17-18)
 - The audacity of His enemies.
 - The apprehension of the leaders.
 - The destruction of the remaining evil ones.

THE END AND THE BEGINNING

Chapters 20 - 22 ~ Reign, Retribution and Recreation

- REIGN - The Golden Age (outline taken from Dr. Adrian Rogers) (20:1-6)
 - Satan will be bound.
 - The person of Satan. He is described as dragon, that old serpent, devil, and Satan.
 - The period of his binding ~ 1000 years.
 - The place of his binding ~ bottomless pit.
 - The purpose of his binding ~ to prevent him from deceiving the nations.
 - Saints will be blessed.
 - The First Resurrection
 - Christ is the first-fruits. (I Corinthians 15:20)
 - We are the harvest received at the Rapture. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - The Tribulation martyrs are the gleanings.
 - The Faithful Ones Reign
 - We will reign with Him. (I Corinthians 6:2)
 - We will rejoice because of Him. (Revelation 20:6) Blessed and Holy.
- RETRIBUTION - The Great Judgment (20:7-15)

- Satan's Deception for the Last Time (20:7-9)
 - The period of this rebellion ~ at the end of the Millennium.
 - The participants of this rebellion. (20:8)
 - The place of this rebellion ~ Jerusalem.
 - The punishment for this rebellion ~ fire from heaven.
- Satan's Doom (20:10)
 - Satan place of torture ~ lake of fire and brimstone.
 - Satan's period of torture ~ forever.
- Sinners' Great Judgment (20:11-15) [the following taken from Dr. Rogers)
 - The Setting Described (20:11)
 - The Summons Delivered (20:12a)
 - All the sinners are going to be there.
 - All the self-righteous will be there.
 - All the self-satisfied will be there.
 - All the slow-decidors will be there.
 - All the "Sunday Christians" will be there.
 - The Secrets Displayed (20:12b)
 - The Sentence Determined (20:13)
- RESTORATION – New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21)
 - Heaven is a Permanent Place. (21:1)
 - Heaven is a Prepared Place. (21:2)
 - Heaven is a Praising Place. (21:3)
 - Heaven is a Peaceful Place. (21:4-5)
 - Heaven is a Pleasant Place. (21:6-7)
 - Heaven is a Purified Place. (21:8)
 - Heaven is a Precious Place. (21:9-11, 19-21)
 - Heaven is a Protected Place. (21:12-14)
 - Heaven is a Perfect Place. (21:15-27)
 - There will be no sanctuary in heaven.
 - There will be no shadows in heaven.
 - There will be no secrets in heaven.
 - There will be no sinners in heaven.

- RECREATION – Chapter 22
 - The Abundant Life (22:1-5)
 - Through God’s Provision
 - Through God’s Presence.
 - Through God’s Purpose
 - Conclusion (22:6-21)
 - The Word of God ~ v.6
 - It is faithful.
 - It is factual.
 - It is concerning the future.
 - The Works of Men ~ vv.7, 11
 - Work because of His return ~ v.7
 - Work because of your redemption ~ vv. 10-11
 - Work because of your reward ~ vv. 12-14
 - Work to avoid rejection ~ v.15
 - The Worship of God ~ vv. 8-9
 - No angel is worthy of worship.
 - No ancient saint is worthy of worship.
 - The Witness of Jesus ~ v.16
 - His historical declaration
 - His prophetic declaration
 - A Welcome to All
 - The Inviters
 - The Invitation
 - A Warning from God
 - Don’t add to His word.
 - Don’t subtract from His word.
 - Do multiply His word in your life.