







## Answers

1. John saw the Lord standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands, which represented seven first century churches. The awesome appearance of the Lord conveys His total authority and shows that He will judge everyone on the basis of His word.

2. First, they describe the conditions that literally existed in those seven first century churches. So they had application to those churches. Secondly, the messages can be applied to any church at any time. There is challenge, exhortation, comfort, and encouragement which certainly apply to us today. A third option is that the messages to the seven churches each represent a stage in Church history.

3. The Apostle Paul spent two-and-a-half years there during his third missionary journey. Timothy was shepherding this church when Paul wrote 1 Timothy. The Apostle John was at this church before his exile to the island of Patmos.

4. Smyrna is the only one of the seven churches where a continuous Christian testimony has been maintained since the first century. Smyrna is the modern city of Ismir, Turkey, today.

5. Polycarp.

## Discuss / Consider

1. How can you recognize false teaching in your church? What is the best defense against “leaving your first love” as the Church of Ephesus did?

2. Have you ever endured persecution for your faith? Many Christians around the world are facing persecution. What encouragement could they gain from the message to the church of Smyrna?

## Challenge

1. How is your love for the Lord? Is it as strong as when you were first saved? Be challenged by the message to the Ephesians. Rekindle your first love.

**Messages to the Churches of Pergamum and Thyatira**  
**Revelation 2:12-29**

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

1. The Church at Pergamum represents the compromising church.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The Church at Thyatira represents the church that tolerates false doctrine.

**Practical Application**

1. Go for the white stone and the morning star.

**Questions**

1. Where are the seven churches of Revelation located?
  
  
2. What was the good news for Pergamum?
  
  
3. Who was Balaam?
  
  
4. What was the bad news for Pergamum?
  
  
5. What false teaching was tolerated by the Church at Thyatira?
  
  
6. Who are the overcomers?



**Messages to the Churches at Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea**  
**Revelation 3**

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

1. The Church at Sardis represents the lifeless church.
2. The Church at Philadelphia represents the faithful church.
3. The Church at Laodicea represents the lukewarm church.

**Practical Application**

1. Don't just attend church!

**Questions**

1. Who were the "angels" or messengers of the seven churches of Asia?
2. Is Revelation 3:5 teaching that a believer's salvation can be lost?
3. Which two of the seven churches did not receive a rebuke from the Lord?
4. How was the church at Philadelphia faithful?
5. What is the proper application of Revelation 3:20?

## Answers

1. While this may refer to special guardian angels appointed to protect each of the churches, they are more likely the human leaders of the local churches. These men were to read the letter that had been sent to their church and convey the message to the people of that church.
2. No, many other Scriptures teach the eternal security of the believer. This verse confirms the truth of perseverance of the saints: true believers will persevere and overcome and those who persevere and overcome are true believers.
3. Smyrna – the persecuted church, and Philadelphia – the faithful church
4. They kept the Word of the Lord and did not deny His name.
5. This verse is speaking about having communion and fellowship with the Lord.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Have you known any churches or Christians who were lifeless like Sardis? How do we keep this from happening to ourselves and our church? Read Revelation 3:2-5 for the answer.

2. The church of Laodicea is similar to many professing Christians in the Church today – apathetic, halfhearted, unconcerned, indifferent, lukewarm. Read Revelation 3:4-21. The true believers are exhorted to live righteously and find their sufficiency in close communion with Christ.

## Challenge

1. Do you just attend church, or are you a vital member of your church? Hold on to what you have and strengthen what remains!





**Answers**

1. The things which are; the things which shall be hereafter (Revelation 1:19)
2. This chapter is the transition to events which will be in the future. Specifically, chapters 4-19 cover the Tribulation period.
3. The Rapture – the Lord’s return for His Church, followed by the 7 year Tribulation period.
4. John is suddenly transported to heaven and the Church is in heaven preparing for the Marriage of the Lamb.
5. That God keeps His covenants with His people forever.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Compare the vision of the four living creatures here to the cherubim in Ezekiel 10 and the seraphim in Isaiah 6. Cherubim and Seraphim are classes of high-ranking angels.

2. Read the praises given to God in verses 8 and 11. What praises do these inspire in your heart?

**Challenge**

1. In heaven we will find a sea of glass like crystal. This is not a sea that can get stormy and dangerous; this sea of glass portrays undisturbed peace forever. Look forward to that peace to come.



**Answers**

1. In heaven, before the throne of God
2. The scroll is a book of judgment. As each seal is broken, a judgment takes place on earth during the future Tribulation period.
3. *“The Lion of the tribe of Judah”* – the Lord Jesus Christ
4. As the Lion (verse 5) and the Lamb (verse 6).
5. From verses 11-14 we see that the praise of heaven becomes universal honor for God and the Lamb. Verse 13 shows that every knee will bow, acknowledge, and honor Him.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how Jesus Christ prevailed and triumphed, and is thus qualified to bring judgment on this earth.

2. Review the truths proclaimed in our Redemption Song (Revelation 5:9-10). This is the song of the redeemed, that we as believers will sing in eternity.

**Challenge**

1. If you are emotionally exhilarated this week by a shout or cheer of celebration with others, stop and think about the universal praise we will hear for the Lord who redeemed us!

## **The First Six Seals of the Scroll Opened by the Lamb of God Revelation 6**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

**1. The seven seals represent judgments of the Tribulation Period.**

**1) The first seal involves cold war.**

**2) The second seal involves open warfare.**

**3) The third seal involves famine.**

**4) The fourth seal involves much death.**

**5) The fifth seal involves martyred saints.**

**6) The sixth seal involves cosmic and geologic disturbances.**

### **Practical Application**

**1. Believe God's Word now or face God's wrath later.**

### **Questions**

1. What does the seven-sealed scroll represent? Who alone can open this scroll?

2. How does our Lord's Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25 relate to Revelation 6?

3. Who is the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6:2?

4. What is the meaning of Revelation 6:8?

5. How does the scene of John's vision change with the fifth seal?

## Answers

1. The scroll was symbolic of God's judgment to come upon this earth in the future Tribulation period. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah, is the only One worthy to open this scroll of judgment.
2. Our Lord's prophecy in Matthew has many parallels with the scroll judgments here. In Matthew 24:29, the Lord describes these events as happening in the Great Tribulation.
3. This is not the Lord, who rides on a white horse in Revelation 19. On the contrary, this first horseman of the Apocalypse is the notorious world leader who first appears as a man of peace.
4. A fourth of the earth's remaining population will be killed under this seal of judgment, through more war, famine, plagues, and wild animals.
5. In the fifth seal John saw under an altar in heaven the souls of believers who have been martyred during the Tribulation.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Review each of the seven seal judgments. This will all literally take place. Does it strengthen your faith to think of God's hand working so clearly to bring about His will?

## Challenge

1. Political power, military might, or wealth will not protect anyone from the wrath of God to come. Have you been trying to hide from God? Turn to Him now, before it is too late.

## **An Interlude Between the Sixth and Seventh Seals of Judgment Revelation 7**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. There will be 144,000 Jewish evangelists during the Tribulation period.**
  
- 2. There will be many thousands of Gentile converts during the Tribulation period.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Don't be too dogmatic about the details.**

### **Questions**

1. How does Revelation 7 fit into the context of the chapters around it?
2. When during the seven-year Tribulation period, will the seal judgments occur?
3. Who specifically are the 144,000 witness described in this chapter?
4. How does Romans 11 relate to this passage in Revelation?
5. Who are the great multitude of saved Gentiles described in verses 9-14?

## Answers

1. In Revelation 6 John saw six of the seven seal judgments that will take place during the future Tribulation period. This chapter is an interlude, before the seventh seal judgment is described in Revelation 8.
2. The seal judgments will take place during the first half of the Tribulation, as the *"beginning of sorrows"* (Matthew 24:8).
3. They are Jewish evangelists, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.
4. Romans 11 (and many Old Testament prophecies) foretell a great spiritual revival in the nation of Israel. Israel has been temporarily set aside during the present time of the Church age, but after the Rapture God will raise up a godly remnant of Jews, some of whom will be the 144,000 witnesses.
5. These are the saved Gentiles of the Tribulation period who live through the Tribulation and enter the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord on earth.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Since the Church will be in heaven during the Tribulation period, these 144,000 witnesses are not from the Church. They are Jewish evangelists who are converted during the Tribulation. Why is this an important point?

2. There are many groups of people described in John's Revelation, and it is easy to get them confused. Review each of these people groups, who and where they are during the Tribulation:

- The Church.
- The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists.
- The Martyred Tribulation Saints.
- The Gentile Tribulation Saints.

## Challenge

1. There are many details involved in John's vision. While we can seek to understand these details, we should not be too dogmatic about our opinion. Be gracious as you study Revelation together.



## **The Scroll Judgment Opened; The First Four Trumpet Judgments Revelation 8**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The first trumpet judgment involves burning on the earth.**
- 2. The second trumpet judgment involves upheaval in the sea.**
- 3. The third trumpet judgment involves poisoning of the waters.**
- 4. The fourth trumpet judgment involves catastrophe in the heavens.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Thank the Lord for the added incense.**

### **Questions**

1. List the three series of Judgments that will occur during the Tribulation period.
2. On what basis do we say the future Tribulation period will last seven years?
3. What do we call the second 3½ years of the Tribulation period?
4. What is a probable explanation for “*a great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea*” (verse 8)?
5. Who is the angel in verses 3-5?

### **Answers**

1. The Seal Judgments, the Trumpet Judgments, and the Bowl Judgments
2. Based on the prophetic vision of Daniel 9, which foretells 70 weeks. Most of this vision has already been fulfilled, but the last week of the vision is still future. The 70 th week, like the first 69 in Hebrew is a week of 7 years, not 7 days.
3. The Great Tribulation
4. An asteroid in our solar system colliding with the earth and crashing into the ocean
5. It is the Lord Himself standing before the throne of God the Father and offering up the prayers of believers before God. No mere angel or saint could do that; only our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how the plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7-12) were a preview of the Trumpet Judgments in the Tribulation period. Just as those plagues were literal, so these will be too.

### **Challenge**

1. In the Lord's role as our Great High Priest, He offers our prayers before God and makes them acceptable and pleasing to Him. Even when you're not sure exactly what to pray, you can pray thanking the Lord that He intercedes on your behalf.

## **The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Judgments** **Revelation 9**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The Fifth Trumpet Judgment involves opening the abyss.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment involves releasing a great army.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Don't think that pain necessarily leads to repentance.**

### **Questions**

1. When do we believe these trumpet judgments will occur?
2. What is apocalyptic literature?
3. What does the star in Revelation 9:1 represent?
4. Where is Satan now? What is the abyss?
5. What is the toll on mankind following these judgments?

### **Answers**

1. During the last 3½ years of the Tribulation Period, known as the Great Tribulation
2. Apocalyptic literature involves visions concerning the future. This style of literature is highly symbolic, but it is not all symbolic.
3. The star is symbolic of an angel – probably Satan himself (see Revelation 12:12).
4. At the present time, Satan is not in hell. He is free to roam about the earth and has access to heavenly realms. The abyss or bottomless pit is not hell, but many demons are confined there (Luke 8:31-32). There Satan will be bound for 1000 years during our Lord's future millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:1).
5. Following the sixth trumpet judgment, the death toll rises to 1/3 of mankind. Combined with the death tolls of the other judgments, at least ½ of the world's population will have perished at this point in the Tribulation Period.

### **Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the dilemma of interpreting apocalyptic literature with its highly symbolic language. How do you work to interpret these passages as literally as possible?

2. We tend to think that if an unbeliever experiences enough pain he will turn to God and repent. We see this is certainly not the case in the Tribulation Period (see Revelation 9:20-21). Discuss why pain does not necessarily lead to repentance. What does cause repentance?

### **Challenge**

1. Recall the point in your life when you were brought to repentance and trusted Christ. Praise the Lord for this!



## Answers

1. This scroll was a book describing the coming judgments of the future Tribulation Period. As each seal was opened, different judgments and conditions of the Tribulation Period were described in detail.
2. This strong angel may be the Lord Himself appearing as an angel in John's vision.
3. The sounding of the seventh trumpet of judgment brings us close to the end of the Tribulation Period. Even though the bowl judgments follow, they are rapid in succession or they may even overlap with the Trumpet Judgments.
4. The mystery of God concerns all the truth about God and His glorious kingdom on earth with Christ as King. This truth was largely communicated to the Old Testament prophets, but they did not completely comprehend all that they wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:10-12).
5. That God keeps His covenants with His people forever.

## Discuss / Consider

1. As we study apocalyptic literature, such as John's Revelation, it is important to remember, "The details of God's future judgments are not fully revealed." Discuss the implications of this. Refer to Daniel 12:1,4,9; Deuteronomy 29:29; and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

2. Discuss how the study of prophecy can be sweet and bitter.

## Challenge

1. When you study prophecy, do you find a balance between excitement and fascination and the sober reality of God's judgment?

**The Tribulation Temple, The Two Witnesses, & The Seventh Trumpet**  
**Revelation 11**

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. There are two temples to be built on this earth in the future.**

**2. There are two witness to appear on this earth in the future.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Remember, you are immortal until your work on earth is over.**

**Questions**

1. What were the three woes pronounced on those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 8:13)?

2. How long is 42 months? How long is 1260 days?

3. Does verse 19 mean that the actual Ark of the Covenant resides in heaven?

4. Name the two temples to be built on this earth in the future.

5. Who are these two witnesses? List the various suggestions.

## Answers

1. The three woes are the last three trumpet judgments. The sounding of the seventh trumpet brings us to the end of the Tribulation Period and the beginning of Christ's earthly kingdom.
2. 42 months is the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation Period, often called the Great Tribulation. 1260 days is 3 1/2 years calculating with a 30-day Hebrew month.
3. Probably not; the Ark of the Covenant signifies God's loyal presence among His people. The meaning of the Ark seen in the Temple of God is heaven is that the way into God's presence is now open (Hebrews 10:19) and God's covenant with Israel has not been forgotten.
4. One Temple will be built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, possibly even before the Rapture. This Tribulation Temple will be defiled by the Abomination of Desolation. There will be another Temple in Jerusalem during the 1000-year earthly kingdom of Christ. You can read about this Millennial Temple in Ezekiel 40-48.
5. 1) They are two powerful leaders of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, witnessing in the spirit and power of Moses and Elijah.  
2) They are literally Moses and Elijah, based on predictions that Elijah would precede the Messiah.  
3) They are literally Elijah and Enoch, because these two Old Testament saints never died.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Discuss what you know about the history of the Tabernacle and Temples from Old Testament times until now. How do you think the Jewish public will respond to a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The two witnesses were martyred after they finished their testimony. They were immortal as long as they had work to do. The same is true of us; discuss what this does and does not mean.

## Challenge

1. Read Psalm 2, understanding its context is praise to God that the time has finally come for the judgment of the damned and the reward of the righteous.





## Answers

1. John saw the Ark of the Covenant through the open doors of the temple in heaven.
2. The woman represents the nation of Israel; the child is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.
3. The Church will be in heaven with the Lord during the Tribulation Period. The description of the woman being persecuted and fleeing into the wilderness does not fit the Virgin Mary.
4. Satan and his angels are defeated and they are thrown out of the heavenly realms down to this earth. We believe this will occur at the middle of the Tribulation Period, at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
5. Knowing that he only has a short time, Satan persecutes the nation of Israel, especially the godly remnant of Jewish believers.

## Discuss / Consider

1. "God has not thrown out His promises to the Jewish people." Why is this such an important theological truth? What can this teach us about the character of our God?

2. Satan is called "the accuser of the brethren." Discuss how he accuses all believers before God day and night. Now read and rejoice over 1 John 2:1. The Lord is our Advocate. He gave His own life to declare us righteous.

## Challenge

1. The next time you feel weighed down by Satan's accusations over your past sins, thank the Lord that our accuser is no match for our Advocate.



## Answers

1. With great wrath, Satan will persecute believers and many will be martyred. The special focus of Satan's wrath will be the nation of Israel, God's chosen people.
2. He raises two notorious end time leaders – the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the land.
3. This probably represents the sea of Gentile nations, as it often does in Scripture. Thus this first beast will be a Gentile.
4. · Babylon  
· Medo-Persia  
· Greece  
· Rome
5. Because he receives a mortal wound that is healed (verses 3,14).

## Discuss / Consider

1. Compare John's vision of the beast of the sea and Daniel's vision of four beasts in Daniel 7 (specifically the fourth beast in verses 7,8). Review how this beast becomes the ruler of the ten-kingdom revived Roman Empire. Refer also to Revelation 17:8,12.
  
2. Read Revelation 13:9-10. Those who persecute believers will not get way with it – then or now. God blesses and commends believers who are persecuted in the faith. Do you pray regularly for persecuted believers?

## Challenge

1. Many different views have been taken on the number 666 down through Church History. Don't try to figure out this number. Believers living during the future Tribulation will recognize this leader for sure.



## Answers

1. The beast comes up out of the sea, which likely represents the sea of Gentile nations. This first beast represents an end-time political ruler who will head up the Revived Roman Empire of the last days.
2. The prophetic visions in Daniel 2 and 7 are similar to descriptions of the first beast here in Revelation. It is clear from Daniel that this beast represents Rome. This beast with its ten horns will continue until the time of the end, and the Lord Himself will conquer the beast when He sets up His kingdom on this earth. We refer to the end-time stage of this beast as the Revived Roman Empire.
3. The first beast, the second beast, and the dragon
4. They will not be able to buy or sell. Ultimately it will show they did not have allegiance to the beast.
5. The first beast gives authority to the second beast, and the second beast directs worship to the first beast.

## Discuss / Consider

1. The second beast of Revelation 13 is called the false prophet because he directs worship to the first beast. Discuss the supernatural signs he will perform. What is the source of his power? Why are people so easily deceived by supernatural signs?

2. Is the first or second beast of Revelation 13 the Antichrist? Both of the beasts are antichrist (against Christ), but either one could be the Antichrist. Discuss the various reasons given.

## Challenge

1. Be cautious of those who claim power to perform signs and wonders. Remember what the Lord said in Matthew 7:21-23.

## **Events of the Tribulation Period Revelation 14**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The 144,000 are the first fruits from the Tribulation Period.**
- 2. The eternal gospel will be preached during the Tribulation Period.**
- 3. The fall of Babylon will take place at the end of the Tribulation Period.**
- 4. The eternal punishment of Hell will be the destiny of those who worship the beast in the Tribulation Period.**
- 5. The final harvest and vintage will conclude the Tribulation Period.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Will you rest from your labors?**

### **Questions**

1. What did we learn about the 144,000 in Revelation 7?
2. Why are the 144,000 called the “first fruits”?
3. What role will Babylon play in end-time events?
4. What is the harvest of grain in Revelation 14?
5. What is the vintage of the grapes in Revelation 14?

## Answers

1. These 144,000 are Jewish believers of the Tribulation Period, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. They are probably evangelists spreading the gospel of the kingdom worldwide, and they are sealed and protected from death during their time of service. These people are not the Church, which is in heaven during the Tribulation Period.
2. Other Jewish and Gentile believers will also live through the Tribulation Period to enter alive into the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, but the 144,000 are the first.
3. End-time Babylon will be the center of the one world religion and the one world government of the last days. We read more about the judgment of Babylon in Revelation 17-18.
4. The harvest of grain probably corresponds to Matthew 13:30 – the separation of the wheat and the tares at the end of the age.
5. The vine of the earth commonly refers to the nation of Israel in Scripture. In the last days a great number of Jewish people will turn to the Lord (Romans 11). Zechariah 13:9 teaches that this will be one-third of the nation. The other two-thirds of the nation who continue to reject Jesus as the Messiah will be cut off and judged.

## Discuss / Consider

1. “The gospel has always been a response in faith to the one true God.” Discuss how this is true in Old Testament times, now in the Church Age, and in the future Tribulation Period.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The doctrine of Hell is not a pleasant doctrine, but it is a truth which is critical to the justice of God. Hell is a place of eternal punishment for the damned. It is not annihilation of the damned, and there is no escape from Hell. Discuss why this is an important doctrine.

## Challenge

1. Will you rest from your labors when you meet the Lord? You can't rest from your labors if you haven't labored! Your works can't follow you for reward if you haven't worked or done anything. Will you rest from your labors?



## **The Songs of Moses and The Lamb & The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath Revelation 15**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The Songs of Moses and the Lamb will be sung in the future.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. The bowls of judgment will be poured out in the future.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Can we sing Revelation 15:3 now?**

### **Questions**

- 1. Outline the three sets of God's future judgments on this earth during the coming Tribulation Period.**
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. How do we harmonize the timing of the bowl judgments with the timing of the seventh trumpet judgment, if both are said to bring us to the end of the Tribulation Period?**
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. How do we know exactly how these prophetic visions will play out?**
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. What group of people does John see in his vision in verses 2-3? Where does this scene take place?**
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. How does this section relate back to Revelation 6?**

## Answers

- The Seven Seal Judgments – Revelation 6-8  
· The Seven Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8-11  
· The Seven Bowl Judgments – Revelation 16
- Some commentators overlap the trumpet and bowl judgments so that both begin at the start of the Great Tribulation and end at the end. In this view the trumpet judgments are written on the front of the seal scroll and the bowl judgments are written on the back side; they run simultaneously.  
  
· The other view is that the bowl judgments follow the trumpet judgments in rapid succession, giving great intensity to the end of the Great Tribulation. In this sense they are all considered as happening at about the same time as the sounding of the seventh trumpet of judgment.
3. We don't. That is why we must not be dogmatic in our interpretation. We will know for sure when they occur in the future.
4. This is a heavenly scene (compare Revelation 4:6). The people standing on the sea of glass are believers who were victorious over the beast and did not receive his mark or his number 666. Specifically these martyrs are from the Great Tribulation, the second half of the seven year Tribulation Period.
5. In that chapter we saw martyrs from the first half of the Tribulation Period. Now the company of the Tribulation martyrs is complete and they all join together in song.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Read the Song of Moses in Exodus 15. This song praises God for His victory over the pagan gods and His redemption and deliverance of His people from Egypt. Discuss how the Tribulation martyrs could identify with this song of praise. How do you identify with it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Some readers of Revelation think the judgments upon the earth are unfair. But there are many elements here that show that the vengeance of God upon this earth is just and fair. Discuss this issue.

## Challenge

1. Although the Tribulation martyrs will undergo great hardship and persecution, they sing praises to God. Do you respond with an attitude of praise when you're face with trials and tribulation?

## **The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God** **Revelation 16**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The bowls of God's wrath cause the righteous to praise God.**
  
- 2. The bowls of God's wrath cause the unrighteous to blaspheme God.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Don't miss out on the blessing of staying awake.**

### **Questions**

1. How were the bowl judgments presented in John's Revelation?
  
2. Give a brief description of each bowl judgment.
  
3. Do these judgments prompt people to repent of their sins?
  
4. Why is the punishment of Hell eternal?

## Answers

1. At the end of Revelation 15, seven angels come out of the Temple of God in heaven carrying seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God.
2. Bowl #1: People who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image, are incapacitated with loathsome and malignant, ulcerous sores.  
Bowl #2: The entire sea is turned to blood and every living creature in the sea dies.  
Bowl #3: All of the rivers and springs of water on earth become blood.  
Bowl #4: There is an intense heat from the sun so that people are scorched and burned.  
Bowl #5: Darkness comes upon the kingdom of the beast.  
Bowl #6: The Euphrates River is dried up so that huge armies from the Far East can gather together with the rest of the world's armies in Israel.  
Bowl #7: There are geologic events of catastrophic proportions.
3. No, they blaspheme God instead.
4. Because the unrepentant are eternally unrepentant.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Although some people think these judgments are unfair, the holy angel and the righteous martyrs praise God for His wrath upon those who rejected the message of the saints and prophets. How do you respond to God's righteous judgment?

2. To the unbeliever the return of the Lord will be like a thief coming in the night, and they will be caught off guard. If you are a believer, the rapture of the Church should not be a surprise. Are you ready? Are you awake? Are you walking in righteousness? Or will you be ashamed when the Lord returns, because you are asleep and involved in sin?

## Challenge

1. Praise God that because of His saving grace, you are not one of the unrepentant who will experience the wrath of God and will still continue to blaspheme Him!

## **The Overthrow of Religious Babylon of the End Times Revelation 17**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. Religious Babylon is the false religious system of the end times.**
  
- 2. Religious Babylon will be overthrown by the beast of the end times.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Can you find yourself in Revelation 17?**

### **Questions**

1. What does “Babylon” refer to in the book of Revelation?
2. Is the Babylon of Revelation 17-18 the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River?
3. How is the false religious system of the end times portrayed? How does this contrast to the true Church?
4. Who is the beast in this chapter?
5. Why do the ten horns or kings of the Revived Roman Empire hate the harlot, Babylon?

## Answers

1. Babylon is the word used for the one-world religion and one world government of the end times. Revelation 17 addresses the religious side of end-time Babylon, and chapter 18 addresses the commercial side.
2. Since ancient Babylon was the focus of the total culture of world religion and commerce against the one true God, it is certainly possible that this ancient city will be restored in the end times. Or end time Babylon could simply be symbolic of world religion and commerce against God. In this case, the literal city of Revelation 17:18 would probably be Rome.
3. The false religious system is portrayed as a prostitute; the true Church is the bride of Christ.
4. This beast is the same as the first beast of Revelation 13. This is the 666 character of the Revived Roman Empire.
5. Because she has control over them, as represented by Babylon riding the beast. But the beast is ultimately able to overthrow Babylon, the great religious system of the end times, and make her desolate.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Think of all the evil that has been done in the name of false religion throughout human history. Satan is delighted when false religion leads people away from the true way of salvation.

2. The details of this prophecy can be complicated and possibly confusing. Review what you have learned in this lesson. Religious Babylon will be overthrown by the beast of the end times. And praise the Lord, the beast also will be overthrown – by the Lord Himself.

## Challenge

1. If you are a believer, you are called, chosen, and faithful.

## **The Fall Commercial End-Time Babylon Revelation 18**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. The destruction of commercial Babylon will result in great weeping.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. The destruction of commercial Babylon will result in great rejoicing.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Don't see your investment go up in smoke!**

### **Questions**

1. Give a brief definition of "Babylon" as used in the book of Revelation.
  
2. What do the birds represent in Revelation 18:2?
  
3. When will the destruction of Religious Babylon take place? What about Economic/commercial Babylon occur?
  
4. Why will the kings and merchants of the earth weep over the destruction of Babylon?
  
5. What is the timeframe of "the Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24)?

## Answers

1. Babylon is the one world religion and one world government of the end times; the name refers to both the city and the system.
2. The birds represent false religious sects and cults including the occult (see Matthew 13).
3. Religious Babylon will be overthrown in the middle of the Tribulation Period. Commercial Babylon will be judged at the end of the Tribulation Period, under the seventh bowl judgment.
4. Because their source of wealth and profit is gone
5. The Times of the Gentiles began with Babylon's invasion of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. The Times of the Gentiles will end with the destruction of Babylon at the end of the Tribulation Period, just before the Lord returns.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Babylon is the evil system that began back at the Tower of Babel when people turned away from God to make a name for themselves. This is the evil system of world religion and world politics that persecuted and killed the saints throughout history. In one hour, this evil system will be overthrown by our mighty God. What response does this evoke in you?

## Challenge

1. When the people witness the destruction of end time Babylon, they will weep because their investments will be going up in smoke. How are you sending your investments ahead by using them for the Lord? Everything else will go up in smoke.



## **Four Great Hallelujahs in Heaven, and The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Revelation 19:1-10**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

1. **The Second Coming of Christ will be preceded by loud hallelujahs in heaven.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **The Second Coming of Christ will be preceded by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven.**

### **Practical Application**

1. **Let's understand the purpose of prophecy.**

### **Questions**

1. Revelation 19 begins with the phrase, "*After these things.*" After what things?
2. So when will the important events in this section take place?
3. What does "Hallelujah" mean?
4. Who are the three groups in this passage that praise the Lord by proclaiming "Hallelujah"?
5. How will the bride "make herself ready" for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

## Answers

1. The overthrow of Babylon the Great – the false religious and commercial system of the last days (Revelation 17-18)
2. At the end of the Tribulation Period, right before the Second Coming of Christ
3. Hallelujah is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord.”
4. · The martyrs of the Tribulation Period
  - The 24 elders and the 4 living creatures
  - All of heaven
5. Before the Marriage Supper, believers from the Church Age will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded for their good deeds of Christian service. These righteous acts will contribute to the beautiful garment of the bride.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Discuss why the Church does not include all believers of all time. The Church began at Pentecost and was raptured home to heaven before the Tribulation Period began. The Church is the body and bride of Christ. What other groups of believers will be invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

2. The purpose of prophecy is to show how Christ is the focal point of history. We should not study prophecy just to know the future or be captivated by end-time scenarios. All of God’s plans for a fallen world center on the glorification of Christ as the Savior of the world. Have you seen this from your study of Revelation?

## Challenge

1. Hallelujah, Praise the Lord! Look for something today that will prompt you to praise the Lord.

**The Return of the Lord to this Earth with the Armies of Heaven**  
**Revelation 19:11-21**

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

- 1. When the Lord returns, the nations will be judged and ruled with a rod of iron.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. When the Lord returns, the beast and the false prophet will be thrown into Hell.**

**Practical Application**

- 1. Remember to tell people that God is holy as well as God is love.**

**Questions**

1. What important event occurred in heaven before the Return of the Lord, recorded here?
  
  
2. Is the rider on the white horse in verse 11 the same as the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6?
  
  
3. Why do the armies of the world gather together in the Jezreel Valley of Israel?
  
  
4. Should we be adamant about the details of the Lord's Return?

## Answers

1. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
2. No! Under the first seal judgment of Revelation 6 the first horseman of the apocalypse is the false world leader, the Roman beast with the number 666. Here in Revelation 19 the rider is the Lord Himself, the Faithful and True Word of God.
3. This is the staging area for what the enemy armies believe will be the conquering of Jerusalem, but they do not know that the Lord Himself will return and defeat them.
4. No, the exact scenario of the precise sequencing of all the details associated with our Lord's Return is not that easy to put together. There is room for discussion because a number of Scriptures must be harmonized.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Many Christians emphasize that God is love much more than that God is holy. How do you think this has affected society's view of God? Do you think Christians are sometimes embarrassed to talk about the holiness of God and the doctrine of hell? What should our attitude be about speaking of hell to unbelievers?

## Challenge

1. Remember to tell people that you come into contact with this week that God is holy as well as God is love.

## **The Millennial Kingdom of Christ on this Earth Revelation 20**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. Satan will be bound during the Millennium.**
- 2. Tribulation Saints will be resurrected before the Millennium.**
- 3. Satan will be consigned to Hell after the Millennium.**
- 4. Unbelievers will be judged after the Millennium.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Remember 2 Ls and 2 Ns.**

### **Questions**

1. Why is Christ's earthly kingdom called the "Millennium"?
2. What do Christians who hold to the "amillennial" theology believe? Why is the teaching here called "premillennial"?
3. What are the first and second deaths spoken of in verses 4-6?
4. Outline how the first resurrection comes in three stages, like a harvest.
5. Who will join Satan in the final rebellion at the end of the Millennial Kingdom?

## Answers

1. Because the Lord Jesus will reign on this earth as king for a literal 1,000 years.
2. The amillennial view takes a non-literal position on Christ's kingdom. They would say that Christ is reigning now in heaven and even here on this earth, in a spiritual sense, because the Lord is king and reigns in the hearts of all believers who make up the kingdom of Christ. The view taught in this study is called "premillennial" because Christ will return before the literal 1,000 year reign.
3. "Death" means separation. The first death is physical death – separation of the soul and spirit from the body. The second death is spiritual death – eternal separation of the soul and spirit from God.
4. · Stage 1\First fruits: The Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:23)  
· Stage 2\Harvest: The Rapture of the Church  
· Stage 3\Gleanings: The Resurrection of the martyred Tribulation Saints
5. Many people will be born during the Millennium and not all will become believers. They will be born with sinful natures like us all, and even under the benevolent reign of Christ, their sinful heart of man will rebel.

## Discuss / Consider

1. What do you know of the debate between premillennial and amillennial theology? Review conflicting interpretations from this passage about Satan being bound. Your stance on this important area of theology will affect your interpretation of literally hundreds of passages of Scripture.

2. Our society wants us to believe that man is essentially good. It is said that given the right environment and lack of social pressure, man would only choose and do what is right. How does the rebellion at the end of the Millennium refute this claim? Do you agree that man is essentially evil and is born with a sin nature?

## Challenge

1. You don't want to be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment! This judgment is for unbelievers – will you be there?

**The Eternal State, and the New Jerusalem Descending out of Heaven  
Revelation 21**

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The New Heavens and New Earth describe conditions of the Eternal State.**

**2. The New Jerusalem descends out of heaven for the Eternal State.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Remember, the best passport is immediate and free!**

**Questions**

1. What time frame is addressed in this chapter?

2. What will happen to the present Heaven and Earth?

3. Is the New Jerusalem described here part of the Millennial Kingdom or Eternal State?

4. What is the significance of the 24 names written on the New Jerusalem

## Answers

1. Revelation 21 teaches about the Eternal State, which follows the millennial reign of Christ.
2. They will be completely cleansed and purified with fire according to 2 Peter 3. This will make way for the New Heavens and New Earth.
3. This does not match the description of the earthly Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom, described in Ezekiel 40-48. One theory is that the New Jerusalem will hover over the earth and the earthly Jerusalem during the Millennium and will make its full descent to New Earth for the Eternal State.
4. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel on the gates show that the New Jerusalem is the eternal home of redeemed Israel. The names of the 12 apostles on the foundation stones show that the New Jerusalem is the eternal home of the Church.

## Discuss / Consider

1. Discuss the many things that will **not** be in the Eternal State. Discuss the many wonderful things that will be in the Eternal State.

2. Look at John 14:2. The Lord said He was preparing a place for us, and it is the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be the home of all the redeemed in the eternal state. Discuss how you imagine it will be to live together with all the redeemed people from throughout history. What are you looking forward to most?

## Challenge

1. Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? This is your passport to the New Jerusalem. You can get this passport immediately and for free!



## **The New Jerusalem Described, and Closing Warnings and Exhortations Revelation 22**

### **Background**

### **Doctrinal Points**

- 1. Decisions now determine your eternal destiny.**
  
- 2. Service now determines your eternal reward.**

### **Practical Application**

- 1. Don't determine your own doctrines.**
  
- 2. Do desire the Lord's Return.**

### **Questions**

1. Give an outline of Revelation for review.
  
2. What is the history of the Tree of Life?
  
3. Why was the prophet Daniel told to seal up his prophecy until the End Times (Daniel 12), whereas John is told (verse 10) not to seal up the prophecy of Revelation?
  
4. What does it mean to "add to" or "take away from the words of this book"?
  
5. What should your response be to the Lord's promise that He is coming quickly?

## Answers

1. · Revelation 1-3: The Apostle John's vision of the Lord standing in the midst of the seven churches of Asia, and the Lord's message to these churches.  
· Revelation 4-19: The judgments that will take place on this earth during the future seven year Tribulation Period.  
· Revelation 19: The return of the Lord in judgment at the end of the Tribulation Period.  
· Revelation 20: The millennial kingdom of Christ on this earth when Satan will be bound and believers will reign with Christ for 1,000 years.  
· Revelation 21-22: A description of the New Heavens and New Earth in the Eternal State.
2. The Tree of Life was off limits to mankind after Adam and Eve sinned. Now we have paradise regained and the Tree of Life is available at all times in the Eternal State.
3. Because more prophecy was to come in Daniel's day, but now biblical prophecy has been completed with the book of Revelation.
4. This would include writing new Scripture or omitting Scripture you did not like. This also includes teaching some false doctrine, which cannot be backed up by Scripture.
5. *"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus"*

## Discuss / Consider

1. Discuss the meaning of Revelation 22:11. There is coming a time when it will be too late to change. Hell is eternal and those in Hell will not and cannot change. There is no second chance. Do you know anyone (perhaps yourself) who is postponing the decision of salvation for various reasons. Don't wait until it's too late!

2. We have come to the end of our study of Revelation. What was the most interesting thing you learned in this study? What was the most impactful thing?

## Challenge

1. Do you desire the Lord's Return? Pray that you will have the attitude of John, and earnestly desire the Lord's Return.