

UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF REVELATION

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Introduction: The book of Revelation is the most comprehensive view we have of the end of this age. Prophetic books like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and even New Testament books like Matthew 24-25 and Luke 21 give some understanding, but the Book of Revelation is the final word on all these former prophecies. What are we going to learn in this book?

I. Revelation of Jesus Christ.

A. Jesus reigns as _____

Colossians 1:19-20

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross”

B. Jesus reveals His _____

Revelation 1:3

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

C. Jesus remarks _____.

Revelation 1:11

“Saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Revelation 2 – 3

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give.....” (7 times Jesus wants to express His undying love for us)

D. Jesus revives His _____

Revelation 7:9 - 10

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 21: 6

“And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”

II. Restoration of Planet Earth

A. Just _____

Revelation 22:12

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

B. Removal of all _____

Revelation 21:5

“Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

C. Release of _____

Romans 8:19 - 22

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

D. Revelation of _____

Isaiah 9:11

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.”

Isaiah 45:8

“For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

Psalms 115:16

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.”

III. Reigning of the Bride

A. Placing Bride _____

Revelation 1:6

“And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 5:10

“And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

B. Power over Satan & antichrist

Training for Reigning Worksheet

Luke 10:18

“And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Daniel 7:26

“But the court shall be seated, and they (saints) shall take away his (antichrist) dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

C. Prayer releasing_____.

Revelation 5:8 – 9

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’”

Revelation 8:3

“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.”

D. Positioning for_____“He who overcomes”

Revelation 22:11 -13

“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

Parables of Jesus: Talents, 10 Virgins, Faithful Householder.....

IV. Renewal of Heaven & Earth

A. Heavens and earth_____

Training for Reigning Worksheet

Revelation 21:1

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”

B. New Jerusalem_____

Revelation 21:2

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

C. Satan_____.

Revelation 20:10

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[b] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

D. Dead are_____

Revelation 20:12 - 15

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST CHAPTER 1

Introduction: John received a revelation of the person and work of Jesus Christ. This book is not primarily about prophecy, but about Christ's nature, character, purpose and His "Action Plan" for the end of the age. This He reveals to us His bride as we walk in intimacy with Him! That is why He calls "Blessed" those that seek Him and desire to know Him with intimate love and understand this powerful Book of Revelation. He reveals the secrets of the end of the age to us. But we must desire to know Him and His wisdom!

This study has the potential of totally transforming your life. It gives hope in a hopeless world, it gives peace in the coming time of great tribulation like the world has never seen. It gives assurance of His love and righteousness being fully manifest in this present age and fully in the coming kingdom. You will be moved... touched... and settled in His passion for you His bride. You will understand how to prepare your life, family, business and affairs for the greatest transition of governments, earth's wealth and resources in the history of the world. You will understand the Father's commitment to planet earth permanently as He cleanses the earth, through judgment, of all that blocks Christ's love and righteousness. And in the end He creates a "New heaven and earth" for us to dwell with Him. You will get a full manifestation of your position as a "king and priest" unto your God. Get ready for "transformation" into a greater revelation of Christ in your life.

I. _____ WAS JOHN?

A. His self revelation

- Your brother
- Your companion in tribulation, kingdom & patience

B. His revelation of Jesus Christ "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day"

II. _____ JOHN SAW?

John saw the revelation of Christ in manifold beauty and power.

- John had walked with Christ in intimacy and love
- John had witnessed Christ's glory on the mount of transfiguration
- John had worked with Christ in miracles, signs and wonders

The twelve-fold revelation of Christ's person:

1. Great _____ ***"Bought us by His blood" v - 5***
2. Faithful _____ ***"Written on His vesture is faithful and true" v 5***
3. First _____ from the dead ***"I am He who lives, and was dead, and alive forevermore"***
4. _____ over kings of the earth – ***v - 5***
5. ***Builder*** of the seven churches – ***"and in the midst of the 7 lamp stands one like the son of man" v - 13***
6. Holds seven stars in His _____ hand ***"and He had in His right hand 7 stars"***
7. ***High*** _____ of heavenly tabernacle ***"clothed in a garment down to His feet" v- 13***
8. Ancient of days ***"His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow." V- 14***
9. Eyes of fire ***"His eyes like a flame of fire" v- 14***

10. Feet of brass ***“His feet were like fine brass” v- 15***
11. _____ of God in His mouth ***“Our of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword” v - 16***
12. Keys to death and hell in His hand ***“I have the keys of Hades and death” v - 18***

The three-fold revelation of Christ's office

A. _____ Revelation 19:16 *“And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords”*

1. He is king over creation
 - Jesus is physical manifestation of the God head!
 - Jesus is creator and sustainer of all things!
 - Jesus is the firstborn of this new kind of creation!

Hebrews 1:1 ***“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made The worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”***

Colossians 1:15- 17 ***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”***

2. He is King over kings!

- Jesus kingdom government includes us... His bride for He has made us:

Revelation 5: 8 ***“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”***

- His kingdom is physical, financial and territorial. 232 governments shall be transitioned over to His bride.

What is the nature of the kings He shall appoint? Found in His description of the character traits of true kingdom children. (the beatitudes – Matthew 5)

- Poor in spirit ... “Theirs is the kingdom”

Training for Reigning Worksheet

- Meek shall inherit the earth
 - Merciful
 - Peacemakers
 - Hunger and thirst for His righteousness
3. He is King over all restoration of all things!
- Based on His resurrection power.
- Romans 8:29 ***“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”***
- When the bride of Christ accepts her full revelation of who we are and what we are through Christ alone. ***“Be found in Him...”***

B. _____ **“Spirit and the bride say come”**

- The Father is obsessed with the Son, the Son is obsessed with us His bride. We fill His thoughts day and night. He is passionate about us and desire to be “one with us”. **God is a hopeless romantic!**

- A. He demonstrated His love for us by dying for us and purchasing us through His own blood.

Ephesians 1:7 ***“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He had to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to his good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.”***

- B. He has given us everything that He is!

I John 4:17 ***“Love has been perfect among us in this; that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this present world.”***

- We are joint “Heirs” with Him, “Seated with Him” already.
- We have the same Spirit that He had on earth
- We have been given all things through Christ!

- C. He will reign through us on earth forever and ever!
Daniel saw a revelation of this kingdom being given over to the saints!

Daniel 7:18 ***“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”***

Isaiah 9:7 ***“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with judgment and justice, from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform***

this.”

C. _____

- This is for the purification of all things. Judgment of preparation of His manifestation of love and righteousness on earth. Perfect peace.. perfect justice!

A. **He will judge His church.** “Judgment must begin at the house of God”

- We cannot be fully manifest as full “sons and daughters” until purification of all things occurs.

- He walks among the 7 churches

- He holds the several stars (angels) in His hands

- He calls each church to repent

- He cries to the church to **“Have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church”** (7 times!)

1. The church is going to shaken until only the kingdom remains

Hebrews 12:27- 28a **“Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken....”**

- The great tribulation is a purification to reign with Him. **“For he that overcomes, I will give...”** (7 times)

Revelation 7:14 “..So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

2. The church along with Israel is going to complete the great commission.

B. **He will judge the wicked off the earth.**

“He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”

Psalms 1: 4 – 6 **“The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”**

Psalms 2:10 – 12 **“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.**

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

Training for Reigning Worksheet

- The wicked governments shall fall - **governmental**
- The unrighteous Babylonian system will fall - **financial**
- The ungodly **educational** system will fall – source of earthly knowledge

“The knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth”

Isaiah 60:1 – 3 ***“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.”***

C. He will judge Satan and demons

III. _____ JOHN SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN?

Revelation 1:19

“Write] the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

JESUS LOVE LETTER TO THE CHURCH
End time view of the church

CHAPTER 2 & 3

Introduction: Two times in chapter 1 of Revelation John says...”to the seven churches”. This revelation was primarily to and for Jesus end time church, His bride. It is His message of love, correction and inspiration preparing us to reign with Him. He promised that we would be made “ready” for His coming. This undoubtedly is the most important, current call of pastors, teachers, prophets and apostles. “The bride has made herself ready...” means she is given the word of God that will change her and prepare her for her greatest hour. Nothing will cause the bride to get ready more than the coming of the bridegroom to take her with Him. Nothing reveals the heart of Jesus and His feeling for His bride more than Revelation chapters 2 & 3.

We are the mystery unfolded through the ages. Jesus had us in His heart before the foundations of the world. He knew we would come, would be revealed to the world as His greatest desire and passion, and would ultimately sit with Him forever to reign the universe. We were concealed in the Old Testament, revealed in the New. We were purchased through His covenantal blood, empowered by His Holy Spirit to be forever placed in His kingdom purpose at His side. **Now we will see His last words to us, for us and about us.**

I. His _____ for Us - A loving bride

Love is the main message of Revelation (Ephesian Church)

- A. Love brings RIGHT RELATIONSHIP “You have left your first love”
(why does our love grow cold?)

THE VERY FIRST DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST in Revelation 1 is

“To Him who loved us and washed us by His blood from our sins..” v- 5b
“Oh what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we
we should be called the sons of God”.

Because He loved us He rescued us! Greatest dramatic love story every told!

- B. Love brings _____ to the world (Philadelphia Church)

An amazing truth. Rev. 3:9 **“Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”**

Would you believe that the ultimate defeat of Satan comes when he realizes
The great love Christ has for His bride!

- C. Love brings _____ in our lives (Laodicean church)

Rev. 3:19 **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”**

Correction is a key to intimacy!

Repentance brings healing in relationships and restores love!

II. His _____ for Us – An overcoming bride

Training for Reigning Worksheet

A. Seven Overcoming blessings!

Ephesian church - ***“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”*** V – 7

Smyrna church – ***“He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”*** V-11

Pergamos church - ***“To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”***

Thyatira church - ***“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.”*** V – 26

Sardis church - ***“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*** V – 5

Philadelphia church - ***“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”***

Laodicean church - ***“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”*** V - 21

I Peter 1:2 – 4 ***“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”***

- We have His power through His promises by His Spirit!

HOW DO WE OVERCOME? “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church”.

III. His _____ over Us – A kept bride

A. His call to ***“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.”*** 2:10 Perfect love casts out all fear.. the knowledge of His love for us will keep us!

I John 4:17 ***“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”***

“ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” V - 18

B. His promise to keep us ***“I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall***

come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” 3:10

IV. His _____ with Us – A corrected bride

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee...” perfect love brings perfect correction

- A. He encourages us with His good words ***“I know your works...”***
- Works do not save us... ***“Not by works of righteousness we have done”*** Eph: 2:8
 - Work are not for salvation, but are evidence of transformation
 - Our works shall judge us, not the Fathers anger or displeasure ***“All righteous judgment has already been placed on Christ”*** (work of grace)

Ephesians 2:9 ***“for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..”*** ***“Every man will be judged according to his works..”***

- B. He corrects us with His warnings – He clearly defines the issues
- We have left our first love
 - We allow false teachers and prophets
 - We cover up sexual immorality
 - We compromise with the world (eat meats offered to idols)

Example of this in the church of ***Pergamos*** ***“But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”***

- C. He calls us to repent (Change our minds)
- So our light won't go out ***“I will come quickly and remove your candlestick”***
 - So our Love won't grow cold ***“Repent and do the first works”***
 - So our Life won't be short ***“I will kill her children with death”*** Jezabel's sin

V. His _____ for Us – A reigning bride “Training for Reigning”

What are the characteristics of the overcoming reigning Bride of Rev. 2 & 3

- A. The 7 church message ends with the Bride reigning with Christ.
- Grant us the highest position in the universe ***“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne...”*** 3:21
 - Grants us the highest power in the universe ***“.. as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”***
- B. The book of Revelation ends with us reigning with Him! Rev. 20:6 ***“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”***

SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

CHAPTERS 2 & 3 What they represent (Session #2)

Training for Reigning Worksheet

Introduction: We have looked at what Jesus says about His church as represented in the seven churches of Revelation. Now let's look at what the seven churches may represent in the history of the church. Why did God choose these seven? This could be one of the reasons... to show us the history of the church from the first century until today

Many bible scholars believe each church specifically stands for a period of time. Even though this cannot be strongly defended exegetically or contextually, it is good to know what these scholars believe. Assumptions must be made for this view to hold water.

I. _____ view of the Seven Churches

- Each church stands out as representative of a period of History of the church
- All the 7 churches still have characteristics of contemporary churches today.

Church	Church History Typified	Dates	Israel's History Typified ⁷	Verses
Ephesus	The Apostolic Church	A.D. 30-100	The Day of Israel's Espousals (Exodus)	Rev. Rev. 2:1-7+
Smyrna	The Church of the Roman Persecution	A.D. 100 - 313	The Period of Israel's Wanderings (Numbers)	Rev. Rev. 2:8-11+
Pergamum	The Church of the Age of Constantine	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	A.D. 313-600 ⁸	Rev. Rev. 2:12-17+
Thyatira	The Church of the Dark Ages	A.D. 600-1517 ⁹	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	Rev. Rev. 2:18-29+
Sardis	The Church of the Reformation	A.D. 1517-1648	The Period of Israel's Kings (1 and 2 Kings)	Rev. Rev. 3:1-6+
Philadelphia	The Church of the Great Missionary Movement	A.D. 1648-1900	The Period of Israel's Removal (1 and 2 Chronicles)	Rev. Rev. 3:7-13+
Laodicea	The Church of the Apostasy	A.D. 1900-present day	The Period of Judah's Kings (2 Chronicles)	Rev. Rev. 3:14-22+

II. _____ view of the seven churches

- A. Jesus will finish building His church. Called the time of the Gentiles. Romans 11:25 **"..until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in."**
(That is the period of great harvest until the end of the tribulation)

Training for Reigning Worksheet

1. Jesus has great patience and gives us time to repent
Jesus gives us His power to overcome until the end....

“I know your patience, and have not become weary.” 2:2 & 3
To church at Ephesus

“I know your tribulation...be faithful until death..” 2:9 & 10
To church at Smyrna

“you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith...”
To church at Pergamos

“I know your patience ... hold fast what you have till I come..” 2:19 & 25
To church at Thyatira

“Remember what you have heard, hold fast and repent..” 3:3
To church at Sardis

“You have kept my word, and have not denied My name..” 3:8
To Church at Philadelphia

2. Jesus gives great promises to encourage the church

His Angel over each church to protect and ministerHH
His Authority given to the church to reign
His “Action Plan” given in advance so we know the future

III. A _____ view of the 7 churches

A. She will work in the power of the Spirit

B. She will ultimately walk in His presence forever

Rev. 21:3 **“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”**

C. She will ultimately win!

THE THRONE OF GOD

CHAPTER 4

Introduction: To see the throne room of God would be change you forever. Isaiah said, "I saw the Lord, high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple..." (6:1) His description of the seraphim was exactly the same as John saw in Revelation. Ezekiel had a similar vision of the 4 creatures with the same four faces and wings. They demonstrate the glory and power and promise of God. John's vision correlates with those of Isaiah and Ezekiel.

I. THE ON THE THRONE V 2-3

- A. He Is _____ – The first thing John sees is a "**throne set in Heaven**". A "**throne**" speaks of "**sovereignty and authority**". We are viewing One Who occupies the place of absolute authority over all the affairs of Heaven and earth, **Psa. 47:8; 103:19**.

The word "**set**" speaks of "**stability, firmness, durability**". God's throne is an eternal throne! No foe will ever be able to force Him down from the place where He rules and reigns, **Psa. 45:6**.

- B. He Is _____ – John attempts to do the impossible: he attempts to describe God. The One on this throne is God the Father. How do we know? God the Son takes the seven sealed book out of His hand in **Rev. 5:5-7**.

John describes God as being like a "**jasper and a sardine stone**". The word "**like**" lets us know that we have encountered symbolic language. God is not a mineral or a stone, but His appearance reminded John of these two precious stones.

1. The "**jasper**" is clear and bright. It is possible that it is the same as a diamond. A diamond is a very hard stone and it speaks of "**firmness**". This comparison reminds us that our God is "**firm and unchanging**". God is Immutable, unchanging! Like **the law of gravity** or the **law of thermodynamics**...
2. The "**sardine**" stone is a blood red stone. It reminds us that while God is a God of sovereign rule and absolute authority, Who holds men to a high standard of holiness, is also the God of redemption! He is a God Who saved all those who will turn to Him by faith.

(**Note:** Before we leave these two stones behind, it is worthy to note that the "**Sardius**" and the "**Jasper**" were the first and last stones in the breastplate of the High Priest, **Ex. 28:17-21**. The "**sardius**" represented the tribe of Reuben, and the "**jasper**" represented the tribe of Benjamin. **These two stones were representative of all twelve stones** and were a reminder that God always kept His people and His covenants with His people close to His heart. In other words, these stones were a constant reminder that God would keep His Word and do everything He had promised to do.

Judgment will come, but it will be carried out by One Who has walked among us. There is a human side to His judgment. He will judge, but it will be tempered by His compassion and mercy.)

- C. He Is The Restraining One – Rainbow speaks of God's covenant blessing and promise. God is showing His love and promise before judgment on the earth. **Gen. 9:11-17**. (**Habakkuk 3:2**)

II. THE AROUND THE THRONE v - 4

- A. Their _____ – Who are these individuals? Some people think they are angels, or cherubim. The word "**elders**" is never used to refer to angels in the Bible. Others think they represent some other group.

– They are sitting on "**seats**". This is the same word translated "**throne**" in **verse 2**. Thus, they are seen to be reigning with God. The saints will reign with Him some day, **2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 1:6; Rev. 2:26**

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- B. **Their** _____ – They are “**sitting**”. This signifies rest. Their labors are over and they are sitting, at rest in the presence of God in Heaven.

We are seated in Jesus in Heaven today, **Eph. 2:6**. That is our positional situation.

- C. **Their** _____ – They are “**clothed in white raiment**”. White garments in the Bible speak of “**the righteousness of the saints**”, **Rev. 19:8**.

- **Not based on our performance, but our position!**

- D. **Their** _____ – They have “**on their heads crowns of gold**”. There are two words for crown in the New Testament.

One is the word “**diadem**”. This is word that is used to describe the many crowns Jesus will wear when He returns in power and glory to reign on the earth, **Rev. 19:12**. This is the kingly crown; the crown of glory.

The other is the word “**stephanos**”. It refers to “**a victor’s crown**”. It speaks of the crown given to victors in athletic contests.

The “**diadem**” is worn by Jesus by divine right. The “**stephanos**” is earned by the saints. We are told of at least five crowns that can be won by the people of the saints of God.

1. **The Crown of Life** – **James 1:12; Rev. 2:10** – This crown is given to those who demonstrate their love for Jesus by successfully enduring trials and temptations.
2. **The Crown of Righteousness** – **2 Tim. 4:8** – This crown is given to those who live in the light of His coming. The saints, who long for, live for and love the coming of Jesus, can receive this crown.
3. **The Crown of Glory** – **1 Pet. 5:4** – This crown is the reward of the faithful Pastor.
4. **The Crown of Rejoicing** – **1 Thes. 2:19** – This crown is a reward for those who faithful share the Gospel message and point others to Jesus.
5. **The Imperishable Crown** – **1 Cor. 9:25** – Awarded to those who battle the flesh and seek to live holy lives.

III. **THE** _____ **BEFORE THE THRONE v – 5 & 6**

- A. **The Scene In** _____ – As John watches, amazing things begin to take place around the throne of God. Let’s observe the action.

1. **He Speaks Of** _____ –v – 5 “**Lightenings, thunderings and voices**” – The things speak of approaching judgment. Heaven booms with the warning signals that judgment is on the way. These same things are seen in **Ex. 19:16-19**.
2. **He Speaks Of A** _____ – “**seven lamps of fire**” – This is the Spirit of God in His fullness, **Isa. 11:2**
3. **He Speaks Of** _____ –v – 6a “**a sea of glass like unto crystal**” –
- “**sea of brass**” called “**the laver**” outside the tent of the Tabernacle. Before the priests entered the tent they were required to wash in the laver. It symbolized cleansing and forgiveness of sin.

In Heaven, that sea of brass has become a sea of glass.

- B. **The Shouts In** _____ – v 6 – 11 There are **two groups** involved in the praise of God.

1. **The Shout Of The Beasts** v – 6b – 9 (The Cherubim)
 - a. **Their Description** – The word “**beasts**” comes from the Greek word “**zoon**”. We get the words “**zoo**” and “**zoology**” from it. The word has the idea of “**living ones**”. John sees these four “**living ones**” and attempts to describe them for us. 4 is the number of

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earth... these four living creatures are committed to restore the earth, protect the earth. **They are Cherubim.**

- He says that they are “**full of eyes before and behind**”. This speaks of complete intelligence.
 - **One was like a lion** – This represents wild animal life.
 - **One was like a calf** – This represents domesticated animal life.
 - **One was like a man** – This represents intelligent life.
 - **One was like and eagle** – This represents bird life.
 - These four beasts represent the entirety of God’s creation gathered before Him.
 - They are “**full of eyes**” – perfect intelligence; They have “**six wings**” – speaks of swiftness; They “**rest not**” – speaks of ceaseless activity.
 - These representatives of all creation stand in the presence of God and lift their voices in praise to the Creator.
 - He is the Creator and everything that was made exists for Him and for His glory, **Col. 1:16-17.**
- b. **Their Declaration** – v – 8 They declare His holiness. They declare His eternal nature. They declare His sovereignty and His control over all things. All of nature is involved in praising the Lord. **JESUS IS PICTURED IN THESE FOUR CREATURES!**
- The Lion pictures Jesus as He is portrayed in the **Gospel of Matthew – The Lion of the tribe of Judah**. As a Lion, Jesus possesses majesty, power and authority.
 - The Calf pictures Jesus as He is portrayed in the **Gospel of Mark – The Suffering Servant**. As a servant, Jesus demonstrated service and strength.
 - The Man pictures Jesus as He is portrayed in the **Gospel of Luke – The Son of Man**. As the Son of Man, Jesus possesses perfect intelligence and absolute moral righteousness.
 - The Eagle pictures Jesus as He is portrayed in the **Gospel of John – The Son of God** come down from Heaven. As the Son of God, Jesus possesses majesty and transcendence.
2. **The Shout Of The Believers** – v 9 – 10 It isn’t just the four living creatures that lift their voices in praise. When the four beasts begin to praise the Lord, the 24 four elders join right in.
- a. **Their Praise Is Volitional** – Nobody is seen forcing them to praise the Lord. When they hear their Lord exalted, they cannot help but join right in. They fall down before Him and worship their Redeemer!
 - b. **Their Praise Is Visible** – They don’t just praise the Lord “**in their hearts**”, they fall down before Him and offer visible, open, unabashed praise to the Lord.
 - c. **Their Praise Is Valuable** – They take the crowns they have been given and they cast them at the feet of the Lord God.
 - d. **Their Praise Is Vocal** – On top of everything else, they open their mouths and loudly proclaim their love and adoration for the Lord.
 - They declare His “**worthiness**”.

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- They declare His power.
- They declare His right to rule and reign.
- They declare their agreement with what He is about to do in the world.
- They declare the fact that He made the world and all that is in it. It is His and He can do with it as He pleases!
- Heaven will literally throb with the praises of God!

(Note: Anytime man enters the presence of God, man always falls down in worship – **Isa. 6:5; Eze. 1:28; Dan. 7:15**. Man is terrified in the presence of God and always falls down in humble worship.)

WORTHY IS THE LAMB CHAPTER 5

Introduction: Chapter 4 we have just seen the awesome view of heaven. The 24 elders and the Cherubim. We saw the magnificent worship around the throne. We now transition into the view of the courtroom of heaven. God is about to release judgments on the earth. We have front row seats in this courtroom. This passage sets the stage for the judgments that will come during the Tribulation. It also reveals Jesus in His exalted glory. Let's look at these verses and consider the thought: **Worthy Is The Lamb**.

I. **A** _____ **SCROLL**

A. **The** _____ **Of This Scroll** – As we read these verses, the character of this scroll becomes clear.

- First, it has something to do with “**man**”, **v. 2-4**.
 - Second, it has something to do with the “**earth**”. In **Revelation 6**, the seals of this scroll began to be opened and the contents of the scroll are read. When they are, they reveal what will be happening on the earth during the Tribulation Period.
 - Third, it seems that this scroll has something to do with “**redemption**”. When Jesus takes this scroll, He is praised for His redemptive work, **Rev. 5:9-10**.
1. **A Slave could be redeemed** – If a master lost a servant, he could pay a redemption price and buy that servant back. (Ill. That is what Jesus did when He came to die on the cross for us, **Rev. 5:9; Gal. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19**. We have been “**bought with a price**”, **1 Cor. 6:19-20**.)
 2. **A Wife could be redeemed** – This is seen in the book of Ruth, when Boaz paid the price to redeem Ruth and her dead husband's inheritance. (Ill. Jesus died on the cross to redeem a Bride unto Himself, **Eph. 5:25-27**.)
 3. **Land could be redeemed** – If a man lost the land he had been given as an inheritance, he could buy his property back by paying a redemption price. This truth is demonstrated in **Jeremiah 32**. Scroll... outside were the terms of redemption. Inside was the condition of the property needed to be redeemed. Two copies..on read, the other sealed and stored in jars in the temple.

When Jesus died on the cross, He did not just die for us, He also died for a ruined creation, **Rom. 8:22-23**.)

B. The _____ **Of This Scroll** – I believe this scroll that we see here, is the title deed to the planet earth. God gave man dominion over all of creation, **Gen. 1:27-28**. When man fell, he gave away his dominion and Satan became the god of this world, **2 Cor. 4:4**

II. **A** _____ **SEARCH** (v 2 & 3)

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- A. **The Requirements Of This Search** v – 2 An angel asks the all important question, “**Who is worthy to open the book?**” The question is this: “**Who is morally fit to read the text of this scroll and to carry out all that is necessary to redeem the earth?**”

Notice that the angel did not say, “**Who is willing to open the book?**” Thank God, there is One Who is worthy to take the book and to open its seals. We will discover why He is worthy in just a few minutes. (Many have been willing like Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Nebuchandezzar, Hitler... but non were worthy!

- B. **The _____ Of This Search** v – 3 No O.T. saints were worthy. No angels were worthy

- C. **The _____ Of This Search** v – 4 When the results of the search are made public, something happens in Heaven that had probably never happened before or since: John burst into tears!

There are two words used for weeping in the New Testament. One is used in **John 11:35**, where the Bible says, “**Jesus wept.**” That word refers to “**silent weeping**”. Jesus stood there at the tomb of His friend and He wept in silence. The other word is used when Jesus wept over Jerusalem, **Luke 19:41**. This word refers to “**uncontrollable sobbing.**”

III. **A _____ LORD** v 5 - 7

John is weeping, but one of the elders comes to him and gives him some encouraging news. He tells John to wipe his eyes and stop his crying because, while no mere man is worthy, One has been discovered Who is! Let’s examine this worthy One together.

Notice the elder’s words, “**Weep not, behold...**” Then, he points John to Jesus! That is the message the church has been preaching for 2,000 years, “**Weep not, behold**”

- A. **A Conquering Lion** v – 5 The elder tells John that “**the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David hath prevailed...**” When John hears the title “**Lion of the tribe of Judah**”, he immediately knows that the elder is referring to the Messiah. In **Gen. 49:8-10**, the Jews are promised that a great ruler will arise out of Judah

This person is also called “**the Root of David**”. The humanity and deity of Messiah.

- B. **A _____ Lamb** v – 6 When John turns around to see this mighty, conquering Lion, he sees a “**lamb as it had been slain.**” The word “**lamb**” means “**a little lamb; a pet lamb**”. When John looked, he expected to see a great and powerful Lion; what he saw instead was a little, pet Lamb. We are reminded of the Passover lamb. In **Exodus 12**, the people of Israel were instructed to select a perfect lamb, one without blemish and without spot. They were to take that lamb into their home and nourish it and care for it for a number of days. But, it was on the cross that Heaven won the greatest victory of all time and eternity! We are told that the Lion-Lamb has “**prevailed**”. This word means “**to carry off the victory**”

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- He carried off the victory on the Mount of Temptation, **Matt. 4:1-11**. (Satan thought Jesus would **Fail!**)
- He carried off the victory in the Garden of Gethsemane, **Matt. 26:38-44**. (Satan thought Jesus would **Fail!**)
- He carried off the victory on the cross, **John 19:30**. (Satan thought Jesus was a **Fool!**)
- He carried off the victory when He rose from the dead, **Matt. 28:1-8!** (Satan thought Jesus was **Finished!**) "**It is finished**"; it was a far greater achievement than when He said, "**Let there be!**" Jesus is called "**Lamb**" 28 times in the book of Revelation
- **This Lamb is in Heaven** – place of redemption
- **This Lamb had been there all along** – power of redemption
- **This Lamb still bore the marks of having been slain** – proof of redemption
- **This Lamb was standing** – Position of redemption... standing , **Heb. 1:3**
- **This Lamb has seven eyes** – He is all wise and all knowing. This Lamb is Omniscient. Nothing escapes His gaze.

C. **A**_____ **Lord** v - 7 The Lamb takes the book out of the hand of God. When He does, Heaven breaks out in an anthem of praise. Heaven knows that Jesus is about to do the work of the Lion and deliver the earth and all of creation from the bondage of Satan and from the blight of sin. **He is about to complete His**_____.

The Lamb is worthy to take the book and open the seals. If this scroll really is the title deed to the planet earth, what right does He have to open it? There are at least three reasons why He has this right.

- The world is His **by right of Creation** – He made it!
- The world is His **by right of Calvary** – He redeemed it!
- The world is His **by right of Conquest** – He will retake it!

Conclusion: One day in Heaven, the Lamb will take the seven-sealed scroll out of the hand of the Father. When He does, it will signal the beginning of the end for sin and for Satan. On that day, Jesus will receive the glory that He has been denied by the world for so long. He will be shown to be worthy of worship and to rule and reign over all of creation. He has earned the right because He squared off against all of Hell and He carried off the victory!

FOUR HORSEMEN ON THE HORIZON

CHAPTER 6:1-8

Intro: Revelation **chapter six** is a shock to the senses. In the past two chapters, we have been allowed to witness scenes of heavenly **worship**. In this passage, we are going to see images of divine **wrath**. We have been a place where there is **praise and shouting**. We are about to examine a scene filled with **pain and suffering**. In chapters four and five, we have been seated in “**heavenly places**” observing “**scenes of joy**”. In chapter six, we are brought down to “earthly places” to observe “**scenes of judgment**.”

- **Jeremiah 30:7**, “**Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.**”
- **Daniel 12:1**, “**And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**”
- **Matthew 24:21-22**, “**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**”

The four seals that we will consider in this message describe events that will take place during the first 3 ½ year portion of the Tribulation. We are about to witness a time of destruction, devastation and death that can hardly be comprehended by our mortal minds.

We are told in **verse one** that when the Lamb opens the first seal, there was “**the noise of thunder**” in Heaven. Let’s examine these verses together as I try to preach about “**Horsemen On The Horizon**”. Let’s study some of what a lost world will face when Tribulation begins.

I. THE WHITE HORSE OF _____ v - 2

Jesus is described in Rev. **19:11-16**. While there are some similarities, there are many more differences.

- It is Jesus Who is breaking the seals, **Rev. 6:1**. How can Jesus be in Heaven opening the seals and riding this white horse at the same time?
- This rider wears a “**crown**”; Jesus wears “**many crowns**”.
- This rider wears a “**stephanos**”, a victor’s crown. His crown is a prize. Jesus wears many “**diadems**”, the many crowns of the King of Kings.
- The rider in these verses has his crown “**given unto him**”. This man was appointed a king be men. This rider is given a crown that he has earned. Jesus wears His crowns because of Who He is, not what He has done. He is the King of Kings by birthright. Jesus is not given a crown, He “**gives**” crowns, **Rev. 2:10**.
- This rider carries a “**bow**”. Jesus carries a “**sword**”, **Rev. 19:15**.

A. **He Is A Man Of Peace** – You will notice that this rider has a “**bow**” in his hand, but he has no arrows. This implies that he will conquer the world without bloodshed. He will

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accomplish this by providing the answer to the problems faced by the world today. When the Antichrist comes, he will have the solution to the problem and he will establish a peace plan that will satisfy the world, **Dan. 9:27**.)

- B. **He Is A Man Of Power** – We are told that “**he went forth conquering, and to conquer**”. We are also told that “**a crown was given to him**”
- C. **He Is A Man Of Pretense** – The problem with the Antichrist is that he is not the man he appears to be. He portrays himself to be one person when he is in fact another person altogether. He comes riding a white horse

II. THE RED HORSE OF DESTRUCTION V – 3 – 4 Red is the color of fire and of blood.

- A. **The Peace Is Broken** – The peace instituted by the Antichrist seems to be short lived.
I Thess. 5:3 “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”
- B. **The Planet Is Brutalized** – This rider is given a “**great sword**”. The word “**great**” refers to the extent of the warfare. It will be worldwide in its scope. It is during this period that Russia and her allies will invade Israel in fulfillment of **Eze. 38-39**. Their army will be defeated by divine intervention, and Israel will burn the weapons of warfare for seven years, **Eze. 39:9-10**.

III. THE BLACK HORSE OF _____ V 5 – 6

Black is a color associated with famine. Famine always follows in the aftermath of war. Thus, worldwide wars will spawn worldwide famines. Jesus spoke of this in **Matthew 24:7**.)

- A. **A Time Marked By Shortages** – The rider on this horse has in his hands a set of scales
- B. **A Time Marked By Starvation** – **Verse 6** tells us something of the problems that will exist during that time. A biblical “**measure**” would be enough food to feed a grown, working man for one day. A “**penny**” refers to the “**denarius**”, which was a day’s wages. Wheat is the food from which bread is made. Barley was used primarily to feed livestock, and at times, it was consumed by the very poor.
- C. **A Time Marked By Separation** – The phrase “**and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine**”

IV. THE PALE HORSE OF _____ V 7 - 8

The word pale comes from the same Greek word that gives us the English words “**chlorophyll**” and “**chlorine**”. The word means, “**Green**”. It refers to the “**sickly, yellow-green pallor of a corpse**”.

We are told that the rider of this pale horse is “**death**”. We are also told that “**hell**” follows behind him. The word “**death**” speaks of the death of the body. The word “**hell**” reminds us

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that there is a horrible place waiting to receive the souls of lost men when they are taken by death.)

- A. **The Breadth Of This Devastation** – We are told that death will claim one-quarter of the world's population. We are talking about the death of 1.25 billion people in a short period of time!
- B. **The Brutality Of This Devastation** – The methods death will use to claim this great number of people are listed in this verse. The four methods mentioned are:
- _____ – This refers to warfare. During this period of time, it is almost certain that wars will be both conventional as well as nuclear in nature
 - _____ – We have already talked about the problem of starvation that will become worldwide in its scope during the Tribulation. Many millions will meet their deaths in that fashion.
 - _____ – This refers to deaths apart from warfare and famine. In **Matthew 24:7**, Jesus said this, ***“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.”***

The word ***“pestilences”*** is what I think this word ***“death”*** is referring to. Pestilence brings to mind diseases that will run rampant through the human race during this time period. Diseases like the ***“bird flu”*** will leave millions dead in their wake.
 - _____ – Animal attacks will account for many deaths. The word ***“beasts”*** can refer to ***“small animals”*** or to ***“rodents”***.

TWO WORLDS IN PRAYER

I. THE TRIBULATION SAINTS IN _____ V 9 - 11

- A. **Their Sacrifice** V - 9 Here is a multitude of people who have been ***“slain”*** for ***“the word of God and for the testimony they held”***. The word ***“slain”*** means ***“to butcher, or slaughter”***. These are people who turned to faith in Jesus. Yes, there will be people saved during the Tribulation. The Bible tells us that along with the bride of Christ, an army of Jewish evangelists are going to cover the globe preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is worthy to note that only those people who have never heard the Gospel will have the opportunity to be saved in that day, **2 Thes. 2:11**.
- B. **Their Supplication** V - 10 These martyred saints are involved in prayer. They “cried with a loud voice” and filled Heaven with their petitions. It is prayer for judgment called ***“imprecatory”*** prayer. It is the kind of praying you read about in the Old Testament, **Psalm 94:1-4**.
- C. **Their Satisfaction** V 11 These saints are given ***“white robes”***. This signifies their purity and their saved condition. They are clothed in white because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. They are told to ***“rest yet for a little season”***

II. THE TRIBULATION SINNERS IN _____ V 12 - 17

- A. **A Universe In Turmoil** V 12-14 Earthquakes will rip through the earth with devastating power. "**Sackcloth of hair**" refers to the black garments worn by mourners. The moon will take on the appearance of blood as it tries to shine through a ravaged atmosphere. This "**great earthquake**" is the first of three earthquakes mentioned in the book of Revelation.
- B. **The Unconverted In Terror** V 15–17 We are told that men of all ranks are overcome with fear. **Kings** are the rulers. **Great men** are the governmental leaders and men of power. **Rich men** are those who control the wealth of the world. **Chief Captains** are the military leaders. **Mighty men** are the celebrities and those with influence and power. **Bondmen** and **free men** alike are affected
1. v. 12-14 **What They See**
 2. v. 15-16 **What They Say**
- v. 16 **What They Seek** – They run to the "**caves and dens of the earth**" to find a refuge from the presence of God.

CHAPTER 7:1 - 8

Intro: III. The tribulation and the first 6 seals. The seventh is not opened until ch.8:1. This is a parenthetical portion of scripture. A lull in the storm, if you will. God stops the activity for a period of time to draw back the curtain and allow us a glimpse at His heart. Men have rejected the grace of the Lamb and now, they must experience the wrath of the Lamb. However, before He pours out the final judgments upon the human race, God stops to answer a prayer prayed long ago by the prophet Habbakuk, in Hab. 3:2. **Verses 1-8 deal exclusively with the Jews; verses 9-17 with gentiles.** We want to answer three questions related to this first group. 1. Who are they? 2. What do they do? 3. Are they living? Let's look at the 144,000.

I. HOW GOD _____ THEM V 1 - 2a

A. BY EARTHLY RESTRAINTS - (4 is a prominent number, repeated three times: angels, corners, winds) (4 is the number of the world!)

1. Angels - Messenger - Heb. 1:14
2. Corners - Not flat - Isa. 40:22 4 Points of the compass.
3. Winds - Type of Judgment - Hos. 8:7 Holding = restrained

B. BY HEAVENLY RESOURCES - A fifth angel - 5 number of grace
Seal = Protection - Noah, Ark; Israel, Blood; Cain, Mark

II. HOW GOD _____ THEM V 2b - 3

A. WHY THEY ARE SEALED - They are the servants of God! (Nothing else can happen until they are sealed!)

B. WHERE THEY ARE SEALED - In the forehead, an outward, observable sign. (Passover - Blood on the doorposts!)

1. Believers are sealed with an inward seal - Eph. 1:3
2. This seal will be a constant reminder to Satan that he is defeated.

III. HOW GOD _____ THEM V 4 - 8

A. THEY ARE PRESENTED AS A FAMILY They are Jews! What does this tell us?

1. God is not through with the Jew - Rom. 9-11
2. These are Jews who have received Christ
3. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes. No living Jew, but Jesus, knows which tribe he is from. (All records were destroyed in 70 AD)
4. Notice that Dan is missing. Why? Probably Idolatry. They were spiritual weaklings and they are not needed here? (Gen. 49:17)

B. THEY ARE PRESENTED AS A MINISTRY - Evangelists (What they do?)

1. Servants - They are evangelists - Matt. 24:14
2. The zeal of a converted Jews

A MULTITUDE NO MAN COULD NUMBER – GENTILES
REVELATION 7:9 - 15

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,” 2 Peter 3:9. That is the heartbeat of God and it can be heard in the verses before us today. I praise the Lord that there will still be people saved during tribulation times! This is good news. Here is a number totaling more than one man could count! These verses give us the opportunity to look at what awaits those who come out of tribulation.

I. THEIR _____ v 9 - 12 (Includes the souls under the altar! Rev. 6:16)

- A. They are Gentiles - God dealt with the Jew in verses 1-9, now He turns to the gentiles. Acts 1:16 - Thank God, He loves the gentiles. Rom. 1:16
- B. Standing
- C. White Robes - Virtue, purity, (Rev. 3:5, Sardis) (1 John 1:7; Isa.1:18)
- D. Palms - Victory
Satan and Antichrist's worse punishment turns out to be these saints's greatest blessing!
- E. Praises - These saints lift their voices together and praise the Lord for His saving work! What a worthy theme! We ought to be about the same business - Luke 10:20! (III. The OT Feast of Tabernacles – All Nations praising God together! When we are redeemed by God and are with Him, we have reason to praise - Heb. 13:5)
- F. Angels - Say Amen, add seven additional blessings, like that so good, they say Amen again! (III. Angels are not known to sing! But, they are known to praise -

II. THEIR _____ V 13 - 14

- A. Came OUT OF tribulation! Saved as a result of the witness of the 144,000!
- B. Saved by the blood - Slaughterhouse religion! The Blood is THE ONLY WAY TO GOD! Heb. 9:22; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5; 1 John 1:7 III. Salvation!

III. THEIR _____ V 15 - 17

- A. V.15 Service - They will serve God continually.
- B. V.16 Blessings:
 - 1. No hunger - Famine, 6:5-6
 - 2. No Thirst - Water to blood - 8:8, 11
 - 3. No Sunburn - Sun - 16:8-9
- C. V.17 Joy
 - 1. Jesus Himself will feed them.
 - 2. Will give them plenty and they shall never want!
 - 3. God will wipe their tears away, III death of saints, II. All they saw. One day God will extend his grace in a personal way! (III. Us too - Rev. 21:4)

COMING JUDGEMENTS THE SEVEN TRUMPETS CHAPTER 8:1-13

We continuing to watch as the events of the Book of the Revelation unfold. We see the seventh seal opened which are the seven trumpets. The plagues or judgments become increasingly intense with first the seals, then the trumpets and finally the bowls.

I. THERE IS IN HEAVEN V - 1

- A. **Shows God is in control.** Absolute silence reigns there for one-half an hour.
- B. **Shows God commands the judgments through angels.** The judgment of God is about to fall on the earth and heaven has thirty minutes of silence before the judgments commence. **Habakkuk 2:20** says, "***But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.***

II. THERE IS A AT THE ALTAR V 2 - 5

- A. **Involved** V - 2 Seven angels are pictured, standing before God, ready to do His bidding. **Numbers 10:1-12** tells us that two silver trumpets were to be used to notify the people of Israel that certain events were about to occur. God's people are listening for trumpets, **1 Thes. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52**. Trumpets are a big part of our future too.
- B. **Involved** V 3 – 4 Another angel takes a censer filled with incense. He takes the incense and offers it along with the prayers of the saints on the altar before God. The smoke of the incense and the prayers of the saints ascend together into the very presence of God.

A massive world-wide prayer movement will accompany the time of tribulation. Revelation is God's prayer journal giving the saints understanding on HOW to pray. These saints will release the judgments on earth as Moses released the judgments on Egypt.

III. THERE IS ON THE EARTH V 6 - 13

- A. **The Trumpet Of** V – 7 The first trumpet brings hail and fire mingled with blood. This may be a description of hail falling from the skies, mingling with lava from volcanic eruptions. The word "**trees**" speaks of "**fruit trees**". Wheat, which is used to produce bread, is a type of grass. Creating great shortages on earth. (Black rider – horsemen)
- B. **The Trumpet Of** V 8 – 9 When the second trumpet sounds a fiery mountain is seen falling into the sea. One-third of the sea is contaminated; one-third of the all marine life dies and one-third of all human ships are destroyed.

Verses 7 and 8 both mention blood. Blood will fall from the skies and the seas will be turned to blood.

- C. **The Trumpet Of _____** V 10 - 11 Another object falls from Heaven. It is probably a comet, since it is described as having a tail. It falls upon the fountains of fresh waters and causes them to become poisoned. The word "**wormwood**" translates the Greek word "**apsinthos**". It means "**bitterness**". It refers to a plant whose leaves are used to manufacture a certain drink called "**absinthe**".
- D. **The Trumpet Of _____** V – 12 When the fourth trumpet sounds, God turns down the power of the sun, moon and stars. Their power is reduced by one-third. They are dimmed and when they do shine they are not as bright, nor do they shine as long as they used to.
- This could be the result of all the ash and debris from the earlier judgments, or this could be the supernatural hand of God. However, the results are the same, the earth is plunged into darkness as the sun, moon and stars refuse to give their light. This will affect growing seasons, weather patterns, plant life, temperatures on the earth, and mankind's physical and emotional health. This trumpet will take a great toll on humanity.
- E. **The Testimony Of _____** V- 13 This chapter closes with an angel flying through Heaven pronouncing further woes upon the earth. Things are bad, but not as bad as they will become. The worst part of the Tribulation still lies ahead!

Ezekiel 38:22-23, "And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD." God will prove His glory in the day of His judgment. He will do the things we have read in these verses to show man just Who God is.

Matthew 24:29, where Jesus says, "**Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**" He is describing the very events that we have read about today.

Notice that last phrase: "**and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken**". The word "**powers**" comes from the word "**dunamis**", which gives us the word "**dynamite**". It means "**inherit, explosive power**." The word "**heaven**" come from the word "**uranos**", which gives us the word "**uranium**". And the word "**shaken**" means "to be set off balance". Now, without trying to change what the Scripture says, but looking at it this way, it reads: "**And the powers of uranium shall be set off balance.**"

Remember Romans 8:22 "**For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now...**"

But remember God's promise to His bride..His people. V – 35 "**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... V – 38 – 39 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

HELL ON EARTH

CHAPTER 9:1-13

Intro: There can be little doubt that the Book of Revelation contains some of the most frightening images in the entire Bible. This passage may be the most frightening of them all.

We are in the midst of the seven trumpet judgments. The first four trumpets have been sounded and they brought forth horrible scenes of death and destruction. The earth's environment has been shattered and mankind is writhing under the awful judgments of a holy God. **Chapter 8** closes with an angel flying through Heaven pronouncing three "**woes**" upon the "**inhabiters of the earth**". This angel knows that the plagues unleashed by the sounding of the last three trumpets will be far more horrible than anything we have witnessed yet.

I. A _____ PERSONALITY v- 1

- A. **He Is A Famous Personality.** **Isa. 14:12.** The name "**Lucifer**" means "**Brilliant star; Light-bearer or Shining one**". So, we are introduced to Lucifer, a famous personality.
- B. **He Is A Fallen Personality –Isa. 14:12-17; Eze. 28:11-19.** Pride was found in Lucifer and he was cast out of Heaven. He still has access to the presence of God where he accuses the brethren, **Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7.** In fact, he is the "**prince of the power of the air**", **Eph. 2:2.** But, there will come a day when Satan will be eternally cast down to the earth, **Rev. 12:10.** So, here we see Satan, cast out of Heaven and forced to confine his activities to the earth.
- C. **He Is A Fearsome Personality –** This famous, fallen figure is given a key to the bottomless pit. He is given the authority to unlock a terrible prison and unleash a horrific plague upon the world. We were told in **Rev. 1:18** that Jesus has the keys of "**death and of Hell**". For a short time, the power over a host of demonic spirits imprisoned in Hell is given to Satan.

II. A _____ PLACE

- A. **It Is A Deep Place –** it is called a "**bottomless pit**". The word "**bottomless**" gives us our word "**abyss**". It refers to a very deep chasm. The word literally means "**well**".
- B. **It Is A Dark Place –** We are told that smoke ascends out of this pit and the smoke is so great that it obliterates the light of the sun. There is an old saying that goes, "**Where there is smoke there is fire**"
- C. **It Is A Demonic Place –** Throughout the New Testament, Hell is associated with demonic activity. **Luke 8:31** teaches us the truth that the demons fear being sent to the abyss. **Rev. 11:7** tells us the Beast, the Antichrist, will ascend out of this place.

As I have already mentioned, fallen angels are bound there and Satan himself will spend eternity in Hell.

III. A _____ PLAGUE

- A. v. 3-4 **The Power They Possess** – These demons are described as locusts, but unlike locusts they will not harm the vegetation. A literal locust swarm will leave a green landscape barren
- B. v. 5-6 **The Pain They Produce** – When this attack comes, people will not be killed, but they will be tormented for five months. Five months, May to September, is the typical lifespan of a locust. These hellish locusts will torment men for five months.
- C. v. 7-11 **The Picture They Paint** – Beginning in verse 6, these demons are described for us. Let's take a few minutes to consider the vivid description John gives to this demonic army.
1. v. 7 **Horses prepared to battle** – They resemble mighty war horses, prepared for battle, straining at the bit.
 2. v. 7 **Golden crowns on their heads** – They come to the earth as conquerors. No medicine or act of science that conquer them. For five long, awful months, these demons reign on the earth.
 3. v. 7 **Faces like those of men** – This speaks of their intelligence. The human face is so expressive. It reveals the emotions buried beneath the surface. These beings are intelligent.
 4. v. 8 **Hair like a woman** – They are attractive to people. It may be that they have some seductive charm by which they lure their victims to them
 5. v. 8 **Teeth like a lion** – Their bite is infectious and painful. A lion's bite never really heals. There is so much infection and bacteria in the bite of a lion that the wound will rarely heal completely.
 6. v. 9 **Breastplates of iron** – They are invulnerable to attack and they are insensitive to the sufferings of humans.
 7. v. 9 **Wings that sound like chariots** – This implies swiftness. They will be able to surround and capture their prey with ease.
 8. v. 10 **Stings in their tails** – We have already touched on their capability to inflict pain. It is mentioned here to emphasize the fact that the pain and torment of men is their sole objective.
 9. v. 11 **They have a king over them** – They will be organized and united in their attacks upon humanity. The fact that this king's name is given in Hebrew and Greek shows us that all unbelievers, both Jew and Gentile, will be targeted by this demonic invasion.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET
CHAPTER 9:13 - 21

The saints prayer in chapter 6:10 is finally being answered.

I. THE _____ ANGELS v14 -15

- A. v.14 **They Come From A Distinct Place** - Euphrates River. Very prominent
- B. v.15 **They Come For A Distinct Period Of Time** - They were prepared for THE hour. God is running on a precise timetable. He is in control!
- C. v.15 **They Come For A Distinct Purpose** - to slay 1/3 of the human race

II. THE _____ ARMY v 16 -19

- A. **The Number Of The Army** - 200,000,000! This is a column of men 1 mile deep and 87 miles long!
- B. **The Nature Of This Army** - (v.17) Human or Demonic? Human described in symbolic fashion, demonically energized!

III. THE _____ ATTITUDE

The Lost condition of mankind during the tribulation

A. Their _____ Life v - 20

- 1. **Demon Worship** – Men will worship Satan and demons
- 2. **Idolatry** - Men will worship the works of the hands.

B. Their _____ Life - v - 21

- 1. **Murders** Abortion - In one year, more babies die from abortion than the total number of Jews murdered during Hitler's reign in Germany! Approx. 9,000,000! 1.6 million a year here! 4,300 per day; 180 per hour; 3 per minute
- 2. **Sorceries** - (Ill. Pharmakon = Pharmacy) The use of drugs will increase
- 3. **Fornication** - (Ill. Pornia = Pornography) Illicit sexual activity will mark that Porn is a 10 billion dollar industry. 85% goes into the pockets of organized
- 4. **Thefts** - Stealing. Property will mean nothing

SCRIPTURES AND CONTEXTUAL INTERPRETATION POST TRIBULATION RAPTURE

1. God is going to keep us from temptation and defeat during tribulation.

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." - Rev.3:10

(Amplified version) Revelation 3:10 ***"Because you have guarded, observed, and carefully attended to the word of my steadfast consistency and endurance, I also will carefully attend to, take care of, and guard you from the appointed time of the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, and consistency, which shall come upon the whole inhabited earth, to test the faith, virtue, and character by the enticement to sin of all them that dwell upon the earth."***

2. Resurrection of all dead in Christ happens at the coming of the Lord.

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." - 1Thessalonians 4:15-18

Comment: There is nothing in Scripture that teaches two resurrections of the dead at the time of the great tribulation. We are raised and come back with Christ at the "Coming of the Lord". All saints shall be resurrected at the same time. First the dead and we which are alive together!

3. There is only ONE resurrection spoken by the apostle Paul.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in victory.*" - I Corinthians 15:49-51

Comment: The last trump is clearly the 7th trumpet of Revelation or the return of Christ to the earth with His saints.

4. Jesus shall come the same way He left according to Acts 1:9-11

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Comment: Jesus went up from earth in a cloud and shall return to earth in clouds. Nothing here about taking us up and staying in heaven for 7 years. He left earth in a cloud and will return to earth the same way.

5. Marriage supper of the Lamb.. when and where and what is it?

When: **At the second coming of the Lord to earth.** Concerning the ***“marriage supper of the Lamb”***, the Scriptures indicate that it will begin at the second coming of the Lord. Revelations 19:7 announces that the marriage of the Lamb is come. Notice that this is after the seven seals of the book have been opened (Rev.6:1-8:1), after the seven trumpet judgments (Rev.8:2-11:15), and after the seven vial judgments (Rev.16:1-17). It tells us in Rev.19:9, ***“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb”***, then in the verses following, we see the Lord and the saints who are in heaven (the dead in Christ) preparing to go to the earth with Christ at His coming. (Rev.19:11-16).

Where: **It shall happen on earth** In Rev.19:17, an angel announces to all the fowls, ***“Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God”*** that they might eat the flesh of kings, captains, mighty men, etc. Which supper is the angel speaking of? The context of the chapter indicates that it is the marriage supper of the Lamb. We next see the beast (anti-christ), the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered to make war against the Lord. Then the Lord defeats the beast and the false prophet, throwing them into the lake of fire and the armies of the earth are slain. It appears that God's intent as to what happens at the marriage supper of his Son is quite different from man's religious interpretation. The marriage supper of the Lamb begins with a sacrifice. In Eze.39:17-20, the Lord beckons every feathered fowl and beast of the field to the sacrifice that he sacrifices where they will eat the flesh of the mighty, princes of the earth, and all men of war. This is the same description of events as we saw previously in Rev.19:17.

Comment: The bride makes her self ready to return to earth with Christ after having been resurrected and caught up and now assists Christ in executing judgment upon the earth at the “great supper of the Lamb”. Rev. 19:17 and Rev. 9:7 are tied together.

6. Church is found all through book of Revelation. Some say the church is not seen in Revelation after Rev. 4:1. **This just is not true.**

Training for Reigning Worksheet

Revelation 4:1 ***“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”***

(this has nothing to do with the rapture of the church! It is simply John being caught up to receive his revelation of the throne and heaven)

Saints, the Bride of Christ, are always described as being clothed in “White Robes”.

Rev.3:4-5 it says, ***“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment***

In Rev.3:18 when Jesus speaks to the Church of Laodicea, he says ***“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear...”***

These same saints are referred to clothed in “**white raiment**” all through the book of Revelation!

Rev.6:9-11, ***“I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held...And white robes were given unto every one of them”***

Rev.7:13-14, “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in **white robes**? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them **white in the blood of the Lamb**”. Isn't this also describing members of the Church, the bride of Christ?”

Rev.19:7-8 says concerning the wife of the Lamb, which is the Church: “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, **clean and white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints

Rev.12:11, ***“And they (church during the tribulation) overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”. Is this not also referring to the Church? Who else has overcome by the blood of the Lamb?”***

Why I after many years of embracing the “Pre-tribulation Rapture” theory, I changed my view after further study and reflections on all Scriptures I had been using to defend my Pre-trib theory. Here are some things that definitely influenced my thinking.

1. This theory (Pre-trib) has only been in church teaching from around 1830. This teaching began with Scottish woman named Margaret MacDonald.

Training for Reigning Worksheet

2. It was picked up by the founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Rev. Edward Irving. His followers were later called the Irvingites. He had been influenced by Margeret MacDonald's teaching.
3. Around the same time of 1830, John Darby, a Plymouth Brethren leader began preaching the Pre-tribulation rapture. This influenced the Scofield Reference Bible that was full of the teaching of dispensationalism and the Pre-rapture theory. This Bible also influenced a lot of the thinking of the evangelical church through the years.
4. Therefore, I know that the Pre-tribulation theory has not been the historic view of the church. All of these formerly mention teachers knew each other.
5. We must "rightly divide" the word of Truth, the Bible with thorough study and ask God to help show us what is the contextual, exegetical teaching comparing Scripture with Scripture. The Berean believers were more mature, because they went to their houses after hearing a teaching and "searched the Scriptures to see of those things taught were so."
6. I have a great deal of respect for many of the contemporary Bible teachers who hold to the Pre-tribulation theory so I don't see this as a point of theological fellowship. The central doctrinal issues of the Trinity, deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the inspiration of the word of God...these are the issue that we must agree upon. Paul said, one faith, one confession... that is "Jesus Christ is Lord". This is our central point of fellowship.
7. At this point in my theological journey, I am now more fully persuaded that we must prepare the bride of Christ for what is ahead. If what I understand at this time is really the truth concerning the coming time of "great tribulation" on earth is the bride ready to go through VICTORIOUSLY? If for any reason I am wrong and we are raptured out of here, I still win. If what I presently see is the truth, I believe God is raising up voices like mine to prepare His (Christ's) bride... Professor Jerry Brandt