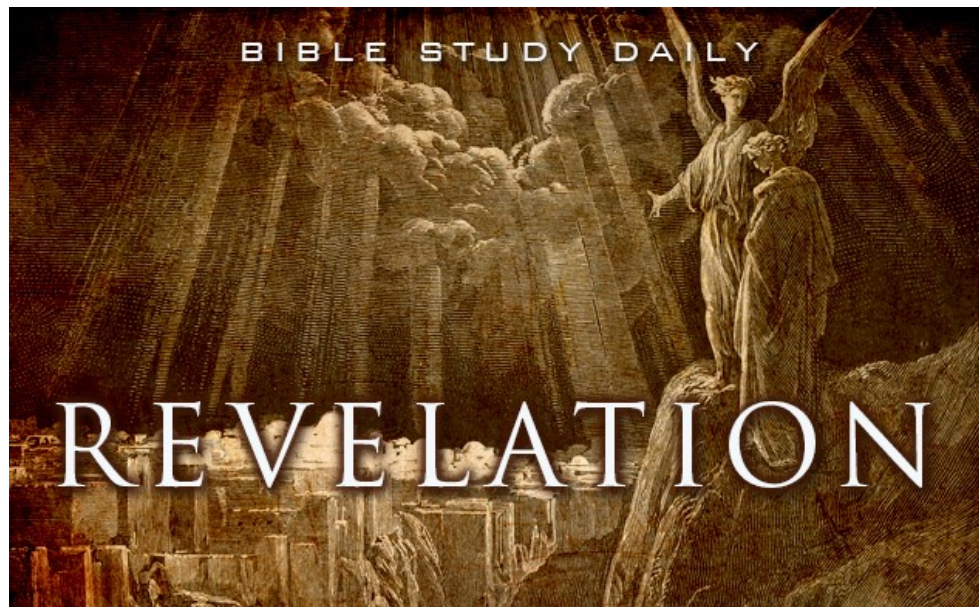




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Revelation as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “Revelation ” comes from the contents of the book; it is the divine inspiration of Revelation to John the apostle (v. 1).

Author

John the apostle is the accepted author of Revelation. John refers to himself in Revelation 1:4, 1:9, and 22:8. Additional internal evidence is the number of situations that fit only John’s life: he labored in Ephesus many years, he was exiled by Domitian to the island of Patmos, and afterward he returned to Ephesus where he died.

External evidence comes from a number of early church fathers who ascribe authorship to John, including Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Clement of Alexandria, and Origen.

Genre

Prophetic

Literary Form

The book of Revelation is prophetic in that it foretells events that will occur in the future. It is apocalyptic, meaning it reveals what was previously unknown, and it also has the form of an epistle (letter).

Time Frame

There are two views of the date of Revelation. Those who support the older view puts the date in the late A.D. 60’s. The rationale for this date is the reference to the persecuted churches which is well documented during Nero’s reign in the late 60’s.

Other scholars date the book in the mid 90’s perhaps A.D. 96. Early church father documented the reign of Domitian, who exiled John to the island of Patmos. Additionally, the mention of seven kings, five of whom had fallen in Revelation 17:10, occurred during the reign of Domitian. This date is the most logical and supported by the majority of scholars.

Emphasis

The emphasis of Revelation is on revealing events that will take place immediately before, during, and after Christ’s second coming, His millennial reign, and the state of man in the new heaven and New Jerusalem.

Outline

- Prologue & Salutation (1:1-8)
- The vision of the Son of Man and the command to write (1:9-20)
- The letters to the seven churches (2:1-3:22)

- 
- The heavenly throne (4:1-5:14)
 - The seven seals (6:1-8:1)
 - The seven trumpets (8:2-11:19)
 - The signs before God's judgment 12:1-14:20)
 - The seven bowls of judgment (15:1-19:5)
 - The second coming of Christ (19:6-20:15)
 - The new Jerusalem (21:1-22:5)
 - Conclusion (22:6-21)

What I Noticed Today (Revelation 1-2)

Revelation 1

In verses 1-3 John opens the book with a prologue:

- The revelation of Jesus Christ given to Him by God to show His slaves what must take place.

Note: The word “revelation” is the Greek word *apokalypsis* which means “unveiling” and is where we get the English word *apocalypse*. The word “slave” (some translations *servants*) refers to all Christians.

- He sent it through His angel to his servant John who testified about Christ and all he saw.
- The one who reads this is blessed. The ones who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written are blessed.

Note: This is the only book of the Bible which promises a blessing for reading and keeping the prophecy of the book.

In verses 4-8 John includes a typical salutation in three parts: the author (John), the intended recipients (the seven churches of Asia), and a greeting (grace and peace to you from the One who is, who was, and is to come...).

- From the seven spirits before His throne.


Note: There is disagreement among scholars who the seven spirits are. One view is they are the angels of the seven churches who stand before God. The other view is they are the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:12). Based on verse 20, I believe they are the angels of the seven churches.

- Jesus is firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.
- John exhorts readers to watch for His second coming (Deuteronomy 7:13, Zechariah 12:10).
- “I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God. The One who is, who was, and is to come.

Note: Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. It is like saying He is the first and the last, or the beginning and the end.

In verses 9-20 John records the vision that came to him from the Lord while he was on the island of Patmos:

- John, your brother, and partner in the kingdom, because of God’s Word and my testimony about Jesus.



Note: John was exiled by the Roman emperor Domitian to the Island of Patmos which was a penal colony in about A.D. 95. He was released shortly after Domitian's death in A.D. 96.

- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day when he heard a loud voice tell him to write on a scroll what he sees and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
- I turned to see who spoke and saw seven lampstands and among them was One like the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13).
 - He was dressed in a long robe with a sash tied around him.
 - His head and hair were white like wool (Daniel 7:9).
 - His eyes were like a fiery flame.
 - His feet were like fine bronze.
 - His voice was like the sound of cascading water.
 - He had seven stars in His right hand.
 - He had a sharp double-edged sword in His mouth.
 - His face was shining like the sun at mid-day.
- When I saw Him I fell at His feet.
- He said don't be afraid I am the First and the Last, and the living one. I was dead, but I am alive forever, and I hold the keys to death and Hades.
- Therefore, write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this.
- The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 2-3

These two chapters cover the letters to the seven churches. They describe the "what is now" from Revelation 1:19. The order of the letters follows the order one would take on a journey through the land of these seven churches: beginning with Ephesus, north to Smyrna, northeast to Pergamum, east and south to Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Revelation 2

In verses 1-7 the letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus.

- The One who holds the seven stars and walks amongst the lampstands says.
- I know your works, your labor, your endurance, and that you do not tolerate evil.

- You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not and found them to be liars.
- You have tolerated many things in My name and not grown weary.
- But you have abandoned the love you had at first.
- Repent and do the works you did at first.
- I will come and remove your lampstand unless you repent.
- You hate the practice of the Nicolaitans which I also hate (see verses 14-15).
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit. I will give the victor the right to eat from the tree of life which is in God's paradise.

Note: Ephesus was a major city in Asia and one in which Paul had ministered for 2-3 years in A.D. 52-53, some 40 years before John wrote Revelation. Paul made Ephesus his home based as he planted other churches throughout Asia. Ephesus was originally on fire for the Lord, but now second generation believers were still doing good works, but they had neglected their relationship with and devotion to God.

In verses 8-11 the letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna.

- The First and the Last the One who came to life says:
- I know your affliction and poverty, yet you are rich.
- I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are of the Devil.
- Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer.
- The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you and you will have an affliction for 10 days.
- Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit. The victor will never be harmed by the second death (they will live forever).

Note: The church in Smyrna endures poverty and suffers persecution from Gentiles, Jews, and the Satan. There is no rebuke for the church in Smyrna (unlike five of the other churches).

In verses 12-17 the letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum.

- The One who has the sharp double-edged sword says:
- I know where you live, where Satan's throne is.
- You are holding onto my Name and did not deny your faith in Me even in the days of Antipas who was killed.
- But you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam (Numbers 22-25, intermarriage with heathens and idol worship).

- You also have those who hold to the teaching of Nicolaitans.
- Repent, otherwise, I will come and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit. I will give the victor some hidden manna, and a white stone on which a new name will be inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Note: Pergamum had temples to Greek gods and was a center for the worship of emperors. Christians who refused to engage in worship of Greek gods and emperors were severely persecuted. The “hidden manna” may refer to Christ who is referred to as the Bread from Heaven (John 6:48-51). The meaning of the white stone is unclear, but the inscription of the name seems to indicate acceptance by God.


In verses 18-29 the letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira.

The Son of God, the One whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like bronze says:

- I know your works; you love, faithfulness, service, and endurance.
- Your last works are greater than you first work.
- But you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who deceives My people with sexual immorality and idol worship.
- I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent.
- I will throw her into a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into the great tribulation unless they repent.
- I will kill her children with a plague.
- Then all the churches will know that I examine hearts and minds and will give to each of you according to your works.
- To the rest of you in Thyatira who reject Satan’s teaching, I do not put any other burden on you.
- But hold on to what I gave you until I come.
- The one who is victorious and keep my works will receive authority over the nations (Psalm 2:9).
- I will also give him the morning star.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit.

Note: Thyatira was a smaller city but known for its production of purple dye, prized by royalty. The “authority over nations” means they will rule with the Lord after His second coming. The “morning star” is a symbol of the Messiah (Numbers 24:17).

Some additional thoughts for consideration:



Revelation is the culmination of God's story begun in Genesis.

The revelation of Jesus reminds us not only of who He is, but what He has done.

The slander, persecution and false teachers described in the letters to the churches is very real and exists to this day.

Are we ever guilty of acting like a second generation Christian who does good works, but neglects our relationship with and devotion to God?

What I Noticed Today (Revelation 3-5)

Revelation 3

In verses 1-6 the letter to the angel of the church in Sardis.

- The One who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars says:
- I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive but you are dead.

Note: The commendation to the church in Sardis is really a rebuke; they only have a reputation for being alive, but the reality is they are not. They are falling short of their potential.

- Be alert and strengthen what remains that is about to die, for your works are incomplete.
- Remember what you received and heard, keep it, and repent.
- Otherwise, I will come like a thief in the night (suddenly, unexpectedly) to judge you.
- But there a few people who have not defiled themselves and walk with Me in white.

Note: Being dressed in white was a symbol of righteousness.

- In the same way, the victor will be dressed in white and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge him before My Father and the angels.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit.

In verses 7-13 the letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia.

- The holy One, the True One, the One who has the key of David, who opens and no one closes, and closes and no one opens says (see Isaiah 22:22):
- I know your works. You have limited strength, but have kept My Word, and not denied My name.

Note: There is no condemnation for the church in Philadelphia.

- I have opened a door for you that no one can close.
- I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are lying, come and bow down at your feet.
- Then they will know that I loved you because you kept my command to endure.

- I will also keep you from the hour of testing (the great tribulation).

Note: Some scholars translate the Greek, “I will keep you *through* the hour of testing” in order to justify a post-tribulation rapture. However, the Greek verb and preposition do not support this interpretation. It is correctly translated “from” which supports pretribulation rapture of the church.

- I am coming quickly so hold on to what you have so that no one takes your crown.
- I will make the victor a pillar in the sanctuary of My God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem), and My new name.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit.

In verses 14-22 the letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea.

- The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Originator of God’s creation says:
- I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot.
- I wish that you were cold or hot.

Note: Water used in feasts and religious ceremonies was either hot or cold but never lukewarm. Water that came to Laodicea was piped in from Hierapolis (a few miles north) and was lukewarm by the time it got to Laodicea.

- Because you are lukewarm I am going to vomit you out of my mouth.
- Because you say you are rich and need nothing, and you don’t know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.
- Buy from Me gold refined in a fire (pure) so that you may be rich (spiritually rich),
- White clothes so you will not be naked (spiritually naked), and
- Ointment for your eyes so you may see (spiritual sight).

Note: There was a medical facility on Laodicea that made an ointment that cured many of the eye diseases common in the Middle East.

- Those I love I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent!
- Listen! I stand at the door and knock if anyone hears My voice and opens the door. I will come in and have dinner with him, and he with Me.
- I will give the victor the right to sit with Me on My throne.
- Anyone who has an ear should listen to the Spirit.

Note: There can be no spiritual richness, or sight as long as Christ is outside the door!

Revelation 4-22

These chapters describe what will happen in the future leading up to the second coming of Christ, the Millennial kingdom, the New Jerusalem, and the new heaven and earth.

Revelation 4

In verse 1 John describes an open door in heaven and a voice that spoke telling him to come up here, to see what must take place after this (later).

In verses 2-11 John describes what happened and what he saw:

- Immediately I was in the Spirit in heaven.
- One was seated on the throne having the appearance of jasper and carnelian.

Note: Jasper is a clear stone resembling a diamond. Carnelian is a red stone resembling a ruby. The jasper and carnelian are the first and last stones of the high priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:17-21).

- A rainbow resembling an emerald surrounded the throne.
- Around that throne were 24 thrones with 24 elders dressed in white, wearing gold crowns.
- Flashes of lightning and thunder came from the throne.
- Seven torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.
- Four living creatures covered with eyes were all around the throne.
- The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had a face like a human, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each had six wings and were covered with eyes.
- Day and night they never stopped praising the Lord.
- Whenever the living creatures praise the Lord the 24 elders fall down before the One and worship Him, and cast their crowns before Him saying all glory, honor, and power belong to Him, because He created all things through His will.

Revelation 5

All of chapter 4 serves as an introduction to the seven-sealed scroll. Based on the description of the scroll as it was unrolled the seals would be broken one by one.

In verses 1-7 the Lamb of God takes the scroll:

- The One seated on the throne had a scroll in His right hand. (The right hand of God is the symbol of power and authority.)

- The scroll had writing on the front and the back (Ezekiel 2:9-10), sealed with seven seals.
- A mighty angel asked who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?
- No one in heaven or earth was worthy to open the scroll or even look in it.
- I (John) wept because no one was worthy to open the scroll.
- One of the 24 elders said to stop crying, behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David may open the scroll with its seven seals.
- Then I saw One like a slaughtered lamb standing between the throne and the living creatures among the elders.
- He had seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Note: The lion and the lamb are references to Christ. The horns symbolize strength. The seven Spirits of God represent the Holy Spirit.


- He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One seated on the throne.

In verses 8-14 the Lamb is worthy of worship:

- When He took the scroll the 24 elders and the four living creatures fell down before the Lamb (Christ).
- Each one had a harp, and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- They sang praise, you are worthy because you were slaughtered, and you redeemed (purchased) the people for God by your blood, from every tribe and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.
- Thousands of angels joined the 24 elders and the four living creatures proclaiming in a loud voice the lamb who was slaughtered is worthy to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.
- Then every creature in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea and everything in them said blessing, honor, glory, and dominion to the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever.
- The four living creatures said “Amen,” and the 24 elders fell down and worshiped.

Some thoughts for further consideration:

How much of the difficulties seen in our churches today is due to the fact that as a body we are lukewarm? Pastors and congregations have become lukewarm, afraid to speak the truth as they know it!



The Lord stands at the door of our heart and knocks. Do we listen and hear? Do we invite Him in? The door of heaven is open, but we must invite Jesus in!

The Lord redeemed us at the cost of His precious blood. We should not wait until we stand before Him to worship Him.

What I Noticed Today (Revelation 6-8)

Revelation 6

Seal 1.

In verses 1-2 John describes the Lamb (Jesus) opening one of the seven seals and one of the four creatures said, “Come” and John saw a white horse, and the horseman who had a bow and a crown, went out as a victor to conquer.

Note: There are some who believe the rider of the white horse is Christ, but the timing is wrong. Christ returns as conqueror at the end of the Tribulation period, not before. Also, note there is no mention of an arrow. It is more likely this rider is the Antichrist.

Seal 2.

In verses 3-4 He opened the second seal and a second living creature said, “Come” and a fiery red horse went out and its horseman with a large sword could take peace from the earth so that people would slaughter one another.

Seal 3.

In verses 5-6 He opened the third seal and a third living creature said, “Come” and there was a black horse and its horseman had a set of scales. Something like a voice from the four living creatures said a quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the olive oil and the wine.

Note: This horseman represents famine which often follows war. The price for the wheat and barley was very high indicating severe famine and food shortages.

Seal 4.

In verses 7-8 He opened the fourth seal and the fourth living creature said, “Come” and there was a pale green horse and the horseman on it was named Death and Hades followed after him. Authority was given him over a fourth of the earth to kill by the sword, famine, plague, or wild animals.

Note: Death is a reference to the physical body, Hades is a reference to the Spirit/Soul of man.

Seal 5.

In verses 9-11 He opened the fifth seal and I (John) saw under the altar people slaughtered because of God’s Word and their testimony. They cried out for the Lord to avenge their deaths. A white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest until their number was fulfilled.

Note: This is a description of the martyrs during the Tribulation

period. The word translated “people” is literally the word for “souls” in Greek. The souls of the martyrs were under the altar. The white robes given to them are a symbol of their righteousness.

Seal 6.

In verses 12-17 He opened the sixth seal and a violent earthquake shook the earth. The sun turned black and the moon turned red like blood, and the stars fell to the earth. The sky separated like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

Everyone hid in the caves in the mountains, and they called on the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

Note: All elements of society; rich and poor, free and slave who had not accepted Christ hid themselves to try to avoid the judgment of God and the wrath of Christ.

Revelation 7

Chapter 7 includes two visions that appear to John after the opening of the sixth seal and before the opening of the seventh. It answers the question from Revelation 6:13, “Who is able to stand [before God]?”

In verses 1-8 John describes four angels standing in the four corners of the earth restraining the wind. Another angel with the seal of God rose up and cried out to the other four angels not to harm the earth, the trees, or the sea until they seal the slaves of God on their foreheads. The number of those sealed was 144,000 (12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel).

Note: A seal placed on a person indicated ownership. In this case, they are “owned” by God. The 144,000 are Jewish believers (not members of a modern day cult of Christianity). The order of the tribes listed is interesting: Judah is listed first because it was the royal tribe of Israel, Reuben is next and was the firstborn of Jacob. Dan and Ephraim are not listed, perhaps because of their idolatry. Joseph (taking the place of his son Ephraim) and Levi are listed although neither were listed among the military tribes of Numbers 2.

In verses 9-17 after this John looked and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, and language standing before the throne, and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and carried a branch in their hands. They cried out, “Salvation belongs to our God...and to the Lamb.”

The angels stood around the throne the elders, and the four living creatures and fell down and worshiped God.

One of the elders asked who are these people robed in white and where did they come from? John answered, “Sir, you know.” The elder explained...

- They came out of the Great Tribulation.
- They had washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the

Lamb.

- Because of this, they are before the throne of God serving Him day and night.
- The One on the throne will shelter them.
- They will no longer hunger or thirst.
- The sun will no longer strike them.
- The Lamb will shepherd them, and guide them to springs of living water.
- And God will wipe away their tears.

Note: In John's first vision righteous Jews from every tribe are sealed with God. In the second vision believers martyred during the Tribulation are given comfort and protection by God.

Revelation 8

In verses 1-6 He opened the seventh seal, and there was silence in heaven for half an hour. Then seven trumpets were given to the seven angels who stand before God. Another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of the saints. The smoke of the incense were the prayers that went up in the presence of God. The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire, and hurled it to earth. There was thunder, lightning, and an earthquake. The seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

Note: The seventh seal is important, covering all the events from Revelation 8:1 through 19:10. The angel with the incense burner is thought to be Jesus because the prayers of the saints come before God through Him (Ephesians 2:18). Jesus is called the angel of Jehovah in Genesis 16:13, Genesis 31:11, Judges 6:22, Hosea 12:4. From the order of the text, it appears the prayers of the saints caused the angel to throw the fire upon the earth to punish their enemies.

Note: Verse 6, as the angels prepare to blow their trumpets, signifies the middle of the Tribulation period.

First Trumpet.

In verse 7 the first angel blew his trumpet and hail mixed with fire and blood were hurled to the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned, and all of the green grass.

Second Trumpet.

In verse 8-9 the second angel blew his trumpet and something like a mountain on fire was hurled into the sea. A third of the sea became blood, a third of the creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Note: Perhaps a massive volcanic eruption.



Third Trumpet.

In verses 10-11 the third angel blew his trumpet and a great star blazing like a torch fell from heaven onto a third of the rivers and springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the water became wormwood, so many people died from drinking the water.

Note: Wormwood is a non-poisonous plant that is extremely bitter. However, in this case, the water became poisonous. Wormwood is an analogy for bitterness, sorrow, and injustice (Jeremiah 23:15, Lamentations 3:15, Amos 5:7).

Fourth Trumpet.

In verses 12-13 the fourth angel blew his trumpet and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day and night were without light.

I (John) looked up and saw an eagle crying out in a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth because of the remaining three trumpet blasts that are about to sound.”

Some additional thoughts for consideration:

The Antichrist begins by declaring peace. He has weapons of war, but no arrows with which to fight. It is not long before Christians are persecuted during the Tribulation.

During the Tribulation two groups, one of Jews, and one of Christians maintain their faith and are sealed in righteousness.

What I Noticed Today (Revelation 9-11)

Revelation 9

Fifth Trumpet.

In verses 1-12 the fifth angel blew his trumpet and a star fell from heaven to earth. The key to the abyss was given to him. He opened the abyss and smoke came up so the air and sun were darkened by it.

Note: The star that fell from heaven earth is referred to as a “he” and it is Satan. The abyss is the home of the demons.

Locusts came out of the smoke with power like scorpions. They were told not to harm anything except those who did not have God’s seal on their foreheads. They were not permitted to kill them, only torment them for five months. People will seek death, they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

The locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. They had something like gold crowns on their heads, faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, chests like iron breastplates, and their wings sounded like the sound of chariots rushing into battle. They had tails like scorpions, that could harm people for five months.

Their king is the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek Apollyon.

Note: The names Abaddon and Apollyon both mean “destroyer.”

The first woe is passed; two more woes will come.

Sixth Trumpet.

In verses 13-21 the sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the horns of the altar, a voice told the sixth angel to release the four angels bound at the Euphrates river.

Note: The four angels that were bound are demons because angels are not bound.

So the four angels were released and killed a third of the human race. The number of mounted troops was 200 million. The horsemen had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like lion’s heads and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. A third of the human race was killed by them. They had tail, resembling snakes with heads and they inflict injury with them.

Note: A fourth of the earth’s population was killed in the fourth seal, and now a third of those who remain are killed, so to this point half of the earth’s

population has been killed.

The rest of the people who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of their works and stop worshipping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood. They did not repent of their murders, sorceries, sexual immorality, or their thefts.

Note: While the sixth trumpet may have produced fear, it did not result in repentance!

Revelation 10

Note: Revelation 10:1-11:14 is the second interlude that falls between the sixth and seventh trumpets. The first interlude was Revelation 7:1-17 between the sixth and seventh seals.

In verses 1-11 John describes the mighty angel and the small scroll.

A mighty angel came down from heaven in a cloud with a rainbow. His face was like the sun and his legs like fiery pillars. He had a small scroll open in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left hand on the land and cried out with a voice like a roaring lion. Seven thunders spoke and I (John) was about to write it down when a voice from heaven said to seal up what the seven thunders said and not write it down.

The angel raised his right hand and swore an oath, that there would be no interval of time. The seventh angel will blow his trumpet and then God's hidden plan will be revealed.

The voice I (John) heard before told me to get the scroll from the angel and eat it. It will be bitter in the stomach but taste sweet as honey in your mouth.

And I (John) was told you must prophesy again to many peoples, nations, kings, and languages.

Revelation 11

In verses 1-14 John describes two witnesses who were martyred and then resurrected.

I was given a measuring rod with the words, go and measure God's sanctuary, and the altar, and count the people who worship there. But exclude the outer sanctuary, because it is given to the nations and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.

Note: This means to measure the area of the Holy of Holies, but not the outer courtyard. The outer courtyard would be under the control of the Gentiles who will trample the holy city for 42 months (3-1/2 years).

I will empower my two witnesses for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and lampstands that stand before the Lord. If anyone wants to harm them fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. These men have the power to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters

to turn them to blood and to strike the earth with any kind of plague they want.

When they finish their testimony the beast will come up out of the abyss, make war with them, conquer them, and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city (prophetically called Sodom and Egypt), where the Lord was crucified.

Note: The beast that comes out of the abyss is the Antichrist. The great city referred to in verse 8 is Jerusalem.

People will view their bodies for 3-1/2 days and not be permitted to be buried in a tomb. People will gloat over them and celebrate with gifts because these two prophets brought judgment on those who live on the earth.

After 3-1/2 days the breath of God entered them and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them. A loud voice commanded them to come into heaven. They went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watched.

A violent earthquake shook the city and 7,000 people were killed. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to God in heaven!

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming.

Seventh Trumpet.

In verses 15-19 the seventh angel blew his trumpet. Loud voices proclaimed the coming of the coming of the kingdom of the Lord who will reign forever and ever.

The 24 elders seated before God fell down and worshiped God, thanking God for who He is, for His great power, and for beginning to reign. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give rewards to Your servants the prophets because the time has come to destroy the earth.

God's sanctuary in heaven opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

Note: The events of the seventh trumpet will be concluded in Revelation 16.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

We do not know who the two witnesses are that prophecy for 1,260 days. They are killed by the Antichrist, but resurrected and brought to heaven by God. Satan seems to win a battle, but in the end, the Lord is victorious!

What I Noticed Today

(Revelation 12-13)

Revelation 12-15

Chapters 12-15 represent an interruption in the chronological flow of the revelation. The seventh trumpet sounded in chapter 11 but is not revealed until chapter 16, when the chronology of events resumes.

Revelation 12 & 13

These chapters introduce seven characters that are very important to an understanding of the events of the last half of the Revelation:

- 1) A woman clothed with the sun represents Israel (12:1-2).
- 2) A red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, represents Satan (12:3-4).
- 3) A male child, represents Christ (12:5-6).
- 4) The archangel Michael who casts Satan out of heaven (12:7-12).
- 5) The offspring of the woman who is persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17).
- 6) The beast from the sea, the future world dictator (13:1-10).
- 7) The beast from the earth, the false prophet (13:11-18).

Revelation 12

The First Character.

In verses 1-2 a great sign appeared in heaven: it was a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet (see Genesis 37:9-11) and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in agony as she was about to give birth.

The Second Character.

In verses 3-4 another sign appeared in heaven: a great red fiery dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on his head were seven diadems (crowns). His tail swept a third of the stars out of heaven and hurled them to earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth to devour her son.

The Third Character.

In verses 5-6 but she gave birth to a son who will shepherd the nations with an iron scepter, and her son will be caught up to God and to His throne. The woman escaped to the wilderness where she was protected by God for 1,260 days (3-1/2 years, or 42 months).

Note: The 1,260 days is a reference to the flight of Israel at the

beginning of the Great Tribulation.

The Fourth Character.

In verses 7-12 war broke out in heaven: Michael against the dragon and his angels (demons). The dragon, the ancient serpent, known as Satan or the Devil who deceives the world, was thrown out of heaven to earth.

Note: The archangel Michael is assigned to protect Israel (Deuteronomy 12:1). This war between Michael and Satan occurs in the middle of the Tribulation period.

A hymn of praise from heaven declared salvation, power, and the kingdom of God, and the authority of the Messiah have now come because the accuser (Satan) has been thrown out (of heaven). He was conquered by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (martyrs). Rejoice in heaven, but woe to the earth and the sea where Satan will dwell with great fury for a short time (1,260 days).

The Fifth Character.

In verses 13-17 when the dragon was thrown to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. The woman was given wings of an eagle so she could escape to the wilderness for a time, times, and half a time (3-1/2 years, 1,260 days, or 42 months).

The serpent tried to sweep her away but the earth protected her. The dragon was furious and left her to wage war against her children; those who keep God's commands and have the testimony of Jesus.

Note: Only a third of the people of Israel are preserved (Zechariah 13:8), of which the 144,000 (Revelation 7) are a portion.

Note: Chapter 12 introduces six people/groups that will be alive in the end times: Israel, Satan, Christ, Michael, the remnant of Israel, and Gentile believers.

Revelation 13

The Sixth Character.


In verses 1-10 a beast came up out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were seven diadems (crowns), and on his heads were blasphemous names.

Note: The beast depicts a revived Roman empire (Daniel 7:7-8). Coming out of the sea means the beast is a Gentile (Revelation 17:5). The ten horns are ten kings/nations (Daniel 7:24).

The beast was like a leopard, his feet like a bear's, and his mouth like a lion's.

Note: From Daniel 7 the leopard is Greece, the bear is Medo-Persia, and the lion is Babylon.

The power of the beast comes from Satan. One of the beast's heads appeared



to be fatally wounded, but the wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed by the beast and worshiped it.

A mouth was given to him to utter blasphemies and speak boasts. He was given authority for 42 months (1,260 days, 3-1/2 years, 42 months, or times, time, and half a time). He spoke blasphemies against God, His name, His dwelling, and those who live there. He was permitted to wage war against the saints and conquer them. He was given authority over every people, tribe, nation, and language. All those who live on the earth will worship him except for those whose names are written in the book of life.

Anyone who has an ear should listen: if anyone is destined for captivity into captivity he will go. If anyone is destined to be killed by the sword, he will be killed. This demands perseverance and faith of the saints.

Note: Believers in the end times will either be made captives or killed as martyrs for their faith in Christ. Perseverance and faith are needed to endure the persecution.

The Seventh Character.

In verses 11-18 another beast came up out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb but sounded like a dragon (like Satan). He had all the authority of the first beast and forced all those who live on the earth to worship the first beast whose fatal wound was healed.

- He performs great signs, causing fire to come down out of heaven to earth in front of the people.
- He deceives those who live on the earth through his signs, telling them to make an image of the beast who had the sword wound and lived.
- He was permitted to give a spirit to the image, so the image could both speak and require whoever would not worship him to be killed.
- He requires everyone in the world to be given a sign on his right hand or forehead so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark: the beast's name or the number of his name.
- The number of the beast's name is the number of man: 666.

Note: Chapter 13 indicates there will be a one-world government, and a one-world religion during the last half of the Tribulation period. It is Satan's last attempt to force the world to reject God and worship him.

What I Noticed Today

(Revelation 14-16)

Revelation 14 & 15

In these two chapters, John describes additional details of events in heaven and on earth leading up to the bowl judgments in chapter 16.

Revelation 14

In verses 1-5 John describes the Lamb and the 144,000. The Lamb stood on Mount Zion with the 144,000 who were sealed were with Him.

- A sound from heaven like cascading water and rumbling thunder.
- Harpists singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the 24 elders.
- No one could hear the song except the 144,000 redeemed from the earth.
- These are ones not defiled by women—they are virgins.

Note: It is unclear if they are virgins in the physical sense or the spiritual sense. Israel is often referred to as a virgin (2 Kings 9:21, Isaiah 37:22, Jeremiah 18:13).

- They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
- They were redeemed from the human race as firstfruits for God and the Lamb.
- No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

Note: The word “blameless” is the same word Greek word (*amōmoi*) used to describe sacrificial animals as “without defect.”

In verses 6-13 John describes the proclamation of the three angels.

- I (John) saw another angel flying overhead to announce the Gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people of the earth.
- He spoke with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and springs of water.”
- A second angel followed saying, “Babylon the Great has fallen, who made all nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality which brings wrath.”
- A third angel followed them saying if anyone worships the beast and receives the mark on his forehead or his hand he will drink the wine of God’s wrath. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the Holy angels and the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will go up

forever. There is no rest for anyone who worships the beast

- This demands perseverance of the saints to keep God's commands and their faith in Jesus.
- A voice from heaven said, the dead who die in the Lord from now on are blessed. Yes, said the Spirit, let them rest from their labors.

Note: this is the second time a blessing is issued for those who persevere during the tribulation. (The first was 1:3).

In verses 14-20 John describes the reaping of the earth's harvest.

- I (John) looked and there was a white cloud and one like the Son of man seated on the cloud with a gold crown, a harp, and a sickle.
- Another angel came out of the sanctuary crying out to the One seated on the cloud to reap for the time to reap has come since the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Note: The word used for "ripe" means "over-ripe."

- So the One seated on the cloud swung the sickle and the earth was harvested.
- Another angel with a sickle came out of the sanctuary in heaven.
- Another angel who had authority over fire came from the altar and called to the angel with the sickle to gather the cluster of grapes from the earth's vineyard.

Note: A different word is used for "ripe" which means "fully grown" or in "prime condition."

- The angel swung his sickle and threw the grapes into the great winepress of God's wrath.
- Then the press was trampled outside the city (Jerusalem) and blood flowed out of the press up to the horse's bridles for 180 miles (1,600 stadia).

Revelation 15

In verses 1-8 John describes the preparation for the bowl judgments.

- Then I (John) saw another great sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues to complete God's wrath.
- I also saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had won victory over the beast, his image, and the number of his name were standing on the sea with harps from God.
- They sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb:
 - Great and awe inspiring are Your Works Lord God, the Almighty.
 - Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations.

- Lord, who will not fear and glorify you name?
- Because you alone are holy for all the nations will come and worship before you because your righteous acts have been revealed.
- After this, I looked and the heavenly sanctuary was opened.
- Out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues.
- They were dressed in clean bright linen, with gold sashes around their chests.
- One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven bowls filled with the wrath of God.
- The sanctuary was filled with smoke from God's glory and His power.
- No one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues from the seven bowls were completed.

Revelation 16

Revelation 16 is chronologically close to the second coming of Christ. The bowl judgments occur in rapid succession reaching a climax of world war (Daniel 11:36-45).

In verse 1 I (John) heard a loud voice from the sanctuary telling the seven angels to go pour out God's wrath on the earth.

The First Bowl.

In verse 2 the first angel poured out his bowl on the earth and painful sores broke out on the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

Note: Similar to the painful sores that broke out on the people of Egypt (Exodus 9:8-11).

The Second Bowl.


In verse 3 the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea. It turned to blood and all the creatures of the sea died.

Note: Similar to the first plague in Egypt where the Nile turned to blood (Exodus 20-25).

The Third Bowl.

In verses 4-7 the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they also became blood. The angel declared the riotousness of God who is and was the Holy One. The judgment came because they poured out the blood of the saints and prophets. Someone from the altar said the Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.

The Fourth Bowl.



In verses 8-9 the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun. He was given the power to burn people with fire. People were burned up because of the intense heat. So they blasphemed the name of God and did not repent and give Him glory.

The Fifth Bowl.

In verses 10-11 the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast and his kingdom was thrown into darkness. People gnawed on their tongues because of the pain, and blasphemed God because of their pain and sores, but refused to repent.

The Sixth Bowl.

In verses 12-16 the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates. Its water dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east.

I saw three unclean frogs coming from the dragon's mouth, the beasts' mouth, and from the mouth of the false prophet.

For they are spirits of demons performing signs to kings of the world to assemble them for the great day of battle with God Almighty.

I am coming like a thief in the night. The one who is prepared and clothed so people will not see his shame is blessed.

Note: Verse 15 is the third blessing of the Apocalypse.

So they assembled them at the place known in Hebrew as Armageddon.

Note: Armageddon is the Greek word *Harmagedōn*, which is a transliteration of the Greek words for Mount of Megiddo. The Mount of Megiddo is near the city of Megiddo in the plain of Esdraelon.

The Seventh Bowl.

In verses 17-21 then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air and a loud voice from the sanctuary said, "It is done."

- There were flashes of lightning and rumbling of thunder.
- And a severe earthquake like none ever before on the earth.
- The great city (Babylon) was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell.
- Babylon the Great (see Deuteronomy 4:30) was given a cup of God's fierce anger.
- Every island fled and mountains disappeared.
- Hailstones weighing 100 pounds fell from the sky, and the people blasphemed God for the plague of hail.

Note: Similar to the hail and thunder described in Exodus (9:13-35).

What I Noticed Today

(Revelation 17-18)

Revelation 17-18

Chapters 17-18 are an expansion on the seventh bowl of wrath and Babylon the Great (Revelation 16:19). Chapter 17 is focused largely on Babylon the Great's religious character, while chapter 18 is focused on its political power.

Revelation 17

In verses 1-2 one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came to me (John) and said he would show me the judgment of the notorious prostitute who sits on many waters. Kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her.

Note: Babylon the Great is referred to as the “Mother of Prostitutes” (Revelation 17:5). The “waters” refer to people, multitudes, nations, and languages (Revelation 17:15).

In verses 3-5 the angel carried me (John) away to the desert in the Spirit (not physically).

- I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
- The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls.
- She had a gold cup in her hand filled with everything vile from her prostitution.
- On her forehead was written, “Babylon the Great, The Mother of Prostitutes, and of the Vile Things of the Earth.”
- The woman was drunk on the blood of the saints and of the witnesses to Jesus.
- John was astonished by what he saw.

Note: The beast is a reference to the world government (Revelation 13:1), the 10 horns are a reference to 10 kings who had not received a kingdom yet, and the 7 heads are a likely reference to prominent rulers of the future Roman empire.

In verses 7-18 John is given the meaning of the woman and the beast:

- The angel wondered why John was astonished and went on to explain the meaning of the woman and the beast that carries her.
- The beast was, and is not, and is about to come up from the abyss and go to destruction.

- Those whose names have not been written in the book of life since the beginning of time will be astonished when they see the beast that was, is not, and will be present again.

Note: The abyss is the home of Satan and where demons come from.

- The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated.
- They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. When he comes he will remain for a little while.
- The beast that was and is not is the eighth king, yet he belongs to the seven and is going to be destroyed.

Note: This eighth king is the final world leader leading up to Christ's return.

- The ten horns are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.
- Their one purpose is to give power and authority to the beast.
- They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them because He is Lord of Lords, and King of Kings.
- Those with Him [the Lamb] are called, chosen, and faithful.
- The waters you saw where the prostitute [Babylon the Great] was seated are the peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.
- The ten horns you saw and the beast [the antichrist] will hate the prostitute.
- They will make her desolate and naked, devour her flesh, and burn her up with fire.


Note: The nations that originally prostituted themselves with Babylon the Great will turn against Babylon and destroy it.

- For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His plan, according to His purpose.
- And the woman you saw [Babylon the Great] is the great city that has an empire over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 18

In verse 1 another angel came from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

In verses 2-3 the angel said Babylon the Great has fallen, she has become a dwelling place for demons, unclean spirits, unclean birds, and every unclean beast. For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality which brings wrath. The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants have become wealthy from her.



In verses 4-8 another voice from heaven ordered people to come out of her so you will not share in her sins, or receive any of her plagues. For her sins are piled up to heaven and God has remembered her crimes. Pay her back double for her crimes. As much as she lived in luxury, give her that much torment and grief. She thinks she is a queen and will never see grief. For this reason, plagues, death, grief, and famine will come in one day. She will burn with fire because the Lord God judges her.

In verses 9-20 the world is described as mourning Babylon's fall:

- Kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality with her will weep and mourn when they see her burning. They will stand far off in fear of her torment saying woe to the city for in a single hour your judgment has come.
- Merchants of the earth will also mourn because no one buys their merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine fabrics, silk, fragrant wood products, ivory, expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, olive oil, wheat flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses and carriages, and slaves.
- The fruit you craved is gone, no one will ever find them again.
- The merchants will stand far off in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, saying woe to the great city for in a single hour her wealth was destroyed.
- Every shipmaster, seafarer, and sailor and all who do business by sea stood far off watching her burn weeping and mourning for in a single hour she was destroyed.
- Rejoice heaven, you saints, apostles, and prophets because God has executed your judgment on her.

In verses 21-24 then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea saying in this way Babylon will be thrown down violently, never to be found again. The sound of harpists and musicians will never be heard again. The light of a lamp will never be seen again. The voice of a bride and groom will never be heard again. All this will happen because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery, and because the blood of the prophets and saints and all those slaughtered [martyrs] on the earth was found in you.

What I Noticed Today

(Revelation 19-20)

Revelation 19

In verses 1-5 heaven celebrates the fall of Babylon the Great:

- After this (after the fall of Babylon the Great), I (John) heard a large multitude in heaven, saying...
- Verses 1b-4 are known as the Hallelujah Chorus. It is a song of praise to God for His righteous judgment over Babylon the Great.

Note: The Greek word for Hallelujah (*hallēlouia*) is derived from a similar word in Hebrew meaning “praise God.” It occurs only four times in the New Testament, and all four times are in this chapter of Revelation (19:1, 3-4, 6).

- The 24 elders and the four living creatures joined in the worship and praise to God.
- A voice from heaven exhorted all those who belong to God and fear Him, small and great, to praise God.

In verses 6-10 the marriage of the Lamb is announced:

- Then I (John) heard something like a multitude, like the cascade of waters, like the rumbling of thunder, offer praise to God for the reign of the Lord has begun.
- Rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come.
- His wife [the church] has prepared herself. She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure.
- Fine linen signifies the righteous acts of the saints.
- Then the angel commanded John to write, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.”
- I (John) fell at his feet to worship, but the angel commanded me not to, saying he was a fellow slave with you who have the testimony of Jesus.
- Worship God because the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Note: The purpose of prophecy was to testify to Jesus Christ and to glorify Him.

Revelation 19:11-20:15

The balance of chapter 19 describes Jesus’ second coming, and chapter 20 describes His millennial reign.



In verses 11-21 John describes the rider on the white horse who defeats the beast and his armies:

- Heaven opened and there was a white horse with a rider [Christ] whose name was “Faithful and True.”
- He judges and makes war in righteousness.
- His eyes were like a fiery flame and He had many crowns on His head.
- He had a name written that only He knew.
- His robe was stained with blood, and His name is the Word of God.
- The armies of heaven followed Him on white horses wearing white linen.
- A sharp sword came from His mouth so that He might strike the nations.
- He will shepherd them with an iron scepter.
- He will trample the winepress of God’s fierce anger.
- He has a name written on His robe and His thigh, “King of King, and Lord of Lords.”
- An angel standing on the sun cried out to the birds telling them to gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, commanders, mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of everyone both free and slave, small and great.
- The beast and his armies gathered together to wage war against the rider and His armies.
- But the beast was taken prisoner along with the false prophet who had performed signs in his presence.
- He deceived those who took the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.
- The beast and the prophet were thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Note: The lake of fire is a separate place from hades prepared specifically for Satan and his Demons (Matthew 25:41). It will not be occupied by humans until Revelation 20:14-15.

- The rest were killed [by Christ] with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse. And the birds ate their fill.

Revelation 20

Chapter 20 describes the Millennial reign of Christ. There are three interpretations of chapter 20, which influence how one interprets the rest of prophetic scripture:

- **Postmillennialism.** This view suggests the millennial reign of *the Gospel*, leading up to the return of Christ.

- **Amillennialism.** This view denies any literal Millennial reign of Christ on earth. The millennial reign of Christ only exists in the hearts of believers.
- **Premillennialism.** This view supports a literal reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years following His second coming.
- Those who support the postmillennial or amillennial view, interpret chapter 20 figuratively.

In verses 1-3 John describes Satan being bound:

- I (John) saw an angel coming from heaven with a key to the abyss and a large chain in his hand.
- He seized the dragon, the serpent, who is the Devil and Satan.
- He bound Satan for 1,000 years and threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he could not deceive nations for 1,000 years.
- After that he must be released for a short time.

In verses 4-6 John describes the martyred saints being resurrected and rewarded:

- Then I (John) saw thrones and people seated on them with authority to judge. I also saw those martyred for their testimony for Jesus and because of God's Word who had not worshiped the beast and had not accepted the mark of the beast on their foreheads or hands.
- They came to life and reigned with Messiah for 1,000 years.

Note: Verse 4b refers to the dead martyred during the Great Tribulation.

- The rest of the dead did not come back to life until after the 1,000 years.


Note: The rest of the dead referred to in verse 5 are the wicked dead described in verses 11-15.

- This is the first resurrection.
- Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection.
- The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and Messiah and will reign with Him for 1,000 years.

Note: The "first resurrection" is first in as much as it precedes the "last resurrection" (vv. 12-13). Many scholars believe the "first resurrection" is the spiritual resurrection of being born again, which will be followed by a physical resurrection: the last resurrection.

In verses 7-10 John describes the rebellion of Satan being crushed:

- After the 1,000 years are completed Satan will be released from his prison and will deceive the nations of the earth (called Gog and Magog, see Ezekiel 38) to gather them for battle.

- 
- Their number is like the sand of the sea.
 - They came up over the surface of the earth and surrounded the saints, the beloved city [Jerusalem, see Isaiah 2:1-5].

Note: Apparently there were many born during Christ's Millennial reign who never professed their faith in Him, or professed a shallow faith, and followed Satan when he appeared.

- Then fire came down from heaven and consumed them.
- The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are.
- They will be tormented there forever.

In verses 11-15 John describes the resurrection and the Great White Throne judgment of the wicked dead:

- Then I (John) saw a great white throne and One seated on it.
- The earth and heaven fled from His presence

Note: The One sitting on the throne is not identified, but is probably Christ Himself.

Note: The reference to heaven and earth fleeing from His presence seems to indicate they will have been destroyed, making room for the new heaven and earth referred to in chapter 21.

- I also saw all the dead, great and small standing before the throne.
- Books of works were opened along with the book of life.
- The dead were judged according to what was written of their works.
- Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and all were judged by their works.
- Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
- This is the second death.
- Anyone not written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

What I Noticed Today (Revelation 21-22)

Revelation 21

In verses 1-2 I (John) saw a new heaven and a new earth.

- For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.
- The sea no longer existed.
- I also saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God like a bride adorned for her husband.

In verses 3-8 then I (John) heard a loud voice from the throne.

Note: This is the last of 20 times John used the phrase “a loud voice.”

- God will dwell with His people, and God Himself will be with them, and He will be their God.
- He will wipe away every tear.
- Death will no longer exist.
- Neither will grief, crying, or pain exist any longer.
- Because these things have passed away.


Then the One seated on the throne said:

- I am making everything new.
- He commanded me to write,
- It is done.
- I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.
- I will give water as a gift to the thirsty from the spring of life.
- The victor will inherit these things.
- But cowards, unbelievers, murderers, sexually immoral, isolators, and liars will be in the lake of fire and sulfur which is the second death.

Note: Works are evidence of salvation; they are not the basis of salvation.

In verses 9-27 John describes the New Jerusalem:

- One of the seven angels who held the bowls offered to show John the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- He carried me away in the Spirit to a high mountain and showed me the



holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

- It was arrayed with God's glory.
- Its radiance was like precious stones, bright as crystal.
- It had massive high walls and 12 gates.
- Twelve angels were at the gates.
- The names of the 12 tribes of Israel were inscribed on the gates: three on each side.
- The city had 12 foundations, and the names of the twelve apostles were on the foundations.
- The angel who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and the walls.
- It is laid out in a square; 12,000 stadia (about 1,400 miles) on each side, and 1,400 miles high.
- The wall was 144 cubits (216 feet) thick.
- The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold like clear glass.
- Each foundation was adorned with a precious stone: 1 – jasper, 2 – sapphire, 3 – chalcedony, 4 – emerald, 5 – sardonyx, 6 – carnelian, 7 – chrysolite, 8 – beryl, 9 – topaz, 10-chrysoprase, 11 – jacinth, and 12 – amethyst.
- The 12 gates are 12 pearls, each gate made of a single pearl.
- The broad street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
- There was no sanctuary in the city because God and the Lamb are its sanctuary.
- The city does not need the sun or the moon for light because God's glory illuminates it, and the Lamb is its lamp.
- Its gates will never close because it will never be night.
- They will bring honor and glory of the nations into it.
- Nothing profane will ever enter it.
- No one who does what is vile or false will live there. Only those whose name is in the Lamb's book of Life.

Note: Of the six references in Revelation to the "Book of life" (3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15) the reference in verse 27 is the only one in which the owner is identified as the Lamb.

Revelation 22

In verses 1-5 John continues with additional details about the New Jerusalem:

- Then he (the angel) showed me (John) the river of living water flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the broad street.
- The tree of life was on both sides of the river, bearing 12 kinds of fruit that it produced every month.
- The leaves were for healing the nations.

Note: The Greek word (*therapeian*) translated *healing* carries the meaning of health giving. Since there is no sickness in New Jerusalem, the tree of life apparently contributes to our physical well-being.

- There will no longer be any curse.

Note: Adam's curse is lifted.

- The throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city, and His slaves [servants] will serve Him.
- They will see His face and His name will be on their forehead.
- Night will no longer exist because the Lord will give them light.
- And they will reign forever.

In verses 6-13 John is commanded not to seal the scroll:

- Then he (the angel) said these words are faithful and true.
- The Lord, the God of the prophets sent His angel to show his slaves [servants] what is to take place.
- I (Christ) am coming quickly, the one who keeps the words of this book are blessed.

Note: Verse 7 is the sixth blessing announced in the book of Revelation.

- I (John) fell down to worship the angel but the angel rebuked him again saying he was a fellow slave [servant] with you, your brothers, the prophets, and those who keep the word of God. Worship only God.
- He (the angel) also said not to seal the prophetic words of the book because the time is near.
- Let the unrighteous go on in unrighteousness; let the filthy go on being filthy; let the righteous go on being righteous; and let the holy go on being holy.

Note: The point of the exhortation in verse 11 is not to condone sin, but that those who do not repent will continue in sin. However, those who are righteous/holy will continue to be righteous/holy.

- I (Jesus) am coming quickly, and I will reward each person according to their deeds (for Christ).

- I am the Alpha and the Omega; the First and the Last; the Beginning and the End.

In verses 14-17 the final blessing and invitation:

- Blessed are those who wash their robes, so they have the right to the tree of life and to enter the City.

Note: Verse 14 is the last of the seven blessings in the book of Revelation (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, and 22:14).

Note: “Those who wash their robes” is a reference to the righteous who obey the Lord’s commandments.

- Outside [of the City] are the dogs, sorcerers, sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Note: A similar description of the unsaved is in Revelation 21:8.

- I, Jesus, sent My angel to tell you these things for the churches.
- I am the Root, the Offspring of David, the Bright Morning Star.

In verses 18-21 Jesus issues a final warning and a benediction:

- I (Jesus) testify that if anyone adds to the words of this book, God will add to him the plagues of this book.
- If anyone takes away from the words of this book God will take away his share of the tree of life and the holy city.
- He who testifies says, I am coming quickly.
- John responds “Amen! Come Lord Jesus.”
- The grace of our Lord Jesus be with the saints. Amen.

Note: Revelation begins with grace (1:4), and ends with grace (22:21). Despite all the deception from Satan, God’s grace abounds.