

The Book of Revelation

Chapter 1

1. Notice that in verse 1, that this book is not about revelations (plural), but rather is about a Revelation. Who is this revelation of?
2. There is a special blessing attached to this book. Note in verse 3 what we must do to receive this blessing.
3. John sends grace and peace from God the Father and from Jesus to the churches. What things do verses 4-6 teach us about Jesus and His Father? Notice especially the reason that Jesus washed us from our sin with his own shed blood.
4. In verse 1 we read that the events in this book "must shortly take place". In verse 3, John states that "the time is near". In verse 7 we find out what this soon, near event is. What is it? Will this world in general be happy about it?
5. Look at verse 9. John was on the isle of Patmos (a Roman prison island) when he received this revelation. Why was he in prison according to this verse?
6. Note the phrase "the first and the last" in verses 8, 11, 17-18. Now look up Isaiah 44:6. This is clearly a phrase that is used of God Almighty. However, in verses 17-18 it is ascribed to one "who was dead but is alive forevermore." This is one of the clear statements of Scripture that Jesus is God.
7. John walked with Jesus and knew Him well. He was part of Jesus' even inner circle of three (also including Peter and James). He even saw Jesus at the mount of transfiguration when He shone like the sun. However, look at verses 12-16 for a description of Jesus at His Revelation to John.
8. How does John respond to this new understanding of Jesus as God Almighty? How does Jesus respond to him?
9. There is a built in outline to the book of Revelation in verse 19. What are the three sections of this book?
10. There is symbolism in this book, but much of the book is not symbolic and can simply be taken at face value. Additionally some of the symbolism of this book is explained and revealed to us. Look at verse 20. What is the meaning of the seven stars and the seven lampstands?

Chapter 2

In verse 19 of chapter 1 we are given the outline of the book of Revelation: The things which you have seen (chapter 1, the exalted Christ), the things which are (chapters 2 and 3), and the things that will take place after this. (Chapters 4 and beyond)

1. Seven churches were mentioned in chapter 1. In chapters 2 and 3 they will each be addressed by Jesus. Which four are being spoken to by Jesus in this chapter (verses 1, 8, 12, 18)?
2. There is a pattern that each of these letters follow, with a couple of exceptions:
 - a. Jesus reveals some aspect of His character, hinted at by the name He calls Himself.
 - b. Jesus praises the church for the things they are doing well (one exception).
 - c. Jesus calls the church to repent for the things they are doing wrong (one exception).
 - d. They are exhorted to listen to the message.
3. Look at each letter. Do they all follow the pattern?
4. According to verse 4-5 what are some antidotes for a cold heart toward Jesus?
5. The church of Smyrna is a church that is suffering great persecution. What does Jesus have to say to them?
6. In verse 6 and verse 15 the "Nicolaitans" are mentioned. Simply put, these are people who rule over the laity or laypeople in an ungodly way. How does Jesus feel about them and their teaching?

The Book of Revelation

7. The church of Thyatira is one that is mixed up in a lot of bad things. To them Jesus emphasizes that He will ultimately judge them. Are you aware at all times that you will stand before God and give account?

Chapter 3

Chapters 2 and 3 contain seven different letters or messages from Jesus to seven churches. Each of these churches have different strengths and weaknesses, and Jesus addresses them. Remember that there is a pattern that each of these letters follow, with a couple of exceptions:

- Jesus reveals some aspect of His character, hinted at by the name He calls Himself.
 - Jesus praises the church for the things they are doing well (one exception).
 - Jesus calls the church to repent for the things they are doing wrong (one exception).
 - They are exhorted to listen to the message.
1. What three churches are addressed in this chapter? (verses 1, 7, 14)
 2. Note how in verse 1 the Sardis church is told that it has a name that it is alive but it is dead. Read Matthew 15:7-9. How can we avoid being a dead church and a dead life? Look at verses 2-3 for five things we can do when our walk with God is "dead".
 3. Verse 4 tells us that even in a dead church, there are some people in the church that are right with God. God sees the heart and knows who those people are. Read Matt 13:24-30, 36-43. Remember that it is not our place to pass final judgment on others, but rather we must judge ourselves and respond faithfully to Jesus.
 4. The word "Philadelphia" means brotherly love. The church of Philadelphia is the one church that is not corrected for something that they are doing wrong. Does this mean that they are perfect? Read 1Peter 4:8.
 5. What are the 3 things that the church of Philadelphia is praised for in verse 8?
 6. The Laodiceans are referred to as lukewarm, and Jesus describes this as something that makes Him nauseous. Examining your own life, are you passionate about the things of God or blasé?
 7. Note verse 17. Although they were financially wealthy, how did Jesus view their souls?
 8. None of us likes to be told we are wrong. However look at verse 19-20. Why does Jesus correct us? Do you respond to the correction the Lord gives?

Chapter 4

Remember that Revelation 1:19 gives us an outline of the book. Chapter 1 was the things that he had seen; chapter 2 and 3 were the things which are; and chapter 4 begins the section of the things which will take place "after this".

1. Notice at the end of verse 1 that John is about to be shown things that will take place "after these things". What things is he referring to in chapters 2 and 3?
2. In verses 1 and 2, where was the open door to and where is John then called to?
3. John saw a door open in heaven, then he was called up to heaven and was immediately there. Have you considered how quickly/suddenly the Lord could return for us? Read Mark 13:32-37
4. Look at verses 3-8. Some of the descriptions are of things that we have never seen before. John must frequently use the word "like" to describe things. His (and our) only point of reference is earthly things that we have already seen. Part of the reason for the dramatic imagery is to get our attention. But heaven will be full of new things that will blow our mind! Read 1Cor 2:9, and Job 42:3.
5. Notice that the 24 elders have crowns and white robes. Look up 2 Tim 4:8, James 1:12, and 1 Peter 5:4 for clues as to the crowns that they could be wearing. Also look up Isa 1:18 and 61:10.

The Book of Revelation

6. You may have noticed that in the book of Revelation the number 7 has been mentioned many times. Seven is a number that in biblical numerology means "completion". In verse 5, we see mention of the seven Spirits of God. Since we never have a listing of seven spirits of God elsewhere in the Scripture, it's a good bet that this speaks of the "completeness" of God's Spirit, in every way. Be on the lookout for sevens as we go through the book.
7. The living creatures are "full of eyes", which is a pretty bizarre picture to imagine. However eyes are used for sight. The object of their attention is God Almighty upon the throne. What do they whose eyes are always upon Him have to say to Him? How can we keep our eyes focused on Jesus?
8. Notice the effect of the living creatures worship on the twenty four elders. The most effective way that we can influence others is to grow in our own relationship with God. Look up John 15:4-5.
9. In this life crowns give power, authority and glory. Note what the elders do with their crowns and what they say to God. How is God totally different from us and why should He be worshipped?

Chapter 5

Remember that in chapter 4 John saw an open door in heaven and was called up. There he saw many fascinating things, but the center of all of them was the throne of God, who is worthy to receive all worship.

1. Notice that the scroll is mentioned in almost every one of the first 9 verses of this chapter. Before we get into what it means, do you think that makes the scroll important?
2. Look at verses 2 and 3. Who initially is found that is worthy, that meets every condition, for opening this scroll?
3. What is John's reaction to the results of the search for one who can open the scroll? Why do you think he reacts this way? Does it seem important to him that this scroll is opened?
4. Verses 5 and 6 as well as the rest of the chapters references to Him as the Lamb who was slain make it apparent that Jesus is the one who is unlike any other in all creation and is worthy to open the scroll. What two animals is Jesus referred to as in these verses? Look up Romans 11:22, Jude 22-23 and Proverbs 3:34
5. When Jesus takes the scroll what is the response like in heaven (verses 8-12)? What is the response like in the rest of creation (verse 13)? Regardless of what the scroll might mean is it a good thing that it be opened?
6. We gain a few clues into the 24 elders are by their song. Note the following:
 - a. They were bought with Jesus' shed blood, and therefore needed forgiveness of sin.
 - b. They were not strictly Jewish because they came from everywhere.
 - c. There are more nations/tribes/tongues than 24, so this cannot mean literally twenty four.
 - d. They have been called into His family (as kings) and into His service (as priests).
 - e. Given these facts, who do you think that the 24 elders might represent?
7. It seems likely that the scroll represents a title deed or last will and testament for the world, and opening it will begin a process culminating in Jesus taking His rightful place as king of all. But regardless of what it means exactly, don't forget these truths concerning the scroll:
 - a. No one on earth can open it, and that is a sad thing
 - b. Only Jesus can open it, and that is a good thing.

Chapter 6

The Book of Revelation

In chapters 4 and 5 we saw the heavenly scene focused first around the throne of God and next upon the Scroll which only Jesus was able to open. As the scroll is opened in heaven, our attention is drawn back to earth and the effects of the opening of the scroll upon this world.

1. In Revelation 5:1 we are told that the scroll has seven seals. These seven seals will lead into seven trumpets, which will then lead into seven bowls containing seven plagues. Remember that the number seven in biblical numerology means "completion". Although not all details of what will happen are totally clear to us, what is clear is that a "complete" work is taking place. Keep that in mind as you study through the book.
2. How many of these seven seals are opened in this chapter?
3. John is exhorted to observe what the results of Jesus opening the scroll are; "come and see" he is told four times in the first seven verses. Read John 1:35-39. This is the story of when John and Andrew first met Jesus. Notice what He says to them in John 1:39. Do you think Jesus likes us to keep our attention upon Him and His work?
4. The first four seals bring four riders, each on a different horse. As you look at these riders and the effects that they bring upon the earth we realize that the earth is entering a time of unprecedented suffering and difficulty on a global scale. Read Matt 24:21.
 - a. What three things are we told about the rider on the white horse? A dictatorship.
 - b. What three things are we told about the rider on the red horse? War and violence.
 - c. What two things are we told about the rider on the black horse? Famine and poverty.
 - d. What three things are we told about the rider on the pale horse? Death that results from the ride of the other horsemen.
5. As the fifth seal is opened our attention is drawn to those who have been martyred for Jesus. They cry for God to be just and ask how long until He does something about what has been done to them. Look at verse 11. Will God do something and when? Have you ever had to wait a long time to see the results of God's hand at work in your life?
6. Look at verses 12-16. What kind of events are taking place at the opening of the sixth seal. What is the response of man regardless of socioeconomic status to these things? Do terrible events bring people to repentance? Read Romans 2:4.
7. Verse 17 sums up this chapter. The wrath of God has begun to be poured out on a Christ-rejecting world. This is the time known as the Great Tribulation. However, despite the terrifying and catastrophic judgments that God is pouring out, we will see opportunity in the midst of this time for sinners to respond to God and receive forgiveness of sin.

Chapter 7

In the last chapter we saw the beginning of the Great Tribulation. As the first six seals are opened we see catastrophic events taking place upon the earth.

1. Read verses 1-3. After the great earthquake of chapter 6, there is now a meteorological catastrophe as the wind ceases to blow. According to verse 3 what will this have a harmful effect upon?
2. Before this can happen, God takes 144,000 Jews and places His protecting and preserving seal upon them. What are these people referred to as in verse 3?
3. In verse 9 we see a great multitude of the saved from all over the earth. We will learn more about them shortly. For now notice the Lamb. Where is the Lamb? Does the Lamb receive equal praise to God?

The Book of Revelation

4. Verse 12 lists seven things that are to be ascribed to God. What are they? Do you give these things to God?
5. Verses 13-14 tell us the identity of the innumerable multitude mentioned earlier in the chapter. Who are they? Even though the wrath of God is being poured out and the world is experiencing tribulation like it never has before, the mercy of God is still evident. How has God's mercy been evident in difficult times in your own life?
6. Look at verse 15. Where do these tribulation saints have the privilege of staying, and what do they have the privilege of doing?
7. Look at verses 15-17. List all the benefits that the tribulation saints enjoy in God's presence.

Chapter 8

The main theme of Revelation is God revealing His Son as rightful King of men and creation as He brings to an end or to completion the fallen world. In chapter 6 we began the Great Tribulation, the time of God's final terrible dealings with the current world system. Yet in spite of the terrible calamities of this time, we see in chapter 7 that there are a tremendous number of people who receive God's offer of forgiveness during the tribulation.

1. Six seals were opened in chapter 6; here in chapter 8 the seventh is opened. What happens immediately after the seal is opened? What does the seventh seal lead directly into (verse 2)?
2. Look at verses 3 and 4. The prayers of the saints are offered with incense. Incense is symbolic of prayer in the Scripture. Look up Exodus 30:8, 1Thes 5:17, Luke 18:1-7, and Ephesians 6:18. What do these teach us about prayer? How often? Is prayer valuable to God? How valuable is it to you?
3. When the censer is thrown to the earth, what happens? These events are an ominous sign of the judgments to come as the trumpets sound.
4. As the first angel sounds his trumpet, what happens? Consider the effect that this would have upon people's lives.
5. As the second angel sounds in verses 8-9 we are told of a great meteor or comet crashing into the sea and of the terrible destruction it cause both to marine life and nautical industry. How do you think these things would affect life on earth?
6. As the third angel sounds, another meteorological phenomenon takes place that results in a poisoning of water sources. The poisoning could be radiation, viral, bacterial, or something else, but it ultimately results in death for some people. Water is essential to life. Wormwood on the other hand is always associated with bitterness in the Bible. Contrast this water with the water Jesus promises in John 7:37-39.
7. What is the result of the fourth angel sounding? Regardless of the exact way that this happens, the result is the same: greater darkness, less light. Read John 3:18-21
8. Three trumpets are left to be sounded. And the angel warns "Woe, woe, woe" to everyone who will endure what is coming. God is faithful to warn us when we are heading into trouble by disobeying Him. Is He warning you to return to obedience to Him? If He is, it is because He loves you and wants to protect you from the consequences of sin.

Chapter 9

Beginning in chapter 6, we have seen the terrible judgments that come upon the world during the time of the Great Tribulation. They began as the seven seals were opened and they continued as the first four of seven trumpets have sounded. In this chapter the trouble continues.

1. Read verses 1-2 and 11. This star that is fallen from heaven is it an actual star? What is it?

The Book of Revelation

2. In verse 2, what effect does the opening of the bottomless pit have upon the atmosphere of the earth?
3. "Locusts" are released from the bottomless pit and in verses 3-5 we see learn about what they can do. What do they have power to do? What are the limitations of their power? How long will they affect man? Who are they not allowed to touch?
4. Verse 6 tells us that in those days men will desire to die but will not be able to. What causes a person to desire death? Do people feel this way today? Read Ephesians 2:12-13 and 1Peter 1:3 to see an antidote.
5. Verses 7-10 paint us a picture of these locusts. Note the frequent use of the word like. John must reference things he does know to describe something that he has never seen before. What do you think about the appearance of these locusts? Based on their appearance, do you think that they are actual locusts?
6. When the sixth angel sounds his trumpet we see four others angels released. We'll get into the details of how next, but what is their job?
7. Do some quick math. If the earth has 6 billion people at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and one fourth of those died as a result of the opening of the first four seals (Rev 6:8), then how many were left? Now as these four angels release an army upon the earth, one third of the remaining population of the earth will die. How many people are left?
8. In verses 16-19 we are shown a massive army that the four angels will send forth. Although it is possible that this is an army of men, after reading the description of this army, does that seem likely?
9. What is the response of the remaining people on the earth to these frightening consequences of rejecting and rebelling against God? Why would God allow these things to happen? Look up Proverbs 3:12 and Matthew 23:37.

Chapter 10

As we've been reading through the book of Revelation we have been watching the future unfold. From chapter 6-9 we've been looking at events in the time of the Great Tribulation. In these chapters we have seen seven seals opened (each with an attendant judgment) and six of seven trumpets sounding. Before the seventh trumpet sounds in chapter 11, we have a brief interlude here in chapter 10.

1. Another angel is introduced in verse 1. What things in verse 1 are we told about this angel?
2. In verse 2, what is in the hand of the angel? Where are his feet? Is there anywhere on earth that does not categorize as one of these two places? What does this say about where the message of this book is to go?
3. In verses 3-4 after the angel cries out, seven thunderous voices sound. What does the voice from heaven say to John concerning the things which these thunderous voices proclaimed? In light of this, do you think it is wise to speculate on what they might have said? Read Deuteronomy 29:29.
4. In verses 5-6 who does the angel swear by? Read John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-17.
5. In biblical terms a mystery is something hidden by God which will ultimately be revealed. In verse 7 it tells us that when the seventh angel sounds the "mystery" of God would be finished. Aside from all of the various insights that God is giving us into the future (some of them clear, some of them unclear) what in this book is God ultimately revealing to the world? Remember to keep the first words of Revelation chapter 1 your focus in the midst of so many amazing, terrifying, and sometimes perplexing visions.
6. There has been a lot of speculation about who this angel is, but as we go through the chapter, we realize that the focus is not the angel himself, but the book that is in his hand. What is John told to do with the book in the angel's hand? Read Luke 4:4,

The Book of Revelation

Psalms 119:103, and Jeremiah 20:9. Do you think that the book represents the Word of God?

7. John describes the book as sweet to his mouth, but bitter to his belly. The Christian life is made up of both joy and suffering. What have been some of the sweet things for you in being a Christian? What things have been bitter?
8. Even if the book does not represent the Word of God in its entirety, it is certainly a message from God. What is John told to do with this message? Look at 1 Corinthians 11:23 and 15:3. What did Paul do with what the Lord gave to him? What should we do with the message of His love and grace that the Lord has given to us?

Chapter 11

From chapter 6 onward we have been looking at the Great Tribulation. This time has three primary purposes: bringing God's judgment on a Christ-rejecting world, extending His mercy and the opportunity for salvation even in the midst of that judgment, and (after the removal of the church) for God to turn His primary attention to reconciling His people Israel to Himself.

1. In verse 1, John is given a measuring rod. What is he told to measure? Where is the measurement taking place (verse 2)?
2. In verses 3-7, there are two "witnesses" that God selects to declare His message over the course of three and a half years.
 - a. Who do they stand before? Standing before God carries two ideas. First that we are accountable to Him and that He sees all that we do (read Rom 14:12 and Hebrews 4:13). Secondly, that we stand in relationship with Him, receiving direction and empowerment from Him (2Chronicles 29:11, Exodus 18:19).
 - b. What powers does God give to them?
 - c. When is it possible for these two witnesses to be harmed? Read Acts 20:24, 2Tim 4:7, Phil 1:21-24. Nothing can ever happen to us that God does not allow, and if we will embrace our ministries, nothing can stop us from fulfilling the work that He has for us!
3. The great city, Jerusalem is earlier referred to as the holy city, yet spiritually it is referred to as Sodom and Egypt (both places that were spiritually unholy, wicked and godless). Outwardly something can appear to be holy, but inwardly it may not be. God looks upon the heart. Look up Proverbs 4:23. While it is important to judge our words and actions, it is equally important to judge our hearts. Take time to honestly examine your own heart before the Lord, and if necessary recommit yourself to Him.
4. How do the people of the earth react to the death of the two witnesses? Are they happy about the message of the prophets and of the power God had given them? Read John 15:18-20.
5. Read verses 11-13. When the earthquake falls upon Jerusalem, what is the response of the people of the city? How does this contrast with the response of the people of the earth to the great earthquake of Rev 6:12-17?
6. Verses 14-19 tell of the details of the response in heaven as the final angel sounds the seventh trumpet. Remember that seven is the number of completion. Read carefully verse 15-18 and you will get a great overview of the whole of what the book of Revelation is all about and where it is headed.

Chapter 12

In chapter 11, the seventh and final trumpet sounds, likely indicating that the time of the Great Tribulation is drawing to a close (though there are still seven bowls of judgment ahead). One of the great works occurring during the Tribulation is that of God resuming His focus upon the nation of Israel.

The Book of Revelation

1. Although Revelation is a book that does use symbolism, it will usually tell us when doing so, and it would be wrong to impose symbolism upon it in places where it is not clearly indicated. However, in this chapter we have three symbolic characters: the Woman, the Child, and the Dragon.
 - a. What clues do we have to the woman's identity in verses 1-5? Also, look up Gen 37:9-11. This is the only reference to the sun, moon, and twelve stars in all the rest of the Bible. This is an unmistakable clue that the identity of the Woman is the family of Jacob and Joseph, Israel.
 - b. The woman bears a child. Look at the description of the child in verse 5 (look up 2Samuel 7:16). This is clearly Jesus.
 - c. Finally, the Dragon. Many details are given of him in verses 3-4 and 7-9. Ultimately his identity is revealed in verse 9. Satan.
2. Note the disposition of Satan toward the child in verse 4. Throughout history we see those who, because of the work of Satan, are bent on the destruction of the Jewish people and thereby the Child. Do you know people in your life who are bent on the destruction of the things of God? Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26 for how to be effective in reaching this lost world.
3. In verse 5, we see that Jesus is to rule all nations, and that He is to sit upon the throne of God. Does Jesus rule your heart? Is He ruler of your house and family? Your neighborhood and community? Your nation? He is the great and rightful King of all of these. Make it your daily purpose to enthrone Him in your heart and to see Him enthroned in the heart of others.
4. In verse 7 we see Satan fighting against God's army. Look at verse 8. What is the result of all his fighting? Does it profit to fight with God?
5. As Satan is cast out of heaven in verse 10, he is referred to as the "accuser" or the one who judges and brings charges against God's people. In contrast to the condemning work of the devil, read Romans 8:31-39 to see the work of Jesus.
6. Verse 11 tells us three things that we do to overcome the accuser. What are they?
7. Look at verse 12. What does Satan being cast out of heaven mean for the inhabitants of the earth? How much time does he have left?
8. In verses 13-17, we see that Satan directs his efforts toward the destruction of Israel, God's people. Is He successful? Can the enemy ever succeed at undoing the God's faithfulness to His people?

Chapter 13

Revelation is a book rich in symbolism. For the most part, interpreting these symbols is made clear for us by clues either within Revelation or elsewhere in the Bible. Still, there are parts that are difficult to understand. Peter even said that there were parts of the Bible that were hard to understand (2Peter 3:16). This is okay. There is plenty that we can draw from the text even if we are not certain of the meaning of every detail. This is one of those chapters!

1. In verses 1-2 we read of a Beast. This beast is similar to the dragon of chapter 12, but not the same. How is he different from the Dragon? How is he the same? Note that the dragon gives him his power.
2. In verse 1 what do we learn about the beast's name? In verse 2, what animals is the beast likened to? What do these things tell us about the character of the beast?
3. In verse 3-4 we read that the beast is wounded in a way that appears deadly, overcomes it, and the world marvels. Similarly, Jesus was wounded unto death at the cross and rose again. Read Matthew 24:22-27. This is an indicator that the beast is what the Bible refers to as the Antichrist (1John 2:18, 2Thessalonians 2:13)), a false prophet who stands in Jesus place.
4. In verses 5-9 we read of his influence over men. The antichrist is not someone who is simply opposite of Jesus, but one who people accept instead of Jesus. Note in

The Book of Revelation

particular his smooth speech in verse 5 (although it is clearly against God). What is the extent of his influence over men (verses 7-8)?

5. When does verse 8 tell us that Jesus was slain? This is a mystery to us, but speaks to us of God's plan for salvation and His knowledge of all things from the beginning.
6. In verses 11-14 we are introduced to another beast. He is not the same as the first, nor is he the dragon, but he is like the dragon. Just as there is a holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there is an unholy Trinity of Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. Notice that the work of the false prophet is to draw attention and worship to the antichrist. What is the work of the Spirit according to John 15:26?
7. Look at verse 15. What does the false prophet cause to happen to those who will not worship the beast?
8. Much has been made in popular culture of the mark of the beast in verses 16-17. This may be an actual mark, or a symbolic one. But either way our head represents our inner thoughts, and our hand represents our outer actions. These are to be given to God, not anyone else. Read Colossians 3:17. Do you seek to do this?

Chapter 14

The Great Tribulation which began in chapter 6 continues through to the end of chapter 18. In these chapters we see great judgments (seals, trumpets, and bowls which result ultimately in the fall of the world system that is opposed to God). However, in chapters 12-14 we see almost a parentheses where God identifies some of the key players of the Tribulation. We saw Satan, Israel, her Messiah and their relationship to one another in chapter 12. In chapter 13 we were introduced to the Antichrist and the False Prophet and their relationship with the World and Satan. In this chapter we are told about another group of people and a handful of angels and their place in the world at this time.

1. Read verses 1-5. Make a list of all of the things that these verses tell us about this group of 144,000. Notice in verse 1 that this group is in Mount Zion (suggestive of Jerusalem). Read chapter 7:3-8. It is very likely that this is the same group. What is the nationality of these people? Remember that one of the purposes of the Tribulation is for God to resume His focus upon Israel as His covenant people.
2. The name of the Father is on the foreheads of these; highly unlikely that this is a tattoo! Rather, this symbolizes that their thoughts are fixed upon God. Read Colossians 3:1-2. Does this describe your relationship with God? What gets in the way of you dwelling upon the goodness of God and your relationship with Him?
3. Notice that their purity and commitment gave them unique privilege: they learned songs that no one else knew, and they were allowed to follow Him wherever He went. Read Hebrews 11:6. Do you make personal purity and the pursuit of God your highest priorities? When we do not we miss out on great blessing that God intends for us.
4. Notice that this group is faultless before God. Read Ephesians 5:25-27, and note how Jesus treats His bride, the church.
5. The first angel flies across the heavens declaring the message of the gospel. Look up Matt 24:14. The gospel must be preached to every nation before the final judgment of this world comes. Up until this point, it has not been. But according to this verse, does God need man to do this?
6. In verse 8, the second angel warns of the coming destruction of Babylon, symbolic of the world system opposed to God and His rightful rule. Keep your eyes open as this comes to pass in chapters 17-18.
7. Read verses 9-11. Although the mark of the beast may be physical, more important is what it represents: a life that in thought and deed is aligned with Satan in opposition to God. What are the ultimate terrible consequences of this heart attitude?
8. In verse 12-13 what do we learn about the blessing of those who die in the Lord? Read Phil 1:21-23 and 1Corinthians 15:51-55. How did Paul feel about death?

The Book of Revelation

9. In verses 14-17 we read of great angelic beings preparing for a Harvest. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 for commentary on this. Also read Matthew 9:36-38 for God's heart for the Harvest and what we should do.
10. The last picture of the chapter is that of grapes and a winepress that pours out God's wrath. The results of this are terrifying, disturbing and for some a little confusing. How could a God of love do this? Read John 3:36 to see the one way that God allows wrath to fall upon people.

Chapter 15

Chapter 6 began the Great Tribulation. After several chapters of seeing these judgments poured out on the Christ-rejecting world, we have a pause to show us some of the key players of this time and to remind us of the big picture. In chapter 15 we resume those judgments and see that this time of Tribulation is wrapping up soon.

1. In verse 1 we read that John sees another sign, "great and marvelous". As if some of the things that we have already seen weren't amazing enough! What is the sign that he sees and what about it is marvelous?
2. In verse 2 we see a sea of glass and a group of people standing upon it. There is a similar picture around the throne of God in Revelation 4:6. The idea is that there are no waves; the sea is at rest. God is not fretting or worried, but rather is at rest on His throne. Yet this sea is mingled with fire, suggestive of both trial and refining. Who is standing on the sea? What are they doing? Why do they have such great peace?
3. In verses 3-4 we read that they sing two songs. The first is the song of Moses found in Exodus 15:1-19. Read this now. What is this song all about, and what does it celebrate about the Lord?
4. The second is the song of the Lamb recorded in these verses. What does this song celebrate about Jesus?
5. What part of God's character is unique to Him alone according to verse 4? Now read Leviticus 19:2. God alone is holy, yet we are called to be holy as He is. How can we do this? Look up Eze 36:27 for the answer!
6. As the seven angels come out of the temple they are given seven bowls. According to verses 6-8 what do these bowls contain?
7. Look at verse 8. God's glory and power fill the temple. This reminds us of 2 Chronicles 7:1-4 when the glory comes down on Solomon's temple. What does this awareness of the glory of God produce in the people in this passage? Pray that God would reveal His glory to you in new ways both today and throughout your life.

Chapter 16

Up until this point in the tribulation, we have seen seven seals and seven trumpets. Now we will see the final set of judgments before the end of the tribulation and the return of Jesus: the seven bowl judgments.

1. Look at verse 1. What is in these bowls?
2. As you read through the chapter the seven bowl judgments are poured out. Here's a list of the effects of each one.
 - a. The first bowl produces a rash/skin sore that will fall on almost all of mankind, everyone who accepted the mark of the beast.
 - b. The second and third bowls completely pollute the natural water sources on the earth, to the extent that sea life is wiped out.
 - c. The fourth plague brings out atmospheric conditions that result in a true global warming, with painful consequences upon the people of the earth.
 - d. The fifth plague brings darkness. Perhaps this is clouds, and may be related to whatever is causing the temperature change

The Book of Revelation

- e. The sixth causes a river to dry up to make way for a massive invading force against Israel
- f. The seventh causes the greatest earthquake the world has ever seen.
3. Notice verses 5 and 6. What elements of God's character are revealed in these verses? As harsh as these bowl judgments are, it is good to remember that He has saved these judgments until the very end, giving man every opportunity to repent. Read 2Peter 3:8-10.
4. God does want men to repent and get right with Him. Notice how men's hearts respond to these judgments in verses 9, 11, and 21. The very things that God is allowing are intended to produce heart change, but instead simply serve to reveal hearts.
5. Observe that the demons of the sixth plague seek to unite men...against God.
6. Look at verse 15. Where does the blessing come from?

Chapter 17

Verses 6-16 have detailed the time known as the Great Tribulation. We have seen many terrible judgments poured out on the Christ rejecting world. Several times we have seen the city Babylon mentioned. Here we will see the details of her fall. This chapter is another that is loaded with symbolism. As usual it is important that we give priority to what is clear, not what is unclear. Although Babylon was an actual city, when the Bible speaks of Babylon, the vast majority of the time it is speaking of the world system that is aligned against God. The "world" as opposed to the kingdom of heaven and God's city of Jerusalem.

1. Look at verses 1-2. What is this woman guilty of? The fornication mentioned here is a spiritual unfaithfulness to God as her creator. Notice especially the effect she has on others. Also see Rev 14:8
2. In verses 3-6 many details of this woman:
 - a. In verse 3, what is the beast that she rides full of?
 - b. Notice the wealth of the woman in verse 4. She is very comfortable. What is her golden cup full of?
 - c. Perhaps the most important thing about her is her name. What is her relationship with spiritual adultery toward God?
 - d. In verse 6, how does she feel about the persecution of God's people?
3. Verses 7-13 seem to speak of Babylon's rule upon the earth. The most important thing to note is verse 13. How does Babylon and the people of her kingdom relate to God. Read James 4:4. How should we relate to this world?
4. In verse 14 we see that this attitude ultimately leads to an outright war with God. What will the results of this war be?
5. Read verse 15 and 18. This show the global influence of Babylon. As Christians it is so important that we align ourselves with God and the values of His kingdom as revealed in His Word. Read Romans 12:1-2. Also read Philippians 2:14-16, and ask God for help to live this way.

Chapter 18

Although there was an actual city known as Babylon, metaphorically throughout the bible Babylon represents the "world system" that is aligned against God and against His anointed King, Jesus. At the pouring out of the seventh and final bowl judgment that fall of Babylon begins. In the last chapter we saw the fall of spiritual Babylon; the collective religious system that man commits himself to rather than to God. In this chapter we see the fall of financial Babylon, or all of the ways that man looks to the wealth and provision of this world for his joy and satisfaction, instead of looking to Jesus.

The Book of Revelation

1. Read verse 3. Are there any nations that are innocent of "going to bed" with Babylon? Notice the imagery: intoxication, adultery, and self-indulgent pleasure.
2. In verse 4, we see God's instruction for His people in the midst of this world. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Exodus 33:16, 1 Corinthians 5:9-12, and Matthew 5:13-16. What is our heart attitude to be toward this world? What is our heart attitude to be toward the people of this world?
3. Read verses 5-8. Does this world feel that it will ever be judged? Will God forget to judge her? Look up Galatians 6:7 and 2 Peter 3:1-10.
4. In verses 9-10 we see how those who do not know God relate to the world. Would you say that they have a casual relationship with the world or an intimate one? Are they emotionally invested in this world system?
5. Verses 11-19 point to the complete financial collapse of the world's economic system. Note the end of verse 13. In this world even people's souls have a price. Look up Matthew 16:26.
6. Look at verse 14, 17 and 19. What does the pursuit of this world's riches and pleasure come to?
7. Notice verses 20 and 24. God will not ignore the wrongs this world has committed against His people. God will judge this world. Since we know how it ends, take inventory in your own life. Have you given your heart to any of these things that are passing away? If you have, ask God to forgive you and give you a new heart concerning the things of His Kingdom which will never pass away.

Chapter 19

After 13 chapters of the Great Tribulation, we now come to its end. As world as we know it is coming to an end and Jesus returns to rule and reign upon the earth.

1. Look at verse 1. What four things belong to God? Notice in particular, that Salvation belongs to Him. God alone saves.
2. In verses 2-4 we see the reaction in heaven at the final judgment of the world. How would you describe heaven's reaction? Why?
3. A voice speaks from the throne in verses 5-7. In verses 5-6 what honors are ascribed to God?
4. Notice verse 7 and 9. What special event is being mentioned in these verses? Look up Ephesians 5:25-33. What is our (the church's) relationship with Jesus?
5. Verse 10 tells us something very important about prophecy (God speaking through man). What is it?
6. In verses 11-16 we see that Jesus Himself leads the armies of heaven to lay His rightful claim to this earth. List as many things as you can that these verses teach you about Jesus.
7. In verses 17-21, we see all the nations of the earth aligned against God. Read Psalm 2. What will their fight against God come to?

Chapter 20

The title of this book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In the last chapter, we saw Jesus revealed at his Second Coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to the world that rejected Him. As this age comes to an end, we see many things in this chapter that are unlike anything we've seen before

1. Read verses 1-3. After Christ's return what happens to Satan? Why? For how long?
2. Read verse 4-5. Although this group of people (martyred tribulation saints, now resurrected) is given authority to rule, they are not the only ones. In other places in the Scripture, we see that the saints in general will hold this position (Revelation 2:26, 3:12, 22, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3). If you are currently being persecuted in any way, take heart. There is coming a time when Jesus will reward you and set things right.

The Book of Revelation

3. Read verse 6. How long will these saints rule with Jesus?
4. Read verse 7-9 what will happen at the end of the thousand years? Why? This is a final demonstration of the depravity of man. Even after a thousand years of Christ's wonderful rule, with Satan bound and his influence removed, many people will still align against God at the first chance they get. Look up Jeremiah 17:9.
5. In verse 10 we see Satan's final end. Where does he end up?
6. In verse 11 we see a Great White Throne. What is the response of heaven and earth to this throne? There are many people who in their arrogance defy God, and say accusatory things like "When I see God I'm going to ask Him why He...?" Before the Great White throne, man will clearly see his place before his Creator. Look up Hebrews 4:13 and 10:31.
7. Read verses 12-13. Notice the books that are opened: The Book of Life, and books. It would seem that these other books are records of the works of men. Man in his pride often will say something to the effect of "I'm a pretty good guy. My good deeds will get me into heaven." However, only having our sin forgiven by Jesus gets us into the Book of Life, and heaven. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.
8. Read verses 14-15. Who/what is cast into the lake of fire (where the devil already is)? Look up Matthew 25:41. Who was the lake of fire originally made for? What causes men to end up there? Read John 3:36. If you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin and give you eternal life, do it now.

Chapter 21

Up until this point we have seen the church age, the scene in heaven after the rapture, all of the judgments of the Great Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, His millennial reign upon the earth, and the final judgment of Satan and all who opposed God. Having removed His enemies we now take a look at the New Heaven and Earth.

1. Read verse 1-5. Why do you think that God is starting all over with a brand new Heaven and Earth?
2. In verse 2 we see New Jerusalem. Galatians 4:26 and Hebrews 12:22 are suggestive of this city. What three things does this verse tell us about this city? We will see more of this city later in this chapter starting in verse 9.
3. In verse 3 we read of God being with His people. Read Matthew 1:23, and John 14:16-17. How has He been with us already?
4. Note verses 4-5. If you are going through great difficulty or pain in your life right now, take heart. God will bring it to an end and will comfort you.
5. In Revelation 18 we saw the fall of the world's economic system, which could be summed up as everything has a price, even the bodies and souls of men. Look at verses 6-7. What is the economic system of the Kingdom?
6. In verses 9-10 we learn more of the heavenly city New Jerusalem. What does verse 9 tell us of those who live there? Look up Ephesians 5:25-32 for how Jesus cares for His bride, the church.
7. Verses 11-21 give a fantastic description of some of the details of this city! Heaven will be amazing, and God gives us these pictures of it for us to be encouraged by the good that is coming. It is right and good for us to look forward to heaven. Do you?
8. In verses 22-23, what two things are missing from the temple? What takes the place of these things?
9. Note verses 24-27. What things are brought into this city? What can never be brought in? We should always be thankful to Jesus that He has removed our sin from us at the cross, or we would never be able to enter heaven. If you have never put your trust in Jesus and His work at the cross, do so now, and the doors of heaven will be open for you!

Chapter 22

The Book of Revelation

Over the course of the book of Revelation, we have seen future history. And at the center of both future history and all history is Jesus. Today we bring things to a close.

1. In verse 1, where does the water of life come from? Read John 4:9-14, John 7:37-39. What does the water of life represent?
2. In verses 2-3 we notice a tree that is for the health of the nations. Read Gen 2:9. What tree is present in Genesis 2:9 that is noticeably absent in Revelation 22:2-3?
3. Read verses 4-6. We are told in verse 4 that we shall see God face to face, and that He will always be on our mind. One of the chief characteristics of heaven is that our relationship with the Lord will be great! Read Exodus 33:20. God the Father could not be seen in His glory by sinful men. But in heaven with sin removed we will be able to know Him face to face. Until then, there is one way to see God face to face. Jesus is the face we look upon. Read John 14:9.
4. In verses 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12, there are reminders of how near this time is. Do you live in the light of eternity? Does this vision of heaven both encourage you and challenge you to live more fully surrendered to the Lord and His purposes for your life?
5. According to verse 9 who is to be the lone recipient of worship? It is very common for us as men to put on a pedestal the one God is using. See to it that you do not.
6. Consider verse 12. Do you ever feel that the things you do for God go unnoticed? Do you wonder if they will be worth it? What does this verse say to both of those questions?
7. Look at verse 13. Now look up Isaiah 44:6-8 and 48:12-13. What does this title that God ascribes to Himself, the First and the Last, mean? What does it teach us about Him? How do these things affect your life?
8. Look at verse 17. Who sends out the invitation to the water of life? Who is allowed to come and receive? Are you receiving this life? Are you extending this invitation?
9. Look at verse 20, and especially John's prayer at the end of the verse. It is good to pray for and look forward to the Lord's return. Is there anything that prevents you from wanting Jesus to return right now? If there is, even if it's a good thing, it has become too important to you. Ask God to help you to freely look toward heaven and seeing Him face to face.
10. Notice the last verse of this book, of the New Testament and of the Bible. Grace is God's giving nature, the kindness that He extends to us, undeserved and freely, because He loves us. According to this verse, who does God want to pour His grace out upon? Are you receiving and enjoying the grace of God? Are you a vessel for Him to show grace to this others and to this lost world?