



KINGDOM PROPHECY

Forty Daily Devotionals
from Revelation
(Based on the NKJV)

Introduction

The Book of the Revelation is the only book in the New Testament that is primarily prophetic in nature. Verse one tells us that it was written to show God's servants the things which would soon come to pass. The word "show" is the best way to describe the message that John received from the Lord because it came to him primarily in visions. The Lord literally allowed John to see the events that would take place before, during, and after the end of the world as we know it. As we read through this book, we should see it as it is described in the eighth verse of the first chapter: A message from "the Alpha and the Omega," the One "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Verse three commands us to "keep" (NKJV) or "take to heart" (NIV) what is written in this book because the time "is near." As we read through this book, we should do so with great anticipation because the time truly is near!

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Revelation 1:1-8	01/29/2020
2	Revelation 1:9-20	01/30/2020
3	Revelation 2:1-7	01/31/2020
4	Revelation 2:8-11	02/01/2020
5	Revelation 2:12-17	02/02/2020
6	Revelation 2:18-29	02/03/2020
7	Revelation 3:1-6	02/04/2020
8	Revelation 3:7-13	02/05/2020
9	Revelation 3:14-22	02/06/2020
10	Revelation 4:1-11	02/07/2020
11	Revelation 5:1-14	02/08/2020
12	Revelation 6:1-8	02/09/2020
13	Revelation 6:9-17	02/10/2020
14	Revelation 7:1-8	02/11/2020
15	Revelation 7:9-17	02/12/2020
16	Revelation 8:1-13	02/13/2020
17	Revelation 9:1-12	02/14/2020
18	Revelation 9:13-21	02/15/2020
19	Revelation 10:1-11	02/16/2020
20	Revelation 11:1-14	02/17/2020

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Revelation 11:15-19	02/18/2020
22	Revelation 12:1-10	02/19/2020
23	Revelation 12:11-17	02/20/2020
24	Revelation 13:1-10	02/21/2020
25	Revelation 13:11-18	02/22/2020
26	Revelation 14:1-11	02/23/2020
27	Revelation 14:12-20	02/24/2020
28	Revelation 15:1-8	02/25/2020
29	Revelation 16:1-9	02/26/2020
30	Revelation 16:10-21	02/27/2020
31	Revelation 17:1-18	02/28/2020
32	Revelation 18:1-8	02/29/2020
33	Revelation 18:9-24	03/01/2020
34	Revelation 19:1-10	03/02/2020
35	Revelation 19:11-21	03/03/2020
36	Revelation 20:1-15	03/04/2020
37	Revelation 21:1-11	03/05/2020
38	Revelation 21:12-27	03/06/2020
39	Revelation 22:1-11	03/07/2020
40	Revelation 22:12-21	03/08/2020

Day 1: Revelation 1:1-8

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (Revelation 1:3)

The Time is Near...

The Book of the Revelation is the only book in the New Testament that is primarily prophetic in nature. Verse one tells us that it was written to show God’s servants the things which would soon come to pass. The word “show” is the best way to describe the message that John received from the Lord because it came to him primarily in visions. The Lord allowed John to literally see the events that would take place before, during, and after the rapture of the church and the end of the world as we know it. As we read through this book, we should see it as it is described in verse eight: A message from “the Alpha and the Omega,” the One “who is and who was and who is to come, the *Almighty*.” Verse three commands us to “keep” what is written in this book because the time for the things of which it warns is going to happen “is near.” As we read through this book, we should do so with great anticipation. The events about which we are reading may become a reality before our 40 days of devotions are finished! Amen!

Prayer Emphasis: Reread our focus verse (v. 3) and **realize** that this is the only book that contains a special blessing to those who read and study it. **Ask** God to bless you as you read and “take to heart” (NIV) the message contained in this special book of the Bible.

Day 2: Revelation 1:9-20

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,” (Revelation 1:10)

“In the Spirit”

John was banished to the island of Patmos simply because he was preaching the Word of God and testifying about Jesus. Patmos was a small, rocky island where criminals were sentenced to work in the mines under military overseers. The Roman Emperor, Domitian, had John exiled there sometime around AD 95 – which means that John was around 90 years old at the time of his exile! We can only imagine what it must have been like for this aged apostle to survive in such a horrible place and under such horrible circumstances. But John did more than survive, he thrived! When the Lord’s Day (Sunday) came about, John was “in the Spirit!” His “testimony” was not *silenced*, but *strengthened* as a result of his trials. As John worshipped God, he first heard a voice and then turned to see a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ! From his experience we learn that the times of *man’s* greatest *peril* may also be the times of *God’s* greatest *presence*. John was instructed to write what he saw and send the message to the churches. The message would include all that John had already seen (the vision of the glorified Christ), what he was to receive at that moment (the messages to the seven churches), and what would take place later (the visions of the rapture and the end times).

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God that our *physical* circumstances do not control our *spiritual* condition! **Ask** God for the kind of faith that stands strong even in times of great trial and persecution. When our circumstances are questionable, **remember** to ask the right questions! **Ask** questions such as, “What are you trying to show me, Lord?” and “How can this situation be used for your honor and glory?”

Day 3: Revelation 2:1-7

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;” (Revelation 2:2)

The Church at Ephesus

Today’s Scripture verses provide the details of the first of seven messages to seven actual churches that existed at the time that Jesus appeared to John on Patmos. These were not some of the largest and most significant churches of John’s day. The churches at Jerusalem, Rome, and Antioch were probably much larger and more prominent than all of the churches that are mentioned in this letter. It is not entirely clear if this is one letter addressed to seven different churches or seven individual letters with each addressed to one particular church. In either case, these letters provide information and instruction for all churches of all time. Just as we read Paul’s letters to the churches at Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, and others, and learn from them today, so these churches, and the churches of our time, can all learn something from each message that John was directed to send to these seven churches. As you read through these seven letters, look for the phrase that says they were to hear what the Spirit says to the “churches” and note that the word is always used in the plural form. This serves as another indicator that these messages contained information valuable to all Christians, in all of the churches, throughout all time.

Prayer Emphasis: Find the verse that contains the message to the church at Ephesus and **review it carefully and prayerfully.** Notice the first two words of Christ’s message to the church at Ephesus were, “I know!” **Realize** that God knows all about you and every situation that you face in life.

Day 4: Revelation 2:8-11

“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” (Revelation 2:9)

The Church at Smyrna

Smyrna was located very close to Ephesus – sitting approximately 40 miles to the north. This city is still in existence today. It is now known as Izmir and is one of the largest cities in Turkey. In John’s day, this city was the site for one of the first temples ever built to the honor of Caesar. All people were required to attend worship services and declare that, “Caesar is Lord.” When the Christians at Smyrna refused to participate in these worship services, they were declared to be criminals and were either killed or thrown to the lions in the arena. Of all of the cities mentioned in Revelation, Smyrna was probably the most perilous place for a Christian to be! So, it is no wonder that the Lord’s message to these suffering saints began with Him stating that He knew their “tribulation” and “poverty.” The Greek word translated “tribulation” here is a word that means “to be pressed or crushed.” But there is much more to it than that! The verb tense used here is one that implies continuous and ongoing action. Obviously the Lord was well aware of their problems and how long and well they had endured them. As you read these words, realize that only the Lord could make such a statement and mean it with all of His heart!

Prayer Emphasis: Take a few moments to **recall** the great persecution and suffering that Christ faced in His own life and **believe** that He truly knows how we feel when we suffer for our faith in Him. **Praise** Him for the comfort that only He can provide as we live for Him on a day-to-day basis.

Day 5: Revelation 2:12-17

“*I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*” (Revelation 2:13)

The Church at Pergamum

Smyrna was about 40 miles north of Ephesus and Pergamos (sometimes Pergamum) was another 70 miles north of Smyrna. This city is known as Bergama today and is quite a bit smaller than it was in Bible times. This city was very much like our city in many ways. It was an intellectual city with a large university and a very large library. Books were all hand-written in those days and were, therefore, quite rare and valuable. This intellectual community was open to new ideas and encouraged worshippers of all religions to build temples in their city. Christians (who believed and preached that Jesus was the only way to God) were treated cruelly and were constantly challenged to renounce their faith in Christ. Look again at verse 13 and see where Satan is mentioned twice in our focus verse. It is incorrect to picture Satan as one who is restricted to a life in hell. The Bible clearly teaches that Satan walks the face of this earth looking for anyone that he might devour and destroy (1 Peter 5:8). God’s command to this compromising church was to “repent” (v. 16).

Prayer Emphasis: Resist the pressure to be “politically correct” and **refuse** to compromise the message that declares Jesus Christ to be the one, and only, true way to God.

Day 6: Revelation 2:18-29

“*But hold fast what you have till I come.*” (Revelation 2:25)

The Church at Thyatira

The messenger who delivered these letters would have to turn east at Pergamum if he was going to continue on to Thyatira. For those churches that are left feeling somewhat insignificant when compared to the mega churches of our day, it might be important to note that this is the longest letter to any of the churches and that it is sent to what was probably the smallest of the seven churches. God does not measure a church by the size of its *membership* but by the size of its *ministry*! This city was a blue-collar area for hard-working people. However, just as the people in Pergamum suffered at the hands of the intellectuals, this church suffered at the hands of the tradesmen and labor unions. Unfortunately, most Christians could not readily associate with the people that belonged to such associations at that time because of their participation in sexual immorality and idolatry. One woman, in particular, seems to have been compromising their worship experience by calling herself a prophetess and leading the Christians astray. Our focus verse directs these believers to reject the urge to compromise and to “hold fast” until the Lord returns. The words of verse 26 are important because they are a fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalm 2:8-9 and clearly indicate that believers will someday rule with Christ in heaven.

Prayer Emphasis: Compare the promise of Revelation 2:28 with Revelation 22:16 and you will see exactly what Jesus promised this group of believers. **Remember**, the promise made to these believers is also a promise to all believers in all churches of all time! **Claim** this promise for yourself today and **praise** God for such precious promises of His divine presence!

Day 7: Revelation 3:1-6

“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.” (Revelation 3:4)

The Church in Sardis

From Thyatira, the courier that carried these messages had to turn a little to the south to reach the ancient city of Sardis. Since the seven churches addressed in the Revelation are characteristic of churches in that day, then we can readily assume and understand that our churches are probably not much different today. Each church mentioned in this book is representative of the different kinds of believers that lived in that day and of the different kinds of believers that inhabit God’s churches even now. This particular church had, at one time, born the “name” (reputation) that they were a living, vibrant church. However, at the time of this letter, Christ pronounced them to be spiritually dead. The Christians in this city were not suffering from trials, opposition, or persecution as their sister churches were. These Christians were suffering from yet another deadly part of Satan’s arsenal – namely, their own success! These people represent the many Christians who live on the record of their past service for God. Everything is about what they “used to do” for the Lord or at their church. Even though no known sin of commission is addressed in this letter, the message is still, “Repent!”

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that sins of *omission* are just as evil as sins of *commission*. **Choose** to be one of those who, like the “few” in Sardis, refuse to rest on their laurels and simply wait it out until Jesus returns. **Find** a place of personal service in the church today!

Day 8: Revelation 3:7-13

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” (Revelation 3:11)

The Church in Philadelphia

Along with the church at Smyrna, this church was one of only two that did not receive a single word of condemnation from the Lord. The church members at Philadelphia represent the faithful, evangelistic believers who focus their attention on witnessing and winning people to Christ. While this church was physically situated only 28 miles from the church at Sardis, spiritually speaking, the two churches could not have been farther apart. Like the Christians at Sardis, these faithful followers also had a reputation. However, their reputation was that they had remained true to God’s Word and they had not denied His name (verse 8). These believers were not commanded to *repent*, but they were commanded *not to relent!* The Lord commanded them to “hold fast” to what they had. These Christians were referred to as “pillars.” Only James (the Lord’s half-brother), Peter, and John were ever referred to as “pillars” in the New Testament church (Galatians 2:9). A pillar was an important part of any building, and these people were being declared as being important, foundational people in God’s kingdom and work. One writer described this church as one that stood tall, “a column in a scene of ruins.” It is no coincidence that Christianity still thrives in this city today and that there is still a strong church presence there that remains a vibrant witness for Christ.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to give you what it takes to “hold on” to the Gospel and to “hold out” against those who pressure you to remain silent when there are so many who have still not heard! **Take advantage** of every opportunity to **witness** for Christ and to **share** the Gospel.

Day 9: Revelation 3:14-22

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

The Church at Laodicea

The last church addressed by letter was the church at Laodicea. To get to Laodicea, the messenger had to continue southeast about 45 miles from Philadelphia. Laodicea was a very wealthy city with banking centers, hospitals, and a medical school. I mentioned earlier that Smyrna and Philadelphia were the only two churches that had no word of *condemnation* in their letters, but now I must mention that Laodicea was the only church that had no word of *commendation* in its letter. The Lord described this church as being “neither cold nor hot” in verses 15 and 16. (We should always pay careful attention when God repeats Himself!) The word God chose to use to describe their commitment and service to Him was “lukewarm.” God then made it clear to them that He would rather they be hot or cold and that He found their current spiritual condition to be sickening. As is always the case, the problems of this church were indicative of the problems in the hearts of the individual members. Notice that the focus verse clearly states that “if anyone” would open the door to their heart, He would come in and fellowship with them.

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** that the best thing any of us can do for our church is to keep our own heart right with the Lord. **Spend time** fellowshiping with God and He will keep your heart in tune with His. **Pray** for your fellow church members today and **encourage** them in their service to the Lord.

Day 10: Revelation 4:1-11

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

The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter

Revelation 1:19 provided a three-part outline to the Book of Revelation. John was directed to write about *the things that he had seen* (the vision of the Christ), *the things that are now* (the letters to the churches), and *the things that were to follow*. Revelation 4:1 begins the third, and longest, section of this book as it begins to describe the “things which must take place after this.” It is interesting to note that, after the first few chapters of Revelation placed so much emphasis on the churches, the church is not mentioned again until chapter 19. And then, it is not referenced as the church on earth but as the church in heaven. The next time you read the word “church” in this book will be in Revelation 22:16. This is because John’s being called up to heaven by a voice that sounded like a trumpet is a picture of the rapture of the church! From Revelation 4:1 on, everything we read about in this book will be happening after the church has been raptured from this world and is with the Lord in heaven. Compare John’s comment about being “immediately...in the Spirit” (verse 2) with 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. Then compare the voice that sounded like a “trumpet” (verse 1) with what you read in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. We will have more to say about this blessed event in the devotionals to come.

Prayer Emphasis: **Live** today, and every day, with the knowledge that the rapture could take place at any moment! **Share** your belief in the rapture with someone today. **Praise God** for the confidence that we have that the church will not have to endure the horrible, world-wide tribulation.

Day 11: Revelation 5:1-14

“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,’” (Revelation 5:9)

The Seven-Sealed Book

In chapter four, we saw John caught up to heaven in a spiritual body and was “at once” transported to the throne room of God. The remainder of chapter four dealt with God’s throne and the One who was sitting upon it. Chapter five focuses on something that is held “in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” That something was a “scroll” that was “sealed with seven seals.” We are not told what was written in this scroll at this time, but we will learn about its contents in the chapters to follow. For now, we are told that an angel asked in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” John said that he wept when he realized there was no one worthy to open the book and reveal its contents. However, one of the elders pointed out Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who alone was able to open the book. As the scroll was taken from the hand of the One seated on the throne, a great worship service took place there around the throne of God. As we read today’s verses, we readily see how important music is to the worship experience whether here or in heaven!

Prayer Emphasis: Worship God with all of your heart. **Sing** His praises because He alone is worthy. **Spend some time** today imagining how your first day in heaven will be spent. **Thank** God for the knowledge that your loved ones who have passed before you are there in His presence.

Day 12: Revelation 6:1-8

“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’” (Revelation 6:1)

The Four Horsemen

In Revelation four, we saw John being caught up to heaven to the throne room of God. In chapter five, he described a scroll that was held in the right hand of the One who sat on the throne and the Lamb of God who was deemed worthy to break the seven-sealed scroll and reveal its contents. Now chapter six will describe the events that took place when the first six of the seven seals were opened. Our verses today deal with the first four seals. When each seal was broken, a rider came forth on a different colored horse. The first rode a white horse, and he rode forth to conquer. The second rode a red horse, and the rider caused great wars to break out among the people who remained on the earth after the rapture and many were slain. The third rider was on a black horse, and this rider ushered in the kind of sorrowful poverty and famine that typically follows war. The fourth rider came forth on a pale horse that represented death. During the events that take place immediately after the breaking of these seals, one fourth of the earth’s remaining population is killed either by war, famine, plague, or wild beasts. Remember, this was after the church is raptured from the earth and while the church is in heaven in the throne room of God.

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for your lost friends and family members and **ask** God to provide you with an opportunity to witness to them. **Ask** them to read this devotional guide and try to get them to discuss it with you on a regular basis. Many people are fascinated with Revelation and would be willing to read something that can help them to better understand what it says.

Day 13: Revelation 6:9-17

“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,” (Revelation 6:15)

The Fifth and Sixth Seals

The breaking of the first four seals revealed future catastrophic events that will take place on earth. The breaking of the next two seals will reveal details about things that will happen in heaven. The fifth seal is broken, and John saw the souls of those who had been slain because of the Word of God and their testimony. These people represent those who believed in the Lord and were saved immediately after the rapture. Many people who have heard about the gospel and the rapture of the church will know what has happened when they realize that every single Christian they knew has now suddenly disappeared from the earth in answer to the Lord’s call to join Him in heaven. It is not difficult to imagine hundreds of thousands of people falling to their knees and asking God to save them. The souls spoken of here are the souls of those who entered heaven by death after the rapture. The rapture does not signal the end of man’s opportunity to be saved, but it does signal the end of man’s opportunity to escape the great tribulation. When the sixth seal is opened, the terrible judgment of God’s wrath will begin to be poured out upon the earth. Some think that these verses describe a great time of *natural* disaster while others think it describes a time of *nuclear* disaster. Whichever the case, it is certainly a terrible time of judgment.

Prayer Emphasis: Continue to pray for those who do not know Christ and **seek** an opportunity to **witness** to them. If nothing else, be faithful to **invite** them to attend church services with you.

Day 14: Revelation 7:1-8

“And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.” (Revelation 7:4)

The 144,000!

We read about the events that took place after the opening of the first six seals in chapter six. We will not read about the events that follow the opening of the seventh seal until we get to chapter eight. In the meantime, chapter seven deals with a subject that almost everyone has heard discussed at some time in their lives. The chapter begins with four angels standing at the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds of the earth. This represents a brief time of respite from the wrath of God and may be the days that Jesus was referring to in Matthew 24:22. The reason that God causes this cessation from wrath is so that 144,000 believing Jews could be set apart as His witnesses to those who still remained on earth after the rapture and who had survived the first phases of the great tribulation. Even after the church is raptured from this earth and taken to heaven, God will not leave the world without a witness. He will have 12,000 people from each of the 12 tribes of Israel who will become believers and begin to evangelize to those who remain alive on the earth. It is apparent that the opportunity for people to be saved will continue after the rapture and well into the time of the great tribulation. When you read verse two carefully, you will see that this is only a pause in the sorrowful events of the tribulation and that they have ceased only until the 144,000 witnesses could be chosen and sealed.

Prayer Emphasis: Be intentional in your personal walk and witness. **Find** a good reason to bring God up in a conversation and **ask** someone to begin reading the Revelation devotionals with you.

Day 15: Revelation 7:9-17

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number...standing before the throne and before the Lamb...” (Revelation 7:9)

The Great Multitude

After seeing the 144,000 being saved and sealed, John looked and saw a great multitude. This multitude of people is so great that it would be beyond human ability to “number” (count) them with any accuracy. As you read the Book of the Revelation, remind yourself that these chapters are describing global, worldwide, events and not just events taking place in the Mideast, or what we refer to as the Holy Land. This great multitude is said to be of every nation, tribe, people, and language known on the earth, and they are all standing before the Lamb in front of the throne of God. This image should help us to better see the enormity of heaven. Verse 14 reveals just who this great multitude represents. It states that these people are those who were saved during the early parts of the great tribulation. Now, bearing in mind that these people were not saved prior to the rapture of the church, we have to realize that they had no time or opportunity to serve God on earth. So now, we see a great multitude of people who never took the time to know and serve God on earth but are busy serving Him in heaven. Verses 16-17 remind us of the great mercy and compassion of God. Read them again and see how He treats those who had spent a lifetime rejecting Him and His plan of salvation. That is what I call grace!

Prayer Emphasis: Meditate on the goodness and mercy of God and **thank** Him for His every kindness that He has shown to you and your family. **Brag** on Him to someone today. **Praise** Him for saving your soul and sparing you from days such as those we will continue to read about in this book.

Day 16: Revelation 8:1-13

“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.” (Revelation 8:1)

The Seventh Seal

The seventh seal introduces the next phase of the great tribulation. It is easiest to remember the events of the tribulation period by recalling that there are seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls of wrath. The seventh seal is actually made up of the events that take place when the seven trumpets are sounded. Chapter eight will deal with the first four trumpets and the events that are assigned to them. Even before these trumpets are sounded, the short-termed respite ends when fire is hurled down from heaven and catastrophic events begin to occur once again. After the sounding of these first three trumpets, one-third of the earth’s trees and grass, oceans and sea life, and rivers and lakes were destroyed and made useless. At the sounding of the fourth trumpet, the sun, moon and stars all lost one-third of their brightness. Imagine a world with the kind of air quality that would exist with one-third of the earth’s vegetation destroyed. Then imagine the kind of water quality that would exist after one-third of the sea creatures died and were left to decay. Add to that the sinking of one-third of all the world’s sea vessels and the toxic pollutants that would mix with the water after that catastrophic event. Imagine not being able to find clean, fresh water to drink. If you can imagine all of that, then you can begin to imagine what part of the great tribulation would be like.

Prayer Emphasis: Continue to pray for your lost friends, associates, and family members. **Ask** God to speak to their hearts and to open doors of opportunity for you to **witness** to them. Be a *patient*, but *persistent*, witness for the Lord, and He will reward your efforts by adding souls to His kingdom.

Day 17: Revelation 9:1-12

“Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.” (Revelation 9:1)

The Fifth Trumpet and the First “Woe”

The last verse of chapter eight has John seeing an eagle flying and calling out, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels.” So, just as we saw that the seventh seal was comprised of seven trumpets, we now see that the fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpets are also called the three “woes.” After the fifth trumpet sounds, John saw a star fall from heaven. When we read about John’s first vision of Christ in chapter 1, we read that Jesus held seven stars in His hand (1:16). We then read that these seven stars were actually the seven “angels,” or messengers, to the seven churches (1:20). Just as the “stars” of chapter one were angels or messengers, the “star” in 9:1 is also an angel. The NKJV and other translations refer to this “star” as a “him” when they state, “to him was given the key to the bottomless pit.” Some translations refer to the bottomless pit as “the abyss.” This “star” is referred to as a “him” in our focus verse and as “he” in verse two. Look carefully at the events that transpire after the “bottomless pit” is opened. They are described in verses 2-11. Then read verse 12 again and note that all of these terrible events only make up the first of the three terrible “woes” that we read about back in 8:13.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to give you a *burden* for the lost and the *boldness* to witness to them. **Learn** how to share your testimony and the plan of salvation with others. **Be intentional** in your efforts to lead others to Christ.

Day 18: Revelation 9:13-21

“Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,” (Revelation 9:13)

The Sixth Trumpet and the Second “Woe”

The final three trumpets are referred to as three “woes” because their judgments are even more severe than the first four trumpets. As such, it becomes clear that each of the three “woes” brings about more severe events than the one before. Remember that the tribulation began with seven seals with the seventh seal actually being made up of seven trumpets and seven bowls of wrath. Thus, the seventh phase of tribulation is made up of fourteen different phases. The doubling of the number of phases is a clear indication of the intensified severity of this part of the tribulation period. As a result of the terrible events associated with this trumpet, one-third of the remaining population of the world dies. Remember, we saw that more than one-fourth of the world’s population perished after the opening of the first four seals. One can only imagine the death and destruction that those who are still alive will have witnessed up to this point. You would think that all of this would be enough to cause them to cry out to the Lord. However, verses 20 and 21 make it clear that there were many who were still not willing to repent and turn from their sins.

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** that pain, fear, and suffering will not win people to Christ. Only the gospel can bring people to salvation. It is sad to think that these people, who had suffered so much, still clung to their sins and idols. One has to conclude that it was because they had no one to tell them the truth about the way to heaven. **Decide** to be that someone for others while there is still time.

Day 19: Revelation 10:1-11

“Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.’”
(Revelation 10:4)

The Seven Thunders

The sounding of the first six trumpets is discussed in chapters eight and nine, but the seventh trumpet will not be sounded until we get to Revelation 11:15. In the meantime, we will learn about some other things that John saw in his vision on Patmos. In chapter 10, John saw another mighty angel come down from heaven. When this mighty angel shouted, “seven thunders” were heard. Apparently, John heard what these thunderous voices announced, but he was forbidden to write them down. We are never told what John saw after the sounding of these thunders. We can only conclude that the seven thunders were part of the sixth trumpet and that they were a continuation of the judgment of God upon the earth. I have often wondered if God knew that the description of the things that happened during and after these thunders were more than we could bear to hear. After the seven thunders sounded, the angel stood over the earth and raised his right hand to the heavens. This posture was indicative of a victor after the defeat of an enemy. It should be clear to us by now that the days of Satan and his followers are numbered.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for all that He reveals to us in the Scriptures. However, today’s verses may provide us with good reasons to **thank** God for what He chooses not to reveal to us at this time.

Day 20: Revelation 11:1-14

“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Revelation 11:3)

The Two Witnesses

There are few topics concerning the end times that have received more speculation and attention than the identification of the two witnesses of the tribulation period. Some have argued that the two will be Enoch and Elijah because they were the only two men whose actual deaths are not recorded in the Bible. Some argue that the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah since these two represented the law and the prophets and were seen with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is not difficult to see the powers of these witnesses that are described in 11:5 and 11:6 and compare them to some of the events recorded in the lives of Elijah and Moses. But, just as it was with the words spoken during the seven thunders, John made no record of who these two witnesses were. By this, we should realize that *what they did and said* was infinitely more important to God’s plan for the ages than *who they were*. These two witnesses preach for 1,260 days (3½ years) before the beast comes and kills them, leaving their dead bodies in the streets. But in 3½ days, God raised them from the dead and called them up to heaven in a cloud – and all of this in the full view of their enemies! Read about the calamities and destruction that followed their departure and then note that this phase of the tribulation resulted in people giving glory to God! With this, the sixth trumpet is ended, and the events associated with it and the second “woe” are concluded.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to lose hope regarding those for whose salvation you are praying. **Ask** God to intensify your burden for them as well as your boldness to take advantage of the witnessing opportunities He provides. **Be faithful** in your efforts to show Christ to a lost world.

Day 21: Revelation 11:15-19

“Saying: ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned.’” (Revelation 11:17)

The Seventh Trumpet

Immediately after the sounding of the seventh trumpet, we are told that “loud voices” (note the plural) made the announcement that “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.” At this great announcement, the 24 elders that sat before God fell on their faces and began to worship Him. Notice the things for which they worshipped and praised God. (They are listed in verses 17 and 18.) If you recall, chapter 11 began with John being given a measuring rod and told to go and measure the temple that was *on earth*. Now, at the conclusion of this chapter, we see the temple *in heaven*. During this time of great persecution, God allows the temple in heaven to be “opened,” leaving the Ark of the Covenant in full view. This is very significant because the Ark of the Covenant was the only piece of furniture that was located within the Holy of Holies and the high priest was the only person to ever see it. It is now opened for all of heaven to see and that would be a very good reason for the kind of worship that the 24 elders displayed.

Prayer Emphasis: Worship God today with the same prayer that these heavenly beings uttered in verses 17 and 18! **Look** for reasons to praise God and do it on a regular basis!

Day 22: Revelation 12:1-10

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,” (Revelation 12:7)

A Great Drama in Heaven

If you recall, we learned earlier that the seventh trumpet judgment was actually made up of seven bowls of wrath that would be poured out upon the nation. Although the seventh trumpet sounded in 11:15, we will not read about the seven bowls of wrath until we get to chapter 16. In chapters 12–15, we are introduced to some very interesting characters that will all play significant roles in the drama that is set before John. We will meet four of these main characters in today’s reading. First, we see a woman giving painful birth to a child (verses 1-2). This woman represents Israel and her birth as a people for God from whom He would send the Messiah. Next, we see a “great, fiery red dragon” (verses 3-4). God leaves no room for doubt as to who this person is because he names him (Satan) later in verse nine. The drama set forth in heaven reveals that the dragon, Satan, sets forth to destroy the Messiah as soon as he is born. That is exactly what happened in the life of Christ. (Take a moment to read the message delivered to Joseph in Matthew 2:13.) Then, we see the male child (verses 5-6). We know that this child represented Christ since he was born to rule all nations. Notice that the child “was caught up to God and His throne” (verse 5). Then, we are introduced to the archangel Michael and his mighty army. After Michael and his army defeat Satan and his angels, Satan is cast out of heaven. Note that it is only after Christ is in heaven with his Father that it could be announced that Satan, and his accusations against God’s people, were finally stopped.

Prayer Emphasis: Imagine this great drama being played out before John’s amazed eyes! But, don’t be jealous! I assure you that John would have traded his “vision” for just one copy of the Bible that you have available to you! **Read** it! **Treasure** it! **Obey** it!

Day 23: Revelation 12:11-17

“*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*” (Revelation 12:11)

Satan's Strategy

Imagine the grief that Satan experienced when he realized that he no longer had access to heaven or the opportunity to bring accusations against the saints. He knew that he had been defeated “by the blood of the Lamb” (verse 11) and he watched as those who had followed Jesus chose death for His sake over living a life committed to Satan. (Sorry Satan, you lose!) However, since Satan could no longer attack the church, he once again turned his wrath toward earth and the nation of Israel. He could no longer hurt the child, but he could hurt the woman (nation) that brought Him forth. God provided a way of escape for His people, but Satan did not relent. He tried to destroy Israel with a flood (probably symbolic for some form of vicious attack), but the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the water that Satan sent to harm her. Seeing no way to cause further harm to Israel, Satan turned his attention toward those believers on earth who were saved after the rapture and who had somehow escaped death up to this point.

Prayer Emphasis: Read John 10:10 and commit it to memory. **Realize** that Satan has nothing but evil intentions and that he cannot be trusted. **Remember** that, according to James 4:7, if we **resist** him, he will be forced to flee from us.

Day 24: Revelation 13:1-10

“*Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.*” (Revelation 13:1)

The First Beast

The beast mentioned here was previously mentioned back in 11:7. This beast represents the antichrist. This “beast” will be a real person that will be a very powerful political figure. The seven heads may represent the different continents over which he bears rule, and the 10 crowns may represent some kind of confederacy of nations that have aligned themselves with him. We are clearly told who this person serves and the source of his power. The last part of verse two reveals that the dragon (Satan) gave this individual his power and authority. The tribulation period is for seven years. I believe that the first 3½ years of the tribulation ended at the close of the events that followed the sounding of the sixth trumpet (the second “woe”) back in 11:14. Verse four indicates that this person will come for one purpose, and that is to get people to worship Satan. This person’s reign will last through the final 3½ years of the tribulation period. During that time, he will speak blasphemous things against God, His church, and those who choose to follow Christ. He will make war against the saints in all of the nations of the world. However, only those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will worship this man. This man will soon learn that no man is exempt from the laws of God – especially the law of sowing and reaping. He will live by the sword and then die by the sword.

Prayer Emphasis: We are now a little more than half way through the Book of Revelation and half way through God’s description of the great tribulation that will come after the rapture of the church. Now would be a good time for all of God’s people to **make a decision** to go all the way for Him! Our choice to *serve* may lead to someone choosing to be *saved*!

Day 25: Revelation 13:11-18

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.” (Revelation 13:11)

The Second Beast

As I mentioned earlier, most people have heard at least something about the 144,000 of Revelation 7 or the two witnesses of Revelation 11, but the man represented by this second beast here in Revelation 13 may be the most talked about individual in this book. This person will probably be a very powerful religious leader who will influence many to worship the antichrist. He will perform acts that *appear* to be miracles and many people will be swayed by his display of what *appears* to be spiritual powers. What he does will appear just enough like what people heard about biblical events to convince them that this person is from God and he now represents God. Since this person gets his power from the first beast (the antichrist), then the people of the earth will view this man’s “ministry” and be convinced that the antichrist is none other than God. This person will be closely connected with commerce and will lead the people to receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or forehead. Without this mark, they will not be allowed to buy or sell, or to do business in the marketplace. As such, commerce will become the “Christianity” of his day, and men will ultimately learn that Jesus was speaking a great truth when He said that no man could serve God and money. This “beast” is said to be a “man” and his “number” is 666.

Prayer Emphasis: We do not understand all of this now, but there will come a day when this number will clearly identify the antichrist. (Remember, the first beast is the antichrist, and is the “beast” that will be identified by the number 666.) Our concentrated effort to make Christ known to people today may spare someone we know and love from ever having to know this evil antichrist and from ever having to receive this mark!

Day 26: Revelation 14:1-11

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.” (Revelation 14:1)

The Lamb

Thus far we have seen the woman clothed with the sun, the great red dragon (Satan), the male child, Michael, and the first and second beasts. Now it is time for the real star of the show to be introduced. We met Him way back in chapter one, but now we will see Him as He deals with the beast, the false prophet, and their followers. The 144,000 are said to be standing with Christ on Mount Zion. Just as He did on some occasions during Christ’s earthly ministry, God the Father introduces Him with a voice from heaven. His introduction is accompanied with a great fanfare of music and singing. The fact that the 144,000 witnesses are now with Christ gives an indication that they died for their faith and witness during the tribulation period. Verse six speaks of an angel having the “everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth.” Notice that every time we see Jesus “coming” unto men, we see Him coming to preach the gospel. Also, notice that God, even during the great tribulation, continues to offer people the opportunity to respond positively to the gospel and be saved.

Prayer Emphasis: **Pray** more than ever for your lost family members, friends, loved ones, and associates. **Faithfully** witness to them at every opportunity. **Tell** someone that you are praying for their salvation.

Day 27: Revelation 14:12-20

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12)

The Patience of the Saints

Revelation 14:12 speaks of the “*patience* of the saints.” This word is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 where this kind of patience is associated with hope. It is used to describe the kind of person that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. Notice how obedience and faith are connected in verse 12. At this time, God sends a message of encouragement to His people, assuring them that their labor is not in vain. However, these words seem to make it clear that a decision to become a believer now is a decision to be willing to die for the Lord. This death will lead to a time of “rest,” and their faith will be rewarded in heaven. The invitation to believe (verses 12-13) is followed by another time of wrath and judgment (verses 14-20). The intensity of the persecution that is described in the final verses of chapter 14 is indicated by the words of verse 20. “One thousand six hundred furlongs” was equal to about 180 miles. One can only imagine the number of lives that would have to be lost to result in the blood that was shed reaching the height described here in an area that measured approximately 180 square miles.

Prayer Emphasis: **Commit** your life to obedience and faith. Continue to **be a witness** to those you meet along life’s way. Someone may make what seems to be a “wrong turn” along life’s road today just so that they could cross your path and be pointed in the “right way” that will lead to their salvation!

Day 28: Revelation 15:1-8

“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.” (Revelation 15:1)

The Beginning of the End

Our verses now bring us back to the preparation for the sounding of the seventh trumpet, which will lead to the seven bowls of wrath being poured out upon the world and its remaining inhabitants. These last seven phases of the tribulation and judgment period are here called “plagues.” In them, we are told, the wrath of God will be “complete.” The Greek word translated “*complete*” here is the same word that is used in John 19:30 when Jesus cried, “It is *finished*,” from the cross. Just as surely as Jesus was “finished” with his receiving the just punishment for our sins, He is now about to be “finished” with the just punishment that is being poured out upon those who have continued to reject Him. The scene is heaven – where people are singing and worshipping God. Seven angels come forth from the temple and are given seven golden “bowls” that are filled with the wrath of God. Although we are not told about the events that take place when these bowls are poured out upon the world, we know that these final seven phases of tribulation and judgment mark the nearing of the end of the time of great tribulation that began immediately after the rapture of the church.

Prayer Emphasis: **Prepare** yourself for what is to follow. The final seven phases of the events that follow the sounding of the seventh trumpet will cause great sorrow to those who have lost friends and loved ones. **Allow** God to use these words as motivation for you to continue to **pray** for the salvation of your friends and to give you the boldness that it takes to **witness** to them about Jesus.

Day 29: Revelation 16:1-9

“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.’” (Revelation 16:1)

The First Four Bowls

In Revelation 14:10, we read about the wrath of God being “poured” out. We have not seen the word “poured” since that time but we now see it once again here in chapter 16. Here we find the word “poured” seven final times, with each use being associated with one of the “bowls” of wrath that make up the plagues of the seventh trumpet. Today’s verses will deal with the events associated with the first four of these bowls of wrath. In the judgments associated with the seven seals and the seven trumpets, there was a break between the events associated with the sixth and seventh phases. Here, in these final phases of judgment, there will be no break. The language seems to indicate that these final seven phases will come in rapid succession or possibly even all at the same time. Whichever the case, the duration of these last seven phases of judgment probably lasted over the last 3½ years of the tribulation period. The pouring of the first bowl caused painful sores to break out upon all that had accepted the mark of the beast. The pouring of the second bowl led to the death of every living thing that was left in the sea. The pouring of the third bowl caused the earth’s remaining water supplies to be turned to blood, while the pouring of the fourth bowl led to a burning heat being released to torment the remaining inhabitants of the earth. Even with all of this, these remaining people refused to repent of their sins and turn to God for salvation.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that our door of opportunity to **witness** to our family members and friends is nearing its end. **Witness** without hesitation and with urgency and compassion.

Day 30: Revelation 16:10-21

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” (Revelation 16:15)

The Final Three Bowls of Wrath

If you read Revelation 16 carefully, you will see that each one of the “bowls” of judgment is poured out on a specific area of life. The fifth angel is said to have poured out his bowl directly on the throne of the beast, causing his kingdom to be plunged into darkness. This phase of judgment reminds us of some of the events related to the fifth trumpet (9:2), as well as the ninth plague that came upon Egypt. The sixth bowl was poured out directly on the great Euphrates River, causing its waters to be dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east. These “kings” are not identified, but they are obviously enemies of the antichrist who are coming to do battle (verse 16). In biblical times, this river provided a safety barrier for those living on its banks. The river was too wide for an enemy to easily ford and mount any kind of a surprise attack. The river drying up probably was symbolic of the defenses of the antichrist being brought down so that he would be vulnerable to the attack of these unknown kings. The seventh bowl was poured out into the air. After that, great catastrophic events began immediately to occur on land and in the skies. These events led to the fall of Babylon and the collapse of the cities (economic centers) of the nations.

Prayer Emphasis: Notice that we are told that even after the fourth and fifth bowls of wrath were poured out, people still refused to repent. The fact that they *refused* to repent indicates that they had an opportunity to do so! Even in this time of judgment, God was still offering salvation to any who would believe.

Day 31: Revelation 17:1-18

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,’” (Revelation 17:1)

The Fall of the One-World Religion

The Hebrew word translated “Babylon” is found 262 times in the Old Testament (OT). Two of those times the word is translated “Babel.” Both of those times are in Genesis, and they are the only two times that the word is found in the first book of the Bible. The word means “confusion,” and it was in Genesis 11:9 that God confused the languages of the world after they tried to build a tower for the religious purpose of reaching up to the heavens. God’s issue with the people there was not about their *religion* but their *reach*. Babylon is mentioned six times in Revelation. Just like in the OT, this mention of Babylon is not about one specific city, but about a one-world religion that is based on man’s ability to reach heaven through good works. At Babel, the people were one people who all spoke one language. In Revelation, Babylon represents a one-world federation of nations that promotes only one religion – and it is not Christianity. When you read about the events that take place in Revelation 17, just bear in mind that it is really about the fall of a one-world religion that is *born* of man and is *based* on works.

Prayer Emphasis: Note that the first and last books of the Bible mention a one-world religion that is based on man’s religious efforts and not God’s grace. **Look** at Genesis 11:6 and **notice** the words “to do” (found twice). God first *derailed* works-based religion in Genesis and now He utterly *defeats* it here in Revelation.

Day 32: Revelation 18:1-8

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.” (Revelation 18:1)

The Fall of the One-World Government

Just as the Babylon of chapter 17 represented a one-world religious federation, the Babylon of chapter 18 represents a one-world governmental federation. This arrogant government believed itself to be undefeatable. The last part of verse seven records this boast: “I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will *never* mourn” (NIV). However, the next verse states that this great, one-world government collapsed in just one day! An important point about the one-world religion and the one-world government is that the people abandoned it when they saw it no longer offered a benefit to them. The last part of verse three reveals the true, selfish, motivations of those who participated in them. In Genesis 11, God did not destroy the tower of Babel, but He did confuse the language of the people, dividing them to the point that *they* stopped building it. In the end times, people will eventually lose faith in both the one-world religion and the one-world government and stop building it! Bear in mind that, after the rapture and the great persecution of the people that believed on the Lord after that great event, there were fewer and fewer true believers on the earth. With the absence of people of true faith, the spiritual condition of the world will continue to spiral down to the level described in verse three.

Prayer Emphasis: Read verse five again. In the KJV it states: “For her sins have reached unto heaven...” Wasn’t it the intention of the people of Babel to “reach” heaven? Just as soon as the people of the world lose faith in the one-world religion and government, and its ability to create a utopia (heaven on earth), they will abandon it, and just like the people in Genesis, they will stop building it!

Day 33: Revelation 18:9-24

“*The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,*” (Revelation 18:9)

Hypocrites?

Verses 9 and 10 state that the fall of the one-world religion and government will cause the kings of the earth to “weep and lament” and then distance themselves from it. Verses 11-17 describe the reactions of the “merchants of the earth” and tell us that they also weep and mourn over the fall of this one-world system. The last part of verse 17 and verses 18-19 include the woeful reaction of the sea captains and the shipping industry to the fall of this great society. However, each of these sectors of this very sick society has their own personal reasons for mourning over Babylon! The kings mourned because they had “lived luxuriously with her” (verse 9) and now they lamented the fall of this system because “no one buys their merchandise anymore” (verse 11). The shipping industry grieves because they had become “rich by her wealth” (verse 19). How many times have you had people decline to visit church with you because of all of the “hypocrites” that are in church? Well, it seems that those who had once been so enamored with the one-world religion and government were all quite “hypocritical” in their affections and devotion because they ceased to *believe* immediately after they lost their personal *benefits* for doing so!

Prayer Emphasis: Review verses 21-23 and note the things that the people of Babylon would no longer experience. The saddest part of these statements is where God indicates that there will no longer be an opportunity for men to repent and be saved after this point. **Reach** out while you still can!

Day 34: Revelation 19:1-10

“*Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’*” (Revelation 19:9)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The last part of chapter 18 records the response of those on earth to the fall of the one-world religion and government, while the first part of chapter 19 records the response of those in heaven to that same event. John states that he heard “a loud voice” of a great multitude” (verse 1). These many voices were all shouting one word – “Alleluia.” This shout of praise appears four times in Revelation 19:1-6 and nowhere else in the New Testament. It is found only in the book of Psalms in the Old Testament. This gives us an indication that there is a kind of praise that only God’s people can give and that it is only given when His people are truly worshipping Him. The main reason for this great outburst of praise was to “rejoice” and give God “glory” (verse 7). Another reason for this wonderful expression of worship was because the time for the “marriage of the Lamb” had finally come. The angel then instructed John to “write” something and that something was this: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!” At those words, John fell at the feet of this angel to worship him. However, the angel stopped John from doing so and then said something rather amazing to him. He told John that he was John’s “fellow servant,” as well as the fellow servant of John’s brothers (fellow believers) who believe and preach the testimony of Jesus.

Prayer Emphasis: When is the last time you just shouted praise to God? We shout about things like sports, food, fun, and friends. We shout when we are happy. The word translated “blessed” in verse nine means “happy” and is translated that way at least five times in the KJV.

Day 35: Revelation 19:11-21

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” (Revelation 19:11)

The Second Coming and the Battle of Armageddon

Many people are confused about the difference between the rapture and the second coming of Christ. At the time of the rapture, Christ will come “in the clouds” and all believers will be “caught up together” with Him in the air. The rapture is a time when believers will rise to meet the Lord and then return to the safety of heaven with Him while the great tribulation falls on the earth for seven years. The second coming takes place after the rapture and the seven years of tribulation. Christ does not simply come “in the air” but actually returns to earth physically. John saw heaven opened and a rider on a white horse. There is no question as to the identity of this rider – the title given to Him in verse 16 leaves no doubt to His identity. Immediately after this great event, the armies of the world gather for battle. Although the place is not named here, we were told earlier (16:16) that this place would be Armageddon. At the conclusion of this battle, the beast and his false prophet are both cast alive into the lake of fire and the remnant of their once vast kingdom is utterly and finally destroyed at the hands of the conquering Christ!

Prayer Emphasis: Rejoice in the fact that you know you have eternal life and you will not live to see these horrible things come to pass on the earth. **Praise** God for your salvation and for the joy and comfort it brings. **Share** your salvation experience with someone today.

Day 36: Revelation 20:1-15

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” (Revelation 20:12)

The 1,000 Year Reign and the White Throne Judgment

Almost every translation of the Bible begins Revelation 20:1 with the word “and” or “then.” Whichever is used was chosen to translate an actual Hebrew word that is included in the manuscripts. It was not added for clarification when we “Americanized” the Bible. It is there because what happens in chapter 20 is a continuation of the events that we just read about in chapter 19. Immediately after the kingdoms of the world are defeated by Christ and His armies, “then” John saw an angel come down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit. He bound Satan and cast him into the pit to remain for 1,000 years. Verse four clearly defines who will rule and reign with Christ during this 1,000-year period. They are not identified by a denominational name or by a specific religion. They are to reign with Him based on the fact that they had a personal relationship with Him. It is at the end of this 1,000-year period that Satan is cast into hell for all eternity. But another great event follows this 1,000-year period. All of the unsaved dead will stand before the throne of God to be judged according to the “books” – the laws and principles recorded in God’s Word. Note that it was not their inability to meet God’s standards that caused them to be eternally lost. They were ultimately cast into the lake of fire because their names were not found written in the Book of Life.

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that people do not go to hell for the bad things that they have done, but for one good thing that they refused to do. People go to hell because they have refused to believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior. **Make sure** that your friends have had the chance to hear the gospel!

Day 37: Revelation 21:1-11

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.” (Revelation 21:1)

The New Jerusalem

The last two chapters of Revelation are probably the most read – and the most taught – chapters of the entire book. Everyone loves a happy ending, and that is exactly what we find here. John saw a new heaven and a new earth. This is not a rehabilitated earth, but a *new* earth. The Greek word translated “new” in this verse leaves no doubt that this was a completely different creation than the one first created by God in Genesis. We know this has to be so because we are told that the first earth had passed away. The focal point of this new heaven and earth will be the New Jerusalem. Again, this is not a “new and improved” Jerusalem that had been on the earth. That Jerusalem had passed away with everything else in the first creation. This will be an entirely “new” Jerusalem where the saved will forever live with God. It is in this place that God will wipe away all tears from our eyes and where there will be no more death, sorrow, or crying. Those things, along with the former earth, are “passed away.” But wait! It gets even better! One of the angels who had poured out one of the seven bowls of God’s wrath, pulled John aside and said, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (v. 9).

Prayer Emphasis: Imagine what it will be like to be in heaven and have all things be new! We will have no more sad memories, no sorrows, no issues with anyone, and no one who has any issues with us. We will all be focusing our attention on Jesus! **Practice** doing that now and you might experience a bit of heaven on earth!

Day 38: Revelation 21:12-27

“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.” (Revelation 21:23)

More About the New Jerusalem

Bear in mind that, when the angel revealed the New Jerusalem to John, he was not simply showing him a bunch of beautiful buildings. He was showing John the beautiful inhabitants of the city, as well as the place in which they now lived. Note that this city is marked by the number 12, which throughout the Bible, is a number closely associated with God’s divine authority. Verses 15-17 give us the dimensions of this beautiful city. Converted to miles, the measurement of the city would be about 1,400 miles on each side. To put that in perspective, imagine a city that covered an area almost $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of the United States, and you would have a pretty good idea as to the size of this city. It is interesting to note that this city is built as a cube, being as high as it is wide. The Holy of Holies was also built as a cube, and that is exactly what this city is to be – a giant Holy of Holies. There will be one difference, with that being that all of God’s people will be granted full access to this Holy Place! Verses 18-21 describe the beauty of the city, describing the various precious materials that are used in its construction. Lastly, verses 22-27 describe the living conditions within this wonderful city. The Lamb of God will be the light of this city. There will be no danger there, and all of God’s people will dwell together in total peace and safety.

Prayer Emphasis: Mention heaven to someone today. **Find** a way to bring it up in conversation and then use it to bring Christ into the conversation. **Tell** someone how you know you are on your way there!

Day 39: Revelation 22:1-11

“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.” (Revelation 22:3)

The River of Life

One of the most spectacular things that John saw in this New Jerusalem had to be the river of life. It is described as being as clear as crystal, which signifies its purity. It flows down from the throne of God and down the street of the city. (I often wonder if the word “street”, in singular, denotes that there will be no social divisions in the New Jerusalem.) On the side of the river stood the tree of life which bore 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. The kind of healing described here is not just the treating of symptoms, but the curing of the curse! Perhaps the best part of the city will be the part that we get to play. Verse three says that we will serve Him! The angel then announced to John that everything he had been shown in this amazing vision “must shortly take place” (verse 6). Jesus emphasized this fact with His statement recorded in verse seven. He is coming soon, and those who have kept the words of this book will be “blessed” (happy) that they have done so. After John declared that he had heard and seen all of these things, he said that the angel told him not to seal up the words of this book, but to leave it open for all to see and read because the time for all of these events to take place is near.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that the day of the rapture draws nearer every day and that it could take place at any moment. Because of that great truth, **live** every moment of your life with serving Christ being your greatest priority.

Day 40: Revelation 22:12-21

*“‘And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.’”
(Revelation 22:12 & 13)*

“I Come Quickly”

Today’s title comes from a great statement that is made twice in the last 10 verses of this wonderful book. When the Lord does come, He will bring rewards with Him, to give to every one of His followers in accordance to the works they have performed for Him. He once again refers to Himself as the Alpha and Omega – the beginning and ending – and the first and the last. By this, we realize that He was there when the first man was created to serve Him on the first earth and that He will be there when His newly created people will serve Him in the new heaven and earth. Verse 14 gives us the last of the seven times that the word “blessed” is found in Revelation and the last time that it is used in the Bible. And, just as He has consistently done throughout the Bible, God closes this book with a final appeal for all people to come to Him while there is time and opportunity to do so. The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” All of those who hear are to say, “Come!” Anyone who is thirsty can still come while there is still time to repent of their sins and accept Christ as their Savior. We are then warned not to add or take anything away from the words of this book. It has been written and edited by the very hand of God.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for this wonderful, closing book of the Bible. Take its words to heart and live every day like it could be your last on earth. Contact us at gary@seminolebc.com or 850-562-8069 if we can pray for you or help you in any way.