

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Wildwood Bible Study

Arranged over 12 Weeks for Individuals or Groups

A Study of the

Revelation of Jesus Christ

“The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw – that is the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

-Revelation 1:1-3

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An Intro to Studying the Bible

Placing Books in Context:

Have you ever been so close to something that you cannot see the big picture? It's like the old story of a group of blind men who approach an elephant, and only by their touch, attempt to determine what it is. One man touches the elephant's trunk and says, "This is a garden hose." Another man grabs the elephant's leg and says, "This is a great tree trunk." Finally a third man grabs the elephant's ear and says, "This is a palm leaf." Now, each of these men were somewhat right in their perception of the part, but none of them were right when it came to the whole: the garden hose like nose, the tree trunk like leg, and the palm leaf like ear all combined to make one big elephant! Only in the big picture could the truth be seen.

Many times when we go to study the Bible, we approach it like a blind man feeling our way through an elephant. We drop ourselves in the middle of a book, feel our way around, and try to make sense of something. When we do this, we will see some truth, but many times, we will miss the big picture of what God is trying to teach us.

Because of this, the first thing we need to remember when it comes to studying the Bible is that we must learn to place all that we are reading within a context. First within the book it was written in, then within the Bible as a whole. What I mean by this is that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, given to us to accomplish His purposes. This Word was given to us in 66 different "installments" or books. 39 of those books are found in the Old Testament and 27 of those books are found in the New Testament. (The Old Testament is made up of the books written before the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the New Testament is written after the resurrection of Jesus.) If we are to read the Bible and really understand it, we first must be able to place each of the verses we read into their specific contexts.

First of all, we must look at the verses within the book they were written. When we read the book of Revelation, we will be reading it as an individual book, not just a collection of verses. By that, I mean that when John wrote Revelation, he was writing it to be read by a specific group of people and to accomplish a specific purpose. In order for us to really understand the individual parts of these books, we must first look at the whole. Just as if you wrote a letter to a friend, you would want him to read the entire letter, not just a sentence or two at a time; similarly it is important that we understand what the entire book is about before we jump to conclusions about the individual verses. We will be looking first at the "Big Picture" of Revelation, then we will zoom in on the individual parts. You can do this continuing to review the chart found on page 8, and we will begin the entire study by having you read through the whole book once. This will help keep the Big Picture in view and with the Big Picture in view, we will be ready to study the individual parts of the book.

Second of all, after we have seen the big picture of a book of the Bible we must look at how that truth fits with the other 65 books of the Bible. This will help us to understand it better, and maybe answer some questions the book seems to raise about a topic, but does not specifically address. For instance, Philippians talks about the humility of Christ, but we find out just how humble Christ was when we look at examples from the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). As we progress through the book of Revelation, we will need to look at other passages of Scripture in other books that will help us to better understand what is

going on in this book.

A 4 Step Process to Studying the Bible:

Maybe you are new to studying a book of the Bible. Maybe you have tried to read the Bible for a long time, and yet you have had a difficult time learning anything from your time in study. Whatever the case, it is helpful to have a plan to direct your steps as you go to read God's Word. For our purpose in this study, we will be using a 4 step process to help us unlock the treasure chest of God's Word. Here are the four steps:

Pray. Always begin your Bible Study with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in the study of God's Word. We need to have our spiritual eyes opened by the Lord to understand His truth. This process of Bible Study can either be viewed as an academic exercise, or as an opportunity to commune with our Heavenly Father. By praying, we remind ourselves that God is real, and that His Word is alive. This is not just an academic exercise. Pray the prayer of Ephesians 1:18-19 which says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

Observation. In this step, you read each section prescribed in the book of Revelation and see ***what the passage says***. You don't get too bogged down in trying to figure out what each thing means, you are simply looking at it to see what it says. You will be guided to do this on day one of each week's study. When I read a paragraph and do observation on it, there are a few things that I always look for:

- A. *Are there any grammatical transitions in the passage?* Words like "Therefore," "and," "because of," etc. These words indicate that there is some relationship between what is found in one verse and what precedes it or what follows it. If you see a "therefore," for instance at the beginning of a paragraph that you are studying, you know that your paragraph is drawing a conclusion from the paragraph that precedes it. These grammatical markers must be observed, and will help serve like road signs to help us understand the text better.
- B. *Are there any words that are repeated in this paragraph?* If so, these words are probably important to the understanding of the passage. For instance, in 2 Peter 1:12-15, Peter uses the word "remember" or forms of that word three times. That indicates that the concept of "remembering" is important to the meaning of this passage.
- C. *Notice the verb tenses used in the paragraph.* Are they past tense, present tense, or future tense? Seeing that can be quite significant. It helps us to know if this is a promise for the future or a reality in the present.
- D. *Are there any quotes in this passage?* Who is speaking? Are there any quotations from other books of the Bible? We can tell both of these things by looking at the punctuation in our paragraph. Obviously, quotation marks indicate someone is talking. In many Bibles, the way you tell if something is a quotation from another book of the Bible, is that they will write the quotation in all caps. This will help us to place what is said within a context from either the life of the individual speaking, or from the Old Testament book in which it was originally written.

- E. *Notice if there are any lists of things in the paragraph.* Lists of adjectives, names, titles, actions done by someone, or effects. When you see a list, observe what the list is saying (is it a list of adjectives describing a person, a list of actions done by someone, etc.) When you see what the list is saying, it will help you to better organize what the author is saying in a verse or paragraph. The Apostle Paul especially uses a lot of lists of things. Recognizing those lists will help us to see the connection between a long line of words.
- F. *Does anything else stand out to you from this passage?* Are there any other interesting things you noticed as you read this passage that you just want to write down to explore later?

These are the six steps of the Observation process in a book like Revelation. Remember during this step, you will not need to really figure out what everything means, you will simply be looking at what it says. As you observe this and write it down, it helps prepare you for the second step of this Bible Study process. In our Bible Study of Revelation, you will be given space in each week's study to make some observations of each section. I would encourage you to look over these six steps of the observational process to guide you as you observe the passage each week.

Interpretation. This is where we look at the paragraph we have just observed, and we seek to determine, ***“What does it mean?”*** The interpretive step is an important one. It is the time when we seek to determine the original meaning of each of the passages of the Bible. Quite a task. As a matter of fact, it can actually be quite a time consuming task as well. For in order to do a complete job in interpreting a passage, we would need to look up every word in the passage in a Bible Lexicon, read countless commentaries, and do hours of cross referencing work with other related passages to come up with a complete interpretation. This would be great, if this is all we were supposed to be doing. But the reality of life is, that most of us don't have 6 hours a day to study the book of Revelation. Therefore, we need to come up with a way to quickly lead us to the most important issues of interpretation. In order to help myself along on this process, I follow a simple four step process for interpreting a passage. It works pretty well for me, and it may be something that you would like to do as well. Here goes:

Write out a hypothesis on what you think the passage means in your own words. In this step, based on what you observed in the previous step, you will seek to write out in your own words what you think the passage is trying to say. An example hypothesis of Luke 15 (the prodigal son) would be, “Jesus told the story of the son who blew the inheritance only to find his father accepting him back in order to illustrate the love and acceptance of the Heavenly Father who welcomes back the runaway rebel with open arms if he will just return. God wants to welcome us back when we are far from Him if we will just let Him.” Keep in mind, though, that as you write this, you will be simply formulating a hypothesis. You are getting ready to investigate this passage further, but this step simply gets you thinking about what you think it might mean. As we progress through interpretation, you will be able to investigate it and see where your original hypothesis needs to be improved.

Ask questions of the text. In this step, you will begin to ask questions of the text in areas that are either hard to understand or are especially significant in your eyes. What I mean by this is that in order to help speed up the interpretive process, you need to

come up with a list of questions of things you don't understand, or things that seem really important that you want to understand more. Write these questions out in your notebook underneath your hypothesis of the meaning of the passage. Write out any question that you have of the passage. For instance, take John 3:16. Some questions might be, "What does it mean when it says that God "so" loved the world. Does that mean that He loved the world in this way, or does it mean that He loved the world SO much?" Another question might be, "What is an only begotten Son?" Other questions of significance might be, "What does it entail to believe in Jesus Christ?" One other question might be, "What is the significance of using the verb tense "have" at the end of this verse to describe eternal life? Does that mean that we already have this eternal life? I thought that eternal life did not start until death. What does this mean?" As you work through each of the paragraphs of a book, you can begin to ask these questions. As you tried to write out your hypothesis of meaning, you probably had some questions arise. Now is the time to write those things down.

Seek to find answers to your questions. Now that you have questions, how do you find answers to those questions? There are several places you can look to help you with finding these answers. They can be grouped into four categories – the four "C"s.

Context. Do you find any clues from the surrounding context of the book that would help you to answer the question that you have? Look at your chart of the book, and check out the summaries of the paragraphs that surround the paragraph that you are studying. Are there any clues in those paragraphs that would help to answer your question? For instance, in the case of John 3:16, the salvation Jesus brings is compared to the physical healing God provided through the bronze snake on a stick when the Israelites were bitten by snakes in the wilderness in Old Testament times. This comparison was made in the paragraph surrounding John 3:16. Therefore, that helps in understanding what it means to have true belief in Christ – one of our questions from earlier. Just as the Israelites had to look on the bronze snake that was lifted high in order to be saved, we have to look on the raised cross of Christ, with faith that it is only through what Christ did on the cross that we can be saved. By checking the context, it helps us to better understand what is meant in the passage we are studying. So the first thing you ought to do is see if there is any other information in the surrounding context that helps.

Concordance. A Concordance is a book that catalogs every place in the Bible where a specific word is used. What is helpful about this is that if you are looking at a word that you are unsure about its meaning, you can look it up in a concordance and see where else in the Bible the same word is used. By seeing how a word is used in another context, it might help you to better understand it in the passage that you are studying. By seeing how a word is used, you can almost write your own definition of the word based on how it is used in the Bible. Pay special attention if a word is used more than once in a particular book – like if the word is used twice in Galatians, or if the word is used more than once by the same author in a different book – like if Paul uses the same word in both Galatians and Romans, he probably still means roughly the same thing by it. This will help answer questions you have about word meanings. If you already own a Concordance, that is great. Some Bibles

have a small, yet not exhaustive Concordance in the back of the Bible. However, if you do not have a Concordance (preferably an exhaustive one – it will have a more complete list of words than the ones in the back of your Bible), don't worry. You can actually use one for free online if you have access to the internet. Simply go to <http://www.biblestudytools.net/Concordances/> and you will find several Concordances online that you can use for free. The best one is probably Strong's Concordance. If you are low on funds but have access to a computer with internet access, then this is a good way to go.

Commentaries. After you have checked the context and the concordance, your next place to turn is to a good commentary. A commentary is a book written by a biblical scholar that helps explain, verse by verse, the meaning of the text. Once you have the questions you want answered, it is good to check a good commentary and see if you can get any insight from the commentary to help. If you do not have any commentaries right now, and you are looking to begin building a library with some good commentaries in them, then I would suggest first buying the *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, edited by John Walvoord and Roy Zuck. This two volume commentary has sections on every verse in the Bible, and is pretty good at answering some general questions, without too much technical talk that is hard to understand. If you are interested in buying a larger commentary on just one book of the Bible, then I would recommend beginning to collect the *NIV Application Commentary* series. There is one of these books for each book of the Bible. As such, it is much more in depth than the *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, but also more expensive, as you have to buy each book separately. If you have no commentary, and no money, then all is not lost either. If you have access to a computer with internet access there are a few sites you can go to that have good commentary on verses:

John Piper's Sermons online: Pastor John Piper has all of the sermons he has preached over the past twenty years online and organized by chapter and verse of each book of the Bible. Piper is an amazing teacher, and his sermons read like most commentaries, as they are pretty in depth. You may find some help in answering your questions by looking at a sermon on the passage you are studying. Piper's sermons are found here:

<http://www.soundofgrace.com/piperindex.htm>

Bible.org website: At this website, you can find a wealth of helpful information in studying and interpreting the Bible. Under the Prof's Soapbox section, you will find articles on various areas of theological interest. Under the "Search Studies" area, you can search for any articles on the passage you are dealing with. If you have a question about 2 Peter 3:2, then you just type that in, and the search engine at the site will list all the articles on the bible.org site that refer to this verse. This site is found at <http://www.bible.org>

Other commentaries: At this website, you can find a bunch of other free commentaries including the Scofield Reference Bible Notes, and John Wesley's notes on the entire Bible. I have not looked at all these commentaries, but some of them may prove helpful to you. You can find these at:

<http://www.biblestudytools.net/Commentaries/>

Tom Constable's notes: At this website, you can download great notes on every book of the Bible. The notes are prepared by Dr. Tom Constable, a professor at

Dallas Theological Seminary, and the notes are easy to read, and quite insightful. When you get to this site, simply click on the “Study Notes” link at the top of the page. You can find this site at: <http://www.soniclight.com/constable>

Community. Another avenue for helping to understand the Word of God, and to answer these questions is to ask others in your Christian community. That is to ask other believers you know what conclusions they have come to on a certain passage. This is a way to sort of “check out” what you are thinking and to compare it to the conclusions of others you know. They may see something you don’t see.

Rewrite your original statement on what you think the passage means, incorporating the information you found out in your interpretive process. In this step, you simply correct your hypothesis where needed to reflect what you found as you asked and answered the questions from the text. At this point, you should have at least a better understanding of what the passage means, and you are ready to move on to the application stage. Each week, you will be guided through questions regarding interpretation issues in days 2-5 of the study.

Application. This is the last step of the process, and it will help us answer the question, “How does this information work in my life?” What we seek to do at this step is to put into practice what we have observed and interpreted. In fact, the Bible was given so that we could know God and His will, and that as a result, our lives would be transformed. If we are doing only the observation and interpretation of a passage, then we are missing a key reason why we should be reading the Bible at all. The Bible is intended not just for our curiosity or intellectual exercise, but for our transformation into Christ-likeness, through correct supernatural knowledge of Him. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us this, as it states, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” So the question then becomes, how do we take that which we have learned, and begin to apply it to our lives? The answer to that question comes through a simple three step process of application. These three steps are listed below:

Know the text, and keep the meaning in view. It is very important as you move toward application, that you keep the meaning of the text in full view. That means that you rely on the interpretation of the verse to determine the application. This sounds basic, but is not always followed. And when it is not followed, some wrong teaching can result that could potentially be harmful. So, look at the meaning of the verse first, then move on to the application of that verse.

Ask the applicational questions. As you apply this text, ask a few questions to see what kind of application is necessary. . .

Is there something to believe? Is this passage teaching us a truth that we need to embrace?

A piece of theology we need to believe, etc.

Is there an example I need to follow? Especially in the narrative passages of the Old Testament historical books (Genesis, Exodus, Judges, etc.) and the New

Testament gospels and Acts, we will see stories of individuals and their relationships with God. By seeing their examples, both good and bad, we can see if there is something in their lives that we ought to do too, or if there is something they did that we should avoid.

Is there a sin to be avoided? This is pretty self explanatory. Some passages are direct commands for us to avoid a particular sin.

Is there a positive command to follow? This is when we see a command for us to do something.

Write down your application for accountability with yourself. As you decide what kind of application is necessary for the verses you are studying, write down that application in your notebook on this passage. This way, you can help keep yourself accountable for the truth you are learning. Each week, we will ask questions related to application from days 2-5. On day 6, we will be asking you to reflect upon what you felt God was teaching you this week, and to lead you into applying that truth to your life.

Well, there you have it. That is the basic overview of one method for studying the Bible. We will begin to put this into practice with this study. It is my prayer that God blesses you through this process with a clearer picture of Himself through His Word!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christ Revealed as Lord</p> <p>1:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christ Revealed as Lord of His Church</p> <p>2:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christ Revealed as Lord of Heaven and Earth</p> <p>4:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christ Revealed as Lord of New Heaven and New Earth</p> <p>19:11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christ Reveals His Desire to Be Your Lord</p> <p>22:7</p>
<p><u>Week#1</u> Verses: 1:1-20 Theme: He is alive and well!</p>	<p><u>Week#2</u> Verses: 2:1-3:22 Theme: He Cares About His Church</p>	<p><u>Week#3</u> Verses: 4:1-6:17, 8:1-9:21 Theme: He is Worthy to Judge</p> <p><u>Week#4</u> Verses: 7:1-17 Theme: He is Gracious to Save</p> <p><u>Week#5</u> Verses: 10:1-11 Theme: He Gives us Mission</p> <p><u>Week#6</u> Verses: 11:1-14 Theme: He Has Witnesses</p> <p><u>Week#7</u> Verses: 11:15-19 Theme: He is Worshipped</p>	<p><u>Week#10</u> Verses: 19:11-21 Theme: He is Coming Back</p> <p><u>Week#11</u> Verses: 20:1-22:5 Theme: He is Preparing a New World</p>	<p><u>Week#12</u> Verses: 22:6-21 Theme: He is Our Lord</p>

Introduction to the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Importance of Book

The Book of Revelation is important because it is the last inspired book of the Bible to be written and is rightly positioned as the New Testament's final book. As the New Testament opens with the four Gospels relating to the first coming of Christ, so the Book of Revelation closes the New Testament with the general theme of the second coming of Christ. The Book of Revelation is also the climax of many lines of revelation running through both Testaments, and it brings to conclusion the revelation of many prophecies yet to be fulfilled. The second coming of Christ and the years immediately preceding it are revealed in Revelation more graphically than in any other book of the Bible. The Book of Daniel describes in detail the period from Daniel's time to Christ's first coming and speaks briefly of the Tribulation and Christ's rule on earth. But the Book of Revelation amplifies the great end-time events with many additional details, culminating in the new heaven and the new earth.

Who wrote it?

As is stated plainly in the book in Revelation 1:1, Revelation is believed (almost universally by evangelical scholars) to be written by the Apostle John. This is the same John who wrote the three epistles bearing his name (I, II, and III John) and the Gospel of John. Of course, as with all Biblical books, John was the human author, but God Himself inspired the content of this book (see 2 Peter 1:20-21).

When was it written?

The book of Revelation is believed to have been written by John around A.D. 95 or 96, during his exile on the island of Patmos. According to early tradition, John's stint on Patmos was during the reign of Domitian who died in A.D. 96. After A.D. 96, John was believed to be released from Patmos and then he returned to Ephesus. Most evangelical scholars affirm that Revelation was written in A.D. 95 or 96. This is based on accounts of the early church fathers that the Apostle John had been exiled on Patmos Island during the reign of Domitian who died in A.D. 96. John was then allowed to return to Ephesus. Both Clement of Alexandria and Eusebius (two early church historians and contemporaries of this time) affirm that the book was written by John on Patmos in A.D. 95 or 96.

Interpretation

[The below section is an excerpt from Dr. John Walvoord's commentary on the book of Revelation, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ."]

"Because of its unusual character, Revelation has been approached from a number of interpretive principles, some of which raise serious questions concerning its value as divine authoritative revelation.

The allegorical or nonliteral approach. This form of interpretation was offered by the Alexandrian school of theology in the third and

fourth centuries. It regards the entire Bible as an extensive allegory to be interpreted in a nonliteral sense. The allegorical interpretation of the Bible was later restricted largely to prophecy about the Millennium by Augustine (354-430), who interpreted Revelation as a chronicle of the spiritual conflict between God and Satan being fulfilled in the present Church Age. A liberal variation of this in modern times considers Revelation simply as a symbolic presentation of the concept of God's ultimate victory.

The preterist approach. A more respected approach is known as the preterist view which regards Revelation as a symbolic picture of early church conflicts which have been fulfilled. This view denies the future predictive quality of most of the Book of Revelation. In varying degrees this view combines the allegorical and symbolic interpretation with the concept that Revelation does not deal with specific future events. Still another variation of the preterist view regards Revelation as setting forth principles of divine dealings with man, without presenting specific events.

The historical approach. A popular view stemming from the Middle Ages is the historical approach which views Revelation as a symbolic picture of the total church history of the present Age between Christ's first and second comings. This view was advanced by Luther, Isaac Newton, Elliott, and many expositors of the postmillennial school of interpretation and has attained respectability in recent centuries. Its principal problem is that seldom do two interpreters interpret a given passage as referring to the same event. Each interpreter tends to find its fulfillment in his generation. Many have combined the historical interpretation with aspects of other forms of interpretation in order to bring out a devotional or spiritual teaching from the book. The preceding methods of interpretation tend to deny a literal future Millennium and also literal future events in the Book of Revelation.

The futuristic approach. The futuristic approach has been adopted by some conservative scholars (including Wildwood Community Church), usually premillenarians, who state that chapters 4-22 deal with events that are yet future today. The content of Revelation 4-18 describes the last seven years preceding the second coming of Christ and particularly emphasizes the Great Tribulation, occurring in the last three and one-half years before His coming.

Objections to this view usually stem from theological positions opposed to premillennialism. The charge is often made that the Book of Revelation would not have been a comfort to early Christians or understood by them if it were largely futuristic. Adherents of the futuristic school of interpretation insist, on the contrary, that future events described in Revelation bring comfort and reassurance to Christians who in the nature of their faith regard their ultimate victory

as future. The futuristic interpretation, however, is demanding of the expositor as it requires him to reduce to tangible prophetic events the symbolic presentations which characterize the book.”

Purpose

The purpose of the book of Revelation is given in Revelation 1:1. This book is said to be a “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Certainly this book does much to paint a picture for us of the future, and certainly it is a book about judgment, but at its core, this book is written to give all who read it an accurate understanding of who Jesus Christ really is. Jesus is seen throughout this book as the Lord of heaven and earth, the future, and the past. Jesus is truly the Lord of Lords, and the church in all ages should not reduce Christ merely to a baby in a manger (who is to be cared for), or a dying man on a cross (who is to be pitied). Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Knowing this helps us to realize (even more) the humility of the stable birth or the love of the cross. Knowing this also should encourage us to continue to trust and follow Him, even when life is hard.

Week #1

Revelation 1:1-20

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Scan over the chart of the book of Revelation found on page 10 of this study guide.
2. Today and tomorrow, we will attempt to merely read the book of Revelation all the way through. That said, please quickly read Revelation 1:1 - 11:19 today, taking notes in the space below on what stands out to you most.

Day #2:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Scan over the chart of the book of Revelation found on page 8 of this study guide.
2. Continue reading the book of Revelation today, reading Revelation 12:1 – 22:21. In the space below, take notes on what stands out to you most.

Day #3

1. Read Revelation 1:1-8
2. Look again at the first half of the first verse. Write some very obvious observations of what is going on in this brief passage (just half a verse). Ask who, what, when, and why.

3. The title of the book is "revelation." The root of that word is "reveal," what (or who) is being revealed in this book?

4. Why do you think Jesus Christ needs to be revealed to Christians? (both the Christians in the province of Asia around AD 70 and the Christians of America today)?

5. This book was written at a time when it was very hard to be a Christian. Jesus had been killed about 60 years before this. The last remaining apostle and the key leader of the church had been exiled to an island, separated from his flock. Jews and Christians alike were suffering severe persecution. The temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans. It's not a fun time to be a Christian. Read the first three verses of this chapter. If you were a Christian in AD 70 and you received a letter, delivered by John, from Jesus Himself telling you to take heart because the time is near, how do you think it would make you feel?

introduction and first few days of the study, explain why each descriptive phrase might be significant.

- brother and companion in suffering/tribulation

 - brother and companion in kingdom

 - brother and companion in patient endurance/perseverance
4. Put yourself in the shoes of a Christian during this time: Christ has ascended into heaven and no one has seen Him since. You are a second generation Christian who might not have ever met an apostle, seen a miracle, or known Jesus in bodily form on the earth. You and the church are experiencing great persecution and have lost about half your numbers and almost all of your leadership. What do you think you might be feeling, thinking, and believing? What do you think John might have been feeling, thinking, and believing?
5. What does Jesus Christ say to John and the churches that addresses these issues they were dealing with?

6. How does your life and the life of the church today compare to the time Revelation was written in?

7. What comfort do you take from the words of Christ?

Day #5

1. Reread 1:12-17. What images stand out the most to you? Why?
2. Is this image of Jesus different than the one you had before you read this passage, how is it different? What dominated your previous image (i.e. compassion, love), and what dominates the image given in these verses?
3. Think about what Jesus is wearing (v.13), who else might wear something like this? Why is it important to take notice of His clothes?

4. Verse 14 says, “His eyes were like a flame of fire,” what does this mean to you?

4b.

*Jesus was a lover. He had a fire in His eyes
that could burn away excuses, cremate your alibis.
He had a gaze that would expose to you all the subtle lies
that your soul permits your heart to tell concerning all that it denies.*

This lyric explores the meaning of the fire in Jesus’ eyes, think of what the fire in His eyes sees in your heart and your mind. Write your thoughts below.

5. Have you ever heard waves crashing on the beach? (If not, ask someone who has to describe it to you) Think about the difference between the sound of the ocean waves and the sound of a loud stereo or PA system? What is the effect created by comparing His voice to “many waters” (v.15)?

6. Every part of the picture contributes to the overall theme of the majesty and power of Jesus, how does v.16 contribute or complete this image of Jesus?

7. For a minute, try to put yourself in John's shoes. What would your response be upon seeing Jesus? Now, look at John's response (v.17). What does Jesus tell John? What can you learn about how to approach the person of Jesus, and what comfort do you gain from His response to John?

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 1:1-20
2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.
3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Week #2

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Day #1

1. Read Revelation 2:1-7.
2. As the churches are addressed, you will see Christ identify Himself to each of them differently. How does Christ identify Himself to the church at Ephesus?
3. Can you think of times in your life that you sensed different attributes of God stronger than others, what do you think the reason for this was/is?
4. What are the things that the church in Ephesus is doing right?
5. Why are these things so important? What happens if truth is sacrificed for making people feel comfortable, gaining numbers, or something else?

6. Read John 14:6. What does Jesus say that He is? How does this correlate to the importance of truth for the church in Ephesus?
7. What does Christ have against them? What do you think His tone (or attitude) is when he tells them this?

8. Read Isaiah 29:13-14. How is this a similar situation to what happened in Ephesus? What does Jesus tell the church in Ephesus will happen if they don't repent? What do you think this means (keep in mind what the lampstand is symbolically and literally—a church and a light)?

9. Can you relate to the church at Ephesus? What are some “deeds” that you once did that you no longer do or don't do as often? Do you think that Jesus is asking for the actions alone? What is He asking for?

Day #2:

1. Read Revelation 2:8-11
2. How does Christ describe Himself to the church of Smyrna? Why do you think He might have used the description He did?

When did they stop receiving manna? (Joshua 5:11-12)

9. Who else had a name change in the Bible for the better?
How did this person's relationship with God/Christ change when he/she received his/her new name?
Has anyone ever given you a name that only he/she called you? How does it make you feel to know that one day you will receive a new name only you and God know?
Does it make you feel uniquely known?

10. Are you pursuing truth (in the Bible, theology, etc)? Do you give the pursuit of God's truth a place of priority in your life?

11. What is the "manna" you are (or should be) trusting God to provide in your life?

Day #4:

1. Read Revelation 2:18-29.
2. How does Christ describe Himself to the church of Thyatira? Why do you think He choose this particular description of Himself?
3. What can the eyes of God see? (2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 139:1-16)

When feet are mentioned in the Bible what ideas are implied? (Psalm 119:59-60, Proverbs 1:15-16, Isaiah 52:7, Isaiah 59:7, and Romans 3:15, 10:15)

Christ is letting the church of Thyatira know that He sees everything they are doing both good and bad. He is also communicating that He has made a decision and He is coming to carry it out His message to them.

4. What had God seen and condemned in the church of Thyatira?
5. What decision had God made and what actions will He take in regards to the sins of Thyatira's church?

Day #5:

1. Read Revelation 3:1-6.
2. What is the tone of this letter to the church in Sardis?
3. What seems to be the problem that the church in Sardis had in their spiritual life?
4. Read Matthew 23:27-28. Do you see any parallels in the criticism that Jesus has of the church in Sardis and the criticism that he has of the Pharisees?
5. Jesus says specifically to the church in Sardis that they have a reputation of being alive, but in fact they are dead. It seems that what Jesus wanted the church in Sardis to know was that He was not impressed with their reputation. Though we have no specifics on this church and their action, it seems that they were known in their community as being “righteous,” but they were probably only keeping up appearances. Like the person who will give a needy person some money only when their Christian friends are around (so that their friends would think they were generous and kind and spiritual), the church in Sardis was concerned more with their reputation than their day by day integrity with the Savior. Do you see similar habits in your life? Are there areas of life where you are merely “keeping up appearances” before your friends so they think you are spiritual? Reflect on your life and write any areas of struggle below.

Day #6:

1. Read Revelation 3:7-13
2. In 3:7, Jesus identifies Himself in an unusual way. To our modern ears, the phrase, “holding the key of David” means little to us, however to the original audience, or those familiar with the Old Testament, this would have been quite a promise. David was the king of Israel in its peak, and had access to much power, possessions, and privilege. By saying that Jesus holds the key of David and can open and close what He desires, He is wanting to reveal to us (and the church in Philadelphia) that He was able to provide blessings to any He desired. Reading over this letter to the Philadelphians, why do you think Jesus highlighted this part of His character? What difference does it make for your life today knowing this about the person of Christ?
3. In verses 8-9, Jesus describes the church as having “little strength,” yet keeping His Word and not denying His name. All this was done in a city that was described as the synagogue of Satan! When Jesus says that they have little strength, it is probable that He is referring to the fact that they have a smaller congregation, compared to the pagan worshippers that live in their city. Because of their smaller number, they have little “clout” in their city. In this setting, it would be easy for them to give in to the pressure to conform to the worldly influences, yet they have remained true. What is it that Jesus promises to this small but faithful church? Do you think this was something that they would experience in this life, or in the future?
4. In verse 10, Jesus promises that the people of the church in Philadelphia would be kept from the time of trial that was coming upon the whole earth. Given the overall context of the entire book of Revelation (of which this letter is a part), what is the time of trial that is coming upon the earth? Since this letter has an expanded

2. Laodicea was a city of great wealth. They were among the leaders in their region in banking, textile production, and medicine. Their great wealth seemed to also be accompanied with a spiritual condition that Jesus saw as being lukewarm. Though specifics are not mentioned here, what might a lukewarm Christian life look like today?

3. Do you think there is a tie between being wealthy materially and being lukewarm spiritually? Certainly there is no necessary link, as many poor people rebel against God and many rich people walk intimately with Him, but even in the ministry of Christ, there are special warnings to those who are rich materially? Why do you think there are special warnings to the wealthy concerning their spiritual life?

4. Do you consider yourself wealthy? How great is your sense of dependence upon the Lord? The people of Laodicea had begun to feel self-sufficient. The money in their banks, the clothes that were produced in their textile mills, and the salve that was produced by their medical doctors all led them to have a lower sense of need for God. Have you allowed the things of this world to deaden your sense of dependence upon God? If so, what is the message that Christ gives in 3:17-18?

5. In 3:19-20, Jesus reveals that to Christians He has a very “hands on” approach. He is seen as both one who disciplines those He loves, and one who offers intimate

fellowship with those who “invite Him in.” How does this “hands on” picture of Christ jive with your preconceived picture of the Savior?

6. As with previous churches, Jesus gives one final and glorious promise to true believers in 3:21. What is it? What do you think it implies to us about our future? How do you think that should impact our lives today?

Week #3:

Revelation 4:1-6:17; 8:1-9:21

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 4:1-6:17; 8:1-9:21
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
(NOTE: Making an outline is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in Scripture. It forces you to think through the content and organization of the text. In addition, it becomes a valuable resource for later review. If you have never done this before, you will probably find this hard to do the first time around. However, it will become easier over time. Persevere! You’ll be glad you did.)
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.
4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2:

1. Read Revelation 4:1 – 6:17 and write down the form that Jesus Christ takes in this passage.
2. In the Old Testament, what was the purpose of a spotless lamb? (Exodus 12:1-20, Leviticus 5)
3. In Revelation 5:3-4, John weeps because he is afraid that there is no one worthy to open the scroll of judgment. Why is Jesus worthy?
4. Is there anyone else who is worthy to open the seal and judge humankind?
5. The image of Jesus as the Lamb who was slain does not seem to be prevalent in current Christian thinking. But it is very important; so important that He is represented as such at this point in the book of Revelation. What does the image of the Lamb who was slain represent to Christians? Why is it so important?

6. How does this image compare to images and aspects of Christ that we have already seen in Revelation? Is it important to understand all these aspects of Christ? How can acknowledging the fullness of Christ change the way we worship Him?

7. Take some time now to scan over the first 6 chapters of Revelation and reflect on all of who Christ is. Which ones mean the most to you in your life right now?

Day #3:

1. Skim through Revelation 4:1-6:1-17; and 8:1-9:21 and look for things you notice about the judgment that Jesus Christ carries out on the earth. Write down your observations and impressions in the space below.

2. The picture of Jesus judging the earth detailed in these verses seems distant from the perception that many of us have about Him. Why do you think Jesus wants us to know that He will eventually judge the earth?

7. After looking at the judgment of this section of Revelation a little more in depth today, how can you apply the truth of this section to your life today? Think about that for a moment and write your thoughts below.

Day #4:

1. Read Revelation 4-5.
2. What are the different things people are doing in Heaven?
3. What do the believers do in Heaven that believers can or should do here on earth? Everything shown is for a purpose. Why do you think John writes about all the things the people are doing? Why is it important to realize there are things that believers continue to do in Heaven that they have been doing here?
4. A central theme in this section is the wrath of God, what emotions do you have when you think about the wrath of God? How did the people in Heaven feel about

3. Where is prayer taking place?

4. What forms is it taking?

5. In Revelation 8:1-5 we see a beautiful scene involving prayer: Everything is quiet and God is waiting to act. An angel gathers the prayers of the saints and presents them, together with incense, as an offering to God. Once God has received the offering and prayers the angel acts by filling the censer up with fire from the altar and hurling back to the earth: the righteous judgment of God continues. This scene that John records serves as a great encouragement to us as Christians. We see that our prayers are precious offerings before the Lord and that He receives them and then acts on them in His own time.

6. How does this passage of Scripture impact your prayer life? The next time you are lifting up prayers to God you might stop for a moment and imagine how God receives them and be certain that He will respond in action.

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 4:1-6:17, 8:1-9:21

2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.

3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Week #4

Revelation 7:1-17

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 7:1-17
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
(NOTE: Making an outline is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in Scripture. It forces you to think through the content and organization of the text. In addition, it becomes a valuable resource for later review. If you have never done this before, you will probably find this hard to do the first time around. However, it will become easier over time. Persevere! You’ll be glad you did.)
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.
4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2:

1. Skim over last week's questions and answers. What was going on, what things were impressed on your heart and mind the most?
2. What did you see as the theme, most important point, or central focus of last week's verses?
3. Now that you have a refreshed vision of Jesus as the Righteous Judge, reread 7:1-3. In verses 1-2 what is the image you have in your mind, and what did you anticipate coming next?
4. In verse 3, what happened to your mental picture, and what is actually happening in the course of events?
5. Why did the four angels wait to harm the earth?

6. What does the answer to question number 4 tell you about the character of God? The reading from last week affirms that Jesus is the only one Worthy and Right to judge. With this as the framework, along with the picture Chapter 7 gives, how does this change your perception of God's wrath and His grace?

Day #3:

1. Read Revelation 7:4-8.
2. These verses describe the "sealing" of 144,000 members of the tribe of Israel. Given the overall context of the verses you studied both last week and this week, what do you think these 144,000 are sealed from?
3. Why do you think special mention is made here to the people of Israel? The New Testament was birthed out of a Jewish context, but from the time of the Jerusalem council in Acts 15 onward, the church took on more and more of a Gentile identity in terms of its converts and expansion. Why do you think that Jesus wanted us to know that He was going to be dealing specifically with the nation of Israel in the last days?

3. How is God described? What is He doing? Are His actions contingent upon anyone else? Can anyone stop Him?

4. What does it mean that God will “spread His tabernacle over them”? (Revelation 21:1-4)

5. This is another breathtaking scene which John records for the readers. Some of the favorite promises of the Christian faith are found in this section of Scripture. We see God taking care of those who died as a witness to Him. He has rewarded them by honoring them and taking care of their needs. We see a loving, compassionate God in the midst of judging a sinful, rebellious earth, taking the time to spread His provision, leadership, and love over His people. His promises to the saints are also promises that hold true for us. One day, we will hunger no more. One day, we will thirst no more. One day, we will not be beat down by the elements of nature. One day, we will see our Shepherd face to face and He will watch over us and guide us. One day, we will drink from the spring of the water of life and we will live forever as glorious and righteous before God. One day, we will never feel pain again. One day, we will never cry tears of sorrow again. What promises listed in 7:15-17 mean the most to you?

6. What are you looking forward to about heaven? Take some time to dream about what it might be like. The hope of Christ’s return and our spending eternity with Him and the Father are truths that we should hold very dear as Christians. These are

Week #5

Revelation 10:1-11

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 10:1-11
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
(NOTE: Making an outline is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in Scripture. It forces you to think through the content and organization of the text. In addition, it becomes a valuable resource for later review. If you have never done this before, you will probably find this hard to do the first time around. However, it will become easier over time. Persevere! You’ll be glad you did.)
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.

4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2

1. Reread 10:4 and 7. Thus far, John has been writing everything down, in fact, it is his task to write down all these things (see 1:19). So—does v.4 surprise you? What questions do you have after reading this chapter?

2. Verse 7 talks about the mystery of God. This tells us that indeed the mystery of God will be finished, but also that there *IS* a mystery of God. Can you think of other things in your life that you don't understand or are mysterious to you about God?

3. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28. Do you think it is possible for you to know completely the glory of God?

4. Read Isaiah 55:8-11. These verses affirm that God is the only God, no one else is. Sometimes people see God through a human perspective, expecting that others should have similar rights or capabilities that He does. What is a possible good reason that believers “thoughts are not His thoughts” (v.8)?

- Ezekiel 30:3
- Joel 1:15
- Joel 2:1
- Joel 2:31
- Joel 3:14
- Amos 5:18
- Obadiah 15
- Zephaniah 1:7
- Zephaniah 2:2
- Malachi 4:5

4. Based on the overall context of the book of Revelation and what you observed about the coming “Day of the Lord” written about by the prophets, do you think that the “mystery of God” spoken about in 10:6-7 might be this day? Why or why not?

5. Though we often do not connect the idea of judgment to the person of Christ, we should remember that in the days preceding Christ’s return and at the moment of Christ’s return to earth, the earth will be judged according to its deeds. This idea is spoken of in the New Testament. Review these New Testament passages to see what the New Testament talks about concerning the Day of the Lord. Write your observations next to these verses.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

- 2 Peter 3:1-17
6. In light of these other New Testament passages, what do you think God desires us to do knowing that Jesus will return? Make a list of the things you observed from these New Testament passages below.

Day #4:

1. Read Revelation 10:1-11
2. We've seen in the previous days that we will never fully grasp or understand God. We also know that the Day of the Lord is coming. But what is the significance of all of this for us in the meantime? We are given a clue when John is told to take the little book and eat it. What are the consequences?
3. What is John instructed to do next (Revelation 10:11)?
4. It is possible the book represents God's Word (see Psalm 19:9-10) and in the same way John is instructed to feed on God's Word we also should feed on God's Word. How does God's Word taste sweet but sometimes has sour consequences?

God's Law and in return God would protect and prosper them. This witness was to draw others to Himself. God also sent numerous prophets to speak His words, usually forthcoming judgment, to both Israel and her neighbors. In New Testament times, the church became the new witnesses of God and it was begun with Christ's disciples and His followers. All were told to go forth and preach the gospel. We see the difficult lives of the prophets of the Old Testament and how God told them ahead of time their task would be hard. We also know the disciples lives all ended in suffering and martyrdom (except for John). We also know that many of the early Christians suffered intense persecution and persecution of Christians has continued since then even to today. We live in a unique time and place here in America 2006 where we are free to be a Christian and speak God's truth with few or no negative consequences. Though our experience may be easier we still have the same command as the prophets and disciples: tell others of God's truth. Are you taking advantage of your freedom to share Christ with others? Do you take this command seriously?

5. We know throughout history and even today in many parts of the world there are harsh (even deadly) consequences for believing. We know before Christ returns there will be difficult times as well (Matthew 24:3-31- specifically verse 9). Are you willing to live in another country where it may be difficult to be a Christian? Should you be willing?

6. What will you do if persecution comes in your lifetime? How can you prepare?

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 10:1-11
2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.
3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Week #6

Revelation 11:1-14

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 11:1-14
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.
4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2

1. Read Revelation 11:1-14.
2. In verse 1, John is given a measuring rod to measure the temple of God and the altar. He is also told to measure the people. What does this reveal to you as a reader about the events that follow?
3. Because the book of Revelation is so different, it is sometimes hard to believe that these events are real. What is something that happens in this passage that seems unbelievable to you? Why?
4. Verse 6 says, “These have the power to shut up the sky...and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.” This reveals that not only are these events real, they are incredibly serious. Why does God grant this authority to these two witnesses?
5. Since these events (v. 1-14) are real, what conclusion can you draw about the character of God from these events (be careful to consider all the details)?
6. A key to seeing the reality of these events is the timeline given. Look at each instance that a timeframe is given, what do you see that is significant in each of these verses? (Revelation 11:2, 3, 9&11)

Day #3

1. Read Revelation 11:1-14.
2. What do you think is the “big idea” of this section of Scripture? Why do you think God is giving us this glimpse into this particular future event?
3. What do you notice about the two witnesses in this section? If you are familiar with the Old Testament, whose ministry do these two men remind you of?
4. Does it strike you as interesting that in the midst of this great judgment upon the earth, that two “witnesses” or evangelists are walking the earth pointing people to God? What does this tell you about the nature of this judgment and the heart of God for people . . . even at this time?
5. Through the words of these prophets, the actions they performed, and what God does through their resurrection, people can clearly see that something is special about their lives. As believers in Jesus Christ today, God desires that we be His witnesses as well (see Acts 1:8). In general, God does not validate the witnessing ministry of all of His children in the way He did with these witnesses in Revelation 11:1-14. However, God has not left our lives barren from testimony of His presence with us. In what ways can you see God’s “validation” of His presence in the lives of believers you know today? In what ways do you know God is with you? (In other

words how do you see God at work in the lives of believers you know today and in your life)?

6. A key component of any witnessing is that it is done in the presence of those who do not know Christ. Did you realize that God desires that you be His witness to those in your life who do not know Him? A witness is someone who simply shares the reality of what God has done in their life. Think for a moment of the ways in which you have seen God work in your life in the past two months. How would you share those truths with those in your life who do not know Him?

Day #4

1. Read Revelation 11:1-14
2. After three plus years of ministry, the two witnesses experience a direct attack that results in their death. Who is said to be the source of this attack? Who do you think this is referring to?
3. Look ahead to the following references to get a profile of who this “beast” is:
 - Revelation 13:1
 - Revelation 14:9-11
 - Revelation 15:2
 - Revelation 16:2
 - Revelation 17:3, 13
 - Revelation 19:20
 - Revelation 20:10
4. The beast seems to be the figure commonly known as the Anti-Christ. He comes from the Abyss . . . that is the realm of Satan. The Anti-Christ is a human under the influence of Satan who promises peace but has the agenda of uniting the world against Christ in the end times. With this in mind, the attack of Revelation 11:1-14 constitutes a full-on attack from Satan on these two witnesses. In a sense, this was

2. We know God promises to always have a remnant (Romans 11:1-5) and we see some of this remnant in 11:1,13. What are the other people in the chapter like? How are they described? What are they doing?

3. How are God's witnesses treated by the world? Why do you think they receive this treatment? (see Matthew 24:9, John 15:18-25)

4. People don't change. Through out history God's witnesses have continually been hated, rejected, and killed. Read Romans 1. In what way do you see the truth of Romans 1 lived out in Revelation 11:10?

5. How do some who were in the city respond to the judgment of the earthquake? Why do you think they respond this way? (See also 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

6. God calls to people all the time. He is never without witness. Even in the midst of warning and judgment He is waiting. Take some time to praise God and thank Him for his incredible patience in waiting for you to come to repentance and so many others. (see 2 Peter 3:9-10)

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 11:1-14.

Day #2:

1. Read Revelation 11:15-19
2. Revelation 11:15 seems to mark a turning point. What do you think the phrase “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ” means?

3. The gospel of Matthew is often seen as portraying Christ as King and is sometimes called the gospel of the kingdom. There are many references to the kingdom throughout the book.
4. Read some of the following passages from the **book of Matthew** to help gain a better understanding of the idea of the Kingdom?:
 - 3:1-3
 - 4:8-11
 - 4:12-17 and 23
 - 5:1-12, 19-20
 - 6:9-13
 - 9:35
 - 10:5-8
 - 11:9-15
 - 12:22-28
 - 13:1-52 (kingdom parables)
 - 13:24-30, 36-43
 - 16:15-19
 - 21:33-46
 - 22:1-10
 - 23:13
 - 25:1-13, 14-30
 - 26:29

5. Christ came as the promised Messiah of Israel to forgive sins forever and reign eternally. The kingdom was immanent when He began His ministry as announced by John the Baptist. However, when it became clear that the spiritual leaders and the majority of Israel rejected Christ as Messiah, to the point of plotting His death, Christ began teaching of the kingdom partly come but partly delayed. He died and rose again inaugurating His kingdom but delayed it fully coming. In this age He patiently waits and draws all elect to Himself. At His second return He comes to judge to give rewards to His children and condemn those who rejected Him. He also comes to rule.
6. Read John 14:16-17, 16:5-15 & 33, 2 Peter 3:8-9, 1 John 4:11-15. What are some of the benefits of the kingdom being inaugurated but not fully realized here on earth?
7. Read Colossians 1:25-27, 1 Peter 1:3, and Revelation 19:11-16, 21:1-6. What do we still have to look forward to?
8. Read Revelation 22:20-21. It is important to spend time thinking about our future with Christ. His return is our great hope and spending eternity with Him-worshipping- is our great reward. Take some time to dwell on your great hope and the rewards to come.

Day #3

1. Read Revelation 11:15-19.

demonstrated His power or His control in your life. How does this show his worthiness to be worshipped?

7. Spend some time worshipping God—but change your posture—kneel, stand, lay down—something that illustrates the posture of your heart. Worship Him for the things the elders worshipped: that He was and is, that He has great power, and that He reigns. Write about your worship experience, how did your physical posture contribute to your attitude, your worship, your ability to concentrate, etc.

Day #4

1. Read Revelation 11:15-19.
2. If you were to title the praise and worship song that is sung by the saints in Revelation 11:16-18, what would you title it?
3. Do you find it strange that they are praising God for the judgment He is bringing about on the earth? Why do you think God's judgment is an acceptable subject of our worship? What is praiseworthy about God's judgments?

4. We tend to spend all our time praising God for His love, our salvation, and other benefits that He has given us. Pay attention next time you are in a worship service to the lyrics of the songs we sing. Very few of our songs speak of an anticipation of God's judgment or praising Him for the judgment He brings about. Why do you think we have such a hard time praising God for His future judgment of the earth?

5. Think of an event in your life where you have either been the victim of, or you have observed a great injustice. Maybe you have had a family member murdered, or you were persecuted for your faith, or you were the victim of abuse. In what ways would singing this song of praise listed in Revelation 11:15-19 help you praise God in the midst of your struggle?

6. Jesus death on the cross played an extremely crucial role with regards to God's judgment and those who believe in Him. Read Romans 3:21-26, Colossians 1:20-23, and Colossians 2:13-15. How do these three passages help you to understand how Jesus' death can protect those who believe in Him from God's judgment?

7. On a very real level, the cross became the point in history where all God's judgment of believer's sins was poured out on Christ as He died in our place. What implication does this have as we call out in praise for God's judgment in situations where believers in Jesus Christ have wronged us in some way?

8. Think back to your answer to question 5 today. In the space below, write out a song of praise to God regarding His judgment.

Day #5:

1. Read Revelation 11:15-19
2. As we've seen this week, these 5 verses are concerned with the worship of God and the hope that one day the situation here on earth will be like it is in heaven.
3. Where did we see the temple of God located earlier in chapter 11? (Rev 11:1-2)
4. At the end of chapter 11 we see a second temple. Where is it located? (Rev 11:19)
5. Read Hebrews 8:1-5, 9:21-24. How does this passage help explain the existence of two temples?
6. We see that worship here on earth is only a shadow of what is to come. How are worshippers praising God in heaven? (Rev 11:16-18)

will one day be made perfect when we are face to face with God after Christ returns for us.

12. Do you take advantage of your access to God? Take some time to thank Christ for His death that gave you a relationship with the Almighty God!

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 11:15-19
2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.
3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Week #8

Revelation 12:1 – 13:1

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 12:1 - 13:1
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.
4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2:

A major part to understanding Revelation 12 is to understand the work of Satan in the world. Today's study will help provide a survey of some of the teaching of Scripture about Satan and his work in this world.

1. Read Revelation 12:1-13:1a, Genesis 3:1-15, Ezekiel 28:11-19 (The king of Tyre is a type of Satan in Ezekiel)
2. What do we discover about Satan in these verses?
3. How is he described?
4. Who are his companions?
5. What has he done in the past?

6. What is he doing in the future?

7. Why do you think it is important for Christians today to understand something of who Satan is and how he operates?

Day #3

1. Read Revelation 12:1 – 13:1a

2. Assuming that the dragon in this passage is representative of Satan, scan through this section and see how many times you see Satan “win.” Write out the verse references below for any time you see Satan win.

3. Now, scan back through the passage and see how many times you see Satan “lose.” Write out the verse references below for any time you see Satan lose.

4. Given Satan’s record in cosmic events, why do you think that Satan is angry and frustrated in Revelation 12:12b?

Day #4

1. Read Revelation 12:10-12.
2. The song of praise in these verses indicates the source of victory for all people who live in this spiritual war torn earth. What is that source of victory according to this passage?
3. How does the “blood of the Lamb” help believers overcome the attacks of Satan? (For help on this, look at the context of 12:10. What is Satan doing in 12:10 that the blood of the Lamb helps prevent us from.)
4. Think of an event or action in your life that you are particularly ashamed of. Most all of us have at least one (most of us have many more!) sins that we hope are never found out by those around us. According to Revelation 12:10, Satan desires to bring those events up, to continue to accuse us of those things. According to Revelation 12:11, the blood of the Lamb (Jesus), has allowed us to overcome that which we might be accused of since we are forgiven of those things in Christ. How does remembering that you are completely forgiven give you courage in your Christian life and empower you to be an “overcomer?”

5. The end of Revelation 12:11 says that those in Christ did not “love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” What do you think this means, and what do you think is the connection between overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and not loving our lives so much that we shrink from death?

6. How does knowing Christ’s forgiveness help you to not be as fearful of death?

Day #5:

1. Read Revelation 12:1-13:1
2. Knowing that the dragon is representative of Satan, what confidence do you gain from the assurance of his defeat?
3. Consider that God did not wage war with the dragon, but Michael did and v.8 tells us that they (the dragon and his angels) were not strong enough. What does this mean for us as believers?

4. Re-read verses 11 and 12. Satan has “only a short time” here on earth, therefore God is in control of the days Satan has on earth. Spend some time praising God for His sovereign control over everything including the dragon.

5. In verse 11, how did they overcome him? “Because of the blood of the Lamb” How then will we overcome the dragon?

6. The end of verse 11 gives us confidence beyond the grave, that even in death, we still have victory. Have you known anyone or heard stories of anyone who has had this confidence when faced with death? Does it change your view of death?

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 12:1 – 13:1
2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.
3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Week #9

Revelation 14:1 – 15:4

Day #1:

As you begin your study of the Word this week, take a moment to stop and pray. Ask God to guide you in your study of His Word.

1. Read Revelation 14:1 – 15:4
2. Summarize these verses by making an outline consisting of numerous “sections”, attaching a brief description for each section.
3. Think of some questions that might lead to an important spiritual “discovery” from this passage and then write those questions in the space below. Pray that God would answer lead you to answers to these questions as you study this passage this week.
4. What observations do you have of this passage? To say it another way, what stands out to you most about what you read for this week?

Day #2:

1. Read Revelation 14:1-15:4
2. What are the most distinctive traits of the 144,000 that are with the Lamb?
3. Of the traits you listed, which ones are most important or significant to you? Why?
4. Read Rev. 13:14,16, and 17. What things have the 144,000 resisted?
5. Following the Lamb clearly meant that the 144,000 had an incredible amount of endurance and courage to persevere in the face of significant opposition. If you were to follow Jesus everywhere He went in your life, what opposition would you come up against?
6. While everyone else was marked with the mark of the beast (13:16), the 144,000 had “His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads” (14:1). How do you bear His name?

Day #3:

1. Read Revelation 14:6-20.
2. What is the perseverance of the saints in verse 12? Why is it worth it for believers to endure persecution and suffering?
3. In this passage of Scripture alone, how many warnings does humanity receive of Christ's eminent judgment?
4. Read Matthew 24:13-14 and 2 Peter 3:7-10. What is God's heart for the lost?
5. Read 2 Peter 3:11-12. How are we to hasten the day of the Lord's coming?

6. If the gospel must be preached to all the world before the end comes does that mean we as the church are solely responsible to accomplish this task? Who else do we see preaching the gospel in Revelation 14:6 and 11:3-7?

7. Throughout Scripture we are given the command to preach the gospel and make disciples of every tribe, tongue, and nation. We must not distort this command to mean we have the power to cause the return of Christ. Matthew 24:42 says no one knows the day or the hour of His return. Christ's return is not dependent on the performance of humans. He will come when He will come. We are invited to be a part of His work on earth until that great day.

8. What do you think your role in God's work is right now? In the future?

Day #4

1. Read Revelation 14:1-5
2. These verses speak of a set of 144,000 believers in Jesus Christ. Think back to what you have seen in the previous chapters of the book. What do you know about these 144,000 people?
3. Scan Revelation 14:1-5 again. As you scan, write down below all the things you notice about the lifestyle of the 144,000.
4. Of all the things to highlight in the moral behavior of the faithful, why do you think that sexual purity and honesty are the two characteristics highlighted by God in this passage?

Write that area below along with any specific actions you feel led to follow Christ into.

Day #5:

1. Read Revelation 14:1-15:4
2. In church circles we try to emphasize the pleasure and satisfaction of a life with Christ, but the reward He offers in Heaven is also important and is very worthy of our excitement. What do you see as rewards for the 144,000?
3. Consider the suffering they endured (look to Day 2 if necessary). Are there things that may be rewards to them that you did not notice at first?
4. Take a minute to evaluate your esteem (respect and honor) and love of God. Now imagine living day in and day out in a place that absolutely rejected the God of the Bible (a place like what is described in 13:14-17). What seems like a reward now?
5. Re-read 14:1-4. How is the worship that the 144,000 are participating in like a reward?

6. What stands out to you about the worship of the 144,000 in 14:1-4 and 15:1-4? Why?

7. How is the victory (15:2) part of or inspiration for their worship?

8. Meditate on 15:3-4. Give your imagination freedom to create a vivid picture of this scene, what is your heart's response?

Day #6:

1. Reread Revelation 14:1 – 15:4
2. Read back through the questions and answers from this past week.
3. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

Day #2

1. Read Revelation 19:11-21
2. Read over verses 11-13 a couple times, and try and notice the details. What is similar about this image of Christ and the image given in 1:12-17 (Week 1)?
3. In verse 11, Christ is on a white horse, how does this effect the image, and how does it correlate or unify the rest of the verse (He judges and wages war)?
4. Again His eyes are like fire. Is this image different than in Chapter 1? Why? How has reading about Christ in Revelation changed your view of Him?
5. Verse 12 says that “He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.” What are your first thoughts about this? Consider that “He” is three persons in one (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit), does this change what you think about this verse?

Day #4:

1. Read Revelation 19:11-21.
2. Upon Christ's return, what is the first thing He encounters?
3. How does this picture of Christ's coming to earth contrast with the first time He came to earth? (Consider His birth, life, death, and resurrection.)
4. When Christ came the first time it was as a suffering servant who saved the world through His sacrifice. When He comes a second time it will be as King of kings and Lord of Lords (verse 16) to judge in righteousness and wage war (verse 11).
5. In 19:7-10 we see a beautiful supper of God, the marriage supper for the Lamb and His bride. Now in 19:17-21 we see another supper of God. Who is invited to partake?
6. Who is being judged and punished? Is it a specific segment of humanity?

7. What is your response to this coming day of judgment for all who have rejected Christ?

Day #5:

1. Read Revelation 19:11-21.
2. When Christ sees the great army of men, all the leaders of the earth, the Beast, the False Prophet, and Satan gathered to battle against Him does He seem surprised? Scared? What is His attitude? How can you tell?
3. What is the attitude of the enemies of God?
4. When we see this picture of Christ coming to battle in Revelation 19, do we even see a battle? Is there ever a moment where the outcome is uncertain?

Day #2:

1. Read Rev 20:1-7. Count how many times you see the words “one thousand”.
2. The millennial kingdom is a time in the future on this earth where Christ reigns from Jerusalem and the body of the redeemed believers, who are rewarded, reign with Him around the world.
3. Though the millennial kingdom is most clearly described in Revelation 20:1-7, there are many other references to it in the Bible. Read Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:6-10, 65:22-25, Luke 22:28-30, Romans 8:18-22, 1 Corinthians 6:2, 2 Timothy 2:12, and Revelation 5:10. What sticks out to you? What excited you? Does anything sadden you?
4. There are also parables about the millennial kingdom; choose one to read: Matthew 25:14-30 or Luke 19:11-26. How does life here on earth right now relate to our future in the millennial kingdom?
5. As believers we will get to experience the millennial kingdom and it will be beyond our greatest hopes. As we see from the parables, our actions now have a direct effect on what level of responsibility we will have in the future during the millennial kingdom. (Note: We are responsible only for what talents, opportunities, gifts, etc He gives us. We are not all responsible to be a Billy Graham because we have not been given his talents, gifts, and opportunities.) This cause and effect truth should

motivate us to be responsible tenants of all the gifts, opportunities, life experiences, personality, relationships, etc. that God has given us. What do you think God has given you stewardship over now? How are you handling this responsibility?

6. We should also look forward to the earth once it is in submission to Christ and Satan is bound. This period of 1,000 years will be very similar (not exactly the same as) the Garden of Eden (Gen 1-2). Humanity will reign with responsibility over creation, animals will coexist peacefully together, there will be little violence, and sin will not be tolerated but judged immediately by Christ. In the same way Adam was given the creative task of naming animals we might also be given creative tasks. God created us with a mind, talents, abilities, likes and dislikes, etc. When our bodies and lives are no longer weighed down by sin but fully redeemed we will be who God truly created and meant us to be. What if someone is an artist in this life and paints sunsets and landscapes. He can only do so with pens, pencils, paints, and paper. In the millennial kingdom, however, with a redeemed body, this same artist may have even greater skill and the ability and use even greater resources. What about you? Take some time to dream a little about how God has made you and what glorious plans He might have for you in the future.

Day #3:

1. Read 20:7- 21:8
2. During the time directly before, during, and after the millennial kingdom there will be several times of judgment. We will explore them in this order: Judgment of Satan

credit for the work of Christ and are judged on His merit rather than their own work and merit. Therefore, they are seen as righteous, holy, and worthy to be in God's presence forever. Read Psalms 103:10-12, Matthew 6:1-4, John 5:22-30, Luke 12:35-44, Romans 14:10-13, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, Ephesians 6:8, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 2 Timothy 4:8, Hebrews 8:12, and James 1:12. When believers are judged the term used to describe the judgment is the same one used for the medals stand at the Olympics. It is not a judgment of our bad deeds. It is a celebration of our good works done in the power of the Holy Spirit with the motivation to please and glorify God. And for these works we are rewarded. For those with a few works it is a time of joy. For those with many works and many rewards it is a time of joy upon joy. Have you been afraid of future judgment in the past or worry about it now? How does knowing what we will be judged on motivate you to live in the present?

8. In Revelation 21:1-5 we see a new heaven and a new earth. The old is destroyed and all is made fresh. Read Genesis 3:17 (note the ground/earth is cursed by God) Isaiah 66:22-24, Matthew 24:35, and 2 Peter 3:7. The fact that God makes everything new is a cause for celebration. It is an exciting thought that someday there will no longer exist anything tainted by sin.

Day #4

1. Read Revelation 21:1-27

2. Skim back through the above verses, and (in the space below), write out everything you see about the life in the “new world” that is superior to the life in our current world.

3. In the space below write three things that have been particularly painful to you in this life.

4. In the future, we have promises from God that we will not have to endure these the pains listed in question #3 again! With this in mind, reread Revelation 21:3-4, and then write out a prayer of thanksgiving to God for this promised and preferable future reality.

4. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

8. Do you share His heart for none to perish? What are you doing about it?

Day #3

1. Read Revelation 22:6-21.
2. Look specifically at Revelation 22:17 and 20. What is a key word that is repeated often in these two verses?
3. It seems that the concept of “coming” is a very important concept in the Christian life, especially in the book of Revelation. Two different subjects are asked to come in this section, both by the bride of Christ (the church). Who are those two subjects? (HINT: One is listed in Revelation 22:17, the other in Revelation 22:20)

Days #4-6

Scan back through weeks 1-12 of this study and the book of Revelation as a whole. In the space below, journal about what you believe God has been teaching you from this study. Include in this journaling at least one or two key action steps you believe God is calling you to take in your life in response to your study of His Word.

