I. AN EXAMINATION: EXPLORING ASPECTS OF REVELATION

1st. The Lord Jesus is the central figure.

- Jesus is the risen Priest and King. (1:1 – 20)
- He evaluates His church (2:1 – 3:22)
- The Lord receives the title deed to creation (4:1 – 5:14)
- He judges the world and returns to glory (6:1 – 19:21)
- He reigns in glory and power (20:1 – 22:21)

2nd. Revelation is an opened prophecy! Daniel 12:4; Revelation 22:10;


3rd. Revelation demonstrates biblical unity.

404 verse in Revelation with 285 direct quotes from OT. Matthew’s gospel refers to OT 92 times.

4th. Revelation uses symbols to communicate the message!

5th. Revelation unveils the majesty of Jesus Christ.

“Throne” is used 44 times; “king, kingdom, rule” 37 times; “power, authority” 40 times.
II. AN INTERPRETATION: REVIEWING THE APPROACHES TO THIS BOOK!

1st. The Preterist View: John writes exclusively for his time.

Latin term “past” is *preter*. Views the book as having occurred in 1st Century. Roman Catholic view.

2nd. The Historical View: John chronicles church history.

3rd. The Spiritual View: John symbolizes conflict of good and evil.

4th. The Futurist View: John’s prophecy addresses end of times issues!

- We are living in the age of grace, called, “the church age.”
- The “church age” began at Pentecost and ends with “the Rapture” (1 Thess. 4: 16 – 17)
- The Judgment Seat of Christ and Marriage Supper being
- Seven Years of Tribulation begin
- Armageddon closes the Great Tribulation
- Jesus comes to establish His millennial reign
- Satan is bound and then released for a season
- Unsaved of every generation appear before the Great White Throne
- Eternity begins in Heaven for believers and Hell for unbelievers

III. AN ACTION: THREE STEPS TO RECEIVING GOD’S BLESSINGS (1:1 – 3)

1st. We are blessed by merely reading the Book. “Blessed is he who reads…”

2nd. We are blessed when we study its message. “Blessed is he who will hear…”

3rd. We are blessed as we prepare for His coming. “Blessed is he who will heed…”

“Heed” means, “to give attention to.”
Why Study Biblical Prophecy?

1. Our Lord expects it. Almost 1/3 of the Bible is Prophecy.
2. Prophecy reveals Jesus for Who He is. Philippians 2:10 – 11
3. Prophecy equips saints against false teachings.
4. Prophecy promotes soul-winning.
5. Prophecy tends to purify believers.
6. Prophecy offers confidence during hopeless times.

I. SOME FUNDAMENTAL OBSERVATIONS!

1st. Authorship: Who wrote the Book? (1:4) It is John! Only NT writer describing Jesus as “the lamb of God” (Jn. 1:29; 22 times in Revelation); He alone uses Greek term, Logos (John 1:1; Revelation 19:11 – 13)

2nd. Adversity: When and where was this Book written?

Domitian is Emperor of Rome; banishes John to Patmos in AD 95.

3rd. Audience: Who did John have in mind when writing this Book?

II. TIME-TESTED TRUTH FOR PEOPLE UNDER PRESSURE!

1st. Salvation: God is with us! (1:4b) “Grace to you and peace”
2nd. Security: God is watching over us! (1:4c – 5)

- God the Father watches “Him who is, and who was, and who is to come…”
- God the Spirit watches “the seven Spirits…”
- God the Son watches
  - He is the Prophet “the Faithful Witness”
  - He is the Priest “the firstborn of the dead” (Prototokos)
  - He is the King “the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

3rd. Sufficiency: God has an incredible plan for us! (5b – 6)

- He loves us. “to Him who loves (present tense) us.”
  
  Romans 8:38 – 39
  
  - He has liberated us. “released” (aorist tense)

- He lifts us up! “has made us to be a kingdom of priests…”

III. ASCRIPTIONS OF PRAISE TO JESUS (1:6c – 8)

Let’s worship Him. “To Him be glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Let’s watch for Him. “He is coming with the clouds.” “Alpha and Omega”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
The Greek term, *apokalypsi* means, “unveiling” or “revelation.” The Book of Revelation unveils God’s plan and purpose for the future.

I. ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS INTO JOHN

Jerusalem is destroyed by Titus in AD 70 who is in line to become the next Emperor. However, he dies before ascending to the throne; his brother Domitian assumes the throne.

John is banished to Patmos, a small island in the Aegean Sea by Domitian. Here are two lessons his life reveals:

1st. His Witness: Even when life seems dark, John chooses to shine! (1:9)

Description of Patmos: the land, inhabitants, the experience John may have had

2nd. His Worship: Rather than being depressed, John remains devoted! (1:10 – 20)

- John was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day.”
- His three stages of worship: “I heard” (10); “I saw” (12); “I fell at His feet” (17).
- “Seven golden lampstands” represent the churches to whom this book is written.
- Jesus is clothed in kingly and priestly garbs namely, “a robe reaching to His feet and girded across His chest with a golden sash”
SEVEN DESCRIPTORS OF OUR LORD

A. Jesus purifies us! “His head and His hair were like white wool, like snow.”
Isaiah 1:18

B. Jesus sees us! “His eyes were like flames of fire.”
Hebrews 4:13

C. Jesus accurately assesses us! “His feet were like burnish bronze.”
John 3:14 – 16

D. Jesus will be heard by us! “…the sound of many waters.”

E. Jesus shapes our destinies! “In His right hand He held seven stars.”

F. Jesus battles evil for us! “Out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.”
Hebrews 4:12

G. Jesus is exalted above us! “His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”

APPLICATIONS

- We may experience complete confidence in the Lord. “Do not be afraid.”
- We may know personal eternal security. “The First and the Last; Living One; was dead.”
- We may live with hope not horror. “Alive for evermore; have the keys of death and Hades.”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
THE UNVEILING
STUDIES IN REVELATION
STUDY GUIDE

Dr. John S. Powers
Study # 4
Revelation 2:1 – 7

“Everything But the Main Thing!”

Insights into these Churches

• Practical Insight: These churches existed
• Perennial Insight: The messages to them is relevant to us today
• Prophetic Insight: Each church represents phases of the “church age” or “age of grace”

I. DESCRIPTORS OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

1st. Demographics of “The Metropolis of Asia”

• Ephesus was a “self-governing” Roman city; ranked into top three most important cities in the Mediterranean.
  A. Economically – Booming sea trade because of inland harbor

B. Politically – Home of Roman Governor; frequent site of headline court trials

C. Religiously – Home of the Temple of Diana
  • One of the seven wonders of the world
  • Platform exceeded two football fields supported by 100 marble columns; each a single stone 55 feet high
  • Held 1000’s of cult prostitutes; a bank, art gallery, asylum for fleeing criminals

2nd. History of the Ephesus Church

Considered the Ritz Carlton of churches in Apostolic Era; probably founded by Paul during 3rd Missionary Journey. Key members: Apollos, Timothy, Aquilla, Priscilla, Mary (Mother of Jesus)
II. THREE COMENDATIONS FOR A FIVE-STAR CHURCH (2:1 – 3)

Jesus walking among the churches (1:12 – 16) is both reassuring and troubling! His presence means an inescapable, penetrating knowledge of what’s going on with you and me.

There’s no embellishment, no soft-shoe; no tip-toe as Jesus speaks here.

Strength # 1: “You stayed at the task” (2:2a)

- This was a “serving church.” “Deeds” means people were being affected by ministry
- This was a “sacrificial church.” “Toil” implies that the “deeds” exacted painful effort to produce spiritual fruit. The people stayed at the task even to the point of exhaustion.

Strength # 2: “You stood up for the Truth” (2:2b)

Nicolaitans were a sect of immoral and self-indulgent believers who the Ephesian believers identified as having been found, “false.”

Strength # 3: “You stood under testing” (2:3)

Jesus used the term “perseverance” twice. Speaks of “triumphant fortitude.”

III. THE CALL FOR CHANGE BY GOD’S PEOPLE (2:4 – 7)

The problem Jesus sees with this church is “you have left you first love.” How does a believer experience spiritual recovery?

- Remember (2:5a) “Remember from where you have fallen.”
- Repent (2:5b) “To change the mind”
- Return (2:5c) “…do the deeds you did at first.”
- Respect (2:7a) “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- Receive (2:7b) “…to Him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life…”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
When Suffering Strikes!

The Greek term translated as “Smyrna” means, “bitter.” Related term is “myrrh” is used just four times in the New Testament.

- Wise men included it in treasures (Matthew 2:11)
- An anesthetic offered to Jesus on the Cross (Mark 15:23)
- An embalming substance used in Christ’s burial (John 19:39)

The Grace Age/The Church Age

- The Ephesian Church 33 – 99 AD
- The Smyrna Church 100 – 300 AD

I. INSIGHTS INTO THE PAGAN CITY OF SMYRNA

Smyrna is one of the greatest cities in ancient world. Today is Izmir, Turkey. Additional facts:

- Likely the birthplace of Homer
- Population exceeded 200,000
- “The Golden Street”
- Temples to Greco-Roman gods: Kybele, Apollos, Aesculapius, Aphrodite, Zeus

II. A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH IN A PAGAN CULTURE (2:8 – 9)

1st Pressure: “I know your tribulation” (2:9)

Greek term, *thlipsis* speaks of “pressure;” “Tribulation” describes the action of stone grinding wheat; grapes squeezed in winepress; capital punishment.
2nd. Poverty: “I know…your poverty…” (2:9b)

3rd. Persecution: “I know…the blasphemy…” (2:9c)

The term “blasphemy” derives from Greek word meaning, “to slander.”

III. FACING THE FLAK WHILE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS (2:9 – 11)

1st. The Advocate Understands your pain…so remember! (2:9a)

Two Greek terms for “know.” Ginosko means, “to know by observing.” Oida means, “to know first-hand; personally.”

2nd. Your pain has an aim…so rejoice! (2:10)

Romans 5:2 – 4a

3rd. Consider these assurances when you hurt…and rest! (2:10 – 11)

- Be Fearless (10)
- Be Faithful (10b) 2 Corinthians 4:17
- Be Fervent (11a)
- Be Firm (11b)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Characteristics of the city of Pergamos:

- It was the capital of the Roman Province in Asia for 300 years
- Known for magnificent architecture
- Boasted of the 2nd largest library in world; parchment was invented in Pergamos
- Four Temples: Zeus, Dionysius, Athena, Aesculapius

I. A GLIMPSE AT HISTORICAL COMPROMISE

“Pergamos” means, “married. Resembles time when the church wedded to the Roman Empire.

- Diocletian
- Constantine and “The Edict of Milan”
- Compromise within the church

II. WHEN CHOICES ARE MADE TO COMPROMISE

1st. Christ complements this church

Complement # 1: These saints were loyal to the Person of Christ (2:13a)

Complement # 2: These saints were loyal to the precepts of Christ (2:13b)
2nd. Christ criticizes this church

Condemnation # 1: Theological compromise is evident (2:14)

These believers were fooled into following the “doctrine of Balaam.”

Condemnation # 2: Practical compromise is visible (2:15)

One group within this church supported “the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, (means: conquering the people).

III. THE CURE FOR PERSONAL COMPROMISE (2:16 – 17)

The call to repentance offers two promises:

1st. There is the promise of sufficiency (2:17b) “I will give you hidden manna…”

2nd. There is the promise of pardoning (2:17c) “I will give him a white stone.”

“White” represents God’s purity. White stones were utilized in the following manner:

- Nationally: Given to new citizens
- Relationally: Friends would use stones to identify each other
- Martial: Given to victors returning from battles
- Legally: White stones signified verdicts in court cases

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
I. THE CITY AND THE CHURCH

The city of Thyatira:

- 290 BC became a city
- A buffet city protecting Pergamos
- Textile city
- Multiple trade guilds

The church of Thyatira:

- Believed to have been started by Paul’s first European covert, Lydia (Acts 16:14 – 15)
- Jesus speaks to the church:
  - His Deity is authenticated (18b) “Son of God” (used only once in Revelation)
  - His Vision is penetrated (18c) “Eyes…like flames of fire”
  - His judgment is exercised (18d) “Feet…were like burnished bronze”

1st. Acknowledging the strengths of the church (2:19)

- Deeds: They were an active church.
- Love: They were a passionate church.
- Faith: They were a consistent church.
- Service: They were a compassionate church. “diakonos” (service)
- Perseverance: They were a zealous church.
2nd. Addressing the weaknesses of the church (2:20)

“If the devil cannot conquer the church by the application of political pressure or propagation of intellectual heresy, he will try the insinuation of moral evil.”

John R. W. Stott

- There was a spirit of ignorance (2:20) “Jezebel”
  Who is this woman?
    - The pastor’s wife
    - Lydia
    - Metaphorical

- There was a spirit of rebellion (2:21) “Gave her time to repent”

3rd. Announcing the judgment of the church (2:22 – 23)

2 Peter 3:9

4th. Awarding the blessings to this church (2:24 – 29)

II. APPLYING THIS LETTER TODAY

- Don’t be dismayed when difficulties arrive.
- Don’t waiver in encouraging demoralized saints.
- Don’t be tricked by demonic activity in talented people. (Galatians 1:6 – 9)
- Don’t be obstinate as deceptive actions injure others.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
THE UNVEILING
STUDIES IN REVELATION
STUDY GUIDE

Dr. John S. Powers
Study # 8
Revelation 3:1 – 6

“A MAUSOLEUM WITH A STEEPLE”

A QUARTET OF REASONS WHY CHURCHES DIE

• Live in the past.
• Lift programs above people.
• Love traditions more than Jesus.
• Loose heart for unchurched people.

I. CHILLING WORDS TO A COLD CONGREGATION! (3:1)

*The Lord identifies nothing that is praiseworthy with the church of Sardis.*

1st. The Strong City of Sardis

- It lay approximately 50 miles east of Ephesus at the junction of five major roads
- A Mecca for trade; a military site that rested on an inaccessible plateau
- Walled fortress that rose 1500 feet above the roads

The strength of the city created a false sense of security. Twice laziness allowed the city to be sacked.

- Dominate religion was worship of Artemis “nature cult.”

2nd. The Sleepy Church of Sardis

“This church was located on the corner of Self-satisfaction and Complacency Streets.”

THE FOUR STAGES OF CHURCHES

Stage # 1: A Man
Stage # 2: A Movement
Stage # 3: A Machine
Stage # 4: A Monument
“The seven Spirits of God” point to Isaiah 11:2 – 5

II. CORRECTIONS FROM JESUS THAT MAY IMPACT US (3:2 – 6)

1st. Instead of sleeping, be constantly alert! (2a) “Wake Up!”

2nd. When seeing saints struggle, strengthen them! (2b) “Strengthen the things that remain,”

3rd. Rather than live in apathy, remember your purpose! (3a) “Remember…what you have received and heard.”

4th. Don’t simply soak up the truth, apply it! (3b) “Keep…”

5th. Change the direction of your life! (3c – 6) “Repent…”

Three Promises to Those Who Watch and Repent

- Inclusive Promise: “They will walk with Me in white…”
- Incredible Promise: Our names are never “erased from the book of life.”
- Incomparable Promise: “Confess you before the Father…”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
AN OPEN – DOOR OPPORTUNITY

"Yesterday is a canceled check, and tomorrow is a promissory note. But today is cash, ready for us to spend in living."

Barbara Johnson

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA (3:7 – 8)

- The city of Philadelphia was located about 38 miles SE of Sardis
- Founded in 140 BC; named after Attalus II Philadelphus
- Shared borders with five Roman provinces
- Hub of Greek literature and culture (Helenism)

Philadelphia was known as the “gateway to the East;” known also as “little Athens;” situated on a volcanic field; Strabo, “a city full of earthquakes;” 17 BC – Philadelphia was leveled by earthquakes.

Four Unmistakable Attributes of Jesus!

1st. His Righteousness! (3:7b) “He Who is holy” John 1:1 – 3; 1 Peter 1:14 – 16

2nd. His Reliability! (3:7c) “One…Who is true”

3rd. His Relationship! (3:7d) “One…Who has the key of David” (2 Kings 18:17 – 18) John 1:12; 14:6

4th. His Rule! (3:7e) “One Who opens and no one shuts, and Who shuts and no one opens.”

II. A COMMENDATION FOR THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA (3:8 – 10)

Several “open doors” mentioned in the Bible; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3
The Greek verb “open” (perfect tense) means, “this door is open and remains open to this day.”

1st. Reliability: We may lean on God’s strength! (3:8b) 2 Corinthians 12:10

2nd. Fidelity: We may love God’s truth!” (3:8c) 2 Timothy 4:1 – 5

3rd. Notoriety: We may live God’s truth! (3:8d)

4th. Security: We may face flak with confidence! (3:9 – 10)
  - Protection through daily trials
  - Protection through ultimate trials

III. ANTICIPATION AND ACTIONS FOR BELIEVES TODAY (3:11 – 13)

O – Opportunities to live for Christ demand Obedience…so be submissive

P – Opportunities are always Personalized, so be responsive.

E – Opportunities are lost in Excuses, so be faithful.

N – Opportunities occur Now, so be available.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“THE DIFFERENCE INDIFFERENCE MAKES!”

“The Laodicean believers characterize the modern church that will be present just before the Lord Jesus comes to catch His Church away.”

Dr. John S. Powers

I. THE CULTURE OF LAODICEA

It was a key city in southern Phrygia. Founded by Antiochus II, who named it after his wife, Laodike. It lay 40 miles south of Philadelphia in the fertile lap of the Lycus River Valley.

- Laodicea was a wealthy city.

It was a magnet retirement community; many Jewish families lived there and fostered wealth. City was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 60. So wealthy was the city that the citizens refused the Roman ‘FEMA’ money. The citizens rebuilt the entire city at their own expense.

- Laodicea was an industrial city.

A high-end garment industry thrived there (four different garments) using wool from sheep unique to the area.

- Laodicea was a health resort.

Exported a tablet used for eye ailments. North of the city was Hierapolis famous for hot springs and Colossae famous for ice cold water. These two rivers converged at Laodicea producing lukewarm water so nasty that drinking it sickened people.

Acts 19:8 – 10; Colossian 4:12 – 13

II. A CASE STUDY OF INDIFFERENCE (3:14 – 21)

- His Authority

The term “Amen” means, “so let it be.” It’s intended to be the final word of a conversation.
The Amen (Jesus) speaks to the church.

- His Reliability “Faithful and True Witness”
- His Creativity “The Beginning of the creation of God”

1st. “Your compromising actions make Me sick!” (3:15 -16)

They were “lukewarm.” The Bible mentions three possible heart temperatures

(a) a burning heart (Luke 24:12);
(b) a cold heart (Matt. 24:12);
(c) a lukewarm heart

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

2nd. “Your conceited attitude makes Me sorrowful!” (3:17)

- You are wretched! Greek term means, “pressed with a burden”
- You are…miserable! The object of extreme pity
- You are…blind! “Nearsighted”
- You are…naked!

III. THE CURE FOR PERSONAL INDIFFERENCE

1st. Substitute His eternal riches for poverty. (18a)

2nd. Substitute His righteousness for nakedness (18b)

3rd. Substitute His clear directive for self-deception (18c)

4th. Substitute enthusiasm for indifference (19)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
The rapture of the church is a sudden removal of the church. In a moment, faster than any computer may operate or more quickly than any human may think, every believer in Jesus Christ will be “caught up” with our Lord….instantly transported from earth to heaven.

**Features of Christian Hope!**

- It makes a believer rejoice (Romans 5:1 – 2)
- It is unique (Ephesians 4:4)
- It is provided by God’s grace (2 Thessalonians 2:16)
- It is alive (1 Peter 1:3)
- It is reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:4)
- Currently, it is invisible (Romans 8:24 – 25)

I Timothy 1:1; Hebrews 6:19 – 20; Titus 2:11- 13; 1 John 3: 2 – 3;

I. JESUS OFFERS ASSURANCE OF THE RAPTURE! (John 14:1 – 3)

1st. There is a home being prepared for every Christian (14:2)

“to prepare” means “to furnish, equip”

2nd. There is a promise of His return (14:3)

The force of the verb, “I will come” carries immediacy.

**Revelation Doors**

There are two times “an open door” is mentioned in Revelation. First, (Revelation 4:1) “someone goes up” and the second (Revelation 19:11), “someone comes down.”
The Rapture of the Church and Second Coming are to entirely different prophetic events.

II. PAULINE ASSURANCE OF THE RAPTURE (1 Corinthians 15:51 – 53)

Ephesians 3:3 “mystery.” The term is used 27 times in New Testament, speaking of those things the New Testament reveals which the Old Testament conceals. What was the mystery?

- It could not have been the resurrection because Job (19:25 – 26), Isaiah (26:19), Daniel (12:2) all knew about it. The fact is not all believers are going to die. Some are being taken out of this world mysteriously!

1st. The make up of the Rapture (15:53) “We shall all be changed…”

“the perishable body will put on the imperishable…”

- Jesus’ body was not confined to natural laws (Luke 24:31;36; John 20:19, 26)
- His body was physical (Luke 24:32, 39 – 40, 42 – 43)
- His body was glorified (Luke 24:31)
- His body was powerful (Acts 1:9 – 11)
- His body was incorruptible (Acts 1:11)

2nd. The moment of the Rapture (15:52) “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye…”

“Moment” translates from the Greek term atomos meaning, “indivisible.”

“in the twinkling of an eye” faster than human eye may receive light!

APPLICATIONS

- Jesus keeps every promise He makes, so believe Him
- Jesus is coming very, very soon, so make personal preparations for His return
- Jesus loves you and me beyond reason, so establish a personal relationship with Him today.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
There is coming a moment in the very near future when 1 billion people will vanish from this earth without a trace. That moment is called, “the rapture.”

I. THE RAPTURE: THE NEXT GREAT EVENT IN PROPHETIC HISTORY

- For every OT reference to His first coming, the OT provides eight references to His Second Coming
- Of the 260 NT chapters, there are 318 references to His Second Coming
- “Rapture” from the Latin term *rapturo*, “to be caught up, caught away, snatched away”
- The Apostle Paul utilizes the Greek term, *harpazo* “caught up”
  - “to carry away by force”
  - “to snatch away quickly”
  - “to claim for one’s own self”
  - “to move to a new place”
  - “to rescue from danger” (1 Thessalonians 1:9 – 10)

II. SEVERAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE RAPTURE

1st. The Rapture is Eminently Close (Titus 2:13)
   - The Doctrine of Eminency – “to hang over one’s head, ready to befall or overtake”

2nd. The Rapture is Confounding
   - 1 Corinthians 15:52 “twinkling of an eye”
   - “Moment” is from Greek term, *atomos* (root term is *temno*)

3rd. The Rapture is Cognizant
   - Three key texts: John 14:1 – 3; 1 Corinthians 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18
   - There is a “rapture” and a “rupture”
4th. The Rapture is Conspicuous

**Sensor Pictures of the Rapture**

“A shout”
“Voice of an Archangel”
The blast of a “trumpet”

1 Corinthians 15:52 “last trumpet” is Roman military imagery of three trumpet blasts!

Several changes will occur “in a moment”

- Every believer will experience a new body. *Pnematikos – the part of us that is most like God!*
- Every believer will experience an immortal body. Incorruptible, no decay, no death, no disease, no deformities. No more pain, never become weary or exhausted
- Every believer will experience a new composition. Our glorified bodies will be devoid of the shackles of current living. We will have a body just like Jesus’ resurrected body.

*Just Like the Resurrected Body of Jesus!*

Jesus had same “body” (nail scars) for the purpose of identification
Like His, our new bodies will be solid, physical in nature (1 John 1:1; Luke 24:39)
Our bodies will be devoid of blood because a new life principle will be controlling them

Philippians 3:21 “fashioned” is from Greek term, *morphe* describing an outward expression not put on from the outside but from the inside!

5th. The Rapture will have Consecutive Experiences

- A Return – just like His Ascension (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
- A Resurrection – from Greek term *koimao* (Lazarus – John 11:11; Stephen 7:60; David Acts 13:36; Jesus 1 Corinthians 15:20)
  - Early church practiced *koimeterion* “a resting place for strangers; sleeping place.”
  - English term derives as “cemetery”
- A Redemption – 1 John 3:2
- A Rapture – We who are alive and remain will be snatched away
- A Reunion – It’s eternal in nature. We will be with Jesus forever!

6th. The Rapture is Comforting – “comfort one another with these words.”

*Even so, come Lord Jesus!*
The predominate term which builds a sense of progression toward final judgment found in the Book of Revelation is the word “and” (kai). It reflects John’s Hebrew background and manner of speaking and is used more than 1200 times in this Book. Kai is also translated as: and, but, even, both, also, yet and indeed. Called “polysyndetons” which mean, “many ands.” These bind units of Revelation together in an understandable pattern called, “kiaiters” as in Revelation 5:12. Moving forward, John’s vistas shift from heaven to event on this earth.

“Our world is moving toward a final consummation of human history!”

The Progression

- The Rapture of the Church will occur. John 14; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4.
- On Earth: After the Rapture, a world-wide judgment called, “The Tribulation” begins.
- In Heaven: The Judgment Seat of Christ begins immediately after the Rapture.

Revelation 22:12; 2 Timothy 4:7 – 8;

I. AN INCORRECT FOCUS: MYTHS ABOUT THE JUDGMENT SEAT

1st. “You must meet additional qualifications to enter heaven.” (John 14:6)

2nd. “Your sins after salvation are punishable.” (Hebrews 8:12; Colossians 2:12 – 13; 1 John 2:12; Isaiah 38:17b

3rd. “You must account for every unconfessed sin.” (relationship vs fellowship)
II. A CORRECT FOCUS: TRUTH ABOUT THE JUDGMENT SEAT! (2 Cor. 5: 9 – 10)

Fact # 1: The Judgment Seat has a rich background in history!

- The Greek term is *bema*
- It was a place of authority, dignity, prominence and honor

Fact # 2: The Judgment Seat holds a rewarding future in heaven!

- Oscars, Emmy, Golden Globe, Grammy, Dove, Tony are all earthy awards

A. Appearing before Jesus is required (5:10a)

B. Appearing before Jesus is revealing (5:10b)

“We must understand that everything we do, everything we say, everything we are, has a relationship to God. Each act, each word, each thought, each moment of life contains the possibilities to sin. Each sin, like a coin, has two sides. If a Christian tells a lie, the “heads” side is sin, the “tails” side is a work. The sin side has been dealt with forever by the death of our Lord but the work side will face Him at the judgment seat of Christ.”

*Donald Grey Barnhouse*

C. Appearing before Jesus is rewarding (5:10c)

Romans 8:1

- “good or bad” better translated as “worthwhile or worthless”

B – Be honest with yourself

E – Examine yourself continually

M – Make eternal investments

A – Always and in every way, live for Christ’s coming in full view.

“I am coming quickly” is mentioned seven (7) times in Revelation.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
THE UNVEILING
STUDIES IN REVELATION
STUDY GUIDE

Dr. John S. Powers
Study # 14
Revelation 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:9 - 10

“REWARDS FOR THE RIGHTEOUS!”
(Part 2)

Major Judgments in Scripture

- The Judgment on sin – John 5:24
- The Judgment of self – 1 Corinthians 11:31
- The Judgment of Israel – Ezekiel 20:33 – 44
- The Judgment of Satan and his demons – Jude 6; Revelation 20:10
- The Judgment of the unsaved – Revelation 20:11 – 15
- The Judgment of the saved – 2 Corinthians 5:9 – 10

I. BENEFICIAL REFLECTION AND REVIEW

- The *bema* is required.

- The *bema* is revealing.

- The *bema* is rewarding.
II. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS THAT PROVIDE NEEDED FOCUS

1st. A Steward – Romans 14:10 – 12; 1 Corinthians 4:1 – 5

FOCUS ON LIVING FOR CHRIST, BECAUSE GOD REWARDS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

2nd. A Structure – 1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15

FOCUS BY PRIORITIZING FOR THE FUTURE, NOT THE PRESENT

3rd. A Sporting Event – 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27

FOCUS ON PERSONAL HOLINESS AND REMAIN USUABLE

III. YOU ARE INVITED TO AN AWARDS CEREMONY

- Purpose: The Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25 – 27)
- Proof: The Crown of Exaltation (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19)
- Patience: The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7 – 8)
- Perseverance: The Crown of Life (James 1:12)
- Powerful Service: The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:1 – 4)

Revelation 4:10; 2 John 8; 1 John 2:28

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
As John looks down the corridor of time, through the halls of history and into the canyon of eternity, he is invited to look behind the scenes as divine actions which determine the course of human events!

I. AN UNFORGETTABLE GLIMPSE OF GOD’S THRONE (4:2 – 3)

The term “throne” appears 46 times in Revelation, 14 times in this chapter alone! It reminds us that no matter what happens on this earth, the Lord continually sits on His throne.

1\textsuperscript{st}. His throne is unyielding. (4:3a) \textbf{He who was sitting was like a jasper stone.}

“Jasper” is our diamond, the hardest stone to be found. It speaks of the firmness of God’s throne.

2\textsuperscript{nd}. His throne is unequaled. (4:3b) \textbf{...a sardius in appearance...}

Hebrews 12:29 “Our God is a consuming fire.”

- Negative: God’s view toward sin
- Positive: God’s compassionate and unequaled love

3\textsuperscript{rd}. His throne is unbroken. (4:3c) \textbf{...a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.}

- Emerald green symbolizes grace and mercy
- A rainbow is God’s promise with Noah
- Usually, rainbows appear after a storm. This rainbow appears BEFORE the storm!
II. AN UNFORGETTABLE GATHERING AROUND THE THRONE (4:4 – 7)

1st. The Twenty-four elders (4:4)
   - These are not angels (Hebrews 1:14)
   - The elders sing (Revelation 5:8 – 10)
   - The elder’s song is that of the redeemed
   - Angels are never numbered (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11)
   - Elders is an inappropriate term to describe angels because angels never age

The Greek term *presbuteroi* speaks of men not angels
   - They are sitting (Ephesians 2:6)
   - They wear “white garments”
   - A picture of David’s appointment of 24 elders from the Levites.

1 Peter 2:5 – 9
   - They wear “golden crowns” *stephanos* “victor’s crowns”

2nd. The Presence of the Holy Spirit (4:5 – 6a)

3rd. The four-living creatures (4:6b – 7)

The standards erected around the Tabernacle in the Wilderness
   - A lion – Worship recognizes God’s dignity, strength and majesty
   - A calf – Worship includes being involved in service (Romans 12:1 – 2)
   - A man – Worship is intelligent (John 4:24)
   - An eagle – Worship is swift and full of expectancy (Isaiah 40:31)

III. AN UNFORGETTABLE GLORY IS ASCRIBED TO OUR GOD (4:8 – 11)

   - A continual praise
   - A collective praise
   - A crescendo of praise

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
THE UNVEILING
STUDIES IN REVELATION
STUDY GUIDE

Dr. John S. Powers
Study # 16
Revelation 5:1 – 14

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB!”

What Americans are saying about the future

- 49% believe a world-wide economic collapse is looming
- 66% think an environmental catastrophe is coming
- 75% fear some sort of new/deadly disease may emerge
- 48% envision a military strike by nuclear weapons

Any combination of these disasters could create the immediate need for a one-world government.

I. THE ISSUE IS…CONTROL!

1st. Backstage: Satan’s rule is measured!

Ephesians 6:12; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11

- Satan has been disarmed – John 10:10a; Hebrews 2:14b; Colossians 2:15

- Satan will be detained – Revelation 20:1 – 3

- Satan faces ultimate demise – Revelation 20:10

2nd. Centerstage: Christ’s rule is magnificent (Revelation 5:1 – 4)

- Searching for the heir (2 – 3)

- The sobbing John (4 – 5a)
II. CONFIRMATION: JESUS CONTROLS EVERY DETAIL! (5:5b – 14)

1st. His Personhood: Jesus is the Name above all names! (5:5 – 6)

- “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (5b)
- “The Root of David” (5c)
- “The Lamb of God” (6a)

2nd. His Position: Jesus reigns in heaven today! (5:6b – 7)

Jesus is referred to as “the Lamb” 28 times in Revelation

3rd. His Provision: Jesus has redeemed us from sin! (5:8 – 10)

4th. His Power: Jesus is worthy to receive the accolades of the universe (5:11 – 14)

- Power
- Riches
- Wisdom
- Honor and glory
- Blessing

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
The Anti-Christ: A Biblical Investigation

His Titles: “The Beast” (Rev. 13); “Man of Destruction” (2 Thess. 2:3); “Lawless One” (2 Thess. 2:8); “Abomination of Desolation” (Matthew 24:15); “Little Horn” (Daniel 7:8); “the ruler who is to come” (Daniel 9:26); “Despicable Person” (Daniel 11:21); “Strong willed king” (Daniel 11:36); “A worthless shepherd” (Zechariah 11:16 – 17); “The Antichrist” (1 Jn. 2:18, 22)

His Traits: a) He will rise to power in the last days (Daniel 8:19, 23); b) He will rule the whole world (Revelation 13:7); c) He will headquarter in Rome (Revelation 17:8 – 9); d) He will be an intellectual genius (Daniel 7:8; 20); e) He rules by international consent (Revelation 17:12 – 13); f) He rules by deception (Daniel 8:24 – 25); g) He gains control of the global economy (Revelation 13:16 – 17); h) He will make a peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27); i) He will break this treaty and invade Israel (Daniel 9:26); j) He claims to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

The Parallel Teachings of Jesus and John

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Revelation 6 introduces what chapters 7 – 19 detail. Consider the seventh seal:
I. THE PLEADING OF TRIBULATION SAINTS (6:9 – 11)

1st. Persecution: The Antichrist directs his wrath toward God. (6:9)

2nd. Prayer: These saints plead for God’s judgment (6:10)

3rd. Promise: these saints are encouraged to trust the Lord (6:11)

II. THE CURSING OF TRIBULATION SINNERS (6:12 – 17)

1st. The planet is shaken to its core! (6:12 – 14)

- A great earthquake
- The sun turns black
- The moon looks like blood
- Stars fall from the sky
- Every mountain and island are moved out of their places

2nd. The people are shaken with horror! (6:15 – 17)

“The day will come when the most expensive piece of real estate will be a hole in the ground.”

Vance Havner

2 Peter 3:9

The martyrs pray “avenge us!” while the unbelievers pray “hide us!”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
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THE GREATEST REVIVAL EVER KNOWN!”

The Old Testament refers to the Second Coming 1527 times. The New Testament has 333. Jesus spoke of His return 21 times. Believers are exhorted to be ready for His return 50 times.

Rapture or Return: The Differences

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<td>2. He comes to the earth (Acts 1:11)</td>
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<td>3. Jesus claims His Bride (1 Thess. 4:16 – 17)</td>
<td>3. Jesus comes with His Bride (Re.19:6–14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Christ removes believers (1 Thess. 4:17)</td>
<td>4. He is manifested (Malachi 4:2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Believers alone see Jesus (1 Thess. 4:13 – 18)</td>
<td>5. Every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Saved are delivered from wrath (1 Thess. 1:10)</td>
<td>7. Unsaved taste God’s wrath (Rev. 6)</td>
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<td>8. No signs precede the Rapture (1 Thess. 5:1 – 3)</td>
<td>8. Signs precede 2nd Coming (Lu. 21:11-15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. The World is deceived (2 Thess. 2:3 – 12)</td>
<td>10. Satan is bound (Revelation 20:1 – 2)</td>
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Revelation 7 is a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh seals that answer the question of Revelation 6:17, “Who is able to stand?” Chapter 7 introduces two groups who will survive the fury of divine judgment.

I. A DIVINE RESTRAIN BEFORE THE STORM (7:1)

- God’s judgment is often associated with “the four winds.”
- The terms “holding back” suggests the winds are struggling to break free from their divine restraint.
- It also reveals the Lord is withholding plagues associated with the next series of judgments…but the winds of judgment are gathering strength and will be unleashed.
II. A DIVINE SEALING OF GOD’S SERVANTS! (7:2 – 8)

1st. Who are the sealed ones?

Ezekiel 9:4

2nd. What is their work?

- Who the 144,000 are not!
- Who the 144,000 are!

Matthew 24:14

- These are sealed/protected preachers who cannot be harmed by the Antichrist’s evil system. Millions will believe Christ as Messiah! (Jews and Gentiles)

III. A COMBINED ASSEMBLY AROUND THE THRONE (7:9 – 17)

1st. A Marvelous Description (7:9)

“Every nation” (ethnics); “Tribes” (family groups); “Peoples” (people groups); “Tongues” (language groups).

2nd. A Prestigious Action (7:10)

3rd. A Glorious Association (7:11 – 12)

4th. A Victorious Origination (7:13 – 15)

5th. A Precious Provision (7:16 – 17)

GOD WIPES EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES

- Because He knows the future, God calls us to trust Him for our future!
- There is a great revival coming then, but why not today?
- Refuse the temptation to ignore the work of God’s Spirit in you!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“FIRST CLASS ON THE TITANIC!”

The Apostle Paul described social and moral meltdown globally in 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5. Are we living in those times? The signs of these times point to a firm “yes!”

I. THE POWER OF DEAFENING SILENCE! (8:1 – 6)

- There is a dramatic pause before the next series of plagues are described for, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
- It’s possible that the collective prayers of the saints may be the answer to Jesus’ plea, Your Kingdom come; Your will be done…”
- It seems the prayers of God’s people are involved in the judgment He sends.

II. THE PRESSURES OF JUDGMENT INTENSIFY! (8:7 – 9:21)

Trumpet # 1: A storm brews! (8:7)

Trumpet # 2: The ocean boils! (8:8 – 9)

Trumpet # 3: A star is banished! (8:10 – 11)
Trumpet # 4: The skies blacken! (8:12 – 13)

Trumpet # 5: The woe of satanic torment! (9:1 – 12)

Trumpet # 6: The woe of a satanic battle! (9:13 – 21)

Applications
(Making Preparation Today)

- Be relieved…not distressed!

- Be repentant…not hardened! (Revelation 9:20 – 21)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Our culture begs the question, “God where are you?” How do we gain a supernatural perspective on life during these last days?

I. ANOTHER INTERLUDE PRODUCES COMFORT! (10:1 – 11)

• John sees “another strong angel”
• There are 66 references to angels in the Book of Revelation
• Some believe this is Jesus. No and for several reasons:
  o John would have worshiped Him (1:17)
  o Jesus is never referred to as an angel in Revelation
  o “Another” in Greek means, “another of the same kind.”
  o This angel has just left the presence of the Lord

 1st. His profile reminds of God’s glory! (10:1)

• He is “clothed with a cloud.”
• He has “a rainbow…upon his head.”
• His face “was shining like the sun.”
• His feet were “like pillars of fire.”

 2nd. His posture reminds of God’s ownership! (10:2)

 3rd. His proclamation reminds of God’s mercy! (10:3 – 4)
4th. His promise reminds of God’s purpose! (10:5 – 7)

5th. His partnership reminds of our responsibility! (10:8 – 11)

Second – Advent Attitudes

A. Live for Christ’s coming. (Philippians 3:20)

B. Wait for Christ’s coming. (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 John 3:3)

C. Believe His coming. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

D. Watch for His coming. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

E. Proclaim His coming. (2 Timothy 4:1 – 2)

F. Love His coming. (2 Timothy 4:8)

G. Look for His coming. (Titus 2:13)

There’s coming a day when God will deal with all our unanswered questions.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Biblical Examples of Heartedness

- Pharaoh hardened his heart against Moses and the Children of Israel
- Saul developed a hardened heart
- Jesus likened a hardened heart to “hard soil”
- He reprimanded the disciples citing, “their unbelief and hardness of heart”
- People living in the last days – “love of many would wax cold”
- Some within the church during last days would, “have a form of godliness but deny it’s power”

Today’s study illustrates how people with calloused hearts respond to God during the Great Tribulation.

I. THE TEMPLE IS REBUILT (11:1 – 2)

Ezekiel 36:24

- The first Jewish worship center was called, “the Tabernacle”
- Solomon built the first Temple, but it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587BC
- Herod the Great rebuilt the Temple in 37 BC but it was destroyed in AD 70 by Titus
- Today, all that remains is the Western Wall or called, “Wailing Wall”

1st. The Antichrist will have a peace treaty with Israel.

Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4

2nd. The Temple will be Rebuilt.

3rd. Introducing “Melody”

During the Tribulation, the Jews will revert to OT forms of worship in a restored Temple, including their system of priesthood and sacrifices, including the mixing of the ashes of a three-year-old “red heifer.” The first red heifer was born in Israel on May 19, 1997!
II. THE TESTIMONY IS REJECTED…AGAIN! (Revelation 11:3 – 14)

Jeremiah 25:1 – 6

WHO ARE THE TWO WITNESSES?

1st. The length of their ministry (11:3)

Their ministry will last for 3 ½ years. They will have a clear call to repentance “clothed in sackcloth.”

2nd. The likeness of their ministry (11:4 – 6)

The Bible is silent about their names and their identity remains speculation.

Reasons why it may be Elijah and Moses

- Both had miraculous ministries
- Both were expected to return in the future (Malachi 4:5 – 6; Deut. 18:15, 18)
- Both appeared with Christ at the Transfiguration
- Both left Earth in unusual ways

3rd. The loathing of their ministry (11:7 – 10)

4th. Their last ministry (11:11 – 14)

APPLICATIONS

- God is trying to get our attention…so listen up!
- Jesus is the only way…no matter which way we choose!

John 14:6

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
THE UNVEILING
STUDIES IN REVELATION
STUDY GUIDE

Dr. John S. Powers
Study # 23
Revelation 11:15 - 19

“OUR GOD REIGNS!”

Introduction: The story of Wedgewood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

I. JOHN SHARES A GREAT CONCLUSION (11:15 – 17)

- The seventh angel “sounded” his trumpet.
- This is not the same as “the last trumpet” of I Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Instead of calling for the Rapture of the church, the seventh trumpet will call for prolonged waves of judgment.

Joel 2:1 – 2

Biblical Descriptions of the Devil

- Accuser (Rev. 12:10)
- The adversary (1 Peter 5:8)
- Beelzebul (Matthew 12:24)
- Belial (2 Cor. 6:15)
- The dragon (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9)
- The evil one (John 17:15)
- The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- The Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:1)
- The Roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- The ruler of demons (Mark 3:22)
- The ruler of this world (John 12:31)
- The serpent of old (Rev. 12:9; 20:3)
- The tempter (1 Thess. 3:5)
- The devil (Matt. 4:1)
- Satan (1 Timothy 5:15)
1st. Our God reigns because He is powerful. “The Almighty”

2nd. Our God reigns because He is eternal. “Who are and who were…”

3rd. Our God reigns because He is sovereign. “He has taken…great power and …begun to reign.”

II. JOHN SEES COMING ATTRACTIONS (11)

1st. The nations of the world are enraged!

2nd. The Great White Throne is seen! (Revelation 20:11 – 15)

3rd. Old Testament and Tribulation saints are rewarded!

4th. God will destroy those who destroy the earth!

THE APPEARING OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
(Old Testament Names and Their Importance)

- Mercy: “The Ark of Testimony”
- Throne: “The Ark of God”
- Intimacy: “The Holy Ark” Jeremiah 29:11; 1 John 2:28
- Energy: “The Ark of God’s Strength”

WHY IS JOHN’S VISION IMPORTANT TODAY?

1. The Lord is inclusive, not exclusive. “the Temple was open”

2. Once a relationship is established in Christ, it is settled! 2 Peter 3:9

3. Instead of receiving His judgment, you may be rescued. 1 Thessalonians 1:10

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Most believers may be able to see the threat from earthly enemies, but do not realize there is an unseen warfare being waged in the heavens. In this war of the universe, good and evil struggle for supremacy.

I. THE WONDERS: SPANNING THE BREATH OF HUMAN HISTORY (12:1 – 6)

- The Greek term *semeion* translated as “sign” is used 48 times in the New Testament.
- The term “appeared” is past tense (aorist) meaning “to see.” John sees the past here.

1st. The radiant woman is Israel! (12:1 – 2)

2nd. The red dragon is the devil! (12:3 – 4)

3rd. The Lord Jesus Christ is the child! (12:5 – 6)

The whole life and purpose of Jesus from His earthly ministry to His millennial kingdom reign is described here:

- His Incarnation: “She gave birth to a son, a male child…”
- His Ascension: “Her child was caught up to God and to His throne…”
Harpozo, “to snatch away,” is used in Acts 8:39; 2 Corinthians 12:3 – 4; 1 Thessalonians 4:17)

   ○ His Dominion! “…rule the nations with a rod of iron…” Psalm 2:9

II. THE WAR: SUPERNATURAL FORCES CLASH! (12:7 – 17)

1st. There is a vision of angelic conflict. (12:7 – 8)
Daniel 10:13; Jude 9

2nd. The devil is vanquished from heaven. (12:9)

   • The great dragon – fierce, destructive nature
   • The serpent of old – crafty cunnings
   • The devil – “slanderer, accuser”
   • An accuser of the brethren – he hates believers
   • Satan – Adversary
   • One who deceives – 2 Corinthians 4:4

3rd. There is victory over the devil here (12:10 – 17)

   • The tribulation saints overcome Satan by the blood
   • The tribulation saints overcome Satan by their testimony
   • The tribulation saints overcome Satan by their commitment to the Lord

DEALING WITH THE DEVIL TODAY!
(How to secure and maintain spiritual victories)

   • Keep being alert to evil. 1 Peter 5:8
   • Recognize the life and death battle you face! John 10:10
      • Dress for success! Ephesians 6:10 – 18
      • Know which way to turn. James 4:7
         • Radically live for Jesus!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
John is the only New Testament writer who used the term “antichrist” in his epistles. He shows the antichrist is “against Christ” and “pretends to be Christ.”

1 John 2:18, 22; 4:1, 3; 2 John 7

I. THE ANTICHRIST IS FORSEEN IN PROPHECY

From His virgin birth to the cross, Satan has opposed Christ:

- Attempting to kill the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:6)
- Destroy Jesus through temptation (Matthew 4:1 – 10)
- Shove Jesus off a cliff (Luke 4:28 – 30)
- Conquer Jesus at the cross

Daniel’s Insight into the Antichrist

1st. The prophecy of a preacher!

- An intellectual genius (Daniel 7:6, 20)
- An outstanding speaker (Daniel 7:8)
- A master politician (Daniel 11:21)
- A commercial wizard (Daniel 8:25a)
- A military mastermind (Daniel 7:23)
- A religious leader

2nd. The seer of a statue! (Daniel 2:31 – 32)

- “Head of…fine gold” Babylon
- “Breasts and arms of silver” Medo – Persians
- “Belly and thighs of bronze” Greeks
- “Legs of iron” Romans
- “Feet partly of iron and partly of clay” The Antichrist
3rd. The leader rises out of the sea! (Revelation 13:1 – 18)

The vision John witnessed was dreamt by Daniel (7:2 – 8) with astounding similarities. John sees the animals in reverse. He looked back while Daniel looked forward.

A. His alliance is unquestioned (13:1)

B. His authority is unhindered (13:2b)

C. His approval is widespread (13:4 – 5)

D. His agenda is clear (13:6 – 8)
   o Defaming (6)
   o Destroying (7a)
   o Dominating (7b)
   o Deluding (8 – 9) 2 Thessalonians 2:10 – 12

E. His association will be recognized (13:11 – 18)

Satan is a counterfeit Father (12:3 – 4); the Antichrist is a counterfeit Jesus (13:1 – 10); the false prophet is a counterfeit Holy Spirit (13:11 – 18).

Traits of the False Prophet

- Deceiving Character (13:11) Matthew 24:11; 24
- Dynamic Charisma (13:12)
- Deadly Techniques (13:13 – 18)
  o He will employ miracles
  o He will use a special mark “…a mark on the right hand, or on their forehead…”

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“A PROPHETIC CAMEO!”

Generally, chapters 6 – 11 of Revelation proclaim, “Bad news, you lose!” Now the message focuses upon God’s people. The good news is, “We win!”

From this point forward, we see the benefits of a world rescued by God Himself.

I. Hallelujah: Our Lord is on His Mountain! (14:1 – 5)

Having finished their testimony, John sees the Tribulation saints standing, ready to receive their reward from the Lord Jesus Himself. Look at their profile:

1st. John mentions their position! (14:1)

John 10:27 – 30

2nd. John notices their praising! (14:2 – 3)

Ephesians 2:4 – 10

3rd. John observes their purity! (14:4 – 5)

- They were consecrated to the Lord. “…they kept themselves chase…”

- They were converted to the Lord. “as the first fruits to God and to the Lamb…”

- They had character for the Lord. “…no lie was found in their mouth…”
II. HORROR: ANGELS ANNOUNCE GOD’S JUDGMENT (14:6 – 20)

1st. There is a petition of an endless gospel. (14:6 – 7)
1 Peter 1:12.
Angels call for repentance with the words, “Fear God and give Him glory!”

2nd. There is a prediction of an evil fall. (14:8)
“Babylon” is a financial and spiritual hub of the devil, responsible for supernaturally intoxicating the entire world.

3rd. There is pronouncement of everlasting torment. (14:9 – 11)

4th. There is praise for the overcomers! (14:12 – 13)
Psalm 116:15; Philippians 1:21

5th. There is preparation for eternal reaping! (14:14 – 16)

6th. They portray the battle of Armageddon! (14:17 – 20)
Zechariah 14:2 – 4

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“THE FINAL PLAGUES!”

The blowing of the last seven trumpets signals when this world is to “become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” Final preparations for the millennial reign are made as the seven bowls of wrath are poured out.

John gives us another glimpse of heaven to encourage us. We are never alone…ever!

I. PREPARATION: THE LORD’S JUDGMENT IS FINISHED! (15:1 – 8)

The term “finished” is the same word used at Calvary when Jesus died. At the cross, our sin debt was paid in full. But for those who reject the finished work of Jesus on their behalf find God’s patience is finished. His attitude toward judgment is a settled issue.

John:
1st. Looks at exalted victors! (15:2)

2nd. Listens to their song of victory! (15:3 – 4)

3rd. Learns for the Tabernacle vision! (15:5 – 8)

The Tabernacle witnesses against man, always reminding that no one comes to God in his own merits. There’s only one door and one light. There’s only one way to God and He alone lights our mind.

Contents of the Ark of the Covenant

- A second set of Mosaic Tablets: A rejection of God’s perfect moral law
  - Manna: A rejection of God’s perfect provision
- Aaron’s rod that sprouted: A rejection of God’s chosen leadership
II. PROGRESSION: THE LORD’S WRATH IS INTENSIFIED! (16:1 – 20)

Bowl # 1: People are struck with sores (16:2)

(Similar to the 6th Egyptian plague in Exodus 9:8 – 12)

Bowls # 2 and #3: Water is polluted around the world. (16:3 – 7)

(Similar to the 1st Egyptian Plague in Exodus 7:14 – 25)

Bowl # 4: There is a world-wide heatwave! (16:8 – 9)
Luke 21:25; Malachi 4:1

Bowl # 5: A kingdom is covered in darkness. (16:10 – 11)
Isaiah 60:2; Joel 2:2; Mark 13:24

Bowl # 6: The armies of the world assemble. (16:12 – 16)

The Five Campaigns of Armageddon

- Arab – African confederacy attacks Israel. (Daniel 11:40)
- Middle East and Russian armies “king of the north” attack Israel. Daniel 11:40 – 45)
- The Revived Roman Empire rushes to Israel’s defense. (Daniel 9:27)
- Russian army destroyed by European forces (Daniel 11:45b; Ezekiel 38:18 – 19:5)
- 200 million man army (China) crosses the Euphrates River to attack Israel.

Bowl # 7: The worse natural devastation ever known! (16:17 – 21)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Paul highlights the kind of faith which will be pervasive in the last days describing it as “dangerous.” He says, “men will be…holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.”

I. A BIBLICAL REVIEW OF SPIRITUAL MASQUERADING!

Romans 1:22 – 25; 2 Corinthians 4:3 – 4; Genesis 11:9

1st. A Masquerade begins! “Let us…” is used four times showing the self-will in framing religion.

2nd. A Motivator behind the Masquerade! (Genesis 10:8 – 10a)

“Babel” means, “gate of God.”

3rd. A Motif of the Antichrist!

Pictures of the Antichrist through Nimrod

1. His name means, “rebel”.

2. His approach is pushy. “Mighty” in Hebrew Text suggests, “presumption before the Lord.”

3. His influence is “mighty.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

4. His authority is a kingdom. (Genesis 10:10a)

5. His headquarters is Babel.
II. JOHN DISCERNS SPIRITUAL MASQUERADING! (17:1 – 6)

_The Four Women of the Apocalypse_

- *Jezebel (2:20)*
- *Israel (12:1)*
- *The Harlot (17:1 – 18; 24)*
- *The Bride of Christ (19:7)*

John details the Harlot:

1. There is demonic scope! (17:1)

2. There is demonic synergy! (17:2)

3. There is demonic support! (17:3)

4. There is demonic substance and symbols! (17:4 – 5)

5. There is demonic slaughter (17:6)

III. THEN, THERE’S THE REST OF THE STORY (17:8 – 18)

1. The Antichrist will be esteemed by the world. (17:8 -13)

2. The Antichrist will eliminate the religious system. (17:14 – 16)

3. The Antichrist will execute God’s purposes. (17:17)

_Even so, come Lord Jesus!_
THE UNVEILING  
STUDIES IN REVELATION  
STUDY GUIDE  

Dr. John S. Powers  
Study # 29  
Revelation 18:1 – 24  

“THE COLLAPSE OF A KINGDOM!”

When God builds something, it stays and when He appoints something to fall, it comes down! Revelation 18 describes the commercial collapse of Babylon.

I. WHAT IS BABYLON?

- The wealthy, intriguing and immoral city of Babylon is mentioned 260 times in the Bible.  
- It is the center of astrology, witchcraft and demonism.  
- It was the first great empire of the Gentile world; home of Nebuchadnezzar.  
- This city held Jews captive for 70 years

**Babylon and the Apocalypse**

- Babylon will actually exist. (Isaiah 13:6 – 7; Zechariah 5:5 – 11)
- Babylon is a system of life. It represents what man can do apart from God.
- Babylon has become an economic system.

II. A DECLARATION: FOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ANGELS! (18:1 – 24)

*Declaration # 1: Reasons why Babylon is condemned! (18:2 – 3; 5 – 8)*

Duel terms, “Fallen, fallen” indicate this event has already occurred in God’s mind. Why will the great commercial system of Babylon fall?

A. She is a habitation for rebellion. (18:2)

B. She has influenced others to sin. (18:3)

C. Babylon forgets that God remembers! (18:5 – 6)

D. Babylon boasts in self – glory. (18:7 – 8)
Declaration # 2: A Reason why saints are consecrated. (18:4)

1 John 2: 15 – 17

Declaration # 3: A Reason men will cry. (18:9 – 19)

Matthew 16:26

Declaration # 4: A Reason why saints celebrate! (18:20 – 24)

III. A DECISION: MEETING MATERIALISM FACE – TO – FACE!

Psalm 119:9, 11; Luke 12:16 – 21

- Materialism creates an image that you are God, so be wise!

- Materialism makes you think your body is your soul, so beware!

- Materialism will lead you to believe time is eternal, so don’t be blind!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
There is little comparison to this study. There are several contrasts:

- There are two suppers
- There is the response to Jesus

I. AN ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE! (19:1 – 7a)

“Hallelujah” resounds through heaven four times in our text. Repeated 24 times in Psalms and translated as “praise the Lord,” but only hear in the New Testament. John notes three reasons for such praise:

Reason # 1: God’s righteous judgments! (19:1 – 4)

Reason # 2: God’s reign is powerful! (19:5 – 6)

Reason # 3: God’s redeemed ones celebrate! (19:7)

II. AN ADORING BY THE BRIDE! (19:7b – 10)

New Testament Teachings of the Bridegroom

Matthew 9:15; Matthew 22:1 – 14;
Matthew 25:1 – 10;
John 3:29 – 30;
Ephesians 5:15 – 27; 32
1st. Three Steps to Marriage (19:7)

- Contract
- Courtship
- Consummation

2nd. The Wedding Garments (19:8)

3rd. The Invitation (19:9)

III. AN ADVENT TO THE MOUNTAIN (19:11 – 16)

Acts 1:8 – 11; Zechariah 14:4 – 8

1st. His nature (19:11 – 12a)

2nd. His Names (19:12 – 16a)

IV. ARMAGEDDON! (19:17 – 21)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
Three Millennial Views

Postmillennialism: The Kingdom is figurative.

They believe the world will experience global revival. Things will be better because the gospel is spread. They believe Jesus returns after the Millennium. Today is masked as, “Dominion Theology.”

Amillennialism: There is no Kingdom.

They believe when Christ returns, He takes out all believers (sheep), condemns all unbelievers (goats) and eternity begins immediately. It allegorizes prophecies about the Kingdom; teaches the Church fulfills the millennium and Christ reigns this world through the Church.

Premillennialism: The Kingdom is literal.

They believe Christ returns physically to the earth before the 1000-year reign begins. He sets up the throne of David in a rebuilt Jerusalem. Three reasons why we need a millennium:

- Rewarding of God’s people (Isaiah 40:10)
- Redeeming of God’s creation
- Reemphasize man’s depravity

I. THE PROMISE: THE KINGDOM WAS FORSEEN BY THE PROPHETS!

1st. Christ’s Kingdom will be political! (Psalm 2:6 – 8; Isaiah 11:3b – 4b)

2nd. Christ’s Kingdom will be spiritual! (Isaiah 9:6 – 7; 62:2 – 4; Jeremiah 23:6)

3rd. Christ’s Kingdom will be physical! (Isaiah 11:6 – 9; 29:18; 33:24; 35:5 – 6: 65:20)
II. THE PRISONER: THE KINGDOM WILL INCARCERATE THE DEVIL! (20:1 – 3)

III. THE PLAN: THE KINGDOM WILL HAVE A CORONATION DAY! (20:4 – 6)

Those numbered among the First resurrection: (a) Old Testament saints (Daniel 7:18; 27); (b) the twelve apostles (Matthew 19:27 – 28); (c) New Testament saints (1 Corinthians 6:2a; Jude 14)

   Phase # 1: The resurrection of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 15:20 – 25)

   Phase # 2: The Rapture!

   Phase # 3: The resurrection of OT saints. (Daniel 12:20; Isaiah 26:19)

IV. THE PURPOSE: AN IMPORTANT QUESTION IS ANSWERED! (20:7 – 10)

   Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“THE GREAT WHITE THRONE!”

“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

Hebrews 9:27

Destination determines planning and it also shapes our response to life.

I. A GLOSSARY OF ETERNAL TERMS

1st. The Abyss or Bottomless Pit. (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Luke 8:31)

It is where certain demons have been chained and where Satan is bound for 1000 years

2nd. Sheol (O.T) or Hades (N.T). 1 Peter 3:18 – 19; Ephesians 4:8 – 10)

Divided into two compartments. The Righteous are in Paradise; the Unrighteous are in a place of torment. This is not hell but it is tormenting.

3rd. Hell or the Lake of Fire. (Mark 9:44, 346, 48, Matthew 13:42b)

Hebrew term is “topheth,” Greek term is “Gehenna.” Our text calls hell “the lake of fire.” Presently, no one is in the lake of fire. People who die without Christ go to Hades, the waiting place for the unrighteous dead. This is not vacation; not Purgatory.

II. SOME MYTHS ABOUT HELL

Myth # 1: Hell is an imaginary place!

Jesus spoke five time more often about hell than He did of Heaven.
Myth # 2: Hell is a momentary place!

Called, “annihilationism,” there are those who believe hell is a real place that God will utterly destroy the soul.

John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9

Myth # 3: Hell is a temporary place! (Luke 16:19 – 31)

Truths about Eternal nature of Hell

- A place of eternal pain and darkness (Matthew 8:12)
- A place of unquenchable fire (Mark 9:48)
- A place torment (New Testament uses this term 15 times meaning, “conscious suffering”)
- A place of distressful agony
- A place of separation and loneliness
- A place of haunting memories

III. A GLIMPSE AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE (Revelation 20:11 – 15)

1st. An appointment: There is a resurrection of sinners (11 – 12a)

2nd. An accounting: The righteousness of Jesus is seen (12b – 15)

Books that are opened at the Great White Throne

- The Book of Conscience (Romans 2:15)
- The Book of Words (Matthew 12:37)
- The Book of Secret Words (Romans 2:16)
- The Book of Public Words/Works (Matthew 16:27)
- The Book of Life (Revelation 20:12, 15)

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
“Whoever has lived long enough to find out what life is, know how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to Adam, the first benefactor of our race. He brought death into the world.”

Mark Twain
“The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson”

I. THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN

“What the Bible says about heaven is just as true as what it says about everything else.”

D. L Moody

The Bible refers to “heaven” 550 times.

- Hebrew term is, shamayim meaning, “the heights.”
- Greek term is, Ouranos meaning, “that which is raised up or lofty.”

Both terms may be used in three settings:

A. The atmospheric heaven – Isaiah 55:9; Psalm 147:8
B. The planetary heaven – Genesis 1:14, 16 – 17
C. The divine heaven


II. THE PICTURE OF HEAVEN (21:1 – 8)

Four facts John marks of “the holy city, the new Jerusalem.”

1st. The Pattern: Heaven will be a new creation (21:1)
The Greek term “new” stresses new in kind; not new as opposed to old. Same word describing the new nature of a Christian in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

2 Peter 3:10; 12

2nd. The Provision: Heaven will have a new capital. (21:2)

- The New Jerusalem is “the holy city.”
- The New Jerusalem is “a beautiful city.” “as a bride adored for her husband.”
- The New Jerusalem is “a prepared city.” (John 14:1 – 3)

3rd. The Preparation: Heaven will be a new community. (21:3 – 4)

A. There is no separation (21:1b) “no longer any more sea.”
B. There is no sadness (21:4a) God will, “wipe away every tear…”
C. There is no sorrow (21:4b) “no longer be any death, mourning, crying, pain.”

4th. The Preservation: Heaven will be sheltered in a new covenant. (21:5 – 8)

A. Heaven will be glorious! (21:6a) “It is done.”
B. Heaven will be gratifying! (21:6b – 7a)
C. Heaven will be guarded! (7b – 8)

APPLICATIONS

- Because Heaven is true, choose the essential over the nonessential! (Colossians 3:1 – 4)
- Because Heaven is true, determine not to go alone!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!