

New Testament Studies
Year #4
NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

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The Book of Revelation

Lesson 1 – Introduction

There is no way we could exhaust the prophetic passages of the New Testament and write a commentary on them in a thousand volumes, but we want to share in this one volume some of the things with which God has blessed our hearts over the years as we have studied the subject; and especially from the Book of Revelation.

The other day I heard a radio preacher say he had pretty much given up on trying to match current events with what the Bible said in prophetic passages. I feel sorry for that man and any others who may feel the same way. God gave us His Word for the very purpose of keeping us thrilled with what has happened, is happening, and what will happen.

While we may not always agree with every little detail of Bible prophecy, it is given to us for our encouragement, enlightenment, and our witness to others who fear what the future holds.

First and foremost, Bible prophecy is meant for the benefit of the Born-again Christian; secondly, it is meant for the conviction of the lost, and to be a source of motivation to the lost to prepare for eternity. As there is a lack of preaching on individual sins, repentance, and hell today, there is also a drought of preaching on the subject of what God says concerning what is coming. I am sure if you knew as you drove down the street, that at the next intersection a drunk driver was going to run a red light and crash into the driver's side of your car, you would do something about it before you got to the next intersection: likewise, I am sure that if the world knew Jesus Christ was coming for His Church tomorrow morning, you, as a Christian, would find your phone ringing off the hook for the remainder of the day today, and for all the night hours. The fact is, we can know what is in the immediate future and use it to win many others to Christ who otherwise would spend eternity in hell. WE KNOW.

God has even pronounced a special blessing for those who read, hear, and keep the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1:3).

Please read the following treatment, pray about it, and look up the references for yourself before sitting in condemnation and judgment on the

following material having to do with the subject of Bible prophecy. If you intend to approach it with a closed mind, do not read it: pass it on to someone who needs it.

I do not claim to be always right. God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us be as close to right as possible. According to I Corinthians 2:14, we should be able to have enough understanding to receive what He wants us to understand.

Lesson 2 – Dispensations

There are very obviously seven dispensations of time in God's Word. A dispensation is a period of time during which God deals with mankind by a certain means. It is also obvious that as we progress through the little over six thousand years since creation that each successive dispensation becomes more complex and closer to fulfilling God's complete plan for mankind's restoration, not only to where he was before he sinned and brought death into the world, but far better: in a state of perfection in an eternal present tense with Him in eternity.

Dispensation #1 – The dispensation of Innocence

This dispensation would span the period from the creation of man until the sin of the man and woman in the Garden of Eden. During this dispensation God fellowshiped and communicated with man person to person since both the man and the woman were innocent and had not sinned, bringing death to the entire human race, a curse upon the entire creation, and separation between themselves and God, (Genesis chapter 3). All mankind did during this time was fellowship directly with God, enjoy a perfect environment, eat all kinds of edible plants and the fruit thereof, and obey God's one commandment He had given them (Genesis 2:17).

Dispensation #2 – The dispensation of Conscience

This dispensation would span from the fall of man to the flood. During this time there was no law, nor was there any government to enforce any law. God spoke directly to those whom He wanted to use. The most distinguished mark of this dispensation is found in chapters four and five of Genesis where we read the genealogy of the righteous line from Adam through Noah.

Dispensation #3 – The dispensation of Human Government

This dispensation would have covered the period of time from the flood to Abraham and the beginning of the patriarchs and the great leaders. The seal of this dispensation was the rainbow which was a continual sign of God's faithfulness and immutability. Indications of the nature of this dispensation are found in Genesis chapters eight and nine. It is best remembered for the beginning of capital punishment.

Dispensation #4 – Dispensation of Patriarchs and the Great leaders

This dispensation is punctuated with the accomplishments of men such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. It extends from the birth of Abraham to the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. The seal of this dispensation was circumcision and the distinguishing mark was the Palestinian Covenant found in Genesis chapter fifteen. Of course the best remembered incident in this period is the exodus.

Dispensation #5 – is the dispensation of the Law

This dispensation reaches from the giving of the Law of God through Moses at Mount Sinai to the completion of the redemptive work of Christ on Calvary, His resurrection and the Day of Pentecost. During this time period, the people who were of the righteous line were those who lived by the standard of the Law, but were saved by faith in the promise of a coming Savior. The seal of this dispensation was the Decalogue: the Ten Commandments.

Dispensation #6 – Is the dispensation of Grace.

This dispensation reaches from the Day of Pentecost to the rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ. We are now living in this dispensation. It is marked by an escalation of apostasy, as seen in Revelation chapters two and three and the righteous line is made up of those who place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. These do not enter the Tribulation Period. See the end of Revelation three which ends the Church Age, and the beginning of chapter four which sets forth in type a spiritualization of the rapture of the Church.

Dispensation #7 – Dispensation of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

It begins with the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His earthly Kingdom for a thousand years. The righteous line will be made up of all the redeemed from the beginning of time until the second coming of Christ. It is marked by a completely righteous reign of Jesus Christ over the entire world, aided by the Church; the redeemed from the Dispensation of Grace. The earth will be returned to its pristine condition which it enjoyed before the fall of man. There will be unsaved people during this period, however, who will have to make their own decision about Christ. Revelation 19:11-20:1-6

Lesson 3 – Study of Revelation

Revelation – the great capstone of the pyramid of God’s Truth. It is said to be the perfect structure, and is a symbol of both the Word of God and

The New Jerusalem.

1. 1st level – The Pentateuch, the foundation of the pyramid.
2. 2nd level – Old Testament History Books (Joshua through Esther)
3. 3rd level – Old Testament Poetry Books (Job through Song of Solomon)
4. 4th level – Old Testament Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi)
5. 5th level – The Four Biographies (Matthew through John)
6. 6th level – The New Testament History Book (Acts)
7. 7th level – The Pauline Epistles (Romans through Philemon)
8. 8th level – Hebrews and General Epistles (Hebrews through Jude)
9. 9th level – The Capstone of New Testament Prophecy (Revelation)

Revelation is the consummation of all which begins in Genesis.

1. God created Heaven and Earth – New Heaven and New Earth
2. Sun, Moon and Stars set to rule the day and night – No sun needed for Christ is the light.
3. Satan comes to tempt and destroy – Satan cast in the Lake of Fire
4. Man banished from the Tree of life – Free access to Tree of Life
5. Earthly Paradise lost – Heavenly Paradise gained.
6. Man and woman set over God’s creation – Christ with the Church to rule over all.
7. First sacrificial lamb killed – Lamb of God on the throne.
8. Beginning of sin – Sin banished forever.
9. Rise of the wicked system of Babylonianism – Babylon is destroyed.
10. The beginning of sorrow, pain, and death – No more sorrow, pain, or death

There are three ways to study the Book of Revelation:

1. Preterit, or past tense – Giving everything a political significance built around the earthly history of Christianity and Rome, ending in seventy A.D.
2. Historic – All of the events have taken place in these 2000 years of Church history, and the vials, trumpets and seals of God are the events of the end of age.
3. Futuristic – See 1:19 – The events of the book are divided into three parts.
 - a. Chapter one – The things which John had seen, or the past tense.

- b. Chapters two and three – the things which are, or the Church Age, or the Age of Grace.
- c. Chapters 4-22 – Things which are to come after the rapture of the Church.

Why do so many Christians fail to “read and keep” the Book of Revelation?

- 1. Many think it is too hard to understand.
- 2. A surprising number do not think it is important.
- 3. Many think it is equal to a science fiction novel, and don’t believe it.
- 4. It is the only Book of the Bible that begins and ends with a special reward For those who read and keep (obey) its message. See 1:3 and 22:7. Why would any serious Christian want to lose out on this kind of promise?

How to understand it:

I am a literalist. By this, I mean that, unless the Bible otherwise indicates it, it should be taken literally. The first verse of the first chapter of the Book of Revelation gives us an indication of how it should be understood. As I said, I am a literalist, but I believe the Book of Revelation is a book of literal incidents which have taken place (chapter one), are taking place (chapters 2, 3), and will take place (chapters 4-22), but that they are presented in symbols. Why do I believe this?

1. Verse one says: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants, things which shall shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His Angel unto His servant John.” Note the words, “signified it.” which, according to Thayers Greek Lexicon means, “to make known,” with the Greek prefix epsilon means, “to make known out. In other words, it is set apart from the literal by using symbols. Remember, these are literal incidents that are going to happen. The reason a special blessing is pronounced on all who read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy is that, in order to understand the Book of Revelation, one must search the Scriptures to find what the symbols mean elsewhere and apply them to the incident at hand. For instance, we have no problem using the word “lion” to represent royalty, or, a King in an obviously symbolic setting. The Gospel of Matthew represents Christ as the King and His Kingdom when it is represented, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament by the lion. If you and I want the blessing of the Book of Revelation, we must search the Scriptures to find the meanings of the symbols used in Revelation.

- 2. The Book is a book of Revelation, singular. Note the order in which it was given:
 - a. God inspired a revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - b. God gave it unto Christ, His Son.
 - c. God’s Son gave it to an Angel (messenger).
 - d. The Angel gave it to John by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- e. John recorded it for God's servants.
- f. It is a revelation of the person of God's only begotten Son and what He is going to do to carry out the resurrection and judgment of both saved and unsaved.

The Trinity is present with Grace at the beginning of this drama. Vs 4-8

There is only one God, but He is manifested in three persons. I often illustrate the trinity thusly:

God the Father is the originator

God the Son is the executor

God the Holy Spirit is the administrator

Verse four is a direct reference to God the Father: Which is, which was, and which is to come. This is the "I Am" of Exodus.

Verse four is a direct reference to the Holy Spirit. You might say, "I thought there was only one Holy Spirit." There is. This is speaking of the seven faces, so to speak, of the Holy Spirit found in Isaiah 11:2, "

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| 1. The Spirit of the Lord | 5. The Spirit of might |
| 2. The Spirit of wisdom | 6. The Spirit of knowledge |
| 3. The Spirit of understanding | 7. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord |
| 4. The Spirit of counsel | |

Here is one of those symbols of which we spoke earlier.

Verses five through eight speak of God the Son, Jesus Christ

He is the faithful witness on the earth, of the Trinity. He is the first begotten from the dead; that is, He is the person of the Godhead who blazed the path for all who would be raised from the dead in the future. He is the Prince of the kings of the earth who will be, when He inherits, the King of King and Lord of Lords. He has promised to come again to the earth with His own at the end of the tribulation period. Jesus claimed the title that belongs to Him: Eternity, or "I Am."

Lesson 4 – Revelation 1:9-20

John has been exiled to the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea by the Roman ruler Domitian for the preaching of the Gospel. God causes the wrath of men to praise Him. Were it not for Domitian's exile of John we would not have Revelation. The greatest blessings of God are brought forth in pain. We have the Scriptures because others suffered. The Church is alive today because someone suffered. Salvation is ours today because Christ suffered. Every Christian should read the book, Fox's Book of Martyrs, by John Fox.

John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day.

John was on the Island of Patmos because he preached the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ. Many people go to church on Sunday, but few in the Spirit. To be in the Spirit means:

- a. The same as walking in the Spirit.
- b. It means to be led or controlled by the Spirit of God.
- c. It also means to be in a spirit of worship.

The Lord's day is not to be confused with the Sabbath.

- a. Sabbath rest – part of God's covenant with Israel. Exodus 31:14-17
- b. Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath – He arose on the first day of the week and He is the Christian's rest.
- c. Some say that the Sabbath is never said to have been done away within the N. T., but it is never said to be for Christians in the New Testament
- d. It is never given importance after the resurrection. Jesus Christ is the rest for the Christian.

Voice as of a trumpet: See reasons for the trumpets in the Book of Numbers, chapter 10:1-10. Moses was commanded to make trumpets when they were still at Mount Sinai. They were to be used for a number of purposes:

1. They were used to gather all of Israel together.
2. They were used to call the Princes of the tribe together.
3. They were used as a call to war.
4. They were to signal at the approach of an enemy or of danger.

The Revelation of the Risen Christ – Division one: Things that have been:

The person in this revelation refers to Himself as Deity. (Vs 11)

The Seven Churches listed in this verse are all to be found on the map on the previous page. They form somewhat of an ellipse in the western half of Asia Minor. These are the same Churches listed in chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation, and I believe they represent seven divisions of

the Church Age, or the Age of Grace beginning with the Day of Pentecost and ending with the rapture of the Church. Throughout early Church history we find that the Church at Ephesus, the first listed here and in chapter two, was probably the largest and most important of the seven, but we may find that this is not necessarily true. Christ is found in the midst of the Churches. An interesting fact that is found from Genesis through Revelation is that God always desires to dwell in the midst of His people; for Him to be their God, and for them to be His people. As we read through the Bible, our first contact with the Church at Ephesus is on Paul's third missionary journey. Many people teach that Paul planted the Church at Ephesus on this second journey, but the Bible does not tell us that. A Book entitled "What happened to the Twelve Disciples" suggests that the Churches western Asia Minor were all originally planted by the Apostle John. It is true that Paul spent an extended period of time at Ephesus on the third missionary journey, and that it was from here that he wrote our I Corinthians. In the opening of I Timothy we find that Paul, during the period of freedom between the two Roman imprisonments left Timothy to pastor at Ephesus for a time. But an abundance of extra-Biblical material has John pasturing for many years in the latter part of his active ministry. It was there that he died and was buried, and it was there that he provided a home for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

When John turned to see the voice that spoke with him, he saw seven golden candlesticks, (lamp stands). Verse twenty tells us that the seven golden candlesticks were the seven Churches, (Verse 12). The Churches are probably represented by lamp stands since light is a symbol of truth or illumination intellectually. In this case they seem to represent the testimony of each division of the Church Age, or that which distinguishes each division.

The one whom John saw (verses 12-17) standing in the midst of the seven golden candle sticks was like the son of man; in other words, he had the general appearance of a human man. There were, however several things that set Him apart from just any man.

1. He was clothed with a garment down to the feet. This is not unusual, but, in this case, this was the High Priest's garment.
2. He had a golden girdle (wide sash) about His chest. This would indicate Deity. This is none other than the glorified Christ, our eternal High Priest who is our mediator, and the only mediator between God and man. See First Timothy 2:5. Christ crucified, buried, risen, ascended, Church Age beginning.
3. His head and His hair was white like wool; as white as snow. Prophetically, white hair denotes omniscience.
4. His eyes were as a flame of fire. This speaks of judgment. Since the risen Christ stands in the midst of the seven Churches, he means to judge each on the merits of their testimony and faithfulness to God's Word.
5. His feet were as fine brass as though they had been burned in a furnace. Brass also speaks of judgment. The risen Christ is walking among the Churches, judging them as He walks.
6. His voice was as the sound of many waters. See Ezekiel 1:7 and 43:2: A loud commanding voice speaks of absolute authority.
7. He had in His right hand (hand of authority and power) seven stars: Stars, prophetically, speak of important personages. Verse twenty tells us that the seven stars are the seven Angels (Messengers) of the seven Churches who carry the messages to the Churches in chapters two and three.

8. Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. The Sword speaks of the Word of God. The Word of God is the standard by which Christ will judge the Churches in chapters two and three.
9. His countenance was as the sun shineth in its strength. This reminds us of the light that Paul saw on the Damascus Road, which left him blind for three days. Light represents Truth, and Christ is absolute Truth. See John 14:6 and John 17:17

When John saw Him he fell at his feet as dead. The glorified Christ laid His hand on John and said unto him, "Fear not; I am the first (Alpha) and the last (Omega)." "I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

John is told to write the things which he had seen (Past-chapter one), the things which are: the Church Age (present-chapters two and three), and the things which will be hereafter (future-chapters 4-22).

Lesson 5 - Chapters two and three – Division two-The Church Age.

There are different ideas as to where and when the Church Age began, but there was no Church until the Day of Pentecost. There are also differences of opinion as to when it ends, but the Church will continue at least until the rapture, at which time the true Church will be caught up to be with the Lord. I personally believe the Church age (the age of grace) began with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and will end with the Rapture of the Church. Christians do not agree on when the rapture will take place, but we know it has to be before Christ returns in His second coming to earth. At this point I should make it clear that the Rapture of the Church and the second coming of Christ to the earth are not the same event. The three main positions on the rapture are:

1. The pre-tribulation rapture: This is held by a majority of Bible-believing Christians, and holds that the Church Age ends at the end of Revelation chapter three and the seven year tribulation period begins on earth (Revelation 6:1) at the same time that the Judgment Seat of Christ begins in Heaven. It is based on many scriptures, but mainly on first Corinthians 15:51-58; first Thessalonians 4:13-18; second Thessalonians 2:1-8; and Revelation 3:22-4:3.
 2. The Mid-tribulation rapture: I do not find any Scripture that clearly suggests that the Church will go through the first half of the tribulation period, but some do. If they want to stay here for that, it is their prerogative, but I believe, although the Church may see a great deal of persecution as it always has throughout its history, the Church is clearly removed before the antichrist makes his major move to control the world, and to declare himself to be God.
 3. The Post-tribulation rapture: This is the theory that the Church is going to go through the entire tribulation, and that the rapture takes place just in time for the Church to meet the Lord in the air as He returns in the second coming. This position is often held by groups who also hold to the a-millennial position, that is, that there is no literal millennium but that Christ returns and eternity begins.
- A. The Church at Ephesus: 2:1-7 The word Ephesus means desirable. This Church represents the Apostolic period from the Day of Pentecost until the death of the Apostle John, right around the end of the first century A.D.
1. Commendable things: Jesus Christ sends the message to the Church at Ephesus saying, “These things sayeth He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;”
 - a. He commends them for their works and their labor. Vs 2
 - b. He commends them for their patience. Vs 2
 - c. He commended them for not bearing with those who are evil. Vs 2
 - d. He commends them for trying those who say they are Apostles and are not and has found them liars. Vs 2
 - e. He commends them for bearing persecution with patience. Vs 3
 - f. He commends them for laboring and not fainting. Vs 3
 2. Complaint: They had left their first love. When we read the latest books of the New Testament, which happen to be all written by John, we do not sense a loss of love for Christ, but I do not think this is a problem that permeated the entire first century Church. There are the problems of pride dealt with by Paul in the Church at Corinth. There is the problem of the Judaisers dealt with by Paul in the letters to the Churches

at the political province of Galatia, but I believe what is referred to here are the Judaisers who wanted to believe in Christ for salvation, but also were afraid to let go of the Law. They taught Christ for salvation, but a need to be circumcised and keep the Law at the same time. While there were problems here and there in the early Church, this was the one most often encountered. This was the problem that dogged Paul's ministry and threatened his earliest ministries in the Galatian Churches. If Paul wrote the Book of Hebrews, he was still battling with this error until the last days of his life. Salvation under the new covenant of grace is not Christ plus anything. Jesus paid it all. It is easy to be saved, but still hold on to the formalism of some Church you grew up in. See John 14:6

3. Remedy: Remember that (Christ) from which thou art fallen. Stop; think; remember; repent; do the first works (get busy preaching Christ, and Christ alone for salvation). Remember when He was here with you, you needed nothing else but Him. Paul made this crystal clear in the Books of Romans, Galatians, and, perhaps, Hebrews.
4. Consequences for refusing the remedy: Christ would personally come and remove their effectiveness (their candlestick). To stay up to date in this area, frequently climb up in Christ's lap, put your arms around His neck, and tell Him how much you love Him. Practice thanksgiving.
5. The reward for heeding the rebuke: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

B. The Church at Smyrna: 2:8-11 The word Smyrna means Myrrh, which is a very expensive salve used usually to prepare the body for burial. When crushed, it gave forth a sweet and pleasant aroma. It was one of the gifts the Magi brought to Jesus when they found the young child in Bethlehem. It was that with which Mary anointed Jesus at the dinner at Bethany following the raising of Lazarus. This Church represents the period of the ten major eras of persecution under Rome from the beginning of the reign of Nero to the reign of Constantine. These ten periods of horrible persecution under Rome are documented for us in the Book, "Fox's Book of Martyrs" written by John Fox at the time of the reformation. John Fox was one of the main names associated with the Reformation period. Every Christian should read this book so as to remind themselves of what it cost to preserve to unadulterated Gospel message for us in our present day. Fox's writings remind us that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.

1. Commendable things: Christ sends word to this Church that, "These things saith the first and the last, which was dead and is alive." What is the purpose of this greeting to the Church at Smyrna? Many of them would pay for their faith with their life, but those who did would live forever; because He lives.
 - a. I know thy works. Their works were the faithful propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost.
 - b. I know thy tribulation. As we have already said, this period marked ten seasons of horrible persecution at the hands of the Caesars from the hideous persecutions under Nero to the liberation under Constantine. The inhumane tortures to which the Christians were put during this period of Church history are unbelievable. Note the reference in verse ten to the "ten days of tribulation." These were ten periods of extreme persecution and hideous suffering for the name of Jesus Christ, not ten twenty four hour periods. They

encompassed many years up until about 320 A.D.

- c. I know thy poverty. These were the days in which the Christians were allowed to own much of anything but the tattered cloths on their backs. They lived in the catacombs beneath the City of Rome, in caves of the hillsides, and anywhere they could escape the vicious hatred of the Caesars. They ate whatever they could find in other's garbage and never knew at what hour their lives would be required of them, yet they continued to give forth the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Church grew rapidly in spite of the persecution.
 - d. In spite of all this, God says that they were rich. How could they be rich? They had Christ: they had His favor: they had His gift of eternal life in glory: they had His promise to never leave them nor forsake them. They knew that all things work together for good to them who love God: to them who are the called according to His purpose. They knew His grace was sufficient for them, for His strength was made perfect in weakness. They knew that without Him, they could do nothing.
 - e. God knew the blasphemy of them who said they were Jews and were not. There is a good bit of debate as to whom He is referring to here. Paul the Apostle states in Romans 2:28, 29, "For he is not a Jew, who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh. For he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."
2. Some of the things which they would suffer: First of all, do not fear the things that you will suffer:
- a. Many of them would be placed in prison for their faith so that they can be tried.
 - b. They would have tribulation ten days. Most of the time, when the word "day" is used in the Scriptures it refers to a twenty four hour period, or an actual day. This is the case in Genesis chapter one. But in some cases the context makes it clear that the word "day" refers to an indefinite period of time. This is such a case. John Fox's Book, "Fox's Book of Martyrs" tells us of ten definite periods of extreme persecution under the Roman Empire which correspond to this very statement. His documented incidents that took place during these ten periods of persecution will make one's hair curl and their skin crawl.
 - c. Reward for faithfulness: Those who are faithful unto death will receive a crown of life (eternal life). This Church and the one at Philadelphia are the only churches of the seven for which there is no reprimand. Those who, during this period, remain faithful to Christ and to sound doctrine shall not be hurt of the second death. A common phrase used by Bible-believing fundamentalists is, "Born only once, die twice: born twice, only die once. The second death is that experienced by those who reject Christ as their Savior and die without eternal life. Those who only experience physical death are those who have received Christ as their Savior and have eternal life. To be exempt from the second death is to know Christ as your Savior; and when you die physically, you are immediately present with the Lord forever. See II Corinthians 5:1-9.

C. The Church at Pergamos: 2:12-17 The name Pergamos means elevation and marriage. During this period of Church history the Church was elevated to the position of the official religion of the Roman Empire, and, as a result, became married to the world. This period began when Constantine took the throne in Rome, bringing with him the title, Pontifex Maximus (supreme ruler). This title had always graced the crown of the Caesar of Rome, but when Constantine came to the throne he officially declared Christianity to be the religion of the Roman Empire. He also considered himself to be the head of the Church, and so, a religio-political ruler over both government and the Church. The same title, Pontifex Maximus, to this day, graces the crown of the Pope of Rome. Constantine, in reality, was the first Pope, not Peter. This period of Church history reaches from the installation of Constantine as the Caesar of the Roman Empire in the early fourth century A.D. until the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D.. Wherever the Empire conquered, the Roman Church became dominant; and Apostolic doctrine was persecuted once again. Even after the fall of the Roman Empire, the grip of the Church on practically every country of the then known world remained. Read "American Freedom and Catholic Power" by Paul Blanchard. The Pope, although the Roman Church would deny it, still holds a strangle hold on almost every civilized country of the world to this day. Whenever Christianity is portrayed publicly today, it is always as the Roman Church.

1. Commendable things: Christ reminds the Church at Pergamos that He is the one with the sharp two-edged sword. The writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thought and intents of the heart." There is nothing that He does not know and see.
 - a. He says that they dwell where Satan's seat is. When Constantine ruled that Christianity was to be the religion of the Roman Empire, the Christians came out of hiding: out of the catacombs and began to function openly. Instead of taking advantage of that opportunity, however, they sat on their hands and did little to spread the Gospel. As a result, the heathen practices such as idolatry moved into the Church and the Church became deluded with idols, sacraments which converted the doctrine of the Church from graced to works. The Church, which had been made up of a network of independent local Churches, became a universal Church which demanded an ecclesiastical hierarchy with a human head: the Pope. Christ is the head of the Church, not a man. See Colossians 1:18, "And He is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." In the local Church, the head is Christ and the under-shepherd is the Pastor, (Bishop or Elder), and the Deacons (servants) are the Pastor's helpers so that he can give himself to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. See Acts 6:4. Satan's seat is where things get reversed, and the Pope is the head of a universal Church whose under-shepherds are Cardinals, then Bishops, then Priests. Salvation is by keeping the sacraments, not by grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. See Ephesians 2:8, 9. No wonder God called it Satan's seat. This is speaking of the Roman Church with its head at Rome.
 - b. He says that there are those who hold fast His name (Christian), and have not denied my faith. But as time passed, these were fewer and fewer.

- c. The name of “Antipas” here is significant. At the Council of Nicea in the fourth century, the main debate was over the Deity of Christ. Had it not been for one godly man who risked his life in standing firmly for the Deity of Christ with an irrefutable argument from the Scriptures, Unitarianism would have been orthodoxy today. His name was Athenasius. Antipus in the Latin means “one against all.” Athenasius took his stand against the Ariens, all the rest, in defense of the vital doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ. It was at this time that Constantine took the title of Pontifex Maximus in the religious sense which would mean, “High Priest of the Heathen.”
2. Things God had against the Church at Pergamus:
 - a. They had those among them who held the doctrine of Balaam. This ungodly doctrine is manifested in a story set in the last of the wilderness wanderings of Israel after their exodus from Egypt. As Israel came toward the end of their forty years of wilderness wandering, the sight of the great camp of Israel brought great fear into the heart of Balak, one of three Kings of Moab. Balak sent messengers to call Balaam, an apostate prophet to curse the Israelites for him. God told him not to go, but he went anyway, because of the riches that were offered to him. When he tried to curse Israel only blessings would come out of his mouth. This angered Balak who sent Balaam home, but before he left he advised Balak to use the women of Moab to lure the men of Israel into participating in a feast to their gods and to commit fornication with the women of Moab.
 - b. This Church also had those who held to the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes which doctrine God hates. The Nicolaitanes (Nicolaitans) held that it was all right to eat meat offered to idols, and to commit fornication. Both of these God hates. The name came from the followers of an apostate deacon in the early Church by the name of St. Nicolas. He is the man from whom we get our word Santa Clause. Isn’t that a great example to set before our children.
 3. Remedy: Repent – There are three phases to true repentance:
 - a. Phase I – Intellectual. Luke 15:17, “...and when he came to himself...” When we hit bottom and realize our hopeless condition
 - b. Phase 2 – Emotional. Luke 15:18, “...I will arise and go to my Father...” See also II Corinthians 7:10.
 - c. Phase 3 – Volitional. Luke 15:20, “... And he arose and came to his Father...” The volitional is actually doing what we know we need to do.
 4. The result of not doing what they ought to do was that God would come and fight against them with the Word of God (the Holy Spirit would convict them through the hearing or reading of the Holy Scriptures, the Sword).
 5. The reward for those who hear and do: God gave them the hidden manna to eat. The manna was always a picture, prophetically, of understanding of the Word of God so as to respond to it. We must first have understanding of it. See I Corinthians 2:14. In order to understanding we must have a spiritual birth. The one who heard God’s Word and responded to it would also receive a white stone. Often in Bible times when one was condemned by the majority, a majority would cast in a black stone, but if they were approved, they received a white stone. God is simply saying that those during this period of Church history who hear God’s reproof and respond positively to it will be accepted into eternal life. Likewise, if we will, in our sinful generation,

hear and accept the Gospel message, we will receive Christ's vote of the white stone. The one who hears and responds positively to Christ's gift of salvation will also receive a new name that only he who receives it understands. I believe that new name is "Christian." The world uses this name very loosely, but does not know the true meaning of it. Only the true believer understands its true meaning.

- D. The Church at Thyatira: 2:18-29 The word "Thyatira" means "continual sacrifice," which is a reference to the Mass. Early in the wilderness wanderings the people of Israel murmured against Moses because there was no water. God instructed Moses to take the rod that God had used so many times to perform miracles and strike the rock. The striking of the rock was a picture of the crucifixion of Christ on the cross. When Moses obeyed, water came out of the rock in abundance. Much later they again murmured against Moses and against God because they had no water. That time God told Moses to speak to the rock and the waters would again come out. See First Corinthians chapter ten and verse four which says, "...and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ." Christ only had to be crucified once to pay for the sins of all mankind forever. See Hebrews 9:28 and 10:10-14. But Christ is crucified again every time the Mass is celebrated. God refused to let Moses enter the promised land because; instead of speaking to the rock the second time, he struck it. Once we have received the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and have been born into the family of God, we don't need to be saved again, but we only need to speak to the rock and the water of life will flow. See I John 1:9. The Roman Catholic Church teaches salvation by works in that in order to be sure of eventually getting to Heaven one has to keep all the sacraments. See Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:5, 6. The Mass is blasphemy against Christ who gave His life once for the sin debt of all mankind for all time, and was raised from the dead for our justification. See Romans 4:25. The Church at Thyatira represents the period of Church history we often refer to as the dark ages. It reaches from roughly the seventh century to the reformation in the 16th century. It was the period of persecution of the true Church under Roman Catholicism.
1. Christ speaks to this church in strong judgment for we see Him coming to deal with this period of Church history with eyes of flaming fire and feet of brass, both of which speak of judgment.
 2. The closest thing to commendable in this period:
 - a. Works and Charity – This, more than any other period is known for its works of charity. The Roman Church has many official charity programs.
 - b. Service and Faith – They often disguise their quest for money with good works, and supposed efforts to encourage faith. The trouble is that these are all designed to bring in money to the Church coffers. Some of these are paying for a special Mass to help a dead loved one out of "Purgatory," or lighting a candle for some prayer to be prayed for some special need.
 - c. Patience and works – I am not sure of this, but I believe the patience he is speaking of here is patience in waiting for the Lord's return. Note the repetition in emphasis on works. Roman Catholicism is a system of works, not faith.
 3. Note also the mention of Jezebel. She was the wife of Ahab, King of the northern Kingdom of Israel. Jezebel was a Syrian from Phoenicia and brought with her the worship of Baal. When the Kingdom was divided under Rehoboam, son of

Solomon, Jeroboam, a former servant in the house of Solomon became King of the northern Kingdom of Israel. In order to keep his subjects from going back to the southern Kingdom of Judah to worship at the Temple, he made two golden calves and placed one in Bethel, and the other in Dan in the North, and told that these were their gods that had brought them up out of the house of bondage in Egypt. When Ahab became King of the Northern Kingdom he married Jezebel who added the worship of Baal to that of the golden calves. The mention of Jezebel here is simply a bit of typology likening the idolatry of the northern Kingdom of Israel to that which was being practiced in the Church at Thyatira. Roman Catholicism had not only changed the means of salvation from grace to works, but they had idolatry to their sins by praying to dead “saints,” Mary, and other idols.

4. Emphasis is heavy here on works. A large part of the Roman Catholic Church’s activities at this time was charity, exploration, education, etc. The whole system is works.
5. Jezebel – From the days of King Ahab
 - a. Tried to mix Judaism with Baal worship
 - b. Catholicism – A mixture of Judaism, Christianity and paganism.
6. Cast into the Great Tribulation – Note that the characteristics of the other churches pass at the end of their period, but the Roman Church is with us yet and will go right on into the Tribulation Period as the false church.
7. Blessings pronounced on those who stay right with God in spite of the Roman Church during the dark ages.

E. The Church at Sardis: 3:1-6 (A remnant) or (Those who have escaped)

1. Livest and art dead – Reference to state churches which came out of the Roman Catholic Church, but were dead in relation to saving faith for salvation.
2. Remaining false doctrine:
 - a. Infant baptism
 - b. Baptismal regeneration
 - c. Churchianity instead of Christianity
 - d. Covenant theology. (Trusting the birthright instead of the new birth)
3. The things which remain – the few doctrines which were still biblical.

F. The Church at Philadelphia: 3:7-13 (Brotherly love) The period of the great revivals and the preaching of the love of God.

1. The open door refers to missions and the spread of the Gospel.
2. Refers also to the spread of the Gospel in this country.
 - a. During the early history of this nation
 - b. America has been the great home base for missions.
3. Those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews but are not – Latter day Judaizers and enemies of grace.

4. The hour of temptation – Great Tribulation
5. Them that dwell upon the earth – as opposed to those whose citizenship is in Heaven.

G. The Church at Laodicea: 3:14-22 (The rights of the people) The Day of Democracy in the world and the churches. The day when the masses take over.

1. Clearly a picture of the rise of Communism and Democracy
 - a. Students for a democratic society, NAACP, Civil Liberties
2. A day of lukewarmness on the part of the church
 - a. Church is socially accepted
 - b. Church takes on the marks of the world and uses the methods of the world (Ecumenism, Union, Dialog)
3. The day of material comforts – We have started trusting them
 - a. We trust government to take care of us.
 - b. We spend more money on edifices than on missions.
4. See what we are counseled to buy.
5. Vs 20 God leaves off dealing with the organized church and turns His last efforts toward individuals.
 - a. Will you hear His voice?
 - b. Will you open the door?

Lesson 6 - Revelation 4 - “Rapture and Christ on His Throne” (4:2)

- I. Vs 1 Here we have a type of the rapture of the Church of which John is a type.
 - A. See I Thessalonians 4:14-18
 - B. See I Corinthians 15:51-58
 - C. See also II Thessalonians 2:1-7
- II. Vs 2,3 The One who occupies the Throne
 - A. Jasper stone – Probably refers to the diamond since later it is referred to as being clear as crystal.
 - 1. Speaks of the glory of God
 - 2. First stone in the breastplate of the High Priest and represents Reuben whose name means “Behold, a Son.”
 - B. Sardine Stone – Probably the ruby and was bright red.
 - 1. Speaks of sacrifice, or the blood of Christ
 - 2. Last stone in the breastplate and represents Benjamin whose name means “Son of my right hand.”
 - C. Rainbow like unto an emerald – Rainbow speaks of a covenant-keeping and promise-keeping God.
 - 1. Emerald is the stone of Judah (Tribe of the Messiah) and His name means “Praise”.
- III. Vs 4 tells of 24 thrones and 24 elders seated on them.
 - A. I Chronicles 24 says the same thing. It speaks of the 24 elders appointed by King David to represent the entire Levitical priesthood.
 - 1. When the 24 elders gathered in the Temple the whole priesthood was represented.
 - 2. Likewise, when we see these 24 elders present in heaven it is representative of all believers who are priests unto God.
 - a. Clothed in white – righteousness of Christ
 - b. Crowns of gold on their heads – Rewards for faithful service.
- IV. Vs 5 These symbols speak of judgment. (Mt. Sinai)
 - A. This is the Judgment Seat of Christ for all Believers. See II Corinthians 5:10
 - B. Seven lamps of fire represent the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit’s ministry as we saw in 1:4
- V. Vs 6-9 The Sea of Glass represents the great sea of the redeemed standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ for judgment on the basis of what they did with what God gave the
 - A. The four beasts represent the four aspects of the Deity upon the throne.
 - 1. Lion – Divine majesty - Matthew
 - 2. Calf – Divine strength serving man - Mark
 - 3. Man – Humanity of Christ and intelligence and purpose - Luke

4. Eagle – Swiftmess in detecting evil and bringing judgment - John

VI. Vs 10,11 The redeemed and the four and twenty elders fall before the Lord Jesus Christ and cast their crowns before Him as the One who alone is responsible for their redemption.

A. Crowns were received at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Lesson 7 - Revelation 5 - "The Little Book with 7 Seals"

I. Review:

- A. The scene is in Heaven with the Saints around the throne of God.
 - 1. The 24 Elders – All of God's redeemed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Romans 14:10 – "...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."
 - 2. The four living creatures, (beasts) are the four manifestations of Christ.
 - 3. This is immediately after the rapture. Revelation 4:1,2

II. The Book: (Title deed to all the earth. Revelation 5)

- A. This is the throne of God the Father, and God the Son is at His right hand.
- B. This book is actually a scroll with seals at seven intervals.
 - 1. It is the Title Deed to all the earth. See Jeremiah 32:6-8
 - 2. He wanted to get rid of the land because he knew of the
 - 3. coming captivity, and that it would then be worthless.
 - 4. Jeremiah had been told by God that as surely as they were carried into captivity, they would also return and then the land would be worth a lot, and he would then hold this title deed.
 - 5. Likewise, when Christ comes back in the second coming, with His own, He will come with the Title Deed to all the earth.
 - 6. He shall then take possession of the earth and will set up His earthly reign.

III. Who can receive and open the book?

- A. Not Adam – He forfeited the right when he sinned against God in the Garden of Eden.
- B. No one else could be found.
 - 1. No man in Heaven – None of the redeemed had earned the right.
 - a. Salvation is not of works. Titus 3:5 and Eph. 2:8,9
 - b. Salvation is not reformation, but regeneration. Jn. 3:3
 - 2. No man on earth – All who were left on earth were unbelievers.
 - 3. No man under the earth – All of the important men, and the great world leaders were unworthy, in spite of how important they were.
- C. Only the Lamb who was a Lion was worthy.
 - 1. John wept because no one could be found who was worthy.
 - 2. One of the 24 elders breaks the good news.
 - 3. The worthy one is the LAMB who is a LION.
 - a. A lamb as it had been slain.
 - (1) "I shall know Him, I shall know Him. And redeemed by His side I shall stand. I shall know Him, I shall know Him, by the

prints of the nails in His hands."

- (2) His nail-pierced hands will be evidence throughout all eternity of His redemptive work for us.

b. Having seven heads and seven eyes

- (1) Seven is the number of perfection, and horns denote power and authority.
- (2) The seven eyes are the seven Spirits, or the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit we saw in Chapter 1, who is the Spirit of Christ sent forth throughout all the earth.

IV. All the redeemed creatures of God's creation rejoice when one is found who is worthy to open the book.

A. Leading the song is the multitude of the redeemed.

1. They are the personal recipients of God's grace.
2. Can you sing the song of the redeemed?
3. Only those who are washed in the blood of the LAMB can sing.

Lesson 8 - Revelation 6:1-8 - “The First Four of the Seven Seal Judgments”

There are two vantage points from which to observe Chapters 6-20

I. Things as seen by those on earth:

- A. The strange disappearance of many people
 - 1. Preachers for many generations have spoken of the great multitudes, but I think the number of true believers by then will be relatively small.
 - a. Matthew 24:10-1
 - b. II Timothy 3:1-5
 - c. I Timothy 4:1
- B. A period of seeming world peace and safety under the influence of the Antichrist. II Thessalonians 2
- C. War breaks out like the world has never seen. Israel is protected and God defeats Russia and her allies. Ezek. 38 and Matt. 24
- D. Famine follows the war on earth.
 - 1. This is a worldwide famine.
 - 2. This is worse than any famine that has ever come upon man.
- E. This is followed by terrible pestilence which takes 1/4th of the Earth's population.

II. Things as seen from Heaven: (Same time period)

- A. Chapter 4 – The rapture of the Church and the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - 1. Christians are judged on the basis of what they did with what God gave them.
- B. Chapter 5 reveals the Lamb of God, (Christ) who is the only one worthy to receive the seven-sealed scroll and open its seals, which are really the seven seal judgments upon unbelieving people, on Earth.
- C. All of the redeemed along with all the heavenly creatures fall down and worship the Lamb of God.
- D. Chapter 6:1-8 – Christ opens, or institutes the first four seal judgments upon mankind on the earth.
 - 1. The first seal judgment
 - a. The White Horse – (Counterfeit of the Second Coming of Christ) Represents a peace brought on by force or necessity.
 - b. The rider – The Son of Perdition (Antichrist) or Man of Sin – II Thessalonians 2:3,4
 - c. The Crown represents royalty – II Thessalonians 2:3,4
 - d. The Bow – War evaded temporarily, or war afar off.
 - e. This corresponds to the time of seeming peace on earth.
 - 2. The second seal judgment

- a. Red Horse – Speaks of war and could also speak of Russia.
 - b. Gog and Magog – See Ezekiel 38 (Tubal and Mesheck are thought to correspond to present day Tobolsk and Moskow)
 - c. The Sword – real and mortal combat – The hordes of Ezekiel chapter 38 come against Israel to destroy her and the mention of the Lord from the earth.
 - (1) This war is also to establish once and for all the total worldwide reign of Antichrist.
3. The third seal judgment
- a. The black horse – Represents famine
 - b. Measure of Wheat – a single meal for one person
 - c. Penny – A day's wages
 - d. Oil and Wine are the foodstuffs saved for the rich
4. The fourth seal judgment
- a. The Pale Horse – Horse the color of death – Pestilence
 - b. Death and Hell – Hades, or the abode of the dead.
 - c. 1/4th of the world's population dies as a result of the combination of these first four seals.

III. The only way to escape these awful things that shall come to pass:

A. Be sure that you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior now.

See II Thessalonians 2:8-12

- 1. It will be too late after the rapture for those who have heard the Gospel before the rapture.
- 2. The Holy Spirit's convicting influence will be removed.

See II Corinthians 7:10 and II Thessalonians 2:7

- a. No man can come to God except the Spirit draw him.

Lesson 9 - Revelation 6:9-17 - “The Opening of the Fifth and Sixth Seals”

I. Review:

A. Chapter 4 – The Judgment Seat of Christ

1. Twenty four Elders on thrones representing all Old and New Testament believers.
2. Awarding of crowns
3. Worship of Christ and the casting of crowns at His feet

B. Chapter 5 – Christ, the Lion who is the Lamb is the only one worthy to open the seven-sealed book, or scroll which is the Title deed to all the earth.

C. Chapter 6 – The first four seals of the Title deed are opened.

1. This is the seventieth week of Daniel’s prophecy.
 - a. Daniel 9:20 – There were to be 69 weeks of years, or 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah was cut off. (Death of Christ)
 - b. It was exactly 483 years to the crucifixion of Christ. This is when the 69th week ended.
 - c. The 70th week of years is the Tribulation period which begins with the revelation of the Antichrist.
2. The first four seals:
 - a. Antichrist comes to bring false peace.
 - b. The global war with Russia and her allies against the Antichrist, Israel and the ten kings.
 - c. The famine which follows this conflict
 - d. Pestilence and death in the wake of the famine takes ¼ of earth’s population.
3. These are the natural results on earth of the rejection of Christ as the Messiah by Israel

II. Now comes the setting of the stage for the pouring out of the wrath of God on those who have rejected Him.

A. Chapter 6:9-11 The Fifth Seal is opened.

1. Who are these souls under the altar?
 - a. They cannot be the Church since they received their glorified bodies at the Rapture.
 - b. They would not be the Old Testament Saints since they were present at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Chapter 4.
 - c. Romans 11:25-28 – When the fullness of the time of the Gentiles is completed, God will breath life into restored Israel (Ezekiel 37:1-10) and this will happen in the middle of the Tribulation Period. These have to be the martyrs of the great multitude from the second half of

the Tribulation. Revelation 7:1-8.

- (1) At this point they had not yet been avenged.
- (2) Vengeance is not part of the Age of Grace, but is in keeping with the Psalms which cry for vengeance.

d. Why does Christ answer them as He does?

- (1) Because there are others who will be martyred for their faith before the Tribulation is over.
- (2) They will receive their resurrection bodies at the end of the Tribulation Period.

B. The Sixth seal is opened – Chapter 6:12-17

- 1. These are indicative of the wrath of God on unbelieving men for their treatment of Israel – Israel's revenge.
 - a. Earthquake – Note order in Matthew 24:5-9
 - b. Fig Tree here speaks of Israel.
 - c. See Matthew 24:29-35 This seal represents the last half of the Tribulation Period and the awful things which shall come to pass leading up to the return of Christ.

Lesson 10 - Revelation Chapter 7 - “Events Leading Up To The Seventh Seal”

I. Review:

- A. Chapter 1 tells us that Revelation is divided into 3 parts.
 - 1. The things which thou hast seen – Past
 - 2. The things which are – Present
 - 3. The things which shall be hereafter – Future
- B. Chapters 2 and 3 give us the present, or the Church Age and its seven divisions.
 - 1. We are now living in the seventh of the seven divisions.
 - 2. This period is marked by apostasy.
- C. Chapter 4 begins the third division of the book with the rapture of the Church and the Judgement Seat of Christ.
- D. Chapter 5 speaks of the little book which is the Title Deed to all the Earth. – Christ only is worthy to receive it and open its seals.
- E. Chapter 6 deals with the opening of the first 6 seals.
 - 1. Seal 1 – Antichrist and his false peace which lasts for only part of the first half of the Tribulation Period.
 - 2. Seal 2 – War breaks out as Russia moves down against Israel and her ten allied nations under the leadership of Antichrist. Russia and her allies are defeated.
 - 3. Seal 3 – Famine follows the war and the mark of the Beast is required in order to buy and sell.
 - 4. Seal 4 – Pestilence and death follow the famine.
 - 5. Seal 5 – The souls of Tribulation martyrs under the Altar in Heaven cry out to be avenged.
 - 6. Seal 6 – The sixth seal represents the total judgement of God and the order in which it will come on unbelieving men. This is detailed in the 7 Trumpets and the 7 Vials.

II. The 7th Chapter – There is a parentheses between seal 6 and seal 7.

- A. Vs 1 (The number “four” is the number of the Earth.)
 - 1. The 4 Angels are 4 messengers of God to the Earth.
 - 2. The 4 corners of the Earth refers to the four continents
 - a. Eurasia
 - b. Africa
 - c. South America
 - d. North America
 - 3. The 4 winds:
 - a. Daniel 7:1,2 – The four winds of Heaven striving upon the sea bring forth 4 great Kingdoms.

- (1) Babylonian Empire
 - (2) Mede-Persian Empire
 - (3) Grecian Empire
 - (4) Roman Empire
- b. On this occasion the 4 winds of Heaven are striving to bring about the last part of the 4th empire, or the rule of Antichrist, but this is prevented by the 4 angels until something is taken care of.
4. They hold back this effort of the forces of Earth and will not allow it to hurt:
 - a. The Earth – The land of Israel
 - b. The Sea – Type – The masses of mankind
 - c. Nor any tree – Trees are representative of those who exalt themselves against God.
 - (1) Nebuchadnezzar was likened to a great tree
 - (2) John the Baptist said that the ax was laid to the root of the trees.
- B. Vs 2,3 This Angel is none other than the Angel of Jehovah, or the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself.
 1. He has authority over the other angels.
 2. He orders those who are singled out as His property to be sealed on their foreheads.
 - a. That is, they are enlightened in their minds so that they are able to see Christ for who He is. They are also confirmed as His property.
 - b. Later, those who follow Antichrist are branded in their hand – (symbol of deeds, or doing), and in the foreheads (symbol of their minds, or thought life).
- C. The 144,000 are undoubtedly Israelites, 12,000 out of each of the twelve tribes.
 1. Notice: Dan is not listed.
 - a. Dan is the tribe which first led Israel into Idolatry, and may lead Israel to follow the Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation.
- D. Vs 9 The great multitude
 1. Could not be anyone who had received the Gospel before the Rapture.
II Thess. 2:8-12
 2. They are Gentiles, though – Out of every tribe and nation.
 3. They have to be Gentiles who have never before heard the Gospel of Christ.
 4. They will probably be won by the witness of the 144,000.
- E. What shall happen to these tribulation saints?
 1. Vs 13 They are clothed in white robes – Righteousness of Christ.
 2. They are washed in the blood of the Lamb. – Justification
 3. Vs 15 They are before God's throne day and night, and serve Him, and He

dwells in their midst.

4. Vs 16 They shall never again suffer from hunger, thirst or heat.
5. Vs 17 God shall feed them, give them water, and comfort them. Picture of what God does for the New Testament Saints.
6. They will be raptured as the “gleanings” of the first resurrection just before the Second Coming. Revelation 11:11, 12

Lesson 11 - Revelation 8:1-13 - "The Seventh Seal"

I. The opening of the Seventh Seal:

- A. The Book of Revelation is concerned with four major groups of sevens.
 - 1. The seven letters to the seven churches Chapters 2,3
 - 2. The seven seal judgements
 - 3. The seven trumpet judgements
 - 4. The seven vials of God's wrath
- B. The seven seal judgements:
 - 1. There are six seals and then a parenthesis.
 - 2. The parenthesis is chapter 7 with the sealing of the 144,000 and the great multitude.
- C. The opening of the seventh seal reveals the seven trumpet judgements.
 - 1. Six trumpets are blown and then a parenthesis. Chapter 10:1-11:17
 - 2. Chapter 11:18 brings us to the Second Coming of Christ.
 - 3. The book, or scroll is then turned over so that we can see the other side.
 - 4. The other side shows us the same events, but as they pertain to Israel.
- D. The other side of the scroll is the seven Vial Judgements of God's wrath. (The seven trumpet judgements as seen from the recipient's viewpoint).
 - 1. The doom which follows the opening of the seventh seal corresponds with Jude Vs 11-13

II. The sounding of the four trumpets:

- A. There was silence in Heaven when the seventh seal was opened.
 - 1. This is the calm before the storm of God's wrath, much as a calm before a great storm on Earth.
- B. The Angel with the golden censer: Vs 1-6
 - 1. He is an interceding Angel – Old Testament Angel of the Lord, or Jehovah – Christ
 - a. He is interceding for the 144,000 and the great multitude of Chapter 7 Romans 11:17-36
 - b. He turns loose the wrath of God upon unbelieving men on the Earth.
 - 2. Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets – This is indicative of the the World's fall, pictured by the fall of Jericho.
- C. The first four Trumpets:
 - 1. Vs 7 Hail and fire mingled with blood and the third part of trees and all green grass are burned up.
 - a. Trees – Men exalting themselves against God.
 - (1) Nebuchadnezzar was likened to a great tree.

- (2) John the Baptist said the ax was laid to the root of trees.
 - b. Grass – Man in his weakness
 - (1) Isaiah 40:6 – Pictures grass trampled beneath the foot of man, picturing man's weakness
 - c. The wrath of God is being poured out upon all these who have rejected His Grace and Salvation.
2. Vs 8,9 The great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea and one third of the sea is turned to blood, a third of the creatures in the sea die and one third of the ships are destroyed.
- a. Jeremiah 51:25 – The Great Mountain is literal Babylon
 - b. This is Commercial Babylon being destroyed by those whom she once tyrannized.
3. Vs 10,11 A great star falls from heaven upon a third part of the rivers and fountains of water. The name of the star is Wormwood, and many men die as the waters become bitter.
- a. The Great Star is a great religious personage.
 - b. This great personage brands Christianity as false and leads many to despair.
 - c. This may be the Pope turning against apostate Christianity.
4. Vs 12,13 A third part of the sun, moon and stars are darkened.
- a. Pictures that light is taken from those who rejected the light when they had it.
 - b. Light represents Truth – Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
 - c. Have you yet come to light?

Lesson 12 - Revelation 9 - "The First Two Woes"

- I. The first two of the three woes are the fifth and sixth trumpets.
 - A. The 7th seal of the Title Deed to all the world contains the seven trumpets of God's wrath.
 - 1. The first trumpet – Fire and hail mingled with blood fell upon the Earth and a third part of the trees and all of the green grass was burned up.
 - a. Picture of God's wrath upon the pride and independence of man, as well as his weakness.
 - 2. The second trumpet – Great Mountain (Ecumenical movement) falls into the sea (masses).
 - a. The fall of spiritual Babylon.
 - 3. The third trumpet – Great star fell from Heaven and turned waters to bitterness.
 - a. Picture of a great religious world figure who denies the very system which he headed. The effect upon men is
 - 4. The fourth trumpet – Third part of the sun, moon and stars are darkened.
- II. The First Woe, or the Fifth Trumpet:
 - A. Vs 1 "I saw a star fall from Heaven..." should read, "I saw a star fallen from Heaven."
 - 1. This is the third trumpet star, or Satan's instrument, Antichrist.
 - B. The Key to open the bottomless pit:
 - 1. The key speaks of authority, as in the keys given to the Apostles of Christ.
 - C. The smoke from the bottomless pit darkens the sun and pollutes the air.
 - 1. The smoke represents false teaching, or doctrine or cultism.
 - 2. The darkening of the sun represents the cutting off of the light of God's Truth.
 - 3. The air is Satan's domain, and it is affected by this false teaching. See Ephesians 6:12 and Ephesians 2:2 – "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."
 - D. The locusts which came out of the smoke:
 - 1. These seem to represent the various tenants of this false religious system.
 - 2. Like horses prepared to battle – Represents the regimentation of the system.
 - 3. Crowns of gold on their heads – The system for a time will seem to be sovereign, and to sweep all before it.
 - 4. Faces of men – Operates by the intellect of men.
 - 5. Hair of women – Seductive in nature.
 - 6. Teeth as a lion's – The system will tear and destroy men.
 - 7. Breastplate of iron – Impenetrable by the Truth of God.

8. Chariots and horses running to battle – Swiftess of the system in deceiving men.
9. Tails like scorpions – Pictures the effect upon mankind, poisoning their minds.

III. The second Woe, or the sixth Trumpet:

- A. Four angels bound in the River Euphrates – They are the four Angels of God's Wrath. Chapter 7:1
 1. Vs 15 They are prepared for an hour. (The Hour)
 2. Vs 16 Two Hundred Million seemed ridiculous until 20th century. Now China's population is well over a Billion.
- B. The hoards of the East kill 1/3 of the remaining population except for those who have the seal of God in their foreheads.
 1. (Whose minds are under the control of God)
 2. Notice that the rest of the population, even then, fails to repent. Vs 20,21
 - a. There is a great difference between chastening and judgement.
 - (1) This is the difference between 90 days in jail and execution.
 - (2) Chastening is to bring about repentance – Judgement is meeting out of justice and is not capable of bringing about repentance.
 - b. If God's mercy and Grace fail, His wrath will not turn men to repentance.
 - c. This wrath is not designed to turn men to repentance – it is their final judgement.
 - d. Read Hebrews 3:7-19

Lesson 13 - Revelation 10:1-11 - “The Parenthesis Between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpets”

I. Setting:

- A. This is the parenthesis between the sixth and seventh Trumpets.
 - 1. There was a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh seals in which the 144,000 Jews and the Great Multitude were saved and sealed.
 - 2. There is this parenthesis between the sixth and seventh Trumpets during which we see the “Angel with the little Book” and The Two Witnesses.”
 - 3. There is a brief parenthesis in Revelation 16:15 between the sixth and seventh vials of God’s wrath during which we are reminded to watch for Christ’s coming.
- B. The seventh Trumpet takes us up to the end of the Tribulation Period.
 - 1. Revelation 10:11 refers to the repetition of the prophecy in the seven vials of God’s wrath.
 - 2. The seven Vials are parallel to the seven trumpets, but from the standpoint of God’s dealings with Israel.

II. The Mighty Angel from Heaven – Who is he? Vs 1-3

- A. This is the “Angel of Jehovah”, or Jesus Christ whom we saw ministering before the Golden Altar in the Heavenly Sanctuary. Chapter 8:1-5
 - 1. Since this deals largely with Israel, He appears to them as He did in the Old Testament.
 - 2. He is clothed with a cloud. (The Cloud)
 - a. This is the Shikinah Glory of God, or the Divine Glory.
 - b. In the form of a cloud God led Israel in the wilderness.
 - c. In the cloud God dwelt between the cherubim in the Temple and the Tabernacle.
 - d. When Solomon built the Temple, God came to dwell in it in the cloud.
 - e. Ezekiel tells how the cloud departed from the Temple, hovered reluctantly over the Mount of Olives and then was caught up to God when the desolation of God’s house was declared.
 - f. The cloud was never returned to Israel until the Transfiguration of Christ.
 - (1) Moses appears representing those Saints who have died and will be raised at the Lord’s return.
 - (2) Elijah appears representing the Saints who were caught up without seeing death.
 - 3. The Rainbow, the sign of God’s covenant with Noah is about His head.
 - a. In Chapter 4 it was around the throne of God.
 - b. It speaks of the fact that His promises are sure.
 - 4. His face was as the sun.

- a. Same face Paul saw on the Damascus Road
- 5. His feet were as pillars of fire.
 - a. Same as in Chapter 1 where His feet were as brass heated in the fire.
 - b. Daniel saw Him thus in the seventh chapter of his prophecy.
- 6. He had a little book in his hand.
 - a. This is the little Book which is the Title Deed to all the Earth. (When He comes He will have the Title Deed to all the Earth with Him)
- 7. His voice is as the voice of a conqueror.
 - a. Thunder again represents judgement.
- 8. Places one foot on the land and the other on the sea
 - a. Indicates all the Earth as His inheritance.

III. Why was John not allowed to record what the seven thunderous voices spoke?

- A. These constitute the secret things of the Lord.
- B. They were not to be revealed until the end of time.
- C. Isn't it strange that many people lose out on what is revealed because they are always trying to find out the meaning of what God has not revealed.
 - 1. All we need to do is trust God for the future.
 - 2. We should not question and falter because we do not understand His ways. Proverbs 3:5,6
- D. In the end of Vs 6, "There should be time no longer" should be translated, "There should be delay no longer."
 - 1. Without any further delay, the Lord, the righteous judge will no longer be patient with evil men when the seventh angel sounds and all His wrath is loosed.
- E. John is told to eat the book. It is sweet to the taste, but bitter to digest.
 - 1. The book also represents the Word of God, especially the prophetic parts. Ezekiel 3:1-8
 - 2. When we first encounter prophecy it is an attraction for us.
 - a. The application of the Word of God is often bitter because:
 - (1) We must depart from iniquity.
 - (2) Hebrews 6 speaks of the one who has tasted of the Word of God but backed off when it came to the application of it.
 - (3) God would have us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers.
 - b. Anyone who receives and digests the Word will never be satisfied with the world again.
 - 3. Have you really received the Word of God and been truly converted?
 - a. Has the Holy Spirit really convicted you of your sin and need of a Savior?

- b. Have you become a new creation through the entrance of God's Word?
- c. The entrance of God's Word giveth light.

Lesson 14 - Revelation 11 - “The Parenthesis Between Trumpets Six and Seven” (Continued)

- I. First 13 verses deal with the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th Trumpets, or 2nd and 3rd Woes.
 - A. Vs 1,2: The measuring has to do with God’s preparing to take possession of what is His.
 - 1. This has reference to the restoration of Israel as promised in Zechariah’s prophecy. (See Zechariah 2:1)
 - 2. The Jews were to be returned out of every nation, and from “The Country to the North”.
 - B. Gentiles were to tread under foot the City of Jerusalem for the last 3½ years of the Tribulation Period.
 - 1. The Tribulation Period ends the Period of the Gentiles. (See Daniel’s Prophecy)
 - 2. Christ returns with His own to judge mankind at the close of this period.
- II. Who are the two witnesses, and when do they witness?
 - A. Many believe these are two distinct people.
 - 1. Some say Moses and Elijah since they appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - 2. Some say Elijah and Enoch since they were translated and did not see death.
 - 3. Some say Elijah and John the Baptist representing the Old and the New Testament.
 - 4. Others believe it is two other individuals raised up for just this incident.
 - B. I am persuaded that we have already seen the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation.
 - 1. Remember, the book is a book of symbols.
 - 2. Look at the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th seals in Chapter 7.
 - a. John receives a preview of coming judgement progressively unfolding in the opening of the scroll.
 - b. There are two groups named here. (See Romans 1:16)
 - (1) 144,000 Hebrews representing the Old Testament
 - (2) Great Multitude, representing New Testament Gentiles.
 - 3. These two witnesses appear at the middle of the Tribulation Period.
 - C. Vs 7 The Beast out of the Bottomless Pit comes to make war on the two witnesses.
 - 1. People are so glad to get rid of the two witnesses that they send gifts to one another.
 - a. It is becoming harder these days to witness for Christ.
 - b. Jesus says we are the light of the world Matt. 5
 - c. The world hates light because it dispels the darkness of its ways. John 3:19,20

2. Christ warned His own that the world would hate them. John 15:18-25
 - D. These are taken up to the Lord just before His second coming, at the close of the Tribulation Period. Vs 12,13
 1. After they are removed, the final judgement of God comes upon unbelieving men. Chapter 7
- III. What is the event of the last Woe and the last Trumpet, and what does it usher in? Vs 14-18
- A. The Seventh Trumpet incorporates the Second Coming of Christ with His own from Heaven, and the judgement of the nations under Antichrist.
 1. The voices in Heaven Vs 15 announce the coming of Christ to claim the Kingdoms of this world.
 - a. Satan tried to get Christ to bypass the cross in Matthew when he tempted Christ in the wilderness.
 - b. The Kingdoms of this world were his temporarily, as he is the god of this world. See Ephesians 6:12
 2. Revelation 19:11-21 In this parallel passage we see the detailed description of the return of Christ with His own.
 - a. Note Revelation 19:15 speaks of the Judgement of the Nations. See Matthew 25:31-34
 - b. This is the same event of which we read in Matt. 24:29-31.
 3. Vs 16 pictures the 24 elders (representing Israel and the New Testament saints) rejoice in the fact that they have at last realized the promised Kingdom of Christ on the Earth.
 4. Vs 17 makes it clear that the Millennial reign of Christ begins at this point.
 - B Vs 16.17 incorporate the entire millennial reign of Christ.
 - C. Vs 18 deals with the judgement of the unbelieving dead at the close of the millennial reign of Christ. See Rev. 20:4-15
 1. This is the Great White Throne Judgement.
 2. Vs 19 belongs to the next chapter.
 - D. Everything between 11:18 through 20:15 is incorporated in the verses we have considered here. Are you ready to meet Jesus Christ?
 1. You will see Him at the Rapture as your Savior if you have received Him as such in this life before the Rapture.
 2. You will face Him as your judge if you do not know Him as your Savior.

Lesson 15 - Revelation 12 - “The Second of Four Great Openings in Revelation”

I. The four great OPENINGS in Revelation:

A. In order to understand the passage fully we must go back to Chapter 11:9.

1. The first opening is in 4:1 where there is a door opened in Heaven – Picture of the Rapture.
2. The second opening is found in 11:19 where we see the Temple of God opened in Heaven.
3. The third opening will be in 15:5 where we will see the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony opened in Heaven.
4. The fourth opening will be in 19:11 where we will see the Heavens opened and Christ coming on a white horse. Second Coming of Christ.

B. In this second opening we see God’s faithfulness to His people, the Jews, as the Temple of God is opened in Heaven and the Ark of the Covenant is seen.

1. This represents God keeping His promises to Israel.
2. His wrath is poured out upon her enemies.

II. Who are the woman and the man-child? Vs 1-6

A. What does the woman represent?

1. Some erroneous ideas:
 - a. Some say she is the Church – But the Church did not give birth to Christ.
 - b. The Roman Catholic Church sees her as Mary, but Revelation is a book of symbols.
 - c. Many groups have claimed that it applied to them.
2. What do the other Scriptures say?
 - a. She is obviously that which gives birth to the man-child.
 - b. Who is the man-child?
 - (1) Psalm 2:7-9 - Here we learn that only Jesus Christ was to inherit the nations and rule over them with a rod of iron.
 - (2) Revelation 2:26-28 – Jesus Christ will not reign alone but the Saints from the age of grace will rule with Him.
 - (3) The man-child then has to be Jesus Christ, the Head, and His Church, which is His body. I Cor. 12:12
 - c. The woman can only be Israel.
 - (1) Joseph’s dream of the sun, the moon and the twelve stars bowing down to him represented Jacob, Rachel, and the twelve sons, or all of Israel.
 - (2) Romans 9:5 tells us that Christ came from Israel.
 - (3) Isaiah 9:6 – “Unto us a child is born. . . .” (To Israel)

- B. Micah 5:2; Isaiah 66:7,8
 - 1. These verses point up the fact that Israel was to give birth to Christ before her travail.
 - a. This is a picture of the Messiah coming forth before Israel went into the Tribulation.
 - 2. Jesus Christ will be born (recognized in the consciousness of Israel in the Tribulation.
- C. The twelve stars on her head represent the twelve tribes of Israel.
- D. The moon beneath her feet speaks of the reflected glory of the Old Covenant under the Law.
- E. The Sun in which she is wrapped speaks of the New Covenant glory in which she appears before God.

III. God's faithfulness to His people:

- A. The Dragon, (Satan Vs 9) declares all-out war against Israel and seeks to destroy her.
 - 1. God has a place prepared in the wilderness. (Petra?)
 - 2. Satan is called the accuser of the brethren. 12:10 (Remember Job) Here he is cast down.
 - 3. Vs 14 The woman was given the wings of a great eagle. (Should be The Great Eagle)
 - a. The Eagle is God. Isaiah 40:31
 - b. God tells Israel that He bore them on Eagle's wings. Exodus 19:4
- B. The flood from the mouth of the Dragon represents a flood of propaganda, or teaching against Israel. (It serves to drive Israel to God and to cause them to recognize the Christ they rejected as the true Messiah.
 - 1. The fulfillment of prophetic events in this present day should serve to turn us to God's Christ and salvation.

Lesson 16 - Revelation 13:1-10 - “The First Beast – The Antichrist”

I. The first of the two beasts in Chapter 13:

A. This follows immediately after the effort of the great Dragon, (Satan) to destroy the woman, (Israel) and her Son, (Jesus Christ).

1. We must go back to the book of Daniel and look at the two major revelations found there.

a. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream: Daniel 2:31-35

(1) Golden head – Babylon

(2) Silver breast and arms – Medo-Persian

(3) Brass belly and thighs – Grecian-Macedonians

(4) Legs of iron and feet of iron and clay – Roman

b. Daniel’s vision: Daniel 7:1-8

(1) Lion with eagle’s wings – Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar

(2) Bear with 3 ribs in its mouth – Medo-Persian Empire with the destruction of the 3 main cities of Babylon

(3) Leopard with 4 heads – Grecian-Macedonian Empire divided into 4 parts after Alexander’s death.

(4) Dreadful and terrible beast with iron teeth and ten horns – Ten horns are the same as those in Rev. 13.

B. Both of these revelations are the same events.

1. They represent “The Times of the Gentiles.”

a. Period from the captivity of Judah by Babylon to the end of the Tribulation period.

2. The first three Kingdoms were swallowed up by the fourth -The Roman Empire.

C. The first beast of Revelation 13 is the antichrist whose empire is that of the revived Roman Empire.

1. Ten Horns – (Same as the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream) are a combination of ten confederate nations which stand with Antichrist and Israel (Imperialism – iron) and (Social-democracy – clay and will reign with him.

2. The Seven Heads – See Revelation 17:8-14 – These would have to be the 7 major dynasties of Rome.

a. Five had already been at the time John wrote, one more was then ruling, and there was a seventh to come, out of which the head of the revived Roman Empire would come, the Antichrist.

b. The seven hills also have to be Rome.

3. The various Beasts of Vs 2 correspond to Daniel’s vision.

a. Notice: There are only three listed here, but they go together to make up the fourth.

4. The seventh head is wounded to death, but is miraculously revived.
 - a. This is the revival of the Roman Empire under the reign of Antichrist.

II. What does he do?

- A. He is given the ability to deceive the people of earth for three and a half years.
II Thess. 2:1-10 (First half of the Tribulation Period)
- B. He commits sacrilege against God and blasphemes the True.
Matthew 24:15 and II Thessalonians 2:4
- C. He holds power over all people of the earth. II Thess. 2:9-11
- D. He makes war against the Tribulation Saints.
- E. All men not written in the Lamb's Book of Life were deceived by him and worship him.
- F. He shall eventually be brought down by God at the end of the Tribulation Period.
II Thess. 2:8 – "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming."

Lesson 17 - Revelation 13:11-18 - “The Second Beast – The False Prophet”

I. The contrast of the first beast and the second:

A. The origin of the two beasts:

1. The first beast comes from the sea. Vs 1
 - a. The Sea represents the masses of mankind and represents the Gentile Nations.
2. The second great beast comes from the earth, (The Land – Israel) and indicates he is a Jew.
 - a. Daniel 11:36-45 refers to “The God of His Fathers” which indicates he is of Israel.
 - b. He would probably have to be of the Tribe of Judah or the Jews would not listen to him.

B. The identity of the two beasts:

1. The first beast is the 8th ruler of the Roman Empire which results from the 7th.
 - a. The first five governments of the Roman Empire came before John’s time.
 - b. The 6th was in power when John wrote. This is the wounded one. (Death of the Roman Empire)
 - c. The 7th is the revival of the old Roman Empire at the end of the Church Age.
 - d. The 8th comes out of the 7th and takes place of leadership. Revelation 17:7-11
 - e. This beast is the Antichrist.
 - f. He represents the one-world government brought about with the help of the one-world-church.
2. The second beast is the False Prophet, or the counterfeit Holy Spirit who gives glory and points men to the first beast.
 - a. He has two horns as of a lamb. (He speaks with the gentleness and sincerity of a lamb, but his words are deceiving. Vs 11)
 - b. He still speaks as a dragon (symbol of Satan)

III. The work of the second beast:

A. He enables the first beast to unite the whole world under one banner. Vs 12

1. One world church
2. One world government
3. One world monetary system
4. One world control of all thing

B. He enables the first beast to be able to make fire come down from heaven. (Even as

Elijah did.

1. This power of Satan is displayed in the first few miracles performed by Moses before Pharoah and duplicated by the magicians of his court.
 2. This could also be the work of orbiting missile stations, missiles on the moon, or orbiting laser base.
- C. Vs 14 Philosophy that might makes right II Thess. 2:3-12
- D. Vs 15 He gives power and life to the image of the beast and all must worship it.
- E. Vs 16,17 This may be a literal mark which will be required in order to do business, or buy and sell.
1. It may also, as elsewhere in Scripture, represent complete control by Antichrist over the thought life, or allegiance of those who follow him in their thought life – forehead, and their deeds – hand.

IV. What does the number of the Antichrist mean?

- A. The number six is the number of man.
1. False God and Father – Satan
 2. False God the Son – Antichrist
 3. False Holy Spirit – False Prophet

Lesson 18 - Revelation 14 - "The Lamb on Mt. Sion"

I. Introduction

A. The 14th chapter is a vision divided into six parts.

1. The Lamb of God on Mt. Sion – The 144,000 are rewarded by their Messiah nearing the close of the Tribulation. Vs 1-5
2. The preaching of the Everlasting Gospel to those who had never heard the Gospel. Vs 6,7
3. Babylon is fallen – Destruction of apostate church Vs 8
4. Last opportunity for repentance given on earth. Vs 9-13
5. The harvest time on earth. Vs 14-16
6. The Vintage, or application of the wrath of God on those who finally refuse His last offer of mercy. Vs 17-20

II. Detailed study of the six divisions:

A. Vs 1-5 The Lamb of God on Mt. Sion

1. A literal place – Jerusalem and Mt. Sion
 - a. This is the Lord's return to Mt. Sion, and His reunion with the 144,000 whom He has kept through the Tribulation Period.
 - (1) In chapter 7 He promised to keep them and remain faithful.
 - (2) In like manner He has promised to be with us and to keep us in this dispensation.
2. These are the same 144,000 of chapter 7
 - a. These are the First-fruits of the Kingdom Age. Vs 4
 - (1) Christ is the first-fruits of the present dispensation.
 - (2) We are the first-fruits of His creatures
3. Vs 5 In their mouth was found no guile.
 - a. This does not mean that they had not sinned.
 - b. This means they had confessed their sins to God.
 - c. I John 1:9 – Those who confess have no guile.

B. The preaching of the Everlasting Gospel. Vs 6-7

1. The same Gospel now preached in the Age of Grace.
 - a. There could be no other Gospel. Galatians 1:8
 - b. Men of every age have always been saved the same way.
2. These are those who as yet had not heard the Gospel and had a chance to believe. A last demonstration of God's Grace

C. The fall of Babylon Vs 8

1. The One-World-Church is in the making at the present time.

- a. Roman Catholic Church called the 1960s the age of reconciliation – Bringing strays back to the Mother Church.
 - b. The Ecumenical Movement – Tell what it really is.
II Corinthians 6:14-18
- 2. People will look to this church for help and security during most of the tribulation, but the Antichrist will destroy it when he is through with it.
 - a. Those with a true born-again experience can tell the true from the false today. I John 4:1
- D. Message of the third Angel – Follow the Beast and worship his image and taste of God’s wrath. Vs 9-13
 - 1. The lips of those who refuse the cup of salvation shall be forced to drink of the cup of God’s wrath.
 - a. This result of rejection is eternal. Vs 11
 - b. What are you now doing with God’s offer of mercy and pardon?
 - 2. Vs 13 does not apply to this present dispensation, but to those who die from this point on during the Tribulation.
 - a. It will be so hard for the people of God that they will be better off if they died than if they lived.
- E. The Harvest at the end of the Tribulation Period Vs 14-16
 - 1. Not to be confused with the Great White Throne Judgement.
 - 2. This is just before the Millenium.
 - a. Jesus spoke of it.
 - (1) Separation of the sheep and goats
 - (2) Angels gathering the tares from the wheat
 - (3) Separation of the just from the unjust
 - 3. This is a discriminating judgement.
 - a. Only Christ is qualified to do the judging.
 - b. Notice that it is the Lord who sits on the white cloud.
- F. The Vintage, or the final and irrevocable application of the wrath of God. V17-20
 - 1. Notice the use of “The Vine of the Earth.”
 - a. This is a reference to Israel who was the vine.
 - b. This is the Vine of the Earth, or the false Vine which had rejected God’s Son.
 - 2. Jesus said that He was the true Vine. John 15
 - a. He came first to Israel and was rejected by them as a nation.
John 1:11,12
 - b. Those who did receive Him were the branches of the True Vine.
 - 3. The entire country of Palestine will experience this bloodbath.

- a. Vs 20 One thousand and six hundred furlongs is about the length of Palestine.
 - b. Keep in mind it is the result of rejecting the Savior.
- 4. Go over John 1:11-13 again and make application today.
 - a. See also I John 5:11,12

Lesson 19 - Revelation 15 and 16 - "The Seven Vials of God's Wrath"

I. Chapter 15 – An introduction to the 7 vials of God's wrath.

A. These are a parallel to the seven trumpet judgements.

1. Trumpets pictured the wrath of God on the unbelieving in the last half of the Tribulation from the standpoint of the followers of Antichrist.
2. Vials are the same judgements as they relate to Israel.
 - a. Vs 1 The wrath of God is completed in the seven vials.
 - b. Vs 2 This congregation is not the Church, but the 144,000 who came through the horrors of the Tribulation.
 - (1) Victory over the mark of the beast, etc.
 - c. Vs 3 They sing the song of Moses, etc. – This would have to be Israel.
 - (1) "King of Saints" should translate, "King of Nations" or "King of Ages".
 - d. Thus, the vials show the wrath of God against the beast, his kingdom and the entire sphere of Antichrist.
 - (1) God always avenges His own. Romans 12:19
 - (2) It is a just thing for God to recompense those who persecute His own. II Thess. 1:4-6
 - (3) He does the same for the Church in this dispensation. Phil. 4:19
 - (4) Many have questioned the plea for vengeance from David in the Psalms – Illustration of man who thought this was unjust, but wanted to see Federal troops destroy Richmond.

B. Previously we saw the 144,000 on Mt. Zion reunited with the Lord Jesus.

1. Now the stage is set for God's wrath to rain upon those who persecuted them.
2. God has kept the Abrahamic covenant perfectly. Gen 12:1-3

II. Chapter 16 contains the judgement of the seven vials.

A. Revelation is a book of symbols, but these may be more literal than we think.

1. Things symbolized are usually more terrible than the symbol.

B. There is a parallel between these vials and the plagues sent upon Egypt in Exodus.

1. God is again delivering Israel from bondage for the last time.

C. The seven vials of God's wrath:

1. Vs 2 A noisome and grievous sore upon men with the mark of the beast.
 - a. Parallel to Egyptian plague of boils upon man and beast
 - b. Perhaps symbolic of spiritual plague which would bring man as much suffering spiritually as the boils did physically

- c. Sphere of this plague is the earth and answers to the 1st trumpet of chapter 8 which affected the earth. Ch. 8:7
- 2. Vs 3 Linked with the second trumpet which also affected the sea. (Increased intensity)
 - a. Death comes to those who refuse Christ. I Jn. 5:11,12
- 3. Vs 4-7 Affects the rivers and fountains of waters as when God turned the rivers of Egypt to blood.
 - a. This strikes at the very source of life-giving water
 - (1) Same area affected in 3rd trumpet.
 - b. Vs 5-7 Reiterates the right of God to recompense the persecutors of His people.
- 4. Vs 8,9 Affected the sun as did the 4th trumpet. (Increased intensity – Perhaps depletion of ozone layer)
 - a. Parallel of plague of darkness in Egypt. (Attack of sun god)
 - b. Notice: Judgement does not result in repentance.
 - (1) Should open eyes of those who believe punishment should be to reform the offender – thus the need of Capital punishment.
 - (2) These men only blasphemed God all the more.
- 5. Vs 10,11 Poured out on the throne or power center of the beast
 - a. This is the Star, fallen from Heaven in 9:1 in 5th trumpet
 - b. Brings complete darkness or confusion to his kingdom (as in Germany just before her collapse in World War II)
 - c. Notice: There is still no repentance – There will be weeping in Hell because of the torment, but also gnashing of teeth at God in anger.
- 6. Vs 12-14 This is the preparation of the final Battle of Armageddon.
 - a. Who are the Kings of the East?
 - (1) This is undoubtedly China, the great sleeping giant come to join herself with the rest of unbelieving against Christ and His people, Israel. 9:13-16
 - b. This battle will be in the Plain of Zezreel at the foot of Mt. Megiddo.
 - c. Vs 15 A parenthesis which is a warning for us today even more than for the people of that day.
 - (1) We are to guard our conduct lest we be ashamed before the entire world.
 - (2) Warning to have no part with the world system.
- 7. Vs 17-21 This last vial is poured out into the air, (Satan's domain) and Satan's rule comes crashing down to destruction. (The death blow)
 - a. This indicates the destruction of every spiritual and religious institution apart from God.
 - b. How about you? Have you tried to order your life without God? Have

you trusted in religion or some false hope?

- (1) Flee now from the wrath of God which is to come
- (2) Jesus invites you to come unto Him and find safety
- (3) Don't harden your heart as did Lot's sons-in-law when Lot tried to get them to flee God's wrath.

Lesson 20 - Chapter 17 - "Mystery Babylon"

I. Introduction:

- A. The Mystery of Iniquity in its final form: Babylon the Great
 - 1. We want to identify the woman who sits on the beast.
 - 2. We want to recognize again the identity of the beast.
 - 3. We want to trace the origin and progress of the Mystery of Iniquity.

II. The Beast – Vs 7-14

- A. We have twice identified this beast.
 - 1. He is the head of the revived Roman Empire.
 - a. Five governments had been before John wrote.
 - b. The 6th was in power at the time of this writing.
 - (1) Wounded to death, but revived during the Tribulation Period.
 - c. Seventh head is the beast and he becomes the eighth as he takes all power to himself.
 - 2. He has a ten-nation confederacy, which backs him in his wars against Gog and Magog.

III. The origin of the Mystery of Iniquity and the woman who is the symbol of this system. Vs 1-6

- A. In order to understand the Mystery of Iniquity, Babylon the Great, we must look back into Scripture and see its development in the Old Testament.
 - 1. Sons of Noah – Shem, Ham, and Japheth
 - a. Ham sinned against his father, and Noah cursed Ham's son, Canaan since God had already blessed the sons of Noah.
 - b. Ham's grandson, Nimrod the Mighty Rebel (Hunter) before God, led the people of the lower Euphrates valley in rebellion against God and His Truth.
 - (1) Building of the Tower of Babel represents Gospel-hardened people.
 - (2) Was to be the Tower of Babel – The Gate of God
 - (3) God came down and changed it to Babel – Confusion.
 - c. Nimrod's wife, Simeramis, according to ancient lore, gave birth to a son named Tammuz, introducing the Mother/Child worship, an ancient form of idolatry and the beginning of the Mystery of Iniquity.
 - (1) Satan's counterfeit for God's promise to Adam and Eve concerning the Seed of the woman. Genesis 3:15
 - (2) Developed as the "Queen of Heaven with a child in her arms and spread to other nations under other names.
 - (a) Ashtoreth and Tammuz – Phoenicia

- (b) Isis and Horus – Egypt
 - (c) Aphrodite and Eros – Greece
 - (d) Venus and Cupid – Italy
- 2. Within 1,000 years Babylonianism has become the religion of the world, which had rejected God's, will and Word.
 - a. Lesser mysteries linked with this mystery from the outset
 - (1) Purgatorial purification after death
 - (2) Salvation by countless sacraments such as a priest's absolution, the offering of round cakes to the Queen of Heaven, sprinkled with Holy Water.
 - (3) Dedication of virgins to the Queen of Heaven – or sanctified prostitution.
 - b. Tammuz was traditionally slain by a wild boar and returned to life.
 - (1) The evergreen tree was his symbol.
 - (2) The Yule log was burned with symbolism concerning him.
- 3. Abraham was separated from the mystery religion when he was called out of Ur of the Chaldees, the center of this worship.
 - a. Abraham's descendants had constant trouble with it.
 - b. It was grafted onto what was left of the religion of Israel under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess who influenced the Northern Kingdom of King Ahab.
 - c. Judah was polluted with it in the form of Baal worship.
- 4. When Babylon died, her religion did not die with her.
 - a. Priests and initiates fled to Pergamos where the symbol of the serpent was set up as an emblem of hidden wisdom. Revelation 2:12-17
 - b. It then crossed the sea to Italy where it settled in the Etruscan plain. Rome eventually became its head.
- 5. During church history, doctrine has been replaced by sacraments and heathen philosophy.
 - a. Name which appeared on Miter of Caesar – Pontifex Maximus – which means, High Priest and Chief Ruler, came from the High Priest of Babyloniansim.
 - (1) Appeared on Miter of all rulers of Rome starting with Constantine who was both High Priest and Ruler.
 - (2) Same appears on crown of Pope
 - (3) Pope also wears ring with fish inscribed on it – not a symbol of Peter the fisherman, but of fish god, Dagon.
 - b. This development of Babylonianism held all Europe in its grasp until the Great Reformation.
- 6. The present effort to unite Anglican, Roman, and Greek churches in one

ecumenical body is the culmination of Babylonianism during the Tribulation Period.

- a. The league of ten nations is formed and has power with the Beast for one hour.
- b. The recognized Babylonian Church, the Woman is back in the saddle again for a time.
- c. They soon find her to be empty and unable to satisfy their needs, and they turn on her and destroy her.
- d. According to verses 1 and 15, the scope of her influence
- e. Has reached to all the nations of the earth.
- f. Verses 9-11 show us plainly that the woman is Romanism, the outgrowth of Babylonianism.

IV. Warnings to us today concerning this system:

- A. Jeremiah 50:38 – “It is the land of graven images; they are mad upon their idols.
- B. Jeremiah 51:6-9
- C. Will you flee Babylon, and flee to the mercy of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. “Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”

Lesson 21 - Revelation 18:1-19:5 - “The Fall of Babylon the Great”

I. Introduction:

- A. We have identified: “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth.”
 - 1. Babylonianism – The worship of the Mother-son symbol which began in geographic Babylon in the time of Nimrod and which has continued down to us in the form of Romanism.
 - 2. This is Satan’s counterfeit for the “Seed of the Woman”. Genesis 3:15
- B. Chapter 17 – She had influenced every nation of the world. Vs 2,25,18
 - 1. Romanism has permeated every nation of the world and has become the national religion of many.
- C. Chapter 18 and the beginning of chapter 19 give the details of her destruction.

II. Chapter 18:1-3 The time of her destruction and the nature of her influence.

- A. The Angel here corresponds to the one in 14:8
 - 1. This is the Angel with the 7th vial.
 - 2. Says that Babylonianism will last till the end of the Tribulation.
 - a. The Beast and his ten kings shall destroy her when she is no longer of use to them, and just before the true “Seed of the Woman” comes to destroy them.
- B. The nature of her influence
 - 1. Since she is a counterfeit, those who reject the True will gravitate to her.
 - a. Meaning of the references of her inhabitants in Vs 2
 - 2. Man is incurably religious.
 - a. If he rejects an infallible Bible, he will look for something else infallible on which to lean. (An infallible church)
 - b. The corruption of the best is always the worst corruption.

III. The warning to God’s people concerning her Vs 4

- A. This is not only for God’s people of a future time during the Tribulation, but is for God’s people today.
 - 1. So many who were set free from Romanism in the Reformation are now victims of the effort to reunite with it again.
 - 2. Vs 2 mentions the unclean bird. (Satanic influence)
 - a. II Corinthians 6:17 says to come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and He will receive us.
 - b. Romans 12:1 tells us we are first Holy, then acceptable.
 - 3. Many present day professing Christians have a Babylonian garment hidden under the tent floor of their life.
 - a. It is time for individuals, churches, families, nations, etc., to refuse to

have anything to do with this influence.

B. She will not stop in her influence until the Scarlet Woman again rides the beast and the One-World-Church dominates all.

1. Illustration of the riots in Ireland

2. Illustrations from “American Freedom and Catholic Power” Pages 266-269

C. Vs 5-24 tell of the nature of her destruction.

1. Heavy emphasis is placed upon her commercialization.

a. Illustrations of how the church and her beliefs have been commercialized.

b. Relics are an example. (Tortilla with face of Christ and bleeding pictures and statues)

2. Involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in business today is greater than any other single force, group or country in the world.

a. Every nation of the world is affected and will therefore have a part in her destruction.

IV. The rejoicing of God’s people in Heaven is justified. 19:1-5

A. God has said that vengeance belongs to Him.

B. God will always bring righteous judgement on the enemies of the Righteous.

1. “Fear thou not for I am with thee. . .”

2. “And lo, I am with you always...”

3. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. . .”

C. This assurance belongs only to those who belong to Him.

1. By faith we become heirs of promise.

Lesson 22 - Revelation 19:6-21 - “Two Great Suppers”

- I. Introduction: Contrast of the two great suppers
 - A. The first – The marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - 1. A wonderful time of rejoicing
 - B. The second – The Great Supper of God
 - 1. A horrible time of destruction
- II. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Vs 6-10
 - A. Identity of the bride
 - 1. Theories
 - a. Old Testament Saints Isaiah 54:6
 - b. Saints of this age Ephesians 5:22-32
 - c. Some say it is both – (examine together
 - 2. Salvation in both Old Testament and New Testament is by the same means.
 - a. Israel is called the wife of God.
 - b. Each New Testament Saint is part of the Body of Christ.
 - (1) God sees all this as an eternal present tense.
 - (2) God sees the complete wife from the beginning.
 - 3. The Bride, then, in a particular sense, is made up of New Testament believers and we become part of the wife of God at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.
 - a. All made possible by faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior
 - 4. Only those who trust Christ as their Savior will be at this feast.
 - a. I John 5:11,12
 - b. John 14:6
 - c. Remember, no one who has heard the Gospel before the Rapture will be able to be saved after the Rapture. What you do with Jesus you must do now.
 - B. The appearance of the Bride: Vs 8
 - 1. Arrayed in Fine Linen, clean and white
- III. Jesus descends from Heaven with His bride – Battle of Armageddon Vs 11-16
 - A. Appearance of Christ:
 - 1. Riding on a White Horse – Contrast with white horse when the first seal was opened.
 - a. This is a symbol of authority
 - b. Rider of the first seal comes from the earth and his work is doomed to failure.
 - c. This time the rider is from Heaven and cannot fail. (All who come as

Christ and are not from Heaven are imposters)

2. Eyes were a flame of fire – 1:14 (Judgement)
3. Many crowns were on His head – Authority over all kingdoms of the earth. He wore no crowns in chapter 1 when John first saw Him.
4. Clothed in a vesture dipped in blood – Before it was His own blood shed for our redemption, but now it is the blood of His enemies.
5. His names – 3 of them
 - a. Name known only to Himself – His dignity as the eternal Son.
 - b. The Word of God – The incarnation
 - c. King of Kings and Lord of Lords – His second coming to set up His kingdom

B. His Army – made up of:

1. Old Testament Saints
2. New Testament Saints
3. Tribulation Saints

C. The sharp sword which went out of His mouth

1. This is the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. See also II Thessalonians 2:8
 - a. By this He created.
 - b. By this He revealed Himself to man.
 - c. By this He keeps us true to Him.
 - d. By this He will conquer.

IV. The Great Supper of God Vs 17-21

- A. This is a supper provided for the fowls of the air on the carcasses of the enemies of God.
1. The Beast, the False Prophet and the armies of the nations shall come together to do battle with God and with His Christ.
 2. The Beast and the False Prophet are taken alive and, without experiencing physical death, are cast into the Lake of Fire.

V. Conclusion:

- A. Which supper do you want to take part in?
- B. The only way to be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is to take Christ as your Savior now.
- C. Then will follow the Millennial Reign of Christ.
1. Six milleniums have passed since the creation of man.
(These correspond to the six creation days)

Lesson 23 - Revelation 20 - “The Millennial Reign of Christ and The Great White Throne”

- I. We are to consider two great last events in this book.
 - A. The Millennial Reign of Christ
 - 1. The word does not appear in the Bible, but is Latin for a one thousand year period of time.
 - 2. Some say there is no Millennial Reign because the word is not in the Bible. The teaching is, however.
 - a. Trinity not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - b. Substitution not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - c. Deity not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - d. Eternal Sonship not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - e. Incarnation not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - f. Depravity and Fall of Man not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - g. Rapture not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - B. The Great White Throne Judgement
 - 1. Time when God pronounces final judgement on those who refused His grace.
- II. The Millennial Reign of Christ:
 - A. The Latin expression for that which does appear here six times.
 - 1. Sixth Millennium is now drawing to a close.
 - a. Type of six creation days in Genesis 1 in which God created all things.
 - 2. There is one more millennium to go – a type of when God rested from His creative work.
 - B. Conditions during the Millennium:
 - 1. Not necessarily a sinless period
 - a. Satan is bound, but men will still have a sinful nature.
 - b. If man sins during the Millennium, it will be because of the hardness of his own heart, and his own self-will, not because he is deceived.
 - c. The judgement of God upon sin during this period will be sudden and thorough.
 - 2. The Saints of God will reign with Him. Vs 4-6
 - a. This includes not only Saints from this dispensation.
 - b. Also those martyred during the Tribulation Period Vs 4
 - c. It includes believers who come out of the Tribulation Period.
 - 3. In the present dispensation, those who live godly in Christ Jesus suffer persecution, but at that time they shall reign with Him. II Timothy 2:12
 - 4. Vs 5,6 The First Resurrection includes:

- a. Both O.T. and N.T. Saints' bodies raised at the resurrection
 - b. The Tribulation Saints who shall receive their resurrection bodies toward the close of the Tribulation Period.
- 5. No one can have part in the first resurrection without having received Christ as his or her Savior.
- C. Satan is loosed from his prison for a time at the close of the Millennium.
 - 1. There will still be those from the Millennium who only paid lip service to Christ.
 - 2. In Eden (innocence) disobedience
 - a. Man disobeyed the only prohibition placed on him.
 - b. When tested under the dispensation of conscience man filled the earth with violence and God sent the flood.
 - c. Under the dispensation of divinely appointed government, man turned to idolatry.
 - d. Tested under the Law, he crucified the Lord of Glory
 - e. Under Grace, man rejects Christ and chooses sin.
 - f. Tested under the personal reign of Christ, there will be those who side with Satan and rebel against God.
 - 3. One final attempt is made to overthrow God's authority See Vs 8-10
 - a. Vs 10 Satan is removed once and for all.
 - b. We see the eternal nature of the Lake of Fire.

III. The Great White Throne Judgement: Vs 11-15

- A. All the unbelieving dead are here present for pronouncement of their sentence.
 - 1. What is death? – Separation
 - 2. Three kinds of death:
 - a. Physical death – Separation of you from your body
 - b. Spiritual death – Separation of the soul from God
 - c. Eternal death – To remain spiritually dead until you die physically.
 - 3. The dead, small and great are found here.
 - a. Unbelieving dead from Hades, both Old and New Testament
 - b. Unbelievers from every era, dispensation, walk of life, stratum of society, financial bracket, etc.
 - c. This is the second resurrection.
- B. This is not a trial, but a pronouncement of sentence against sin.
 - 1. Nothing shall be overlooked. Hebrews 4:12
 - a. Because the judgement shall be from the Word of God Compare Vs 12 and Jesus' statement that His words, and Moses' words would judge the Old Testament and New Testament unbelievers.

- b. They shall be judged from the Book of Life, according to their works, or sins.
 - (1) Many would think they were all right because of church membership.
 - (2) Many will have depended on good works.
 - (3) Many will have depended on the goodness of parents or other relatives.
 - (4) Many will have trusted in false religions.
 - (5) Many will be there because of procrastination.
 - (6) Many will be there because they worshipped at the shrine of materialism.
- 2. God will know where to find every one of them.
- C. There is only one way to escape this judgement.
 - 1. John 14:6 – Jesus is the only way.
 - 2. I John 5:11,12 – If you have Christ you have life

Lesson 24 - Revelation 21:1-8 - "Eternal Issues"

I. Introduction:

A. We have seen nearly all the picture of eschatology.

1. The Church Age closes with a great apostasy and coldness among professing Christians. Rev. 3:15-20 & II Thess. 2:1-3
2. The Rapture – Christ comes for His own in the air. Rev. 4:1 and II Thess. 2:7
3. Then comes the Great Tribulation on Earth. Revelation chapters 4-19
4. Christ returns with His own to do battle with His enemies, and to begin His Millennial reign on Earth. Rev. 20
5. Satan is loosed for a brief time at the close of the Millennium, and then comes the Great White Throne Judgement.
6. The last two chapters are divided into three parts:
 - a. Rev. 21:1-8 The Eternal Issues
 - b. Rev. 21:9-22:5 A detailed description of the New Jerusalem, the City of God, holding sway over the whole Earth during the time of the Millennium.
 - c. Rev. 22:6-21 The Divine Epilogue

II. Eternal Issues

A. The first is the New Heavens and the New Earth. II Pet. 3:4-7

1. All of this New Creation will be made by Him who sits on the throne; Jesus Himself, who made all things in the beginning. Genesis 1 and John 1
2. God will do away with the following things for all eternity.
 - a. All tears – This is followed by all the things which cause tears
 - b. Death – separation; what man fears the most.
 - c. Sorrow – Including all disappointments
 - d. Crying – Weeping: Example of the Jews' tear bottle
 - e. Pain – Suffering, especially in the area of injustices

B. The Holy City, The New Jerusalem:

1. This is a picture of God dwelling in the midst of His people as He wanted to do from the beginning.
 - a. Adam and Eve in the garden
 - b. The Tabernacle in the wilderness
 - c. The Temple in Jerusalem
 - d. II Corinthians 6:14-18
2. There shall never again be anything to mar this relationship.

III. The warning here is for us as well as for those of that time. Vs 7,8

A. Vs 7 How do we overcome? I John 5:4 Notice: This is an eternal relationship.

- B. Vs 8 The Second Death – This is also an eternal relationship.
1. Fearful – Those who fear the cost of being a Christian
 2. Unbelieving – This is the crowd who, for one reason or another, rejects Christ and the written Word – Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.
 3. Abominable – Loathsome and detestable: God cannot allow sin into Heaven.
 4. Murderers – In any fashion
 5. Sorcerers – Those who practice witchcraft or the occult
 6. Whoremongers – All those who have been totally corrupted by, and given over to immorality.
 7. Idolaters – Those who put anything else ahead of God.
 - a. Could include a lot of professed believers
 - b. Those today who love the world more than God
- C. Note the comparison between this list and the Ten Commandments.
- D. Will you:
1. Be on this list?
 2. Be in Christ by His Grace?

Lesson 25 - Revelation 21:9-22:5 - “The New Jerusalem”

- I. The Jew Jerusalem; what is it? Vs 9,10
 - A. According to these two verses, it is made up of the wife of the Lamb, or, formerly, the Bride of Christ.
 - 1. Just as Heaven, for the Christian, is to be where Christ is, so then, to be in the Bride of Christ is to be in The New Jerusalem.
 - B. It can be described as:
 - 1. An eternal honeymoon