



Investigating the Word of God

Revelation



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An Introduction to Revelation

Revelation Defined

“Revelation” comes from the Greek word “*apokalupsis*.” It is defined as “an uncovering, prop, a laying bare, making naked” (J. H. Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon of the NT*) and “from *apokalupto*, ‘to uncover, unveil.’ *apokaluptis*, ‘an uncovering’” (W.E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of NT Words*).

The book of Revelation is an uncovering or unveiling of Jesus Christ in His present glory and power to give victory to His faithful saints.

The book uncovers or unveils through symbols, signs, imagery, and visions the impending persecution facing the church near the end of the first century.

The Apocalyptic Method

The apocalyptic method is employed in the writing of the book of Revelation. Apocalyptic literature appears in trying times. It seemed to flourish in a time of some great national crisis. In Revelation God unveils to His people His own mighty power and disposition toward them in such times. The purpose was to encourage faith and to comfort the afflicted.

Apocalyptic literature was common in the late years of Hebrew history. It was popular with the Jews from about 200 B.C. to around 200 A.D. The three inspired apocalyptic writers of the Old Testament were Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah. Ezekiel and Daniel wrote in the days of the Babylonian exile to prepare the people for trials, even to the days of Antiochus Epiphanes in Syria and the Roman Empire.

The apostle John in the book of Revelation is the only apocalyptic writer in the New Testament. Revelation was written to encourage Christians in the days of the Roman persecution and to the end of time.

The Author

The author of the book of Revelation is the apostle John. He speaks of himself as a man named “John” some four times in the book (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8).

The external evidence (evidence outside of the book), internal evidence (evidence from within the book), and the evidence of tradition testify to John the apostle as the writer of the book.

In reality, though, God is the author. It is not “John’s apocalypse,” but God’s. It is God’s unveiling.

The Date of Writing

The date of the book of Revelation is important for one’s interpretation of the book depends largely on the date which he assigns to the writing. Two important views on the date of the book are forwarded:

- During or shortly after the persecution by Nero and before the destruction of Jerusalem, c. 69 A.D.
- During the persecution by the emperor Domitian, c. 96 A.D.

The early date is defended by such scholars as Neil Lightfoot, James M. MacDonald, Alfred Plummer, Philip Schaff, and Bernhard Weiss. The most thorough defense of this position is made by MacDonald. In summary of these writers, they say the early date is correct because Jerusalem is still standing since the temple was to be measured (Rev. 11:1-3); the Jewish state was still in existence because the existence of the twelve tribes is assured (Rev. 7); Nero, the sixth emperor, is on the throne, or just deceased, when the empire had received a deadly wound (13:3, 12, 14; 17:10); the activity of Judaizing teachers is seen (MacDonald); and that there is no internal evidence for a later date and that external evidence for a later date is weak.

The later date is defended by the most recent writers: Henry Alford, William Hendricksen, R.C.H. Lenski, James Moffatt, James Orr, Albertus Pieters, C.H. Roberson, Ray Summers, Henry Barclay Swete, and Homer Hailey. Internal evidence for the later date consists of two main points: (1) The condition of the churches. The early date does not suit the condition as would the later date; (2) The general severity of the persecution as presented suits better the days of Domitian. As to external evidence for the later date, the persecution by Nero seems to have been confined primarily to Rome. Edward Gibbon said, "It is evident that the effect, as well as the cause, of Nero's persecution, were confined to the walls of Rome" (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. I, 605). Also, the persecution by Domitian was more general, and religious, the result of an effort to force worship of his image through fear of losing his throne.

The later date seems to better fit the context of the book.

Interpretations of the Book

Futurist. The book is yet unfulfilled. This view is held by Millennial and dispensational groups. These place chapters 4-19 just before the coming of the Christ; then comes the millennial reign (20:1-10); followed by judgment (20:11-15); then the final state (21:1 - 22:5). This view is completely erroneous and has no merit.

Continuous - Historical. This view presents the book as a forecast of the church: the rise of the papacy, Mohammedanism, the Reformation, etc. Its shortcomings include the fact that it affords no meaning to Christians of the first century and that it leads to conclusions as absurd as that of the futurists.

The Philosophy of History. This view holds Revelation does not necessarily contain any actual events but rather symbols of forces at work, both temporal and spiritual forces in which the spiritual are victorious.

The Preterist. This view says the book of Revelation was written for the people of John's day, fulfilled then and, thus, now has little value for us.

The Historical - Background. This view states that the book of Revelation was written to the people of the first century, fulfilled in the events of the first two centuries (some extend it longer), but in this background is seen a message for all time.

The Theme, Message and Purpose of the Book

The theme. The conflict between God and Satan, between the church and the forces of Rome and paganism.

The message. The triumph of divine forces, i.e., of truth and righteousness, and the defeat of Satan. The kingdom of God is the kingdom of Old Testament prophecy—one that would not be destroyed.

The purpose. To encourage faithfulness in the face of all opposition for the cause of Christ will be victorious.

A Summary of the Book

The book of Revelation is God's unveiling of Jesus Christ in His present power and glory. Its author is John the Apostle. The most likely date is during the reign of Domitian, ca. 96 A.D. The interpretation held by this writer is that the book met a need at the time of its writing, that it dealt with a historical situation, but with a message applicable to all time; and that its message is that of the triumph of the kingdom of God and truth. Satan is destined to complete destruction, and so falls his cause with him.

God had foretold the establishment of a kingdom never to be destroyed (Dan. 2:44; 7: 14-15). That kingdom had been established and must now face a test that would demonstrate its divine origin and establishment, and confirm the claim to its indestructibility.

The kingdom of God had to be tested as Christ was. As Christ was victorious in the resurrection, the church is victorious overcoming the trials in Revelation. The word "overcome" is used 17 times in the book more than the rest of the New Testament combined.

Rules for Study and Interpretation of the Book

1. Always keep in mind the question, "What did the book mean to the people of that day?" Any interpretation that overlooks this point is useless. This involves:
 - Understanding the conditions of the day under which the people of God were living.
 - The spiritual needs of the hour: revelation and instruction; encouragement and assurance of victory.
2. Make sure you have an understanding of the Old Testament prophets and their use of symbols especially Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah. In the book of Revelation, there are over four hundred allusions to the Old Testament but not a single direct quotation.
3. All interpretations must be consistent with the teaching of the New Testament.

An Outline of Revelation

I. The Struggle on Earth: the Church Persecuted by the World. The Church Is Avenged, Protected, and Victorious. (chs. 1-11)

- A. Christ is in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. (1-3)
- B. The book of the Seven Seals. (4-7)
 - 1. The throne scene. (4-5)
 - 2. The loosing of the seals. (6-7)
- C. The seven trumpets of judgment. (8-11)

II. The Deeper Spiritual Background: the Christ (and the Church) Persecuted by the Dragon (Satan) and His Helpers. The Victory of Christ and the Church. (chs. 12-22)

- A. War! And the chief figures of the conflict. (12-14)
- B. The seven bowls of wrath. (15-16)
- C. The fall of the harlot and the beasts. (17-19)
- D. The judgment upon the Dragon (Satan) followed by the new heaven and earth, new Jerusalem. (20-22)

Adapted from *More Than Conquerors*, William Hendriksen, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1944

Revelation Chapter One

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.”

Key People

Jesus Christ
John

Key Places

Asia	Thyatira
Patmos	Sardis
Ephesus	Philadelphia
Smyrna	Laodicea
Pergamos	

Key Words

Revelation	Omega
Signified	Companion
Witness	Tribulation
Testimony	Lord’s Day
Prophecy	Lampstands
Firstborn	Refined
Glory	Countenance
Dominion	Hades
Pierced	Mystery
Alpha	

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. When were the things to be revealed in this book to come to pass?
2. To whom were these things signified?
3. According to verse three, who is blessed?
4. To whom is the writing addressed? (v. 4)
5. How is Jesus described in verse five?
6. According to verses five and six, what has Jesus done for His saints?
7. Who will see Jesus when He comes again?
8. Why, according to verse eight, was John on the island of Patmos?
9. What did John say he was in on “the Lord’s Day?”
10. What was John told to do by the voice that was as a trumpet? (vv. 10-11)
11. What did John see in the midst of the seven golden lampstands?
12. Describe the appearance of the one John saw in the seven golden lampstands.
13. What did John do when he saw this one in the seven golden lampstands?
14. How did the one in the seven golden lampstands identify Himself? (vv. 17-18)
15. What did the one in the seven golden lampstands tell John to do? (vv. 19-20)

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. The things John was shown were to shortly take place. |
| T | F | 2. The time for fulfillment of the prophecy was not near. |
| T | F | 3. Jesus Christ is the firstborn from the dead. |
| T | F | 4. John was to write what he saw and send it to the seven churches of Galatia. |
| T | F | 5. John had the keys of Hades and Death. |

Discussion Question

What is meant when it says the things in this book will “shortly take place?”

Revelation Chapter Two

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 7, 11, 17, 29

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...”

Key People

Nicolaitans

Antipas

Balaam

Balak

Son of God

Jezebel

Key Places

Ephesus

Paradise of God

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Key Words

Angel

Patience

Persevered

Repent

Overcome

Tribulation

Poverty

Blasphemy

Synagogue

Martyr

Doctrine

Stumbling block

Sacrificed

Immorality

Manna

Prophetess

Seduce

Depths

Burden

Dashed

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What good things are said about the church at Ephesus? (vv. 2-3)
2. What did the Lord have against the church at Ephesus? (v. 4)
3. What was the church at Ephesus told to do? (v. 5)
4. Whose deeds did the Lord hate? (v. 6)
5. According to verse seven, what will those who overcome be given?
6. How did the Lord describe Himself to the church at Smyrna? (v. 8)
7. What, according to verse 10, was going to happen to those in the church at Smyrna?
8. What will be given to the faithful? (v. 10)
9. How did the Lord describe Himself to the church in Pergamos? (v. 12)
10. For what things did the Lord praise the church in Pergamos? (v. 13)
11. What things did the Lord have against those in the church at Pergamos? (vv. 14-15)
12. What were those at Pergamos told to do? What would happen if they did not do it?
13. According to verse 17, what will be given to those who overcome?
14. How, in verse 18, did the Son of God describe His eyes and feet?
15. What good thing did the Lord say about the church in Thyatira? (v. 19)
16. What did the Lord have against the church in Thyatira? (vv. 20-21)
17. What did the Lord say He would do to “Jezebel” and her children?
18. What did the Lord say for the church in Thyatira to do? (v. 25)
19. What, according to verses 26 and 27, will be given to those who overcome?
20. What, according to verse 28, will be given to those who overcome?

Discussion Question

What is meant by the phrase, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches?”

Revelation Chapter Three

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 19

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Key People

David

Key Places

Sardis

Philadelphia

New Jerusalem

Laodicea

Key Words

Defiled

Worthy

Synagogue

Persevere

Pillar

Refined

Salve

Rebuke

Chasten

Zealous

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What “name” did those of the church in Sardis have? Was it true?
2. What had the Lord found in relation to the works of the church in Sardis? (v. 2)
3. What, according to verse five, will happen to those who overcome?
4. How does the Lord describe Himself to the church in Philadelphia? (v. 7)
5. Why was the Lord going to keep those in Philadelphia from the “hour of trial?” (v. 10)
6. What, according to verse 12, will be written on the one who overcomes?
7. How does the Lord describe Himself to the Laodiceans? (v. 14)
8. How are the works of the Laodiceans described? What will happen to them because of their works? (vv. 15-16)
9. According to verse 17, what did the Laodiceans think they were? What were they really?
10. What, according to verse 20, will be given to the one who overcomes?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|---|
| _____ | 1. Sardis | A. The name of the city of My God. |
| _____ | 2. Philadelphia | B. Told it needed eye salve. |
| _____ | 3. Laodicea | C. Some of it had not defiled their garments. |
| _____ | 4. New Jerusalem | D. An open door was set before it. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The works of the church in Sardis were perfect before God. |
| T | F | 2. The one who overcomes will not have his name blotted out of the Book of Life. |
| T | F | 3. The Lord said He had the key of Daniel. |
| T | F | 4. No one could shut the door the Lord had set before the church in Philadelphia. |
| T | F | 5. The Lord said He was the Beginning of the creation of God. |
| T | F | 6. As many as the Lord hates He rebukes and chastens. |

Discussion Question

What is the “Book of Life”

Revelation Chapter Four

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Heaven

Key Words

Throne
Jasper
Sardius
Rainbow
Emerald
Elders
Crowns
Crystal
Holy
Almighty
Worship
Worthy
Glory
Honor
Power
Created
Existed

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John see? (v. 1)
2. What did the first voice who spoke to John sound like? What did it tell him to do?
3. According to verse two, what did John see while he was “in the Spirit?”
4. What was the one like who sat on the throne? What was around the throne? Like what did it appear? (v. 3)
5. Who, according to verse four, were around the throne? What were they wearing?
6. According to verses five and six:
 - a. What proceeded from the throne?
 - b. What was before the throne?
7. Describe, from verses seven and eight, the four living creatures.
8. What did the four living creatures say day and night?
9. What do the twenty-four elders do when the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to the One who sits on the throne?
10. Why, according to the twenty-four elders, is the One who sits on the throne worthy to receive glory, honor and power?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Rainbow | A. Gold. |
| _____ | 2. Sea of glass | B. Emerald. |
| _____ | 3. Crowns | C. Jasper and Sardius. |
| _____ | 4. Robe | D. Crystal. |
| _____ | 5. He who sat on the throne | E. White. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. A door in heaven was standing open. |
| T | F | 2. The twenty-five elders had crowns of gold on their heads. |
| T | F | 3. The second living creature was like a flying eagle. |
| T | F | 4. God is described as the one “Who was and is and is to come.” |
| T | F | 5. The twenty-four elders cast their crowns before the throne. |

Discussion Question

Who do you think the twenty-four elders in this chapter represent?

Revelation Chapter Five

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 9-10

“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Key People

John (not named)
Judah
David

Key Places

Key Words

Scroll
Seal
Worthy
Prevailed
Slain
Harp
Incense
Redeemed
Tribe
Tongue

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John see in the right hand of the One who sat on the throne?
2. What was a “strong angel” proclaiming?
3. According to verse three, who was worthy to open the scroll? What was John’s reaction to that fact? (v. 4)
4. Who did one of the elders say had been found worthy to open the scroll? (v. 5) Why was He worthy?
5. What, according to verse six, did John see in the midst of the throne?
6. What, in verse seven, did the one John saw in verse six do? What was the response of the four living creatures to this action? (v. 8)
7. Who sang the new song? What did this new song say?
8. What was the number of angels around the throne?
9. What were the angels who were around the throne saying?
10. Who, according to verses 11-14, worshiped “the Lamb?”

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ | 1. Strong angel | A. Said, “Amen.” |
| _____ | 2. One of the 24 elders | B. Worthy to open the scroll. |
| _____ | 3. Four living creatures | C. Numbered thousands of thousands. |
| _____ | 4. Angels around the throne | D. Proclaimed in a loud voice that no one was worthy to open the scroll. |
| _____ | 5. The Lamb | E. Said, “Do not weep.” |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The one on the throne had a scroll in His left hand. |
| T | F | 2. The Lion of the tribe of Joseph was found worthy to open the scroll. |
| T | F | 3. The Lamb had six eyes and six horns. |
| T | F | 4. The golden bowls of incense were the prayers of the saints. |
| T | F | 5. The Lamb redeemed people out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation by His blood. |

Discussion Question

What do you think the scroll in this chapter represents?

Revelation Chapter Six

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 2

“And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Seal

Conquer

Scales

Denarius

Hades

Slain

Testimony

Avenge

Sackcloth

Recede

Wrath

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What happened when the Lamb opened the first seal?
2. What did the one on the white horse have? What did he go out to do?
3. What appeared when the second seal was opened? What was the one who sat on it to do?
4. What appeared when the third seal was opened? What did the one who sat on it have in his hand?
5. What appeared when the fourth seal was opened? What was the name of the one who sat on it? What was given to him?
6. What did John see when the fifth seal was opened? For what did they cry? What answer was given to them?
7. What happened, according to verses 12-14, when the sixth seal was opened?
8. Who hid from the events of the sixth seal?
9. What did those who hid from the events of the sixth seal say? To whom did they say it?
10. According to verse 17, what had come?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---|
| _____ | 1. The first seal | A. Rider had a pair of scales in his hand. |
| _____ | 2. The second seal | B. Pale horse. |
| _____ | 3. The third seal | C. The stars of heaven fell to the earth. |
| _____ | 4. The fourth seal | D. White horse. |
| _____ | 5. The fifth seal | E. White robe given to souls under the altar. |
| _____ | 6. The sixth seal | F. Rider given a great sword. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. The rider on the red horse went out to conquer. |
| T | F | 2. A bushel of wheat was available for a denarius. |
| T | F | 3. The souls under the altar had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. |
| T | F | 4. At the sixth seal, the sky receded as a curtain. |

Discussion Question

Why do you think God would allow more of “the fellow servants and their brethren” of the souls under the altar to be killed rather than destroying their enemies immediately?

Revelation Chapter Seven

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 14

“And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’
So he said to me, ‘These are the
ones who come out of the great
tribulation, and washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of
the Lamb.’”

Key People

John (not named)
The Lord

Key Places

Key Words

Harm
Sealed
Salvation
Blessing
Glory
Wisdom
Thanksgiving
Honor
Power
Might
Arrayed
Tribulation
Shepherd

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John see in verse one? What were they doing?
2. In verse two, from where did an angel ascend? What did he have?
3. Who, according to verse three, were to be sealed?
4. How many were sealed? Where were they from?
5. What was standing before the throne? (v. 9) In what were they clothed? What did they have in their hands?
6. What, according to verse ten, did those who were before the throne say?
7. Who else, according to verse 11, were before the throne? What did they do? What did they say?
8. From where did those who were clothed in white robes come? (v. 14)
9. How were the robes made white? (v. 14)
10. What, according to verse 15, do those who were clothed in white robes do?
11. Who dwells among those clothed in white robes?
12. What, according to verse 16, will those in white robes no longer do?
13. What will not strike those in white robes?
14. Who will “shepherd” those in white robes? Where will He lead them?
15. What, according to verse 17, will God do for those in white robes?

Matching

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. God | A. Holding the four winds. |
| _____ 2. The Lamb | B. In the midst of the throne. |
| _____ 3. Another angel | C. Sealed. |
| _____ 4. Four angels | D. Will wipe away every tear. |
| _____ 5. 144,000 | E. Ascended from the east. |

Discussion Question

What does it mean when it says that “their robes are made white in the blood of the Lamb?”

Revelation Chapter Eight

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 2

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Censer

Mingled

Torch

Wormwood

Bitter

Inhabitants

Blasts

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What happened when the seventh seal was opened? (v. 1)
2. What was given to the seven angels who stand before God?
3. What did the angel who came and stood at the altar have? What was given to him? What was he to do with that which he was given?
4. What, according to verse four, ascended before God?
5. What was thrown to the earth? (v. 5) What resulted from this action?
6. What happened when the first angel sounded his trumpet?
7. What happened when the second angel sounded his trumpet?
8. What happened when the third angel sounded his trumpet?
9. What happened when the fourth angel sounded his trumpet?
10. After the fourth angel sounded, what did John hear flying through the midst of heaven? What was it saying?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|---|
| _____ | 1. First angel | A. A third of the waters became wormwood. |
| _____ | 2. Second angel | B. Threw the golden censer to the earth. |
| _____ | 3. Third angel | C. A third of the trees were burned. |
| _____ | 4. Fourth angel | D. A third of the sun was struck. |
| _____ | 5. Another angel | E. A third of the sea became blood. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. There was silence in heaven for about an hour. |
| T | F | 2. Seven angels were given seven trumpets. |
| T | F | 3. Incense was offered with the prayers of the saints. |
| T | F | 4. A star named Westwood fell from heaven. |
| T | F | 5. Many men died from bitter water. |

Discussion Question

Why do you think there was a prolonged silence in heaven when the seventh seal was opened?

Revelation Chapter Nine

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

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

Key People

John (not named)
Abaddon - Apollyon

Key Places

Euphrates River

Key Words

Bottomless

Pit

Furnace

Locusts

Scorpions

Seal

Breastplate

Woe

Mankind

Fiery

Hyacinth

Sulfur

Brimstone

Plagues

Sorceries

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who was given the key to the bottomless pit? (v. 1)
2. What happened when the bottomless pit was opened? (v. 2)
3. According to verse three, what came upon the earth? What power was given to them?
4. What were those who came upon the earth not to harm? (v. 4) What were they to harm? How long were they to harm them? (v. 5)
5. What, according to verse six, will men seek and not find in those days?
6. How are the locusts described in verses seven through ten?
7. Who was king over the locusts? What were his names?
8. Who were released when the sixth angel sounded? What were they to do after their release? (vv. 14-15)
9. How many were in “the army of the horsemen?”
10. What color were the breastplates of those who sat on the horses?
11. What were the heads of the horses like?
12. What came out of the horses’ mouths?
13. What portion of mankind was killed by these three plagues?
14. According to verse 20, what did that portion of mankind who survived the plagues not do?
15. According to verse 21, what did that portion of mankind who survived the plagues not do?

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. Locusts | A. Teeth. |
| _____ 2. Scorpions | B. Shape of the locusts. |
| _____ 3. Lions | C. Came out of the smoke. |
| _____ 4. Serpents | D. Tails that do harm. |
| _____ 5. Horses | E. Sting torments man. |

Discussion Question

What do you think is represented by the bottomless pit?

Revelation Chapter Ten

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 11

“And he said to me, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.’”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Mighty

Pillars

Uttered

Delay

Mystery

Bitter

Honey

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who, according to verse one, came down from heaven?
2. The one who came down from heaven:
 - a. With what was he clothed?
 - b. What was on his head?
 - c. What was his face like?
 - d. What were his feet like?
3. What did the one who came down from heaven have in his hand?
4. Where did the one who came down from heaven place his feet?
5. What was the voice of the one who came down from heaven like? What happened when he cried out?
6. What was John going to do when the seven thunders uttered their voices? What was he told?
7. What, according to verse seven, would be no longer?
8. What was to be finished when the seventh angel was about to sound?
9. What had been declared to the prophets?
10. What was John instructed to take? (v. 8)
11. What, in verse nine, was John told to do with that he had been instructed to take?
12. What was John told would happen when he followed the above instruction? (v. 9)
13. What happened when John obeyed that instruction?
14. What, in verse eleven, was John told he must do?

True - False

- T F 1. A mighty angel had a rainbow on his head.
- T F 2. The mighty angel had a little book open in his hand.
- T F 3. The mighty angel cried with a loud voice as when a tiger roars.
- T F 4. The mighty angel swore by Him who lives forever and ever.
- T F 5. The mystery of God would be finished after the seventh angel sounded.
- T F 6. The little book was bitter in John’s mouth but sweet in his stomach.

Discussion Question

Why do you think the book in this chapter is described as being “little?”

Revelation Chapter Eleven

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise up and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.’”

Key People

John (not named)
The Lord

Key Places

Sodom
Egypt

Key Words

Tread

Witnesses

Sackcloth

Testimony

Tormented

Almighty

Kingdom

Covenant

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What was John given? What was he told to do with it?
2. What was John not to measure? Why was he not to measure it? (v. 2)
3. According to verse three, to whom was God going to give power? Why? For how long?
4. How are those to whom God was going to give power described in verse four?
5. What would happen to those to whom God was going to give power? (v. 5)
6. What “power” will those to whom God was going to give power possess?
7. What will happen to those to whom God was going to give power when they finish their testimony? (vv. 7-8)
8. What will be the reactions of the death of those to whom God was going to give power by:
 - a. Peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations?
 - b. Those who dwell on the earth?
9. What happened to the dead bodies of those to whom God was going to give power after three-and-a-half days? Where did they then go?
10. What, according to verse 13, happened in the same hour? What was the result of this event?
11. What took place in heaven when the seventh angel sounded? What was said? (v. 15)
12. What did the twenty-four elders do in response to the message of verse 15?
13. Why, according to verse 17, was God to be praised?
14. According to verse 18, who was God going to reward?
15. What was opened in heaven? (v. 19) What did this allow John to see? What accompanied this opening?

Matching

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. Forty-two | A. Days two witnesses will prophesy. |
| _____ 2. One thousand two hundred and sixty | B. Angel who sounded. |
| _____ 3. Three-and-a-half | C. Portion of city felled by earthquake. |
| _____ 4. Tenth | D. Months the holy city to be trodden underfoot. |
| _____ 5. Seventh | E. Days dead bodies of two witnesses left lying. |

Discussion Question

How do you think the prophets were rewarded by God? (v. 18)

Revelation Chapter Twelve

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 11

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Key People

John (not named)
Michael
Devil - Satan

Key Places

Key Words

Sign
Garland
Fiery
Diadem
Rod of iron
Devour
Wilderness
Prevail
Deceives
Accuser
Inhabitants
Wrath
Persecuted
Nourished
Spewed
Offspring
Testimony

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What sign appeared in heaven? Why did she cry out? (vv. 1-2)
2. What other sign appeared in heaven? How is he described? (vv. 3-4a)
3. What did the being of the second sign seek to do in relation to the one revealed in the first sign? (v. 4b)
4. What was the child born to the woman to do? (v. 5)
5. Where did the woman go after giving birth to the child? Why did she go there? How long was she to be there? (v. 6)
6. According to verse seven, what broke out in heaven? Who was involved?
7. What was the dragon called? What happened to him? (v. 9)
8. What, according to verse ten, have “come?” Why did they come?
9. How did people overcome the “accuser?” (v. 12)
10. Why, according to verse 12, did the devil have great wrath?
11. Seeing he had been cast down to earth, what did the dragon do? (v. 13)
12. According to verse 14, what was the woman given? Why was she given this gift?
13. What, according to verse 15, did the serpent do? Why did he do it?
14. Who helped the woman? (v. 16) How did it help her?
15. With whom did the dragon now seek to make war? (v. 17)

Matching

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Woman | A. Cast to the earth. |
| _____ 2. Great dragon | B. Spewed water out of his mouth. |
| _____ 3. Male child | C. Prevailed in a war in heaven. |
| _____ 4. Michael | D. Fled into the wilderness. |
| _____ 5. Serpent | E. Caught up to God and His throne. |

Discussion Question

Why did the great dragon want to devour the Child of the woman as soon as it was born?

Revelation Chapter Thirteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 7

“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Blasphemous

Mortally

Marveled

Blasphemies

Book of Life

Foundation

Captivity

Patience

Exercises

Performs

Calculate

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John see rising from the sea? How is it described in verse one?
2. How is that which came out of the sea described in verse two?
3. What was given to that which came out of the sea? Who gave it to him?
4. What was the reaction of the world to that which came out of the sea? (v. 3)
5. Who, according to verse four, did the world worship?
6. According to verse six, what was that which came out of the sea given? What did he do with it? (v. 7)
7. What, in verse seven, is granted to that which came out of the sea?
8. According to verse eight, who would worship that which came out of the sea?
9. What will happen to the one who leads into captivity? What will happen to the one who kills by the sword? (v. 10)
10. What did John see coming up out of the earth? How is it described? (v. 11)
11. What does that which comes up out of the earth do according to verse:
 - a. Twelve?
 - b. Thirteen?
 - c. Fourteen?
12. According to verse 15, what was granted to that which came up out of the earth?
13. What does that which came up out of the earth cause? (v. 16)
14. Who, according to verse 17, can “buy or sell?”
15. What is the number of the beast?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|------------|------------|
| _____ | 1. Leopard | A. Mouth. |
| _____ | 2. Bear | B. Number. |
| _____ | 3. Lion | C. Horns |
| _____ | 4. Lamb | D. Beast |
| _____ | 5. Man | E. Feet. |

Discussion Question

What must one do to have his name written in the “Book of Life?”

Revelation Chapter Fourteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 13

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Mount Zion

Babylon

Key Words

Defiled

Firstfruits

Fornication

Indignation

Patience

Sickle

Thrust

Harvest

Clusters

Winepress

Trampled

Furlongs

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Where did John see a Lamb stand? Who was with Him?
2. Who did John hear? (v. 2) What were they doing? (v. 3a)
3. Who could hear the new song? (v. 3b)
4. How are the redeemed described in verse four?
5. Who was not found in the mouth of the redeemed? Why? (v. 5)
6. What did the angel who John saw in verse six have? What was he saying? (v. 7)
7. What did the angel of verse eight say?
8. What did a third angel say about those who worship the beast and his image? (vv. 9-11)
9. According to verse 12, what is the “patience of the saints?”
10. According to verse 13, who are “blessed?” Why?
11. Who did John see sitting on a cloud? What did He have on His head? What did He have in His hand? (v. 14)
12. What command was given by an angel who came out of the temple? Why was this command given?
13. What did the one who sat on the cloud do in response to the angel’s command?
14. According to verse 19, where did an angel throw the “vine of the earth?”
15. What, according to verse 20, came out of the winepress? How much of it was there?

Matching

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. 144,000 | A. Trampled outside the city. |
| _____ 2. Babylon | B. Keep the commandments of God. |
| _____ 3. Son of Man | C. Had a sickle in His hand. |
| _____ 4. Saints | D. Stand on Mount Zion. |
| _____ 5. Winepress | E. Is fallen. |

Discussion Question

What does it mean to “die in the Lord?”

Revelation Chapter Fifteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

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

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Marvelous

Plagues

Mingled

Manifested

Testimony

Linen

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What sign did John see in heaven? (v. 1a)
2. Why does the sign in verse one appear? (v. 1b)
3. What did John see in verse two? Who did he see standing on it?
4. What song were those in verse two singing? (v. 3)
5. According to verse three, what are:
 - a. The works of God?
 - b. The ways of God?
6. Why, according to verse four, is God to be feared and glorified?
7. What was opened in verse five?
8. Who came out of the temple in verse six? What were they wearing?
9. What was given by the four living creatures? To whom was it given? (v. 7)
10. With what was the temple filled? What caused it to be filled with that? (v. 8)
11. Why, according to verse eight, could no one enter the temple?

Matching

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. Temple | A. Golden. |
| _____ 2. Garments of angels | B. Linen. |
| _____ 3. Sea of glass | C. Mingled with fire. |
| _____ 4. Seven bowls | D. Filled with smoke. |

True - False

- | | |
|-----|--|
| T F | 1. Seven angels had the last seven plagues. |
| T F | 2. Those standing on the sea of glass had harps of God. |
| T F | 3. The seven angels had their chests girded with silver bands. |
| T F | 4. The twenty-four elders gave the seven golden bowls to the seven angels. |
| T F | 5. No one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. |

Discussion Question

Why do you think the song sung by those standing on the sea of glass is called “the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb?”

Revelation Chapter Sixteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 17

“Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done.’”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Euphrates River

Armageddon (Megiddo)

Babylon

Key Words

Foul

Loathsome

Scorch

Blasphemed

Gnawed

Fierceness

Talent

Exceedingly

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What command was given in verse one? From where did the command originate?
2. Upon what was the first bowl poured? What happened as a result?
3. Upon what was the second bowl poured? What happened as a result?
4. Upon what was the third bowl poured? What happened as a result?
5. According to verse five, why is God righteous?
6. What, according to verse six, had those who were being judged do?
7. According to verse seven, what are God’s judgments?
8. Upon what was the fourth bowl poured? What happened as a result?
9. What power was given to the fourth angel?
10. What did the men do who were affected by the actions of the fourth angel? (v. 9)
11. Upon what was the fifth bowl poured? What happened as a result? (vv. 10-11)
12. Upon what was the sixth bowl poured? What happened as a result?
13. What did John see coming out of the mouths of the dragon, beast and false prophet? (v. 13) What were they? (v. 14a)
14. What did those who came out of the mouths of the dragon, beast and false prophet do? (v. 14b)
15. How, according to verse 15, will the Lord come? Who will be blessed when He comes?
16. Where did those who came out of the mouths of the dragon, beast and false prophet gather? (v. 16)
17. What, according to verses 17 and 18 happened when the seventh angel poured out his bowl?
18. According to verse 19a, what happened to “the great city?” What was “Babylon” to be given? (v. 19b)
19. What happened to every island and the mountains? (v. 20)
20. According to verse 21, what fell from heaven? What size were they? What was the reaction to this “plague?”

Discussion Question

Tell why the judgments of God are “true and righteous.”

Revelation Chapter Seventeen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 1

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

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Key Words

Marvelous

Plagues

Mingled

Manifested

Testimony

Linen

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who spoke to John in verse one? What did he tell him?
2. To where was John carried away “in the Spirit?” What did he see there?
3. What was written on the forehead of the one John saw in the wilderness? (v. 5)
4. With what was the woman drunk?
5. What was John’s reaction to the drunkenness of the woman? What was the angel’s response to John? (v. 7)
6. How did the angel describe “the beast” in verse eight?
7. According to verse nine, what were the seven heads of the beast? What, in verse 10, do they also represent?
8. Where, according to verse 11, is the beast going?
9. What are the ten horns? (v. 12)
10. What, according to verse 13, will the ten horns give to the beast?
11. With whom, according to verse 14, will these make war? What will be the outcome of this war? Why will that be the outcome?
12. According to verse 15, what are the waters that John saw?
13. What will the “ten horns” do to the “harlot?” (v. 16)
14. Why, according to verse 17, will the “ten horns” do that to the “harlot?”
15. According to verse 18, who is “the woman?”

Matching

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Woman | A. Martyrs. |
| _____ 2. Seven heads | B. Mountains. |
| _____ 3. Jesus | C. Kings. |
| _____ 4. Ten horns | D. Will overcome. |
| _____ 5. The Lamb | E. Arrayed in purple and scarlet. |

Discussion Question

How does God “put into the hearts” of the ten horns “to fulfill His purpose?”

Revelation Chapter Eighteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 5

“For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Babylon

Key Words

Illuminated

Dwelling place

Merchants

Abundance

Luxury

Render

Glorified

Luxuriously

Widow

Utterly

Lament

Citron wood

Splendid

Wailing

Avenged

Millstone

Violence

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What, according to verse one, did the angel John saw coming down from heaven have? With what was the earth illuminated?
2. What did the angel cry out? (v. 2) Why did this happen? (v. 3)
3. Who was urged to come out of Babylon? (v. 4) Why?
4. What, according to verse five:
 - a. Had reached to heaven?
 - b. Did God remember?
5. How was Babylon to be repaid? (vv. 6-7)
6. According to verse six, what will happen to Babylon?
7. Who, according to verse nine, will weep and lament? Why?
8. Who, according to verse 11, will weep and mourn? Why?
9. Who, according to verses 17-19, “cried out, weeping and wailing?” Why?
10. Who, according to verse 20, would rejoice? Why?
11. What did an angel throw into the sea? (v. 21) What did this action symbolize?
12. According to verse 22:
 - a. What will not be heard in “Babylon” anymore?
 - b. What will not be found in “Babylon” anymore?
13. According to verse 23:
 - a. What will not shine in “Babylon” anymore?
 - b. What will not be heard in “Babylon” anymore?
14. By what were all nations deceived? (v. 23)
15. What, according to verse 24, was found in “Babylon?”

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Kings of the earth | A. Threw dust on their heads. |
| _____ | 2. Merchants of the earth | B. Rejoice. |
| _____ | 3. Every shipmaster | C. Lived luxuriously. |
| _____ | 4. Apostles and prophets | D. Were deceived. |
| _____ | 5. Great men of the earth | E. Mourn. |

Discussion Question

What is meant by the phrase, “For her sins have reached to heaven?”

Revelation Chapter Nineteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 11

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

Key People

John (not named)
Jesus

Key Places

Key Words

Alleluia

Harlot

Corrupted

Avenged

Omnipotent

Reigns

Brimstone

Proceeded

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John hear in verse one? What were they saying? (vv. 2-3)
2. According to verse four, who fell down and worshiped God?
3. What did a voice which came from the throne say? (v. 5)
4. What did John hear in verse six? What were they saying?
5. According to verse seven, what had come?
6. In what was the bride arrayed? What does it represent? (v. 8)
7. According to verse nine, who is blessed?
8. Who, according to verse ten, is to be worshiped?
9. What did John see in verse 11? Who was sitting on it? What does the rider do?
10. How is the rider described in verses 12 and 13?
11. Who followed the rider? (v. 14)
12. What comes out of the mouth of the rider? (v. 15) With what does he rule?
13. What is written on the robe and thigh of the rider? (v. 16)
14. In verse 17, who does the angel address? What does he say to them? (vv. 17-18)
15. Who gathered to make war and the rider of the horse? (v. 19)
16. According to verse 20, who was captured? What happened to them?
17. Who, according to verse 21, were killed? What happened to them?

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| _____ | 1. Great multitude | A. Has been judged. |
| _____ | 2. Great harlot | B. In righteousness judges and makes war. |
| _____ | 3. Faithful and True | C. Has been judged. |

Discussion Question

In what kind of war do you think the rider of the white horse fights?

Revelation Chapter Twenty

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 12

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Key People

John (not named)
Devil - Satan
Jesus Christ

Key Places

Key Words

Deceive

Judgment

Committed

Resurrection

Expired

Gog and Magog

Breadth

Surrounded

Devoured

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. In verse one, who did John see coming down from heaven? What did he have?
2. What did the one seen coming down from heaven do? (vv. 2-3)
3. When would the dragon be released from the bottomless pit? For how long was he to be released? (v. 3)
4. What, according to verse four, was committed to those who sat on thrones?
5. Who, according to verse four, “reigned with Christ?” How long did they reign?
6. When did the rest of the dead live? (v. 5)
7. What is said in verse six of those who have part in the first resurrection?
8. When, according to verse seven, will Satan be released from his prison?
9. According to verse eight, what will Satan do upon his release?
10. What happened to those who surrounded “the camp of the saints?” (v. 9)
11. According to verse ten, what was to happen to the devil? Who will be with him? How long will they be tormented?
12. What did John see in verse 11? Who fled at its appearance?
13. What did John see in verse 12? What was opened before them? Why were they opened?
14. Who, in verse 13, gave up their dead?
15. Who were cast into the lake of fire in:
 - a. Verse 14?
 - b. Verse 15?

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Angel | A. Some beheaded because of their witness to him. |
| _____ 2. Devil | B. Gathered for battle. |
| _____ 3. Christ | C. Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. |
| _____ 4. Gog and Magog | D. Delivered up the dead who were in them. |
| _____ 5. Death and Hades | E. Had key to the bottomless pit. |

Discussion Question

What are the “books” and the “Book of Life” which were opened in verse 12?

Revelation Chapter Twenty-One

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 3

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”

Key People

John (not named)

Key Places

Jerusalem

Key Words

Alpha and Omega

Inherit

Cowardly

Abominable

Sorcerer

Idolaters

Foundation

Apostles

Furlongs

Cubits

Illuminated

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did John see in verse one?
2. What, according to verse one, had “passed away?”
3. What did John see in verse two? As what did it appear?
4. What did the “loud voice” of verses three and four say?
5. What did the one who sat on the throne say in verse five?
6. What did the one who sat on the throne say in verse six?
7. Who, according to verse eight, will be in the lake of fire?
8. What was one of the seven angels going to show John? (v. 9)
9. What, according to verse 11, did the holy city possess?
10. How many gates did the holy city have? (v. 12) What was on them?
11. How many foundations did the holy city have? (v. 14) What was on them?
12. What, according to verses 16 and 17, are the dimensions of the holy city?
13. In relation to the holy city, of what materials were:
 - a. Its walls? (v. 18)
 - b. The city itself? (v. 18)
 - c. The foundations of the wall? (vv. 19-20)
 - d. Its twelve gates? (v. 21)
14. According to verse 22, what did the city not have? Why?
15. According to verse 23, what did the city not have? Why?
16. Who walk in the light of the city? (v. 24)
17. Who bring their glory and honor into the city? (v. 24)
18. What will never be shut in the city? (v. 25)
19. According to verse 26, whose glory and honor will be brought into the city?
20. According to verse 27:
 - a. What will never enter the city?
 - b. Who will enter the city?

Discussion Question

When the one who sat on the throne said, “It is done!” in verse six, to what was He referring?

Revelation Chapter Twenty-Two

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 14

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Key People

John
Jesus
David

Key Places

Key Words

Crystal

Healing

Unjust

Filthy

Reward

Offspring

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What was John shown in verse one? From where did it proceed?
2. What, according to verse two, was on either side of the river?
3. How many fruits did the tree of life bear? When did it bear them? What were its leaves for? (v. 2)
4. According to verse three, what will there no longer be?
5. What, according to verse four, will the servants of the Lamb see?
6. How long will the servants of the Lamb reign? (v. 5)
7. When will these things take place? (v. 6)
8. When, according to verse seven, did the angel say he was coming?
9. For what was John rebuked in verses eight and nine?
10. Why was John not to seal the words of the prophecy? (v. 10)
11. Who, according to verse 14, are blessed? To what do they have the right? What may they enter?
12. According to verse 15, who is “outside?”
13. How did Jesus identify Himself in verse 16? Who did He send? Why did He send him?
14. Who, according to verse 17, say, “Come!?” Who, according to this verse, may come?
15. What will happen to the one who adds to the words of the prophecy? (v. 18)
16. What will happen to the one who takes away from the words of the prophecy? (v. 19)
17. When, according to verse 20, would Jesus come?

True - False

- T F 1. John was to seal up the words of the prophecy of this book.
T F 2. Outside are dogs, cats, sorcerers, sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters and liars.
T F 3. The plagues written in this book are added to the one who adds to these things.

Discussion Question

What is meant by the phrase “the time is at hand?”

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