

# Revelation Study Guide

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## **Dedication**

To the many ministers and friends who have been an enormous help to me in the study of Bible Prophecy, I express my sincere gratitude. My understanding of the scripture is in no small part due to the instruction I received at the Apostolic Faith Bible College. The books and materials of Charles Parham, Gale Schulz, Robert Girard, Jacob Regier, Jerome Crowhurst, and others within the Apostolic Movement, as well as the works of many ministers outside the movement has helped provide direction and clarity as I endeavor to come to a fuller understanding of God's Word.

## **Preface**

This is a verse by verse, self-study guide work book of Revelation. There are twenty-two chapters in the book with each chapter relating to its matching chapter in the book of Revelation. Chapter one coincides with Revelation chapter one, chapter two coincides with Revelation chapter two and so forth. It is written in a question/answer format. Each question is answered from a Bible verse which is provided. Underline the portion of the verse that answers each question. Add any comments necessary to clarify the answer. Notes and comments are added throughout the book in an attempt to clarify the instruction.

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# Revelation - Chapter One

## Introduction

Revelation is an exciting book. It is the conclusion to all previous biblical revelation. Its purpose is to prepare the child of God for the future. This is a book that requires a basic knowledge of the rest of the bible in order to properly interpret its content. Its subject matter has almost no limitation, but its centralized subjects; other than Christ, are the Church, Israel, and nations in general. The book of Revelation like all other unfulfilled prophecy should be read and studied cautiously.

The word "Revelation" comes from the Greek word "**Apocalypses**" meaning disclosure or unveiling.

The Author of the book of Revelation is almost universally identified as John the Apostle; however, the first verse clearly says that it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. John acted as the scribe commissioned to write in a book the things which he heard and saw; **Rev. 1:1; 11**. This is the only book in the New Testament that Jesus affixed His name to, which obviously gives it great importance.

It is widely agreed upon that the book was written around 96 A.D. At that time all of it was considered prophecy. Even today only the first three chapters are considered history.

While symbolisms occur throughout the scripture the book of Revelation uses by far the most symbolisms of any book in the Bible. It will be seen that most of these symbols can be explained by their usage elsewhere in the scripture. There are about 245 quotations from other books in the Bible found in this book, so it should be studied in cooperation with the rest of the Bible thus allowing the scripture to be the source of interpretation.

## The Prologue (Rev. 1:1-3)

Jesus always spoke on behalf of the Father. He was and is the Word of God.

**John 8:26** *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*

**John 12:49** *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

**John 16:13** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

## Verse 1

**A. What was the purpose for giving John the Revelation? Rev. 1:1** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

**B. What is the result of rejecting the Word of the Lord? John 12:48** *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

**C. Why was John told to write the things that he saw and heard? John 20:31** *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Twelve times in this book John is instructed to write. It must be important.

The question may be asked, "If these things were to shortly come to pass at the time of John, what about this two thousand years since John?" The Greek word "entachei" here translated "shortly" contains an element of certainty as well as the idea of speed. The same word is used in: **Rom 16:20** *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.* Also in **Luke 18:7-8** *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

*8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? I think it is fair to say that the prophecies of this book will certainly come to pass and when it begins it will happen speedily.<sup>1</sup>*

Jesus said, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, ...this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled", **Mat. 24:33-34**.

"Signified" indicated that the prophecy would be revealed through symbols.

## Verse 2

**A. Of what things did John write? Rev. 1:2** *Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*

## Verse 3

**A. Why is it important that we keep "these things" Rev. 1:3** *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

The blessing promised in this verse is to those who will read and keep those things written. **Luke 11:28** *But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*

**B. What does keeping and applying the Word of God to our hearts do for us? Titus 2:12-13** *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;  
13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

**2 Peter 3:11** *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

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<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, John F., *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p.35

Revelation is to the New Testament what Daniel is to the Old. Daniel saw many of the same things that John saw; however, Daniel did not understand what he saw. When he asked the Lord to explain them he was told that the words were closed and sealed until the time of the end" not until the end of time. John on the other hand was told not to seal the prophecy of this book for the time is at hand; **Rev. 22:10**.

**C. What two signs was Daniel given concerning the time of the end? Dan 12:4** *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

### **Salutation (Rev. 1:4-8)**

The salutation is given from all three members of the God Head. (Notice verses 4 and 5)

#### **Verse 4**

**A. To whom is the first part of Revelation addressed? Rev. 1:4** *John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;*

The following statement declares that God is eternal: "...from him which is, and which was, and which is to come;"

The Holy Spirit is expressed as seven Spirits before the throne of God. There is, of course, but one Holy Spirit: yet He is spoken of here as sevenfold for He is seen in a governmental position, which is to say "before the throne of God"; **Rev.4:5**. (Notice **Rev. 3:1**) In **Isaiah 11** we see the Spirit rest upon Christ in His governmental offices in the same sevenfold way." The sevenfold aspect expresses the fullness of the Spirit of God.

**B. The sevenfold nature of the Holy Spirit might be expressed with seven key words from the Bible. Using the scriptural references below, underline the seven key words that define the nature of the Holy Spirit:**

**Heb 9:14** *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

**Rom 1:4** *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

**1 Peter 4:14** *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

**John 14:17** *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

**Heb 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

**Eph 1:13** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

**Rom 8:2** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

## Verse 5

**A. In regard to Christ's three positions as Prophet, Priest, and King; what attributes are expressed? Rev 1:5** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood;*

## Verse 6

**A. Although we may be Kings and Priests unto God we must realize that the Lord is preeminent. How is this expressed in I Tim. 6:15-16?** *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;  
16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.*

**B. What is our purpose as Kings and Priests? 1 Peter 2:5** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.  
9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:*

## Verse 7

Jesus is going to return to this earth in a physical form, coming in the air, just as he went away.

**Acts 1:11...** *Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

**Dan 7:13** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

**A. What will happen to the saints of God when Jesus returns? 1 Thess 4:17** *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

**B. Who are they that mourn at His return? Rev. 1:7** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Amen means "Let it be so" or "so be it."

**C. Why will the Israelites mourn? Zech 12:10** *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

## Verse 8

Alpha and Omega is the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This expression was used by Hebrew Rabbi's to signify completely, or entirely. The Lord God is all in all, the Creator of all, the omnipotent.

**A. How long is the Lord's duration? Isa. 41:4** *Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.*

**Isa. 44:6** *Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*

## The vision of Christ Glorified (Rev. 1:9-20)

### Verse 9

**A. How does John identify himself? Rev. 1:9** *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

He was on the Isle of Patmos for preaching the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Patmos is a small island about ten miles long and six miles wide, located in the Aegean Sea. It is approximately 24 miles off the coast of Asia. John was sent to this island as an exile under the ruler Domitian.

### Verse 10

John was carried beyond his normal sense into a state where he could supernaturally view the "Day of the Lord." Although today the expression "Lord's day" is commonly used in reference to the first day of the week, it is nowhere so used in the Bible. In the following scriptural references, it is clear that the term "day of the Lord" is a reference to a day of judgment. **Isa. 2:12; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 3:14; Ezek.13:5; Mal. 4:5; 1 Thess. 5:2; 11 Pet. 3:10**

The trumpet emphasizes the authority of the speaker who in this case is Christ as identified in verse 11.

### Verse 11

**A. Name the seven churches of Asia: Rev. 1:11** *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*



## Verse 12

**A. As the vision begins, what did John see first? Rev. 1:12** *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

"Candlesticks" is more accurately translated "Lamp stands." These could be compared to the seven-branched lamp stand in the Tabernacle; **Exodus 25:31-40**. The principal function of a lamp stand is the giving forth of light. Light is associated with truth and knowledge.

**B. How are Christians to influence the world? Phil 2:15-16** *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*  
*16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

**Ps 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**C. It is the oil in the lamp stand that makes it possible to produce light. What does oil represent? Zech 4:2-6** *And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:*

*3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.*

*4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?*

*5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.*

*6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*

**D. What is needed if the Disciples of Christ are to present the light of the world? Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

## Verse 13

**A. What appeared in the midst of the seven candlesticks? Rev 1:13** *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

The garment in which Christ is clothed exemplifies the garment of a judge. The only difference between the garment of a priest and the garment of a judge is where the girdle is worn. A priest is girded about the waist while a judge is girded about the chest. The girdle was gold for it represented the deity of Christ.

**B. The expression "Son of Man," emphasizes the humanity of Christ. What are some of the events in which the humanity of Christ is significant?**

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

**Matt 17:9** *And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.*

**Matt 24:27** *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

**C. Who will judge the world? John 5:22** *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

#### Verse 14

**A. How does this verse classify Jesus? To answer this question compare this verse with Dan 7:9** *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

White hair is an emblem of his antiquity and glory, having the wisdom of the ages.  
His eyes are as a flame of fire, all penetrating, searching the hearts of men. He knows what is in the heart.

**B. Is there anything hide from the Lord? Heb 4:13** *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

**Ps 11:4** *The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

**C. How does Paul describe Christ in 1 Cor. 1:24?** *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

#### Verse 15

**A. How was His feet described? Rev 1:15** *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

The metal described as brass or more properly bronze; which was a copper alloy, was seen as highly refined, burned in a furnace, a very durable metal. This would represent the stability and permanence of the life and example that Jesus lived. He walked a very difficult road but never stumbled or faltered in any way.

**B. How did His voice sound? Ezek 43:2** *And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*

**Ps 29:4** *The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.*

**Jer. 25:30** *Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.*



## Verse 16

**A. What did Christ have in His right hand? Rev 1:16** *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

Angels; meaning messengers most likely, refers to the leaders or pastors of the seven churches.

**B. What is the reward of faithful ministers? Dan 12:3** *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

**C. What is the reward of unfaithful ministers? Jude 13** *Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

**D. What went out of Christ's mouth? Rev. 1:16** *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

**Eph 6:17** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

**Heb 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**E. What is significant about Christ's words? John 12:47-48** *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.  
48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

The word of the Lord will protect the righteous and destroy the wicked.

**G. How did Paul describe the appearance of Christ? Acts 26:13** *At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.*

**H. How is Christ describe in Mal 4:2** *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

(Notice Rev. 21:3)

## Verse 17-18

**A. When John beheld the appearance of Christ, what did he do? Rev 1:17** *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

**B. How did Jesus identify Himself? Rev. 1:17-18** *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 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.*

"Hell" comes from the Greek word Hades, meaning the abode of the dead. Jesus Has the keys, or the authority to unlock the tombs and bring forth the resurrection of the dead. He was the first-fruit of the resurrection.

#### Verse 19

**A. The things about which John was to write were classified in three divisions, what were they? Rev 1:19** *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

#### Verse 20

**A. What did the seven stars and the seven candlesticks represent? Rev 1:20** *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

### Review Questions – Chapter One

1. What does the word "Apocalypses" mean?
2. Who is the author of the book of Revelation?
3. When was the book of Revelation written?
4. Into what two words is the Greek word "entachei" translated?
5. Of what things did John write; **Rev. 1:2**?
6. What does keeping and applying the Word of God to our hearts do for us?
7. Revelation is to the New Testament what Daniel is to the Old. What distinction is made between the time of Daniel and the time of John?
8. What two signs was Daniel given concerning the time of the end?
9. What do the seven Spirits which are before his throne represent?
10. Jesus holds what three positions in relationship to the believer?
11. What is our purpose as Kings and Priests? 1 Peter 2:5
12. What will Israel's response be when Christ returns?
13. Where was John when he received the Revelation from Jesus?
14. Where is Patmos located?
15. What is meant by the term "day of the Lord"?
16. What do the seven candlesticks represent?
17. What does the term "son of man" emphasize about Christ?
18. What is the only difference between the garment of a priest and the garment of a judge?
19. What do the seven stars represent?
20. List each of the characteristics that John uses to describe Christ and explain what each represented.

## Revelation - Chapter Two

### Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos and Thyatira

The letters to the seven churches have a threefold application:

1. They applied to the local church to which they were written.
2. They applied to every individual Christian within the Church.
3. They apply prophetically as they illustrate the seven stages in which the church would and has proceeded.

As we look back on the years of church history there appears an amazing correspondence between the details mentioned concerning the seven churches of Asia and the successive changing conditions in the progression of the Church. It would be highly unlikely that such a parallelism would be accidental. One should not overlook the fact that Jesus used the word "mystery" in reference to the seven churches.<sup>2</sup> These letters to the seven churches revealed secrets concerning development within the church over a period of 2000 years.

Each letter begins with one of the characteristics of Jesus as recorded in Revelation chapter one. All but one of these churches received commendation; **the church of Laodicea does not.**

Five out of seven receive reproof from Jesus; **Smyrna and Philadelphia are not reproved.**

**Notice the exhortation and/or encouragement Jesus gave to each church.**

**Ephesus (2:5)** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

**Smyrna (2:10)** *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

**Pergamos (2:16)** *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

**Thyatira (2:23-24)** *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

*24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*

**Sardis (3:3)** *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

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<sup>2</sup> Strauss, Lehman, *Prophetic Mysteries Revealed*, p. 134.

**Philadelphia (3:11)** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

**Laodicea (3:18-19)** *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

*19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

## **Letter to Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)**

### **Verse 1**

Ephesus means to let go or relax. The city of Ephesus was a leading city in Asia Minor. It was the center of the worship of Artemis, called "Diana of the Ephesians". **Acts 19:28** *And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.*

**A. How long did Paul minister in Ephesus? Acts 20:31** *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

### **Verse 2**

In each of the letters Jesus said, "I know thy works". The omniscience of Christ qualifies Him to commend or criticize.

**A. What attitude did the Ephesians have toward evil workers and false teachers? Rev. 2:2** *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

Ephesus was sound in doctrine. They knew what they believed and why they believed it. There are not very many churches even today in which the leaders are soundly indoctrinated Biblically. The best defense against false doctrines is a thorough knowledge of the Bible. Ephesus was strict in discipline. Nothing is more detrimental to the church than inconsistent Christian living.

### **Verse 3**

Ephesus was steadfast in duty; an active church laboring patiently for the Lord.

**A. What encouragement does Paul give to all believers in Gal. 6:9?** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

### **Verse 4**

**A. How important is love when it comes to Christian virtues? I Cor. 13:1-2** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

Ephesus had not lost their fundamentalism; they had just lapsed into formalism. They were doing the right thing but with the wrong motive. There was no zeal or enthusiasm, only a growing apathy. Jesus knew that when one loses his spiritual love, he will soon find that his love for God will be replaced by a love for the things of the world.

## Verse 5

**A. What must this church do to gain God's favor again? Rev. 2:5** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

This may be summed up in three words: Remember, repent, and redo. The church of Ephesus failed to heed the Lord's warning. Their sound doctrine, strict discipline and steadfast duty became as a sounding brass. (1 Cor. 13)

**Notice what will happen if there is an unwillingness to repent and serve God properly? Jesus made it very clear to Israel in the parable of the Husbandmen. Matt. 21:32-41**

## Verse 6

**A. What attitude was taken toward the deeds of the Nicolaitans? Rev. 2:6** *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

One should note that Jesus did not hate the Nicolaitans but he did hate their deeds. The word Nicolaitan seems to mean "conquering of the people". "Nikao" meaning victorious or to conquer, and "laos" meaning the people. It is normally viewed that the Nicolaitans were the supporters of the re-establishment of the priesthood and clerical control of the people. While it faced strong opposition in the early church, it became established throughout the church within 300 years.<sup>3</sup>

## Verse 7

**A. What is the overcomers promise? Rev. 2:7** *To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

Some people believe that the term "**paradise of God**" is used to refer to heaven or the abode of God. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "this day thou shalt be with me in paradise", **Luke 23:43**. This could not refer to heaven because Jesus did not return to heaven on that day. Notice **John 20:17**; on the first day of the week; three days after Jesus was on the cross, He told Mary Magdalene that He had not yet ascended to heaven. In **1 Pet. 3:18-19**; we are told that Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison during the time His body was in the tomb. Paradise is defined in the Strongs concordance as a park, garden, Eden, a place of peace, happiness, tranquility. I believe that paradise is a term used to designate a place where we are in fellowship with God; as was the case with Adam and Eve, where there is divine provision; life, health, strength, blessing, ect. At the very center of the paradise of God is the tree of life.

**B. Ephesus had lost their first love. How do we show our love for the Lord? 1 John 5:3-5** *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

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<sup>3</sup> Strong, James, Strongs Exhaustive Concordance.

*4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

*5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

John said we overcome the world by faith in the Son of God. Christ has already overcome the world and by His grace we too can overcome. **John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

The church of Ephesus characterized the general church from the time of the Apostles until about 170 A.D.

## **Letter to Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)**

### **Verse 8**

Smyrna; a word translated three times in the New Testament "Myrrh"; meaning to embitter, and is associated with suffering and death. The city of Smyrna was located about 37 miles north of Ephesus. It was a seaport city with a thriving business.

### **Verse 9**

**A. What was the condition of the church of Smyrna? Rev. 2:9** *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

**B. How can one be poor and rich at the same time? James 2:5** *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*

Among those persecuting the Christians at Smyrna were Jews who stirred up the authorities to take action. Although the Jews always thought themselves to be the people of God or in this case the synagogue (assembly) of God, they were in actuality of the synagogue of Satan.

**John 8:39-44.** *They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*

*40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.*

*41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*

*... 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

### **Verse 10**

**A. Should we fear persecution? Rev 2:10** *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*



**B. To whom is salvation promised? Matt 10:22** *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

The extent to which we should be faithful is unto death. Rev 2:10

**C. Why was there to be 10 days of trial? To help determine your answer consider what the number ten seem to suggest in Job 19:2-3 and Num. 14:22-23**

**Numbers 14:22-23** *Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it.* (This seems to suggest a limit as to how far God's patience would be extended).

**Job 19:2-3** *How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words? 3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.* (Again this seems to suggest a limit in regard to Job's patience with his so-called comforters)

(Ten seems to express the limitation as to how far God will allow Satan to afflict His people). Ten days could be taken prophetically to mean 10 years. The worst persecution the church faced was during the rule of Diocletian and it lasted approximately 10 years. It could also be taken to mean 10 periods of persecution for there were 10 Roman Emperors that actively persecuted the church: Nero, Domitian, Trojan, Antoninus, Severus, Maximim, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian.

## Verse 11

**A. State the overcomers promise. Rev. 2:11** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

The Smyrna church characterized the general church from approximately 170 A.D. until approximately 312 A.D.

## Letter to Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17)

### Verse 12

Pergamos means marriage. It was a rather large city with a significant amount of science, and art was also found there. Sacred groves, statues and altars were common throughout the city. There were four impressive temples to the four famous Greek gods: Zeus, Dionysius, Athena, and Aesculapius. Pergamos became known as the pantheon of pagan worship.

### Verse 13

**A. How did Jesus characterize Pergamos? Rev. 2:13** *I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*

Babylon had been the place of the origin of idolatry and thus regarded as the seat of Satan until Apollos; the pagan priest and king of the Chaldean Hierarchy fled from the Persian invasion to Pergamos. From that time the center of Idol worship seem to shift to Pergamos.

## Verse 14

**A. What doctrine did Christ Condemn? Rev. 2:14** *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

The account of Balaam is recorded in **Num. 22:1-25:9**. Balaam's compromise brought sin and disaster in Israel. He was regarded as a prophet for hire; **Jude 11**. It was evident that he was more interested in the rewards and riches of the world than about the will of God.

## Verse 15

**A. What other doctrine did Jesus condemn? Rev. 2:15** *So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

**B. How did this church compare with Ephesus on this issue? Rev. 2:6** *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

## Verse 16

**A. What stern warning was given to this church? Rev 2:16** *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

The word of God can be our greatest defensive weapon or our greatest enemy depending upon how we respond to it. It will either be the foundation upon which we stand or the sword by which we will be destroyed. The word of God is the standard by which we will be judged.

## Verse 17

**A. What is the overcomers promise? Rev. 2:17** *To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

**B. What is Jesus to us? John 6:48** *I am that bread of life.*

Hidden manna indicates an understanding of things not understood before. There may be things we do not understand at present, but one day they will be made abundantly clear.

**C. Can the natural man understand spiritual things? Why? I Cor. 2:14** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

In the Hebrew Court stones were used to indicate a Judge's verdict; a white stone represented pardon or acquittal and a black stone represented condemnation. This stone may also be associated with the badge of friendship on which was engraved the names of two people who were entering into a contract of friendship and alliance. In this custom a small oblong piece of wood or stone was taken and divided into two equal parts, on which each of the parties wrote his name, and then interchanged it with the other. By producing this stone or badge when they traveled, it gave mutual claim to the bearers of kindness and hospitality at each other's houses. Since the two parts were interchanged, no one else could know the



name nor benefit from the contract except he who received the stone. This custom would be representative of the Seal unto the day of redemption; **Eph. 1:14; 4:30**, which of course is the Holy Spirit. He who has received and retains the witness of the Holy Spirit is assured to receive the Adoption, to wit, the redemption of his body; **Rom. 8:23**.<sup>4</sup>

The Pergamos Church characterized the general church from approximately 312 A.D. until approximately 590 A.D. The compromises the church made during this period brought about a marriage between church and state. Constantine was converted in 312 A.D. and declared Christianity the religion of the state. Christianity became the popular religion which gave it political power and wealth. The natural consequence was the development of the church hierarchy. Biblical simplicity was replaced by a complex ecclesiastical organization.

## **Letter to Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)**

### **Verse 18**

Thyatira means bruised. This was a small but thriving town located about 40 miles southeast of Pergamos. It is mentioned in **Acts 16:14-15** as the home of Lydia, a seller of purple. It appears that Thyatira was famous for the manufacture of cloth and purple dyes.

### **Verse 19**

**A. What were the five things Thyatira was commended for? Rev. 2:19.** *I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*

**B. What relation is there between faith and works. James 2:17** *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

Although Thyatira was an adulterous church or church age, it was not without its faithful few. In every church age there are always a few who are faithful in service to God. In the days of Elijah, he thought he was the only one left, but he was wrong; **1 Kings 19:14-18**. As widespread as idolatry was, there were 7000 in Israel whose knees had not bowed unto Baal.

### **Verse 20**

**A. What was the teaching of Jezebel? Rev. 2:20** *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

Apparently the church of Thyatira was more like a religious club than a true Christian assembly. A notoriously wicked woman who claimed to be a prophetess was instructing new converts to continue in their pagan practices; compromising the truth for the sake of acceptance and popularity.

Jezebel in the Old Testament was the wife of Ahab king of Israel. She was responsible for leading the nation into idolatry; persecuting faithful Jewish prophets such as Elijah.

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<sup>4</sup> Clarke, Adam, *Clarks Commentary*, P. 980.

## Verse 21

**A. Did Jezebel repent? Rev. 2:21** *And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*

**B. Is there a limit to the time God will give for repentance? Rom 2:4-5** *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

*5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

## Verse 22

In **Proverbs 7:6-23** we read what happens to the young man that is led astray by a seductress woman. It is clear that both the leaders and followers suffer the consequence of evil. Adultery, whether moral or spiritual, brings great tribulation. Compromising ones faith always brings disaster. Nothing good ever comes from compromising the truth.

Jesus warned that the bed or lust of their adulterous behavior would be the source of their greatest torment.

James said that violence and wars come from the lust that is within man. **James 4:1** *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

## Verse 23

**A. What is Jesus' reward based on? Rev. 2:23** *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

The word translated "reins" in the authorized version (Gr., Nephrous), literal "kidneys", was a reference to the fact that Christ searches the innermost being of the individual. In modern terminology the term would be minds and hearts.<sup>5</sup>

## Verse 24

**A. Does God wish us to be over-burdened? Acts 15:28** *For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;*

## Verse 25

**A. What important command is given to this church? Rev. 2:25** *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*

## Verse 26

**A. Who will be given power over nations? Rev. 2:26** *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

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<sup>5</sup> Walvoord, John F., *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, P. 75.

## Verse 27

**A. How shall the overcomers rule? Rev. 2:27** *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

The overcomers promise is a place of authority during the millennial reign.

## Verse 28 - 29

**A. How is Christ described in Rev. 2:28?** *And I will give him the morning star.*  
*29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches*

**Rev 22:16** *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.* Christ gives Himself; He shall bring an end to the dark tribulation and usher in a bright new day of joy when he sits upon the throne of David and rules the world.

The church of Thyatira characterized the general church during the Ages commonly referred to as the Dark Ages of Christianity. This was a period when the church leadership adopted pagan philosophy and heathen ritual. The church was plagued with evil and corruption. It covers a period from about 590 A.D. until 1517 A.D.

## Review Questions – Chapter Two

1. What is the threefold application of the letters to the seven churches of Asia?
2. List the seven churches and what period of church history each represented.
3. What does the name Ephesus mean?
4. The city of Ephesus was the center of what religious worship?
5. To what does the term Nicolaitans refer?
6. What does the term paradise designate?
7. What is in the midst of the paradise of God?
8. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Ephesus?
9. What does the name Smyrna mean?
10. How can one be poor and rich at the same time? James 2:5
11. How many days of persecution was Smyrna to have?
12. What is significant about the number ten?
13. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Smyrna?
14. What does the name Pergamos mean?
15. Why is Pergamos referred to as the seat of Satan?
16. What is the doctrine of Balaam?
17. How did the church of Ephesus differ from the church of Pergamos?
18. What is suggested by the term "hidden manna"?
19. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Pergamos?
20. What does the name Thyatira mean?
21. What kind of teaching was the church of Thyatira receiving?
22. Who will be given power over nations; **Rev. 2:26?**
23. What is suggested by Christ' statement "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."
24. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Thyatira?

# Revelation - Chapter Three

## Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea

### Letter to Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)

#### Verse 1

Sardis is a Hebrew derivation of the word "Sabrad" meaning to escape. The city of Sardis was the capital of the Kingdom of Lydia. Here again we have a reference to the seven Spirits of God, first mentioned in chapter one. Christ possesses the fullness of the Spirit of God.

**A. Give the characteristics of the Spirit in Isa. 11:2-3.** *And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;*

*3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

**B. What characterizes spiritual death? Col.2:13** *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

**Eph. 2:1** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Sardis had a good reputation because they opposed the pagan practices, but they were yet carnal; having a form of Godliness but denying the power there of. **II Tim. 3:5** (There is power available to cleanse one from sin and establish him in righteousness.)

#### Verse 2

**A. Was there any hope for this church? Rev. 3:2** *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*

#### Verse 3

**A. What three things would they have to do? Rev.3:3** *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

**Rom. 13:11** *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

**Matt. 26:41** *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

**I Peter 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

**I Thess. 5:6** *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

The coming of Jesus will find many unprepared; like a thief in the night. Rev.3:3

**Luke 12:39-40** *And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.  
40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

#### Verse 4

**A. Did all in Sardis fail? Rev. 3:4** *Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*

#### Verse 5

**A. What is the overcomers promise? Rev. 3:5** *He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

**B. What does the white raiment represent? Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

**C. What happens if iniquity is found in our lives? Ps.69:27-28** *Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.*

*28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

**Phil. 4:3** *And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

#### Verse 6

It is very important that we listen to what the Spirit saith. The church of Sardis characterizes the general church from approximately 1517 A.D. until approximately 1750 A.D. This was a period of reformation. The great majority of Christendom was dead even though it had a name that it lived. Small sincere bodies of believers took their stand for truth and launched the Protestant Reformation. However, within a few years the Protestants themselves began to turn against each other and religion began to be viewed from a merely intellectual standpoint.

#### Letter to Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)

#### Verse 7

Philadelphia is the Greek word for brotherly love or one who loves his brother. The city was situated about 30 miles southeast of Sardis.

**A. What five things are said of the speaker? Rev. 3:7** *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*

**B. How did Peter describe Jesus? Acts 3:14** *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*

**C. What does the "key of David" represent? In Isaiah 22:20-22 we see a similar statement.**

**Isa 22:20-22** *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim; (The name Eliakim means "my God shall arise".<sup>6</sup>) the son of Hilkiah:*

*21 And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.*

*22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. (This seems to suggest the authority to rule as the successor of King David.)*

The open door indicates an opportunity.

**Col. 4:3** *Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:*

**Acts 16:6-7** *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

*7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

**2 Cor. 2:12** *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, It is the Lord that gives opportunity.*

When he opens a door; neither man nor devil can shut it, and when he closes a door, neither man nor devil can open it.

**D. When the door of grace is shut, who will be left out? Matt. 25:10** *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

**Luke 13:25** *When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:*

## Verse 8

**A. What commendation did Jesus give to Philadelphia? Rev. 3:8** *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

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<sup>6</sup> Clarke, Adam, *Clarks Commentary*, Vol. VI, P. 984.



## Verse 9

Satan has deceived many within the so called church world; while professing to be spiritual Israel, they are controlled by the spirit of the world.

1. **I Peter 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

2. **11 Cor. 11:3** *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

3. **II Cor. 11:14** *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

**A. Who is really a Jew? Romans 2:29** *But 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.*

The most continuous hostile enemy of the church of Christ has been the Jews. If they did not directly oppose the church, they instigated others to do so. One day the Jews as well as all other nations will be humbled before the feet of the bride of Christ. The scripture is quite clear on the fact that we shall rule and reign with Christ.

**B. How will the nations be humbled? Isa. 49:23** *And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.*

## Verse 10

**A. What is the reward for keeping "the word of my patience"? Rev. 3:10** *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

In view of the context of the book of Revelation, the "hour of temptation" would be in reference to the "tribulation period". It should be noted that this deliverance is not from temptation or trial but from the period of time that it exists.

**II Peter 2:9** *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

## Verse 11

**A. In light of the coming of the Lord, what are we encouraged to do? Rev. 3:11** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

The expression "quickly" is to be understood as suddenly or unexpectedly, not necessarily immediately.

This word Crown, is translated from the Greek word "Stephanos" which is an expression of victory as illustrated in **I Cor. 9:24-25**. *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

**25** *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

There are some places in Revelation where the word Crown was translated from the Greek word "diadem" which would indicate a ruler or sovereign.

## Verse 12

**A. What is the overcomers promise? Rev 3:12** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

The entire heavenly city is considered the temple of the Lord. In **Rev. 21:9-10**, the heavenly city coming down from heaven is said to be the bride of Christ. Those that overcome will be a part of that city; the pillars of that temple. Notice what was said of the Apostles in **Gal. 2:9**. *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.* The expression, "He shall go no more out" simply means the overcomers will have their permanent residence in the presence of God. They will no longer be exposed to trials and temptations.

Jesus will have a new name when He returns to the earth and the bride will bear that name. Notice **Rev. 19:11-12**. *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*  
*12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

**C. If we run the race set before us and finish the course faithfully; Heb. 12:1, what shall we come unto? Heb.12:22-23** *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,*  
*23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

## Verse 13

We are once again encouraged to listen to what the Spirit saith. The church of Philadelphia characterizes the general church from approximately 1750 A.D. to approximately 1930 A.D. This was a period of great revival within the church. A time characterized by vision, compassion, zeal, and holiness. The church was awakened by such preachers as Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley, Finney, Parham, and many others. Their renewed commitment to God and hunger for truth was rewarded with a second out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

## Letter to the Laodiceans (Rev 3:14-22)

## Verse 14

The city of Laodicea was one of the wealthiest cities in the world. Several years before the book of Revelation was written, Paul recognized the spirit of pride and smugness within the church.

Notice the concern he expressed in **Col. 2:1**. *For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;* He also urged that the epistle of Colossians be read in the church of Laodicea; **Col. 4:16**. The word Laodicea means "the rights of the people" or "the judgments of the people".



**A. How is Christ described? Rev. 3:14** *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

"Amen" means "so be it" or "it is true" or "truth". The word is rendered "truth" in **Isa. 65:16**. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; **Jn. 14:6**.

Jesus is also described as "the beginning of the creation of God". This is not to say that He was the first person to be created but that nothing was created without Him.

**Col.1:15-17** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

*16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

*17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

**Jn. 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

*3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

## Verse 15

**A. What condition existed in the Laodicean church? Rev. 3:15** *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

## Verse 16

**A. What will happen to people in this condition? Rev. 3:16** *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

The apathy exhibited by this church was nauseating to the Lord.

## Verse 17

**A. What was this church's claim? Rev. 3:17** *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

**B. What was their real condition? Rev. 3:17** *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

**Prov. 13:7** *There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.*

The Laodicean church depicts the church of the end times. In other words what the church will be like when Christ returns. Its condition is as deplorable as any time in the church's history. As we have mentioned previously the word Laodicea means "the rights of the people" or "the judgments of the people". The church world today is governed by the will of the people rather than by the will of God.

The great peril of this church is its false opinion of itself. A church that is well attended on Sunday morning but feel no apparent need for the deepening of spiritual life. In this church you will find churchgoers who are involved in a variety of worldly activities such as illicit sex, alcoholism, dishonest business deals, and the like.

**C. When a person is blind and knows he is blind there is hope, but what about a person who is blind and refuses to acknowledge it? John 9:39-41** *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.*

*40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?*

*41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

### **Verse 18**

**A. What were they advised to do? Rev 3:18** *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

The only way we can buy from Christ is by surrendering to Him our life. If we are willing to give Him everything we can have great wealth. It is not necessary for one to have material wealth to buy from the Lord; **Isa. 55:1.** *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

**B. Why is it important that our foundation be built upon gold tried in the fire? I Cor. 3:12-14**

*Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

*13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

*14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

**C. What should be the true Christian's aim? I Peter 1:7** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

**D. With what does the Lord desire to clothe us? Isa. 61:10** *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

**E. How does our self-made righteousness appear to God? Isa. 64:6** *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

**F. Concerning spiritual sight; do all understand and take heed to the word of the Lord? Matt. 13:13-14** *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

*14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

For many people the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night because of their lack of spiritual understanding. Those who have spiritual sight are able to see quite clearly the signs of the time; **Matt. 16:3.** *And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

## Verse 19

**A. Why does the Lord rebuke or chastise his church? Rev. 3:19** *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

**Deut. 8:5** *Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.*

**Job 5:17** *Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.*

**I Cor. 11:32** *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

## Verse 20

**A. Where is Jesus in relation to the Laodicean church? Rev. 3:20** *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

Here Christ is seen as standing outside of the church of Laodicea, desiring to come in. It is apparent that He has been excluded from the church for which He died.

**B. Will there ever be a time when the Lord stops knocking? Prov. 1:24-31** *Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;  
25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:  
26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;  
27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.  
28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:  
29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:  
30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.  
31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.*

## Verse 21

**A. Give the overcomers promise. Rev 3:21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

**Luke 12:37** *Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*

**I Cor. 6:2-3** *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

*3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

**II Tim. 2:12** *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

## **Verse 22**

Once again hear what the spirit saith unto the churches.

The Laodicean church represented the general church beginning somewhere around 1935 A.D. in connection with the developing industrial revolution and continues today. This is a church age that has a false opinion of itself. An age characterized by complacency, smugness, independence, and self satisfaction; a church full of Bible carrying members who are shallow, undisciplined and worldly.

The industrial revolution has created a society that has more time for pleasure and less time for God.

## **Review Questions – Chapter Three**

1. What does the name Sardis mean?
2. What is meant by spiritual death?
3. Explain **II Tim. 3:5**.
4. What does the white raiment represent?
5. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Sardis?
6. What does the name Philadelphia mean?
7. What is meant by the term key of David?
8. To what does the “hour of temptation” refer?
9. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Philadelphia?
10. What does the name Laodicea mean?
11. What condition existed in the Laodicean church?
12. How is the church of Laodicea governed?
13. Why does the Lord rebuke or chastise his church?
14. What are the general characteristics of the church age of Laodicea?

## Revelation - Chapter Four

Chapters four, five and six, sets the background for the remaining part of the book. The fourth chapter through the nineteenth gives a prophetic account of the tribulation period.

### The Throne of God (Rev 4:1-11)

#### Verse 1

This chapter begins with, "After this"; (after the seven church periods which constitutes the church age), I looked and behold, a door was opened..."

**A. Where is a door now open? Rev 4:1** *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

**II Cor. 12:1-4.** *It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

It is the writer's opinion that the third heaven is in reference to the abode of God. There are three areas that are identified by the word "heaven". **First**, there is the atmosphere that surrounds the earth, referred to in **Gen. 1:8**; "And God called the firmament Heaven". This might be regarded as the First Heaven. **Secondly**, there is the universe or planetary systems referred to as the *Heaven of Heavens* in **I Kings 8:27**, which might be regarded as the Second Heaven. **Thirdly**, there is the abode of God as seen in Rev: 4. This Heaven could then appropriately be called the Third Heaven.

#### Verse 2

**A. What does John now look upon? Rev 4:2** *And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

**B. What did Isaiah see in Isaiah 6:1-4?** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*

*2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

*3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

*4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*

### Verse 3

It is obvious that it is God that sits upon the throne; however, John does not see God as an anthropomorphic figure, but as beautifully brilliant colors illustrated by stones.

**A. What two stones did John use to describe God? Rev 4:3** *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

The Jasper stone is described in **Rev. 21:11** as being clear like crystal, which would seem to indicate that it may be what we would today call a diamond.

The sardine stone or the sardius, is a familiar stone in color like a ruby.<sup>7</sup> Although interpreters apply the significance of the stones in different ways, it is this writer's opinion that the clear jasper refers to the purity of God and the sardine stone, His redemptive purpose.

**B. What was the rainbow a token of? Gen. 9:11-17** *And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

*12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:*

*13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

*14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*

*15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

*16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

*17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.*

The rainbow, given as a token of God's first covenant with man, became a symbol of all of God's covenants. The rainbow was described as being like an "emerald" or green, suggesting abundant grace and blessing as illustrated in **Ps. 23:2**; "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."

### Verse 4

In addition to the throne of God there are 24 seats or thrones upon which the 24 elders are sitting.

**A. How were the 24 elders clothed? Rev 4:4** *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

**B. What does the white raiment signify? Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*

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<sup>7</sup> Walvoord, John F., *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, P. 104.



Here again the word crown is taken from the Greek word "Stephanos" which is an expression of victory.

**C. Underline the different types of crowns that are related in the following verses:**

1. **I Cor. 9:25** *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

2. **II Tim. 4:8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

3. **Jam. 1:12** *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

4. **I Pet. 5:4** *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

It is important that one keep in mind that the things which John is seeing are things that "must be here after" (v.1). This is not the throne of God as it is today but as it will be at the beginning of the tribulation period.

The 24 elders are apparently a representative group, representing the saints of God of all ages.

When the Levitical priesthood became too large to allow all of the priest to minister at the same time, David divided it into 24 divisions, each of which were represented by a priest, **I Chron. 24:1-4**. Those 24 priest represented the whole priesthood as well as the whole nation.

The 24 elders would appear to represent the saints of both the old and new covenants since there were 12 elders in Israel that received the old covenant and 12 elders or Apostles that received the new covenant.

This same representation is seen in the New Jerusalem; **Rev. 21:12-14**, which is identified as the bride of Christ; **Rev. 21:9**. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel are on the gates and the names of the twelve apostles are on the foundations.

The number 24 therefore does not indicate the number of saints around the throne but rather all saints that shall inherit eternal life. The only saints around the throne of God at the beginning of the tribulation period are the 144,000 Raptured Class which are the first-fruits unto God and the Lamb. This point will be dealt with in more detail as we progress through Revelation.

**Verse 5**

**A. What proceeds from the throne? Rev 4:5** *And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

There was a similar description of God's presence on Mount Sinai when the Law was given; **Exod. 19:16**. *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.*

**B. What did the seven lamps of fire represent? Rev 4:5** *And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

Refer back to Chapter 1 verse 4 in your lesson for the explanation of the seven spirits.

Since the Holy Spirit is not humanly visible, the lamps of fire was the means by which John was informed of His presence, just as the "dove" was the visible presence at Jesus' baptism and the "cloven tongues like as of fire" His visible presence on the day of Pentecost. Had it not been for these evidences, the presence of the Holy Spirit would have been felt but not seen. The Spirit of God is represented by fire on many occasions. **(The burning bush; Exod. 3:2, and God is a consuming fire; Heb. 12:29).**

## Verse 6

**A. What stretches out before the throne of God? Rev 4:6** *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*

The emphasis is not upon the sea of glass at this point, but upon the four beast; however, the sea of glass is an important part of the throne scene.

The only resemblance to the sea of glass we have in the Bible is the "molten sea" that was before the temple, **I Kings 7:23-26**; this was a laver or washstand, designed for the cleansing of the priests. It symbolically represented the cleansing, sanctifying power of the word of God.

**Eph. 5:25-27** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

**Titus 3:5** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

James illustrates the word of God as a looking glass that reflects the true appearance of man. **Jam. 1:23-25** *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

When one stands before the throne of God, no sin, no blemish, no fault, is hidden; everything is visible before Him. God's righteousness is reflected through the Word, and it is either the foundation on which we stand or the fire in which we are consumed; **Rev. 15:2.**

**B. How many beasts are seen? Rev 4:6** *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*

The word rendered "beast" is "Zoon", and should be rendered "living creatures" or "living ones". An entirely different word; "therion" meaning "a beast"; such as a wild animal, is used in **Rev. 13.**



## Verse 7

**A. Describe the different appearances of the four beasts. Rev 4:7** *And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.*

**B. How did Isaiah describe these living creatures from the vision he had of the throne of God? Isa. 6:2** *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

Ezekiel describes the throne of God in great detail in chapter one which is very similar to the description in Revelation. He calls these living creatures "Cherubims" in **Ezek.10:1**.

There are a number of reasons why the four beasts are depicted as they are. According to Numbers chapter two, the tribes of Israel pitched their tents around the tabernacle in an assigned position.

Issachar, Zebulun and Judah were located on the east under the standard of Judah, which was a Lion;

Simeon, Gad and Reuben were located on the south under the standard of Reuben, which was a Man;

Benjamin, Manasseh and Ephraim were located on the west under the standard of Ephraim, which was the Calf or Ox;

Asher, Naphtali and Dan were located on the north under the standard of Dan, which was the Eagle.

The Tabernacle was a type of God's throne and presence manifested among man and was just as symbolic as John's description of the throne of God in Revelation. Both symbolized the Holiness of God manifested in the presence of sinful man. Nothing can approach unto God that would defile His holiness. The location of the tribes of Israel around the tabernacle protected the sanctuary from anything that might defile it; such as an animal or stranger. Man cannot approach God unless the way is made for him. Christ was the revelation of God to man. Jesus said; in **Jn. 14:9** *"He that hath seen me hath seen the father"*; and Jesus also said; **Jn. 14:6** *"I am the way the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"*. These four beasts represent the way unto God; which is only through Jesus Christ.

There appears to be a relationship between these four standards and the four aspects in which the person of Christ is presented in the Gospels.

Matthew seems to emphasize the royal or kingly aspect of Christ, which is symbolized in that Christ was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, **Rev. 5:5**.

Mark presents Christ as the faithful servant, the one who bears our burden which is represented by the Calf or Ox.

Luke shows the humanity of Christ; being born of Mary, He became the Son of Man,

John underscores the deity of Christ; being conceived of the Holy Spirit, He is the Son of God which is illustrated by the Eagle, for the eagle has long been the symbol of power and supremacy.

## Verse 8

**A. How many wings did each of the four beasts have? Rev 4:8** *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

**B. How did the four beasts or seraphims use these wings? Isa. 6:2** *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

If we compare this description with the one in **Ezekiel 1:6-12**, we notice a slight difference, for Ezekiel states that they each had four wings; but he also noted that they had straight feet which Isaiah and John associated as a third set of wings. In whatever way one may describe these, it is apparent that they illustrate the way the Spirit of God moves and motivates the four beasts in perfect unison.

The fact that the four beasts are full of eyes is taken to signify the omniscience of God, who sees and knows all.

**C. What is the continual cry of the four beasts? Rev 4:8** *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

## Verse 9

**A. What three things should all true servants of God give to Him? Rev 4:9** *And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*

## Verse 10

**A. What do the 24 elders do in worship to God? Rev 4:10** *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

## Verse 11

**A. Why is the Lord worthy to receive glory, honor and power? Rev 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

**Neh. 9:6** *Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*

**Ps. 102:25** *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*

**Acts 14:15** *And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:*

## Review Questions – Chapter Four

1. The term heaven is used to designate what three places?
2. Describe a 'jasper stone' and what it signifies.
3. Describe a 'sardine stone' and what it signifies.
4. What does the 'rainbow' represent?
5. What does 'white raiment' signify?
6. What does the Greek word 'stephanos' translated crown express?
7. What do the 'twenty-four elders' represent, and why were there twenty-four?
8. What was the 'visible representation of the presence of the Holy Spirit' around the throne of God?
9. What does the 'sea of glass' represent?
10. Describe each of the four living creatures around the throne of God.
11. How do these four living creatures relate to the tabernacle in the wilderness?
12. What is the significance of each living creature?
13. How do these four living creatures relate to the four gospels?
14. In a general way what do the living creatures represent?
15. What does the fact that the four living creatures are 'full of eyes' represent?
16. How does this vision illustrate the way the Spirit of God moves and motivates the four living creatures in perfect union?
17. What three things should all servants of God give to Him?

## Revelation - Chapter Five

### The Sealed Book

Chapter 5 is a continuation of the throne scene. It pictures the completion of redemption. Christ is seen standing on the right hand of God.

#### Verse 1

A seal is a mark or brand that authenticates, confirms, or ratifies. It is for keeping a thing close or secret.

That which is written in this book is concealed until the seals are broken and the book is opened. It is obvious from chapter six that the seals represent events which must take place before the redemption of the saints can be completed.

**A. How many seals did the book have? Rev 5:1** *And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.*

Our attention is drawn to the right hand of God. As you compare the following scriptures you will notice that in all but one of these scriptures, Jesus is pictured at the present time seated on the right hand of God; but in the case of **Acts 7:55**, Stephen looks to the end of the age and sees Jesus standing on the right hand of God, rather than sitting on the right hand of God, indicating that He is preparing to open the seals and return to the earth thus bringing about the completion of redemption.

**Mark 16:19** *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

**Hebrews 1:3** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

**Heb 8:1** *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;*

**I Peter 3:22** *Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*

**Acts 7:55** *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

#### Verse 2

The adjective "strong" indicates that this angel is an angel of greater authority or power than the average. The Bible certainly suggests that there are different levels of authority within the heavenly host. It was the angel Gabriel that revealed to Daniel the things concerning the time of the end, **Dan.8:16**.

**A. What is the proclamation of this Angel? Rev 5:2** *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

### Verse 3

**A. Is man able to open the book? Rev 5:3** *And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

### Verse 4

**A. What was John's reaction to the powerlessness of man? Rev 5:4** *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

It is the writer's opinion that the "book" under discussion is none other than the "Lamb's book of life". It is regarded as the Book of Redemption, having the names of those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

**Rev. 20:12** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

**Phil. 4:3** *And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

It is the title deed to our inheritance. John apparently understood the significance of the book and knew that if the book was not opened the inheritance could not be redeemed.

### Verse 5

**A. Who is able to open the book? Rev 5:5** *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

As we continue reading it will become clear that the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" and the "root of David" is no other than Christ. Consider the following scriptures.

**Gen. 49:9-10** *Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?*

*10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

**Isa. 11:1-11** *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*

*2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;*

*3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

*4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

*5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*

6 *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*  
 7 *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*  
 8 *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*  
 9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*  
 10 *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*  
 11 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

## Verse 6

**A. How is Christ portrayed in this verse? Rev 5:6** *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

**Isa. 53:7** *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

As we have already noticed the "seven Spirits" speak of the seven-fold nature of the governmental position of Christ. (Refer back to the note under chapter 1 verse 4). The "seven spirits" are typified by seven horns and seven eyes because horns symbolize authority or power; **Rev. 13:1**, and eyes symbolize vision or the omniscience of God.

**Dan. 7:13-14** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

14 *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

## Verse 7

**A. From whom; to whom is the book transferred? Rev 5:7** *And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*

## Verse 8

**A. What are the odors? Rev 5:8** *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

Each of the elders have harps and vials full of odors, illustrating the fact that all saints will possess the instruments in which to bring forth worship and praise unto the Lamb.

**B. What should be the prayer of every saint? Matt. 6:10** *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*



**Ps. 141:2** *Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

## Verse 9

**A. Who sang the "New Song"? Rev 5:9** *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

**C. Why was Jesus' blood shed? Matt.26:28** *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

**Eph. 1:7-14** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

*8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;*

*9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

*10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

*12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

*13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

*14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

**Romans 8:15-23** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

*16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

*19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

*20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

*21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

*22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

*23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

The completion of redemption has to do with the change from corruptible to incorruptible. In the law of redemption; a near kinsman could redeem the possessions of a poor man.

**Lev. 25:23-28** *The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.*

*24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.*

*25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.*

*26 And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it;*

27 Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession.

28 But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubilee: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.

This is illustrated in **Ruth 4:1-11** and **Jeremiah 32:6-15**.

Jesus became our near kinsman when he took on the form of man, **Phil. 2:5-8**. We had lost our inheritance, which was our right to eternal life, but Jesus redeemed us with His own blood.

**1 Peter 1:18-21** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

We now belong to Christ; He holds the title deed to our inheritance.

## Verse 10

When redemption is completed, we will reign with Christ for 1000 years.

**A. Where will we reign? Rev 5:10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

## Verse 11

**A. How many angels are around the throne of God? Rev 5:11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

**Dan. 7:9-10** I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

**B. How does the writer of Hebrews number the angels of God? Heb. 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

## Verse 12

**A. Give the seven attributes of the Lamb. Rev 5:12** Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

## Verse 13

**A. In the end, who will acknowledge God and the Lamb? Rev 5:13** *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

**Phil. 2:9-11** *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:  
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;  
11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**B. How long does His glory last? Eph. 3:21** *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

**C. Must all men honor Christ? John 5:23** *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

## Verse 14

**A. How does chapter 5 of Revelation close? Rev 5:14** *And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever*

## Review Questions – Chapter Five

1. What is the purpose for the seal on the book in the right hand of God?
2. What is this book in the right hand of God?
3. John said, "I beheld a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes"; what do the seven horns and seven eyes represent?
4. What do the seven spirits express?
5. What do the 'odors' or 'incense' represent?
6. Why is Christ the only one that can open the book?
7. What did Jesus have to become in order to redeem mankind?
8. How did Jesus become our near kinsman?
9. The completion of redemption has to do with what in regard to man?
10. What will bring about the completion of redemption?
11. How many angels are around the throne of God?
12. In the end, who will acknowledge God and the Lamb?
13. How long will Christ be glorified?

## Revelation - Chapter Six

### The Opening of the First Six Seals

The vision of the throne of God continues as John beholds the Lamb opening the seals one at a time. The events symbolized by these seals are progressive; each seal building upon the previous one. The first six seals express the basic conditions that will exist during the tribulation. The trumpets and vials will expand upon these conditions.

#### Verse 1

### The Opening of the First Seal (Rev. 6:1-2)

**A. As John hears the noise of thunder, what does one of the four beasts say? Rev 6:1** *And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.*

The Greek words "kai blepe" rendered "and see" are not found in some of the best manuscripts and it is believed had no place in the original text, and is consequently omitted in both the R.V. and the A.R.V. In other words, the invitation is given by one of the four beasts for the white horse rider to come. The events under consideration here as well as the events of history could not take place without divine permission.

#### Verse 2

**A. Describe what John saw when the first seal was broken. Rev 6:2** *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer*

Some believe the white horse rider is representing Christ because of the reference in **Rev. 19:11-13**. However, a more plausible explanation is that the white horse rider is the Anti-Christ for the following reasons:

1. This rider had a bow representing his power, but he had no arrows. The power of Christ is the sword which clearly represents the Word of God; **Eph. 6:17; Rev. 19:15**.
2. The rider will receive a crown, but we notice in **Rev. 19:12**, that Christ does not receive a crown but comes already having many crowns. Crowns as we have previously found represents authority and victory. The Anti-Christ will receive his political power by gaining the support of men. Christ will not need the approval of men to establish His kingdom.
3. The succession of events exemplified by these seals clearly indicates that this rider cannot be Jesus Christ for His reign will not be characterized by war, famine, disease, and death.

**B. The horse is obviously a symbol, so how is the horse characterized in the Bible? Job 39:19-20** *Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? 20 Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils is terrible.*

**C. What does "white" suggest? Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

The Anti-Christ does not come on the scene as a villain but as a diplomat; **Dan. 9:27** *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.* He first appears as a good, benevolent leader. Emphasis is given to his ability to speak in **Dan. 7:8; 19-26** and **Rev. 13:2-6**. It is not until the midst of the week that the spirit of Satan enters into him.

**D. The Anti-Christ must be recognized as what? II John 7** *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

**E. The Anti-Christ's kingdom will apparently begin in an era of relative peace and potential prosperity. The world will be convinced that we are entering into an unprecedented era of utopia. Take the key thought from I Thess. 5:3.** *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

## **The Opening of the Second Seal (Rev. 6: 3-4)**

### **Verse 3**

**Rev 6:3** *And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.*

### **Verse 4**

**A. What power was given to the red horse rider? Rev 6:4** *And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

The color "red" seems to represent blood-shed. Although popular opinion will be with the Anti-Christ, there will be those who oppose him. He will then seek to bring them under subjection by force. It is evident that warfare occupies a large place in the Anti-Christ kingdom. International strife, class wars, and the breaking up of all established order is here set forth.

The sword represents power or authority; **Ro. 13:1-7** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

*2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

*3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*

*4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

*5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

*6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.*

*7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

## The Opening of the Third Seal (Rev. 6: 5-6)

### Verse 5

**A. What did the third seal contain? Rev 6:5** *And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*

**B. What is the color black associated with? Lam. 5:10** *Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.*

### Verse 6

**A. Food shortages and famine is almost always the aftermath of war. What does it cost to buy a measure of Wheat? Rev 6:6** *And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.*

The "measure" was an attic dry measure and was nearly equivalent to 1 quart. Its measurement was the usual daily allowance for a soldier or a slave."<sup>8</sup> Barley is seen as a cheaper grain and thus a penny would buy a three day allowance for one man.

**B. The silver coin designated as a penny is actually the Roman denarius, worth about fifteen cents. According to the wage scale of an ordinary laborer, how long would a man have to work for a penny? Matt. 20:2** *And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*

**C. Having seen war and starvation, what did Jeremiah conclude? Lam.4:9** *They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.*

"The oil and the wine are put in contrast with the wheat and the barley. The wheat and the barley are the food of the poor, almost out of reach; but the food of the rich, or luxuries, are not touched".<sup>9</sup>

## The Opening of the Fourth Seal (Rev. 6: 7-8)

### Verse 7

**Rev 6:7** *And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.*

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<sup>8</sup>Freeman, James M., *Manners and Customs of the Bible*, P. 471.

<sup>9</sup> Ironside, H. A., *Lectures on Revelation*, P. 105.



## Verse 8

**A. What was the rider of the pale horse? Rev 6:8** *And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

The word "hell" comes from the Greek word "hades" meaning the abode of the dead or the grave.

**The rider of the pale horse will bring death to a fourth part of the earth through war, starvation, disease and wild beasts.**

The world population today is approximately 6 billion. This would mean that 1 & 1/4 billion people will die in a seven year period of time. During the bubonic plague; known as Black Death, (starting in 1347 A.D.), 1/3 of the population of Western Europe died.

**Ezek. 14:21** *For thus saith the Lord God; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?*

## The Opening of the Fifth Seal (Rev. 6: 9-11)

### Verse 9

**A. What did the fifth seal reveal? Rev 6:9** *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

### Verse 10

**A. What was the martyr cry? Rev 6:10** *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

John is reminded of those martyred for their testimony of Jesus. This is not a literal reference any more than Abel's blood crying from the ground was a literal reference in **Gen. 4:10** *And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.* Just as God was aware of the crime against Abel, He is aware of the crimes committed against His people today. The martyred are seen under an altar because they gave themselves as a sacrifice for the testimony of Christ. Just as the ashes of any animal sacrificed would fall through the grate of the altar and lie beneath as a testimony of the sacrifice, even so the martyrs of all the ages are not forgotten of the Lord, but will be avenged in the last days. While there are many that believe the soul of man upon death goes somewhere to await the resurrection, it is the writer's opinion that this is not so. The soul is not an entity in it's self but refers to the conscience intellect or awareness of man. When a man dies his soul ceases to exist.

### Verse 11

**A. What is given to all martyrs? Rev 6:11** *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

**B. What does this declare about them? Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

**C. When will the blood of the martyrs be avenged? Rev 6:11** *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

**D. When will the martyrs be resurrected from the dead? I Thess. 4:16** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

**Rev. 20:4-6** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

*5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

*6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

## **The Opening of the Sixth Seal (Rev. 6: 12-17)**

### **Verse 12**

**A. What does the sixth seal effect? Rev 6:12** *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

**C. Has the sun ever been darkened before? Exod. 10:21-22** *And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.*

*22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:*

**Luke 23:44** *And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.*

### **Verse 13**

**A. What happens when the powers of heaven are shaken? Rev 6:13** *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

**B. When did Jesus say this would take place? Matt. 24:29-30** *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

*30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

## Verse 14

**A. How does the heaven and earth now react? Rev 6:14** *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

**B. This is all done in preparation of what? Isa. 40:3-5** *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:  
5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**Isa. 34:4** *And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.*

It appears that the earth will be united again as it was before the days of Peleg; **Gen. 10:25**. The kingdom of the Lord will be one. No longer will the nations be divided by water or anything else.

## Verse 15

**A. How do men react under these circumstances? Rev 6:15** *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

**B. Will it be possible for men to hide in the hills? Jer. 3:23** *Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel.*

## Verse 16

**A. What is the cry of the rich and mighty? Rev 6:16** *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb*

**B. How does James state the fate of the rich? James 5:1-5** *Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.*

*2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.*

*3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*

*4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

*5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.*

## Verse 17

**A. What is the day of the Lords return called? Rev 6:17** *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

**B. Will silver and gold deliver people in this hour? Zeph. 1:14-18** *The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.*

*15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,*

*16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.*

*17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.*

*18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.*

**C. What is the question ask by Malachi? Mal. 3:1-3** *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.*

*2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:*

*3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.*

Only the pure will be able to stand before the Lord.

## Review Questions – Chapter Six

1. Express in a general way what the first six seals are.
2. What does the 'white horse and rider' represent?
3. Give three reasons why the white horse and rider is not Christ.
4. What is the character of the Anti-Christ when he first appears?
5. What does the 'red horse and rider' represent?
6. What does the sword represent?
7. What does the 'black horse and rider' represent?
8. What is significant about the price of wheat being a penny?
9. What does the 'pale horse and rider' represent?
10. The word "hell" comes from the Greek word "hades" meaning what?
11. What percentage of the earth dies during the Anti-Christ reign?
12. What is suggested by the fact that the martyrs are under the altar?
13. When will all martyrs be avenged?
14. The powers of heaven are shaken in preparation for what?
15. List the things that are affected by the opening of the sixth seal.
16. How do men react in response to their awareness of the coming of the Lord?
17. What is the day of the Lords return called?