

Revelation - Chapter Seven

Divine Protection during the Tribulation

The sealing of literal Israel (Rev.7: 1-8)

Verse 1

A. Chapter seven opens with John seeing four Angels; where were they standing and what are they holding? Rev 7:1 *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*

Wind indicates a storm or adversity. There will be great conflict, turmoil, unrest, and devastation world wide during the tribulation period. **Daniel 7:2-8** *Daniel saw four winds of heaven strove upon the great sea, meaning the sea of humanity.* Out of the sea rose four great powers described as beasts. We will talk more about these beasts later, but for now I will just say that these represent **Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.** The winds of adversity are always present during political revolution, but along with the political unrest there will also be natural disasters.

Verse 2

A. Another angel or messenger is seen; what does he hold? Rev 7:2 *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*

Verse 3

A. What was the cry of this Angel? Rev 7:3 *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

It is implied that these who are sealed are protected from the plagues or judgments that are poured out during the tribulation period. There are many examples that illustrate God's ability to protect and preserve those who put their trust in Him. Here are a few: Noah during the flood, Rahab in Jericho, and Israel in Egypt

Verse 4

A. From what nation were these 144,000 sealed? Rev 7:4 *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

B. Study carefully Ezekiel 9; what was the man with the inkhorn commissioned to do? Ezek. 9:4 *And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

Ezekiel 9 has a dual significance. First, it revealed to Israel the approaching destruction that was to occur by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, and secondly, it illustrated a point that is true during any age in which God's judgment is poured out; that is, the righteous are preserved and the wicked are destroyed.

Verses 5-6-7-8

A. List the names of the tribes of Israel that were sealed. Rev 7:5-8 *Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.*

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

B. Notice that Dan and Ephraim are not included in this list. What is the reason given in the law of Moses for excluding a man, woman, family, or tribe from divine protection? Deut.

29:18-21 *Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;*

19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

20 The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.

21 And the Lord shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:

Dan and Ephraim appear to be the ringleaders of Idolatry in Israel and the two tribes most often involved with Idolatry, **I Kings 12:28-30; Hos. 4:17**. The fact that Dan and Ephraim's names are omitted in Revelation 7 does not mean that they will be totally destroyed, but it means they will not have divine protection; thus, they will suffer from the plagues of that time. Dan and Ephraim's names reappear in the list of twelve tribes as they receive a portion of land in Israel during the Millennial reign of Christ; **Ezekiel 48**.

The Victory of Spiritual Israel (Rev. 7: 9-17)

Verse 9

Here we have a great multitude of Christians standing before the throne of God.

A. Of what nationality were they and how were they clothed? Rev 7:9 *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

As we have already noticed the white robes represent the righteousness of the saints; **Rev. 19:8.** "Palms" were a symbol of victory. Palm leaves were laid before Jesus as He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which became known as Palm Sunday. Palm leaves were waved before Kings as they returned victoriously from battle.

Verse 10

A. What was the cry of these saints? Rev 7:10 *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

Verse 11

Rev 7:11 *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

Notice that all of those around the throne join in the worship of God.

Verse 12

A. What are the seven attributes ascribed to God? Rev 7:12 *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Verse 13

A. What is the question posed by one of the elders? Rev 7:13 *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

Verse 14

A. Where did this multitude of saints come from? Rev 7:14 *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

As one continues to read, it becomes obvious that the scene depicted here is after the tribulation period. Those that come through the tribulation are joined with the redeemed of all the ages to reign with Christ through the Millennial. It is clear that the 24 elders are representative of a group different from the great multitude. The elders represent the saints of all ages as we interpreted in chapter four, and the great multitude are those "that came out of the great tribulation".

Matt. 24:22 *22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

It is clear that some Christians will be on the earth during the tribulation.

B. What is the instruction Jesus gave to His disciples concerning the Abomination of Desolation? Mat. 24:15-16 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*
16 Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains:

The truly consecrated Christian will go wherever necessary to have religious freedom. Religious freedom will exist in Israel during the first half of the tribulation; **Dan. 9:27**. When the covenant is broken and religious freedom is lost; then the exhortation is to flee unto a place prepared by God. **Isa. 26:20** *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*

In Revelation chapter twelve there appears to be two flights; one at the beginning of the seven years and one in the middle of the seven years. Jesus referenced the one in the middle of tribulation in Matt. 24.

Rev. 12:6; 14 ---6 *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

14 *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

While many believers will lose their life during this time because of their lack of commitment, Paul assures us that there will be those who will be alive and remain at the return of the Lord. **I Thess. 4:16-17** *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:*

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.*

Verse 15

Rev 7:15 *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

A. Where will the throne of the Lord be during the Millennial? Isa. 2:2-4 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

3 *And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

4 *And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Zach. 2:11-12 *And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto thee.*

12 *And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.*

Verse 16

Rev 7:16 *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

A. What provisions are made for the saints during the Millennial? Isa. 25:4-8 *For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.*

5 *Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low.*
 6 *And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.*
 7 *And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.*
 8 *He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.*

Isa. 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

Verse 17

A. Who will be the undisputed leader and provider; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

Rev 7:17 *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

B. What must Jesus do before He ascends His throne on the earth? Zach. 14:1-9 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*
 3 *Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*
 4 *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*
 5 *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*
 6 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:*
 7 *But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*
 8 *And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.*
 9 *And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.*

At the end of Revelation chapter seven the prophecy has covered the entire tribulation period and has brought us to the coming of the Lord. The emphasis has been upon the Anti-Christ and the conditions associated with his political rule. As we pickup with chapter eight the prophecy presents the tribulation from a slightly different perspective. Here we are given information concerning the physical and social disasters that will plague this period. It will conclude with seven last plagues. Several informational chapters will reveal how these things as well as the Anti-Christ impacts the people of God. Chapter nineteen will deal with the coming of the Lord.

Review Questions – Chapter Seven

1. What is significant about the four angels standing on the four corners of the earth?
2. What does 'storms' or 'winds' indicate?
3. From what are the 144,000 protected?
4. How many are sealed from each of the twelve tribes of Israel?
5. Give an Old Testament reference where a portion of Israel is sealed before judgment is executed.
6. Why are Dan and Ephraim not included in this protection?
7. To whom is the second group in Revelation 7:9 referring?
8. What do 'palm leaves' symbolize?
9. Where was this group during the tribulation?
10. The last three verses in chapter seven refer to what period?
11. What must Jesus do before He ascends his throne on the earth?

Revelation - Chapter Eight

The Opening of the Seventh Seal (Consisting of Seven Trumpets)

The seven trumpets are events that are to take place during the tribulation period just as the first six seals were events. The first six seals revealed the basic political and social atmosphere of the Anti-Christ reign and how it would affect the economic conditions of that time. As we study the first six trumpets, we will see the tribulation period from a slightly different perspective. Here we will see a deterioration of the society through natural and social disasters which will completely destroy any hope of world peace or prosperity.

Opening the Seventh Seal (Rev 8:1-6)

The trumpet was used as a summons, or announcement. The blowing of a trumpet was a call to war or a call to worship. Whenever the trumpet was sounded something important was about to happen. Compare the following scriptures: **Judges 3:27; I Sam. 13:3; I Kings 1:34; Isa. 18:3; Zeph. 1:14-18; Zech. 9:14.**

Verse 1

A. What happens in heaven when the seventh seal is opened? Rev 8:1 *And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

It is difficult to determine what is indicated by the silence in heaven that exists for the space of half an hour. The only plausible explanation that I have found is that it indicates how dreadful the forth coming events are.

Verse 2

Rev 8:2 *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

Seven Angels are given charge of directing the events symbolized by the seven trumpets. They appear to be Angels of prominence since they stand before God.

Verse 3

Rev 8:3 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

Here John sees the Altar of Incense that stood before the veil that separated the Holy place from the Holiest of Holies in the Temple.

A. What does the incense represent? Heb. 13:15 *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

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

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.*

Verse 4

Rev 8:4 *And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

A. Who is our mediator? I Tim. 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

The High Priest went to the Altar of Incense to begin the yearly atonement for Israel. He symbolically brought the prayers of the congregation unto God. Today it is Christ that is our High Priest who intercedes for us, carrying our prayers before the throne of God. **Heb. 6:19-20** *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.* It is the writer's opinion that the Angel in verse three and four is none other than Jesus Christ.

B. What did Jesus say was the only access to God? John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Verse 5

A. What did the Angel do with the censer? Rev. 8:5 *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

The censer is here used as a clear symbol of Judgment. The one who interceded for us before the throne of God is also the one who will administer God's judgment upon this earth.

B. How is God's righteousness depicted? Heb. 12:29 *For our God is a consuming fire.*

Jesus was sacrificed upon the Altar of God for us, but if we refuse to apply His blood to our lives then the fire of God will consume us in our sins.

These verses speak of a time (tribulation period) when intercession will no longer be made for the lost; instead the wrath of God will be manifested on the earth. The voices, and thundering, and lightning, and an earthquake seem to exemplify the magnificent power of the Almighty God. Compare this with God's presence on Mount Sinai. **Exodus 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.*

Verse 6

A. What did the Seven Angels prepare to do? Rev 8:6 *And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

The First Trumpet (Rev 8:7)

Verse 7

A. Give the result of the first Angel sounding the first trumpet. Rev. 8:7 *The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

The fire associated with the hail may be caused by a severe electrical storm and where as it was mingled with blood, would probably indicate that many people will lose their life as a result of this storm.

It appears that this storm had a devastating affect on vegetation probably impacting the food shortages already in existence do to political conflict.

B. Compare this storm with the seventh plague in Egypt. Was any part of Egypt protected from the hail? Exodus 9:24-26 *So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.
25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.
26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.*

The Second Trumpet (Rev. 8:8-9)

Verse 8

A. What was the result of the sounding of the second trumpet? Rev. 8:8 *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

This great mountain burning with fire seems to suggest an enormous meteorite that causes tremendous devastation as signified by the blood.

Verse 9

A. How was the sea affected? Rev. 8:9 *And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

It is unclear whether this situation affects all seas or just a sea. If it is only one sea it is probably referring to the Mediterranean Sea. Tidal waves and water contamination would be a couple of ways in which this destruction might occur.

There seems to be a connection between the second trumpet and the second vial that is described in **Revelation 16:3**. The condition of the sea apparently becomes more critical as the tribulation period progresses since every living soul dies in the sea when the second vial is poured out and only a third part dies as a result of the second trumpet.

The Third Trumpet (Rev. 8:10-11)

Verse 10

A. What was the result of the sounding of the third trumpet? Rev. 8:10 *And the third angel sounded, there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;*

This great star seems to indicate a great light since it is burning as a lamp; it will in one way or another contaminate a third part of the earth's fresh water supply?

Verse 11

A. What was the star called? Rev 8:11 *And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

Wormwood comes from an unused root, supposed to mean "to curse" because it was regarded as poisonous.¹⁰ **Jer. 9:15** *Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.*

It is possible that this disaster is caused by nuclear waste either purposely or by an accident. It is a well known fact that nuclear waste continues to contaminate our environment more and more each year.

Again there seems to be a connection between the third trumpet and the third vial; described in **Revelation 16:4-7**, since both affect the rivers and fountains of water. One may assume that the condition of fresh water resources will grow worse and worse as the tribulation period continues. It may start as a result of man's own doing but before the tribulation is over it will be recognized as an act of divine retribution.

It is clear from the information that we receive in regard to the third vial that this is a judgment from God.

The Fourth Trumpet (Rev. 8:12-13)

Verse 12

A. What was the result of the sounding of the fourth trumpet? Rev 8:12 *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

It appears that there is going to be a disruption from the light of the sun which would obviously affect the light of the moon and the stars. What causes this disruption is unknown.

¹⁰ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

While some may interpret it as spiritual darkness; for surely this is going to be a spiritually dark time, the emphasis seems to be more on a natural phenomenon.

Isa. 13:9-11 *Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.
10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.
11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*

Amos 8:9 *And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:*

Once again there is a connection between the fourth trumpet and the fourth vial described in **Revelation 16:8-9**. Here the sun is darkened and in the fourth vial it scorches men. Conditions on earth for the Anti-Christ kingdom go from bad to worse. One can only imagine what effect this would have on people who trust in astrology for direction in their life. This event will dramatically demonstrate the sovereignty of God even to an unbelieving society that has chosen to ignore Him.

Ps. 19:1-2 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

Verse 13

A. How are the last three trumpets described? Rev 8:13 *And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

Rev. 9:12 *One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

Rev. 11:14 *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*

Woes signify the severity of the last three trumpets.

Review Questions – Chapter Eight

1. Describe the opening of the seventh seal.
2. The 7 trumpets reveal the deterioration of the society during the Anti-Christ's reign. By what means does this deterioration occur?
3. Who is the angel mentioned in verses 3 & 4?
4. What does incense represent?
5. When we pray; who mediates between us and God?
6. What is expressed when the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it to the earth?
7. What did the sounding of the 1st trumpet destroy?
8. What was the result of the sounding of the 2nd trumpet?
9. How did the sounding of the 3rd trumpet affect the earth's fresh water supply?
10. What does the term wormwood indicate?
11. What was the result of the sounding of the 4th trumpet?
12. Why are the last "three trumpets" called 'woes'?

Revelation - Chapter Nine

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

Chapter nine is a continuation of chapter eight. The last three trumpets are characterized by woe's indicating that they will be more dreadful than the four previous ones. It would seem likely that these three trumpets will occur during the last half of the tribulation period.

The Fifth Trumpet (Rev 9:1-12)

Verse 1

A. What is the result of the sounding of the fifth trumpet? Rev. 9:1 *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

The star here mentioned seems to refer to a person since "to Him was given the key to the bottomless pit". Most interpreters see this star as Satan because Isaiah spoke of Satan being cast out of heaven unto the earth; **Isa. 14:12-17**; however, I have trouble with this because I can't see Satan having the key to the pit in which he is to be bound. **Isa 14:12-17** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

In **Rev. 20:1**, it is clear that the Angel with the key to the bottomless pit is not Satan. It is the writer's opinion that the Angel of **Rev. 20:1** and the star of **Rev. 9:1** are one and the same. The word "fall" or "fallen", taken from the Greek word "Peto", does not necessarily mean to cast out but rather to descend or light on, it is akin to the word "ptaomai" meaning to fly or flying.¹¹

Verse 2

A. What came out of the pit and what was the result? Rev. 9:2 *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

The location of the bottomless pit is unknown. Some suggest that it is in the heart of the earth, others think it may be in outer space. It really is not important where the bottomless pit is; only that it exists. It is a prison where evil spirits or demons are confined. The word "bottomless" is translated from the Greek word "abyssos" meaning depthless or deep. Notice how the same word is translated in **Luke 8:30-31**. *And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.*

¹¹ Strong's, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

In 1 Peter the Greek word “tartarus” is used to refer to the place of fallen spirits. 1 Peter 3:18-20 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Verse 3

A. What came out of the smoke? Rev. 9:3 *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

The thick smoke that rose out of the bottomless pit was in actuality a swarm of locust, so numerous as to appear as smoke. These locusts are obviously not normal locust but rather typify a demonic invasion on the earth.

B. Has there ever been a locust plague upon the earth? Exod. 10:12-15 *And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.*

13 And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.

15 For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

C. Who suffer from this plague and how sever was it? Exod. 10:14 *And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.*

Verse 4

A. Just as Israel was protected in Egypt and the locust did not hurt them; who will be protected at this time? Rev. 9:4 *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

II Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

Verse 5

A. The locust does not hurt the vegetation but what do they have power to do? Rev. 9:5 *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

Whenever the Bible describes an individual that is demon possessed, it always shows them as being people that are tormented.

Matt. 15:22 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

Luke 4:35 *And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.*

Luke 8:26-33 *And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.*

27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

B. What did Paul say would happen in the last days? I Tim.4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

Verse 6

A. How will men react to this torment? Rev. 9:6 *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

Isa. 28:18-19 *And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.*

19 From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.

Verses 7-8-9-10

The description given in these verses concerning the locust, illustrate them in a four-fold manner; the horse, the lion, the scorpion, and the human. They are swift as horses, vicious as lions, intelligent as human beings, and malignant as scorpions.¹²

A. What were on the heads of the locust? Rev. 9:7 *And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.*

¹²Gortner, J., Narver, *Studies in Revelation*, P. 128.

Crowns indicate power, authority, or control. These demons will have power over men for only a short time although it may seem like an eternity.

B. Of what were their breastplates? Rev. 9:8 *And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.*

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

It appears that men will have no effective means of defending themselves against the attack of this satanic force. A careful study of Joel, chapters one and two will reveal a prophecy very similar to the one here in Revelation. **Joel 1:4-7** *That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.*

5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

7 He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

Joel 2:1-11 *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Both John and Joel relate this devastating invasion as a judgment from the Lord. Here God will unmask the true nature of Satan and his evil force. Men are deceived when they think that Satan offers more joy or happiness than God, Satan seeks only to torment and destroy, and yet men are continuously surrendering their lives unto everything that is evil and ungodly.

Verse 11

A. Who is the King of the locust? Rev. 9:11 *And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.*

"Abaddon" means perish or destruction. "Apollyon" means destroy.¹³

B. Do normal locust have Kings? Prov. 30:27 *The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;*

Verse 12

A. In regard to the seven trumpets, is the fifth trumpet the first woe? Rev. 9:12 *One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

The Sixth Trumpet Rev 9:13-21

Verse 13

A. What happens when the sixth Angel sounds the sixth trumpet? Rev.9:13 *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

The Golden Altar is the Altar of Incense. (Refer back to the notes on verses three and four of chapter eight.)
The voice heard is evidently the voice of the Lord; the things that are about to happen are under His divine control.

Verse 14

A. What is the sixth Angel told to do? Rev. 9:14 *Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

It would seem likely that the four Angels are evil spirits since they are bound. They are seen as having a significant role in the war that will occur toward the end of the tribulation period.

The nature of these four spirits may be summed up in verse 21. Violent, idolatrous, immoral, and greedy will bring the world to the brink of destruction.

The area associated with the River of Euphrates is regarded as the cradle of civilization and the location of the origin of apostasy. In John's day it was the eastern limit of the Roman Empire. It separated the Far East from the West.

This final great world conflict will apparently be between the Anti-Christ's kingdom; (Kings of the West) and the (Kings of the Far East). See **Rev. 16:12-14**

¹³ Strong's.

Verse 15

A. What percentage of men died in the war? Rev. 9:15 *And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.*

The work of these four Angels, are appointed for a certain hour, day, month, and year. The time schedule is determined by God and it will be in His time that these things will occur.

Verse 16

A. How many horse men were there? Rev. 9:16 *And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

Whether the army is held to be the literal number mentioned or not, it is clear that this is a massive force of tremendous power.

There are armies that are not seen by normal vision; however they are none the less real. There are wars that are being waged and will be waged that are not of this world.

Rev. 12:7 *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

Eph. 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

B. How many are the chariots of God? Ps. 68:17 *The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.*

II Kings 6:17 *And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*

Verse 17

A. Describe these horsemen as to their war-like appearance: Rev. 9:17 *And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.*

This appears to depict the power of nuclear war; a massive infernal capable of destroying thousands.

Verse 18

A. What causes the death of a third part of men? Rev. 9:18 *By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.*

Men die from the heat of the fire, they suffocate from the smoke, and they are poisoned by the fumes. [Brimstone means Sulphur-like].

Verse 19

A. Where is the power of this military machine? Rev. 9:19 *For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.*

The fact that there is power in both the mouth and tail indicates that men will continue to die even after the battle is finished. When a nuclear bomb is dropped, people are not only killed by the initial impact, but also by the radiation that follows.

Verse 20

A. Do men repent after this war? Rev. 9:20 *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

Jer. 5: 3-4 *O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.*

4 *Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the Lord, nor the judgment of their God.*

Verse 21

A. What are the characteristics of this evil age? Rev. 9:21 *Neither repented they of their murders, (violence) nor of their sorceries, (Idolatry) nor of their fornication, (immorality) nor of their thefts (greed).*

Review Questions – Chapter Nine

1. When will the last three trumpets take place?
2. At the sounding of the 5th trumpet, what plague is released on the earth?
3. The locusts are illustrated in a four-fold manner; give their description, and what each one may express?
4. What did the locust represent?
5. Describe the locust.
6. What affect will the locust have on men?
7. Will all men be affected?
8. What did Paul say would happen in the last days? I Tim. 4:1
9. How will men react to the torment?
10. Who is the king of the locust?
11. What do the words "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" mean?
12. What is the nature of the four spirits that were bound in the river Euphrates?
13. The River of Euphrates was the border between what two regions?
14. What is the 6th trumpet describing?
15. How large is this military force?
16. What percentage of men died in the war?
17. Where is the power of this military machine?
18. What are the characteristics of this evil age?

Revelation - Chapter Ten

Chapter ten begins a series of chapters designed to clarify certain points in regard to the over-all prophetic picture. The sounding of the seventh Angel is not mentioned until chapter 11 verse 15.

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book (Rev 10:1-7)

Verse 1

A. How does Revelation 10 begin? Rev. 10:1 *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:*

The scripture identifies this Angel more than most. There is only one personality in the scripture identified with these descriptive terms and that is Jesus Christ. Consider once again this description:

This angel is clothed with a cloud; not just a cloud but the cloud, the visible manifestation of the presence of God.

Exod. 13:21 *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:*

Exod. 34:5 *And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.*

Matt. 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Acts 1:9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

Isa. 19:1 *The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.*

I Kings 8:10-11 *And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,
11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.*

A rainbow upon His head; which was a token of the covenant of divine grace.

Gen. 9:13 *I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

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.*

Ezek. 1:28 *As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

His face was as the Sun; illustrating the glorified son of man, the righteousness of God.

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.*

Matt. 17:2 *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

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.*

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.*

His feet as pillars of fire; a similar description is seen in Rev. 1:15, representing His purity and His consuming majesty.

Dan. 7:9-14 *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.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

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.

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 2

A. What did the mighty Angel hold in His hand? Rev. 10:2 *And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,*

Jesus is seen standing in a manner that would indicate that He was preparing to take possession of that which belongs to Him. **Ps. 24:1** *The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*

The book that He holds is not the book in Rev. 5; identified as the Book of Life, because this book is open and the book of Life will not be opened until the seventh seal is broken which has not yet taken place at this time. Some have supposed that He is holding the Bible, but that seems unlikely since it is referred to as a "little book". In all probability it is a book of prophecy concerning those things that would occur during the latter part of the tribulation period. Daniel was told that thy words or prophecies concerning this time are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. **Dan. 12:9** *And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

Verse 3

A. How many thunders now sound? Rev. 10:3 *And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.*

The voice of the Lord is the voice of a conqueror. It commands attention and causes fear in all who hear.

Verse 4

A. Why didn't John write what he heard? Rev. 10:4 *And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.*

The specific subject matter of the seven thunders was sealed up, but by comparing other scriptural references it seems clear that thunder expresses the power of God in reference to divine punishment.

Ps. 18:13 *The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.*

I Sam. 7:10 *And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.*

Job 37:4-5 *After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.*

5 God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

Verses 5 and 6

A. What is the message proclaimed? Rev. 10:5-6 *And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,
6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:*

Jesus swears by the living God that is the supreme creator of all things, that at the sounding of the seventh thunder that there will be no further delay in the consummation of this age.

Jer. 10:10-12 *But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Verse 7

A. When will the mysteries of God be finished? Rev. 10:7 *But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*

A mystery is something that is unknown or not fully understood; something that is kept secret. There are many things that we do not have a full understanding of. We have just scratched the surface concerning the things of God. **I Cor. 13:12** *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

B. Identify the mystery in each of the following verses:

Matt. 13:11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

Colossians 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:*

I Tim. 3:9 *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*

I Tim. 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Eph. 1:9 *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

Eph. 6:19 *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

There is also mystery in iniquity. **II Thess. 2:7** *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

John is Instructed to Eat the Little Book (Rev 10:8-11)

Verses 8-9

A. What was John to do about the little book? Rev. 10:8-9 *And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.*

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Verse 10

A. What was the result of eating the little book? Rev. 10:10 *And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*

Ezek. 2:8-10 *But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.*

9 And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein;

10 And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Ezek. 3:1-11 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.

2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.

4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

5 For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel;

6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee.

7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.

8 Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads.

9 As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

10 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

11 And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord God; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

Jer. 15:15-16 O Lord, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Ps. 19:9-10 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The Word of God is indeed sweet to the child of God, but it does have its bitter aspects such as hardships, persecution, separation from friends, etc.

Verse 11

A. Was John's ministry finished when He was banished to the Isle of Patmos? Rev. 10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Review Questions – Chapter Ten

1. Who is the mighty angel described in verse one of chapter ten?
2. Define each of the descriptive elements of the mighty angel.
3. What book does the mighty angel have in his hand?
4. What do thunders suggest?
5. Why didn't John write what he heard?
6. What will the sounding of the 7th trumpet bring to an end?
7. What is suggested when John is told to eat the 'little book'?
8. What was the result of eating the little book?

Revelation - Chapter Eleven

The first thirteen verses of this chapter is a continuation of the informational material received in chapter ten. There is a brief introduction to the seventh trumpet in verses 15 - 19 but the chronological developments do not continue until chapter fifteen. Chapters twelve, thirteen, and fourteen are all informational chapters in which various topics are presented.

The Two Witnesses (Rev 11:1-13)

Verse 1

A. What was John instructed to measure? Rev. 11:1 *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein*

What is meant by "measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein" is unsure, however, we are reminded of other times when God sought to measure individuals. It was said to Belshazzar; "Thou are weighed in the balances, and are found wanting", and the Lord said to Amos, "I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel." John is instructed to see how the temple and the worshippers measure up to God's standard.

While there may be those who question whether there will be a Jewish temple during the tribulation period, it seems clear from the following verses, that there will be.

II Thess. 2:3-4 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

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.*

Matt. 24:15 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

Verse 2

A. What part of the Temple was not to be measured? Rev. 11:2 *But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

The size and general shape of the temple changed over the years. The Tabernacle built by Moses had only one court; the Temple built by Solomon had two courts, and the Temple built by Herod had four courts: there was the court of priests, the court of Jewish men, the court of Jewish women, and the court of Gentiles. The anti-Christ will desecrate the temple and it shall be tread under foot 42 months or 3 1/2 yrs.

It appears that only the Jewish religious life is under consideration here, the Church and its relationship to the Anti-Christ will be dealt with in the next chapter.

C. How does the Anti-Christ desecrate the Temple? II Thess. 2:3-4 *he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*

Verse 3

A. Who now appears for a season? Rev. 11:3 *And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, (3 1/2 years) clothed in sackcloth.*

In light of the severity of persecution and wickedness, the three and a half years accounted for in verses 2 and 3 represent the last half of the tribulation.

There is a great deal of debate over the identity of these two witnesses. Some suggest that this represents two groups; such as Israel and the Church, that will bear witness of the Word of God during the tribulation. It is the writer's opinion that the two witnesses are two men, namely Moses and Elijah, however I would not be dogmatic as to this.

The purpose of the two witnesses is to maintain the testimony of God's law and word during the time in which the Holy Spirit is lifted from the earth and the bride of Christ has escaped into her place that has been divinely prepared.

Isa. 26:20-21 *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*

21 For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

C. What did Christ; who is called the faithful witness, come to this earth to fulfill? Matt. 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.*

D. When Christ was transfigured before Peter, James, and John; who appeared with Him? Matt. 17:3 *And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

Moses represented the law and Elijah represented the prophets.

E. Who did the prophet Malachi say would be sent before the great and dreadful day of the Lord? Mal. 4:4-5 *Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

The spirit of Elijah was present before the first advent of Christ in the life and ministry of John the Baptist; **Matt. 17:10-13** *And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?*

11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. however,

John was not the reincarnation of Elijah. **John 1:19-21** *And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?*

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Verse 4

A. To what are the two witnesses compared? Rev. 11:4 *These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*

B. In the Old Testament; during the rebuilding of the temple, the Lord raised up two witnesses to represent Him; Joshua and Zerubbabel. How were they symbolically represented? Zach. 4: 3-4 *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?

Zach 4:14 *Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

The olive oil represented the Holy Spirit; **Zach. 4:6**, just as it does in the New Testament. The oil is the source of light within the lamp stand. It is obvious that the strength of the two witnesses in Revelation is not in their power nor in their might but in the Spirit of God manifested through them.

Verse 5

A. Why are these witnesses not hurt? Rev. 11:5 *And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.*

Notice the authority that Moses and Elijah had over their enemies. **Num. 16:35** *And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.*

II Kings 1:8-10 *And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.*

9 Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Verse 6

A. What did the two witnesses have power to do? Rev. 11:6 *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*

B. What was Elijah's prophecy? I Kings 17:1 *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

C. What happens in Egypt under the leadership of Moses? Exod. 7:19-21 *And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.*

20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

Verse 7

A. What happens to the two witnesses after they have finished their ministry? Rev. 11:7 *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit is the Anti-Christ kingdom which is empowered by Satan. **Rev. 13:1-2** *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

Verse 8

A. Where shall their dead bodies lie? Rev. 11:8 *And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

Jerusalem is under such bondage and is so morally corrupt during the last half of the tribulation that it is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt.

Verse 9

A. Who will look upon these bodies? Rev. 11:9 *And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.*

The Anti-Christ seeks to capitalize as much as possible on the death of the two witnesses. By means of television and the transmission of pictures throughout the world by communication satellites the entire earth will see the dead bodies lying in the street.

Verse 10

A. How will the apostate world feel about their death? Rev. 11:10 *And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*

The two witnesses did not physically torment the world, but by holding before the world the truth, they were an obstacle to wickedness, unbelief, and satanic power. The world sought to silence the voice that they did not want to hear.

Verse 11

A. How were the two witnesses raised from the dead? Rev. 11:11 *And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*

While the world was still congratulating themselves for having silenced the voices of opposition, the Spirit of God, or breath of life enters into them.

Verse 12

A. What now happens to the two witnesses? Rev. 11:12 *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

Verse 13

A. What happened in the city of Jerusalem at that same hour? Rev. 11:13 *And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

Introduction to the Seventh Trumpet (Rev 11:14-19)

Verses 14-15

A. What great proclamation is made when the seventh trumpet is sounded? Rev. 11:14-15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

B. What did Paul say would take place at the last trump? I Cor. 15:51-53 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

I Thess. 4:15-17 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

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:

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.

Matt. 24:29-31 *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.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The resurrection of the two witnesses and their ascension into Heaven seems to signal the return of the Lord and the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

Verse 16

A. What do the 24 elders do at the sounding of the seventh trumpet? Rev. 11:16 *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

(To review comments on the 24 elders, see the note under verse 4 chapter four.)

Verse 17

A. What is the praise coming from the 24 elders? Rev. 11:17 *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*

Verse 18

A. What was the attitude of the nations? Rev. 11:18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

The phrase, "thy wrath is come" expresses the judgment of the Lord which will take place in the Battle of Armageddon.

B. How will the sinner be destroyed at the coming of the Lord? II Thess. 2:8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

Zach. 14:12 *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*

The phrase, "The time of the dead" is referring to the time of the resurrection.

Verse 19

A. What does John see opened in Heaven? Rev. 11:19 *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

The Temple of God is a term used to express the throne of God or presence of God.

B. What does John see in the Temple? *there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail*

"The ark of His Testament" Testament means covenant, and God's covenant is intact. He is going to fulfill His agreement with man. The Ark of the Covenant which was built by Moses contained the law, Aaron's rod, and the golden pot of manna. The law represented God's righteousness, the manna represented Christ as the basis of Redemption; the bread of life, and the rod represented the Resurrection.

Review Questions – Chapter Eleven

1. What do you think is meant by John's instruction to measure the temple?
2. What part of the Temple was not to be measured?
3. How does the Anti-Christ desecrate the Temple?
4. In what part of the Anti-Christ's reign do the two witnesses minister?
5. What is the purpose of the ministry of the two witnesses?
6. From the Biblical description, the two witnesses are what two men?
7. Who is the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit?
8. The resurrection of the two witnesses marks what great event?
9. The resurrection of the two witnesses is in conjunction with what trumpet?
10. What occurs at the sounding of the seventh trumpet?
11. What is meant by the phrase "thy wrath is come"?
12. What is meant by the phrase "the time of the dead"?
13. The 'temple of God' is used to express what?
14. What does each of the following represent?

The law

Aaron's rod

The golden pot of manna

Revelation - Chapter Twelve

Chapter twelve opens with John beholding a great wonder in Heaven, or, better translated, a great "sign" in Heaven. Although the sign is seen in Heaven, it apparently portrays a reality on the earth, for subsequently the woman pictured is persecuted by Satan in the great tribulation.

The Woman, Man-Child, and Remnant Rev 12:1-17

Verse 1

A. What great wonder appeared in Heaven? Rev. 12:1 *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

There are two main schools of thought among interpreters concerning identifying this woman: those who believe she represents Israel and those who believe she represents the Church. While the writer realizes that the great majority of interpreters agree she is Israel, there are several reasons why this would seem unlikely.

First, in Rev. 1:1 it is clearly stated that the book of Revelation reveals "things that must shortly come to pass" not things that have already happened. If Rev. 12 speaks of the birth of Jesus, it is relating history not prophecy, for John received this revelation almost 100 years after the birth of Christ.

Secondly, it would be totally inaccurate to say that Israel was clothed in the righteousness of Christ; it is quite evident that they were relying on their own righteousness.

Thirdly, the chapter is clearly identifying with the 7 years of tribulation as it divides the time into two distinct periods of 3 1/2 years.

B. How is Jesus identified in Malachi? 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.*

C. Those who by faith in Christ Jesus have become the children of God have put on what? Gal. 3:26-27 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

D. Should we glory in our own righteousness? I Cor. 1:30-31 *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

E. If we are clothed in our own righteousness, what are we wearing? 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.*

It is the writer opinion that the moon which is seen beneath the woman's feet represents the Law. Just as the moon reflects the light of the Sun, so the law is the reflection of God's righteousness which clearly revealed man's sin and his unworthiness of life, thus bringing condemnation. Christ on the other hand, fulfilled the

law by meeting every requirement that the Law demands, rendering to it a perfect obedience in thought and word and deed; **Matt. 5:17-21**. Christ then became our propitiation or covering. The grace of God is extended to us through Christ and in Him we overcome sin and walk in righteousness and thus have the assurance of eternal life. [Read and study carefully **Rom. 6.**]

The crown of twelve stars upon her head speaks of the twelve Apostles whom the Lord appointed as elders over the Church. It is not uncommon for ministers or messengers to be referred to as stars as we noticed in **Revelation 1:20**. In **Jude 13** False Prophets are called "wondering stars".

F. How is Jesus described in Rev. 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

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.

Verse 2

A. What is the condition of the Woman? Rev. 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Frequently in the scripture, the people of God are pictured as going through great trial and affliction, but great travail is a sign of soon deliverance. **Micah 4:10** *Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.*

B. Will God allow His people to suffer for great lengths of time? Isa. 54:5-9 For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

6 For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

9 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

Verse 3

A. What was the second wonder or "sign" that appeared in Heaven? Rev. 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

There is no question as to the identity of the Red Dragon, for in verse 9 we are told he is Satan. Red is the color of blood and violence. From the similar description given in Revelation 13, and the parallel references in Daniel 7 it is clear that the Anti-Christ kingdom which will be a revival of the Roman Empire is here viewed.

The seven heads are wearing seven crowns. The word "crown" is translated from the Greek word "diadema" indicating political authority. In Revelation 17:9-10 the seven heads are identified as seven mountains ruled over by seven kings. The Anti-Christ kingdom is a new rise of political dominion within the existing world Gentile political structure. There are basically two forms of government; those who seek to be ruled by God and are therefore a part of the kingdom of God, and those that rebel against God and seek to rule themselves. The Gentile political system originated at the same time the Gentile religious system originated, which was shortly after the flood, and during the building of the Tower of Babel.

There have been thus far in history six political mountains that have taken control of Israel and have successfully risen to a place of world dominion. These were: the Chaldean, the Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Medio-Persian, the Greek, and the Roman. The seventh mountain to rise will be the revived Roman Empire which will be a ten nation confederacy of the political powers of Europe. Keep in mind that these prophecies are not concerning all political powers that were to exercise world influence, but those powers that invade and dominate Israel.

See the following for examples of political powers being represented by mountains: **Isa. 2:2, 14; Jer. 51:25; Dan. 2:35.** The scripture depicts this Gentile political power as a beast, satanically driven by pride, lust and greed.

Verse 4

A. What did the dragon's tail do? Rev. 12:4 *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

The tail indicates the latter end of the Gentile political system which would be the seventh head.

B. How are those who lead others to righteousness described in 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.

It appears that 1/3 of the spiritual leaders of that day will be brought temporarily under the subjugation of the Anti-Christ. The Church will face strong opposition as the Anti-Christ seeks to destroy the most fervent Disciples of Christ.

C. What does the dragon desire to do? Rev. 12:4 *the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

A man child was simply a male child who was greatly desired in every Jewish family. There was great significance in the first born male child, for He would be the leader of the family. This man child represents the "first-fruit" unto God and to the Lamb, which is identified more clearly in **Revelation 14:1-5.**

Verse 5

A. What is the Man-Child destined to do? Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

All of the redeemed will have part in the future rule of this world when Christ establishes His kingdom on the earth, but the Man-Child represents the first of the redeemed.

B. What was the overcomers promise that followed the letter to the Church of Thyatira?

Rev. 2:26-27 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

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.

Rev. 5:9-10 *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;*

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

C. What happened to the Child? Rev. 12:5 *her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

This rapture appears to take place at the beginning of the Anti-Christ reign. It should be seen as a special blessing rewarded to those who are serving the Lord with an hundred fold commitment; having the seal of the Holy Spirit, at the time the Holy Spirit is lifted from the earth.

Verse 6

A. Where does the woman now flee? Rev. 12:6 *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

It is apparent that the whole Church is not caught up to God and His throne at the beginning of the tribulation. Paul states there will be some alive and remaining at the coming of the Lord which we know to be at the end of the Anti-Christ reign; **I Thess. 4:16-17**. Since the Holy Spirit will be lifted at the beginning of the 7 years of tribulation; **II Thess. 2:7-8**, and we are told in **John 6:44** that, "no man can come to me (Christ), except the father which hath sent me draw him," it is obvious that part of the Church goes through the tribulation. Those Christians who have sufficient spiritual insight to understand what is going on and the dedication to sacrifice their material possessions for the sake of their spiritual well-being; will flee unto a place prepared of God where they can be isolated from the political and religious corruption. This part of the Church may be regarded as the 60 fold or sanctified class of believers. Religious freedom will be the motivation for their flight. Daniel prophesied that Judea would enjoy religious freedom for the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation; **Dan. 9:27**, but in the midst of the week the covenant is broken and religious freedom is lost. Israel therefore appears to provide the legal protection of religious freedom for the Church during the first part of the tribulation period.

One thousand, two hundred and three score days equals 3 1/2 years, at 360 days in a year which is in accordance to the Jewish lunar calendar.

Verse 7

A. What war is now fought? Rev. 12:7 *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

Dan. 12:1 *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.* Michael is called the Archangel in **Jude 9** and the Great Prince in **Dan. 12:1**; here he appears as an Angel of the highest order having charge over other Angels.

Verse 8

A. From where are all demonic spirits driven? Rev. 12:8 *And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

It may seem strange that Satan should have access to the throne of God even in some lesser degree, yet this is precisely where he is pictured in Job chapter one. He is seen in the role of the accuser of the brethren, which is the title given him in **Rev. 12:10**.

Verse 9

A. To what place is Satan and his Angels cast? Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Satan and Devil are both terms meaning accuser or slanderer.

B. This is a major step in Satan's ultimate defeat. What will be his final end? Rev. 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

C. What position does Satan hold today? Eph. 2:2 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

II Cor. 4:4 *2 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Verse 10

A. What declaration is made in Heaven? Rev. 12:10 *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

"The salvation mentioned as now impending, refers not to salvation from the guilt of sin but to salvation in the sense of deliverance and completion of the divine program."

The voice heard may be the raptured Saints since they refer to "the accuser of our brethren."¹⁴

Verse 11

A. How has the Saints of God overcome the enemy? Rev. 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

¹⁴ Walvoord, John F., *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, P. 193.

Verse 12

A. What does the Devil now know? Rev. 12:12 *Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

B. What is the result of this knowledge? Rev. 12:12 *Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

Verse 13

A. Where is Satan's anger focused? Rev. 12:13 *And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

Verse 14

A. How does the woman escape? Rev. 12:14 *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

B. What other miraculous deliverance was described with this figure of speech? Exod. 19:4 *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*

Deut. 32:11-12 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

C. Christ spoke of this same flight in His Mount Olivet discourse. When did He say it would take place? Matt. 24:15-21 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

D. How long is the woman nourished in this location? Rev. 12:14 *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

A "time" is a year, that is to say the time it takes the earth to make one complete orbit around the sun, from one point to the same point again. "Times" indicates two years and a "half-time", 1/2 year. This wilderness location is unknown; however the verse implies that it is a place specifically prepared for the Church where she is supernaturally cared for. (Read Isa. 35)

Isaiah 26:20. *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*

Verse 15

A. How was the woman pursued? Rev. 12:15 *And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*

B. What does a flood prophetically depict? Isa. 8:7-8 *Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:
8 And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.*

Ps. 18:4 *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.*

Verse 16

A. How was the woman helped? Rev. 12:16 *And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

Num. 16:31-32 *And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:*

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Verse 17

A. What does Satan now do? Rev. 12:17 *And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Those referred to as the "Remnant of her seed" are the Christians who lacked the spiritual dedication to do the things necessary to escape the Anti-Christ oppression. These may be regarded as the 30 fold or justified class of Christians.

(Study carefully Matt. 13:13-28; "The parable of the Sower")

Review Questions - Chapter Twelve

1. Who does the 'woman', the 'man child', and the 'remnant' each represent?
2. Give three reasons why the "woman" does not represent Israel.
3. What does the 'moon' represent?
4. What does the 'crown of 12 stars' represent?
5. Who is the dragon?
6. What does the seven heads represent?
7. How is the man child identified in Revelation 14:15?
8. The Bible recognizes what two basic forms of government?
9. There is war in heaven; who fights against Satan and his angels?
10. When is Satan cast out into the earth?
11. Whose voice is heard saying, "*Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*"
12. How has the Saints of God overcome the enemy?
13. Why is Satan filled with great wrath?
14. When does the bride of Christ take her second flight unto the place God has prepared for her?
15. How was the woman helped?
16. Give two ways in which 3 1/2 years can be expressed.
17. What does a flood symbolically express?
18. How is the remnant described in Rev. 12:17?

Revelation - Chapter Thirteen

The Beasts and the False Prophet

We now begin a study of the Anti-Christ, the seed of the serpent. He is presented fully developed contesting the inheritance and kingship of Christ.

The First Beast (Rev. 13:1-10)

Verse 1

A. Where is John standing when beholding this scene? Rev. 13:1 *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

In as much as Israel is numbered "*as the sand of the sea*"; **Gen. 22:17; Jer. 33:22**, it appears that John was watching this scene from Israel's perspective.

B. From where does the beast rise? Rev. 13:1 *saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

C. What does water symbolizes? Rev. 17:15 *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

This huge political system; empowered by Satan and directed by the Anti-Christ, emerges out of the wicked and troubled sea of humanity. **Isa. 57:20-21** *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.*

21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

Dan. 7:2 *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

D. Describe the beast. Rev. 13:1 *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

For an explanation of the seven heads refer back to the note in chapter 12 under verse 3.

E. What do the horns represent? Rev. 17:12 *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

Verse 2

A. The beast is described as being comparable to the three beasts that preceded it. What three beasts were these? Rev. 13:2 *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

These beasts correspond with the beasts described in Daniel chapter seven. The first beast was a lion with eagle wings; **Dan. 7:4**, which practically all interpreters identify as Babylon. Notice how Babylon is described in the following verses: **Jer. 4:7**, **Isa. 5:29**, **Jer. 48:40**, and **Ezek. 17:3**. The Anti-Christ will exercise the same authority that Nebuchadnezzar did when he issued the decrees against those who would not obey their idolatrous edicts; **Dan. 3:10-11**. This is suggested by the expression, "*his mouth was as the mouth of a lion.*"

The second beast was a bear with three ribs in its mouth; **Dan. 7:5**, which represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The bear is seen rising up on one side illustrating Persia's superiority over Media. The three ribs represented the three Gentile powers that had preceded Persia in world authority. Persia consumed these three powers: Chaldea, Assyria, and Babylon. The Anti-Christ will be as powerful as Persia had been as illustrated by the fact that his feet were as the "*feet of a bear*".

The third beast was like a leopard; **Dan. 7:6**, which had four wings and four heads, clearly illustrating the Greek Empire. The four wings emphasize the tremendous speed in which Alexander the great conquered the world. Nothing in the history of the world has equaled his conquest. The four heads represented the four Generals among whom the kingdom was divided after Alexander's death. The Anti-Christ will resemble this kingdom in the speed in which it rises to power.

The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. Rev. 13:2

B. Who does the dragon represent? Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Paul describes the Anti-Christ with some detail in **11 Thess 2**.

Verse 3

A. What happens to one of the seven heads? Rev. 13:3 *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

The world's reaction is that of wonder. His popularity rises and he becomes idolized.

Verse 4

A. Who does the world now worship? Rev. 13:4 *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

B. We are given more information concerning the assassination attempt on the Anti-Christ in Rev. 17:8-11. Study these verses carefully. As we have already noted, the Anti-Christ kingdom is built upon seven political mountains or powers, each of these established by a notable king. Which one of these seven kings represented the Anti-Christ? Rev. 17:11 *And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

The five political powers that had already fallen in John's day were; Chaldean, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, and Greece. The sixth political power was the power of John's day which was Rome. The seventh power that was to come is the revived Roman Empire or anti-Christ kingdom. Each of these political powers was identified with the ruler who brought them into dominion. If you remember the Head of Gold

in Nebuchadnezzar's image was Babylon, but when Daniel revealed the interpretation of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, he said to him "thou art the head of gold".

The political personality that organizes the ten nation confederacy and dominates the rest of the world is apparently assassinated, but the spirit of Satan enters into his dead body and raises it up; that is why he is said to be the eighth and is of the seventh; he is not the same man only the same body. Satan has not the power to create life, only to imitate life. It is at this time the Anti-Christ begins to do the abominable things.

Verse 5

A. What ability is given to the Anti-Christ? Rev. 13:5 *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

Dan. 7:8 *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

After the Anti-Christ is resurrected he will then continue to reign another 42 months or 3 1/2 years. The length of time the Anti-Christ reigns has been predetermined by the Lord.

Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

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.*

Dan. 11:36 *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

Dan. 11:45 *And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*

Verse 6

A. Of whom will the Anti-Christ speak against? Rev. 13:6 *And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

The word "blasphemy" means to express contempt; to speak irreverently, impiously, mockingly or profanely concerning God or sacred things.

Verse 7

A. Against whom does the Anti-Christ direct his fury? Rev. 13:7 *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Verse 8

A. The Anti-Christ power and influence reaches world wide. Who will worship the Anti-Christ? Rev. 13:8 *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

"Slain from the foundation of the world" seems to indicate the foreordained plan of God to redeem fallen man.

Verse 9

The writer suggests that particular attention should be given to the following warning in verse ten.

Verse 10

A. What is God's law of divine retribution? Rev. 13:10 *He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

B. What did Jesus say to Peter in regard to taking up the sword? Matt. 26:52 *Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*

The patience and faith of the saints are exhibited by their willingness to face the Anti-Christ without taking up the sword and reacting violently, just as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane.

The Second Beast (Rev. 13:11-18)

Verse 11

A. From where does the second beast come? Rev. 13:11 *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

Coming out of the earth indicates that this character; who is later described as a false prophet; **Rev. 19:20**; is a representative of the earthly rather than the heavenly.

Rev. 16:13 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

This beast is described as having two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

The beast represents the false prophet and the false religious system that will appear very pious, meek, and harmless; but in actuality they are an evil deception. Lambs do not have horns, but this lamb is said to have two horns, which represent governing authorities. There are two powers that will rule over this false religious system.

B. Take the key thought from Matt. 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Verse 12

A. What does this second beast do for the first beast? Rev. 13:12 *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

This false religious system; lead by the false prophet, will actively support the political system of the Anti-Christ. When the Anti-Christ reaches worldwide dominion, the apostate church is destroyed according to **Rev. 17:16**; however the false prophet survives until the end of the tribulation. The World Council of Churches fits the description of this false church. The W.C.C. was formally constituted on Aug. 23, 1948. At last account it consisted of an assembly of 263 different churches from 90 different countries. Their motto, adopted in their first ecumenical assembly is, "One World - One Church". This massive organization exercises enormous political influence on nations all over the world.

Verse 13

A. What does the false prophet use to enhance his popularity? Rev. 13:13 *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

B. How does Paul describe these miracles? II Thess. 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

Verse 14

A. How is the Anti-Christ honored by the false church? Rev. 13:14 *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

The image made to the beast is not necessarily an image of the beast, but rather an image that would symbolize his power and majesty, as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar; **Dan 3:15**

Verse 15

A. What power is now displayed? Rev. 13:15 *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

Satan does not have the power to give life; this is a prerogative of God alone. The image only appeared to have life, most likely by mechanical means. This would illustrate the "lying wonders" spoken of by the Apostle Paul in **II Thess. 2:9**.

Verse 16

A. Having read the text, who is it that requires the mark of identification, proving that you are in support of the Anti-Christ? Rev. 13:16 *And he (The False Prophet) causeth all, both*

¹⁵ Walwood, John F., *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, P. 207.

small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Verse 17

A. What is the consequence of not having the mark? Rev. 13:17 *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

The identification with the Anti-Christ may vary since there are three ways it is expressed; a mark, the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Verse 18

A. Who will recognize the number or mark of the beast? Rev. 13:18 *Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

Daniel 12:10 *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

Hosea 14:9 *Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

The number of the Anti-Christ is 666.

It is already a common practice of identifying people by numbers. In almost every area of business our numbers are more important than our name. In order for the whole world's population to be identified by one system, it would require each person receiving three six-digit numbers. This would be similar to your social security number, only instead of having a three-digit, two-digit, four-digit number; you would have three six-digit numbers.

Review Questions – Chapter Thirteen

1. There are two beasts described in Chapter 13, what do each represent?
2. How is the first beast that is described, comparable to Babylon, Persia, and Greece?
3. What does water symbolizes?
4. What do the horns represent?
5. Who gave the first beast his power, and his seat, and great authority?
6. What is being described in Revelation 13:3?
7. What does the Anti-Christ do after he is resurrected that will bring desolation?
8. How long does the Anti-Christ reign after he is resurrected?
9. How is the patience and faith of the saints exhibited?
10. Describe the second beast.
11. What is the relationship between the first beast, and the second beast in Revelation 13?
12. Which of the two beasts promote the requirement of the mark of identification, proving that you are in support of the Anti-Christ?
13. What religious system in existence today fits the description of the false church?
14. What is the significance of the mark of the beast?

Revelation - Chapter Fourteen

The Harvest

Chapter 14 concludes the informational material that began in chapter 12. It has a series of visions that assures the reader of the ultimate triumph of Christ and the judgment of the wicked. The chapter begins with information concerning the first-fruits of the redeemed, sometimes referred to as the raptured class.

The First-fruits unto God and to the Lamb (Rev 14:1-5)

Verse 1

A. Where is the Lamb standing? Rev. 14:1 *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

Mount Sion is here used figuratively referring to Heaven, just as it is in **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,* This is clear from the fact that the 144,000 that are with the Lamb are heard singing, and the sound of their song is coming from the throne in Heaven. (See verse 2 and 3)

Standing with the Lamb is an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. **Rev. 14:1**

There are many who relate these as the same 144,000 as seen in chapter seven; however there is no evidence whatever in this chapter to support that interpretation. In chapter seven the 144,000 are clearly from the twelve tribes of Israel while bearing the seal of God, they cannot be regarded as Christians. The 144,000 in this chapter are identified with the Father and the Son indicating that they are of Spiritual Israel. The 144,000 in chapter seven are sealed or protected on the earth while those in chapter fourteen are redeemed from the earth. The only similarity between these two groups is the number and the fact that both are identified with God.

Verse 2

A. What sounds are now heard from Heaven? Rev. 14:2 *And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:*

The voice of many waters and great thunder is clearly identified as the voice of Christ in **Rev. 1:15**. The voice of harpers is the 144,000 singing the song of victory.

Verse 3

A. The ability to sing this new song was limited to whom? Rev. 14:3 *And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.*

The reason only the 144,000 could sing this song was because it was a song of victory; not of hope or expectation, but of redemption completed. Keep in mind that Jesus has not return to the earth as yet and the tribulation is still in progress. These 144,000 are only the first-fruits unto God and the Lamb, raptured at the beginning of the tribulation; the rest of the Harvest of the redeemed will take place when Christ returns. For more information on the four beasts, and twenty four elders review the notes on chapter four.

When Moses had crossed the Red Sea and the enemy had finally been destroyed, he sang a song of triumph; Exodus 15:7-18. Notice how the song ended; verses 17-18. *And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.*

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

18 The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

Verses 4-5

A. Describe the moral and spiritual character of the 144,000. Rev. 14:4-5 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

There are many who have convinced themselves that it is impossible to live a faultless life before God, that man sins more or less every day, and that we are helpless when it comes to temptation; the Word of God however declares something different. Christians are exhorted to be "without blame before Him"; **Eph. 1:4**, "Without blemish"; **Eph. 5:27**, "unblameable"; **Col. 1:22**, "without spot"; **Heb. 9:14**, and "faultless"; **Jude 24**. Study carefully the following scriptures: **I Sam. 16:7**; **Matt. 5:48**; **I Pet. 1:15-16**; **Eccl. 12:13-14**; **Eph. 4:11-13**; **Phil. 4:13**; **Heb. 12:1-4**.

The Everlasting Gospel (Rev 14:6-13)

Verse 6

A. To whom is the everlasting Gospel preached? Rev. 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

In the remaining portion of this chapter we are introduced to six angels or messengers. The first is seen in the midst of Heaven indicating the atmosphere around the earth since the message is directed to the inhabitants of the earth.

Verse 7

A. What is the message of the Everlasting Gospel? Rev. 14:7 *Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

B. What is the Gospel message today? Acts 20:24 *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

The Gospel of grace or salvation cannot be regarded as an everlasting gospel since men will not always have an opportunity to be saved; the day of salvation will one day end. The everlasting gospel is not a gospel of repentance but a gospel of encouragement. The message is to those believers on the earth during the tribulation, encouraging them to fear God as opposed to men, and to give glory and worship to God as opposed to the Anti-Christ. Certainly it would be better to give your life for your testimony and then live forever, as to live a little longer and then be lost, for those who take the mark of the beast will be lost.

Verse 8

A. What great proclamation is now given? Rev. 14:8 *And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

A detailed account of the fall of Babylon will be given in a later chapter; at that time it will be revealed that the term Babylon is in reference to the Apostate Church, and corrupt society which will hold sway in the Anti-Christ kingdom for a time. She might be regarded as the bride of Anti-Christ; **Rev. 18:7**.

B. What does wine appear to represent? Matt. 26:28-29 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*
29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Her fornication indicates her impurity, trifling upon God, involving herself with every unclean thing, resulting in nations participating in the spiritual corruption, thus destroying themselves and others through their lust and greed.

Verses 9-10

A. What warning is given by the third angel? Rev. 14:9-10 *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*
10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

The wine of the wrath of God speaks of His judgment that will be poured out upon that generation in the battle of Armageddon. Notice that He is speaking to a particular group, those who take the mark of the beast, not the human race in general. His judgment is described as wine that is unmixed, that is, not tempered by the mercy and grace of God. This judgment will begin as a series of plagues as described in the next two chapters.

Verse 11

A. What condition exists among those who worship the beast as God's wrath is poured out?

Rev. 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

The word "smoke" is the same as used in Acts 2:19, and means vapor of smoke. The word vapor means something unsubstantial, fleeting, or transitory. James relates life as "*a vapor which appears for a little while and then vanishes away*;" **Jam. 4:14**. It is not the torment that ascends up forever; literally "*into the ages of ages*", but the consequence of the torment, which is the destruction that is complete or forever. This is not a picture of eternal torment or the Lake of Fire, but a picture of the continual suffering and destruction that occurs as the Angels of God pour out the seven last plagues, the last plague being the battle of Armageddon. Remember there is no night in eternity; **Rev. 22:5**.

Verse 12

A. What three attributes of the Saints are here stressed? Rev. 14:12 *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

Verse 13

A. Why are those who die in the Lord considered blessed? Rev. 14:13 *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

This reference is not a general reference to all saints who die, but specifically to those who die in this period, that is, as martyrs of the faith. It will be far better to die at the hand of the Anti-Christ than to suffer with the Anti-Christ under the plagues. Those who give their life for the testimony of Jesus will come forth in the first resurrection; **Rev. 20:4-6**. The implication is that the voice from Heaven is none other than the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The Harvest of the Vine of the Earth (Rev 14:14-20)

Verse 14

A. How is Christ pictured in this verse? Rev. 14:14 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

The harvest of the earth is ripe, thus ready for the reaping. As we continue reading the following verses it will be noticed that there are two harvests; the first is the harvest of the saints and the second is the harvest of the wicked. The word "white" could have been translated "bright". The "golden crown" represents Christ's royal dignity, and the fact that the sickle is sharp indicates the speed in which the harvest is done.

Verses 15-16

A. What harvest is ripe? Rev. 14:15-16 *And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

B. How will the nations of the earth be divided upon the return of the Lord?

Matt. 25:31-46 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matt. 24:30-31 *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.*

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

C. What harvest is going on today? Matt. 9:37-38 *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (The harvest of lost souls)

The opportunity to harvest lost souls and bring them to Christ is temporary. Soon the day of salvation will be past and the Day of Judgment will be upon us.

Jer. 8:20 *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

Verse 17

A. Do Angels assist in the harvest of the earth? Rev 14:17 *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

Matt. 13:37-43 *He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.
 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Verse 18

A. What power did the sixth Angel have? Rev. 14:18 *And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

This Angel described as coming from the altar, having power over fire, apparently has the power to purge or purify as illustrated by the fire. The vine of the earth is described as being fully ripe.

In the Old Testament the vine represented Israel; **Ps. 80:8; Isa. 5:1-7; Hosea 10:1**. In the New Testament Jesus declares Himself to be the true vine; John 15, and His Church, the branches which produce fruit of righteousness. The vine of the earth is a corrupt vine producing the fruit of wickedness, denying God, choosing rather to worship the Anti-Christ.

Verse 19

A. Where is the vine of the earth cast? Rev. 14:19 *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

The wine press of the wrath of God speaks of the Battle of Armageddon.

Zach. 14:12 *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*

II Thess. 2:8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

Verse 20

A. How deep will the blood flow? Rev. 14:20 *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

The horse's bridle is approximately 4 feet. A furlong is approximately 606 feet, so a thousand and six hundred furlongs would be approximately 200 miles. It would seem likely that this measurement should be thought of as square miles since the wine press was usually a round or square vat. The scene of this event is

apparently not far from the city of Jerusalem in a valley called Esdraelon, also known as the valley of Jehoshaphat; **Joel 3:9-17**. As a whole, chapter 14 reveals God's divine judgment upon the wicked, and assures the Saints of that day; that though they may suffer and even be martyred, God's ultimate justice will triumph.

Review Questions – Chapter Fourteen

1. What does Mt. Sion refer to figuratively?
2. Why were the 144,000 the only ones that could sing the new song?
3. Describe the moral and spiritual character of the 144,000.
4. What is suggested by the term first-fruits unto God.
5. Why is it incorrect to think of the Gospel of salvation as the everlasting Gospel?
6. What is the message of the Everlasting Gospel?
7. What does Babylon represent?
8. What does wine appear to represent?
9. To what does 'drinking of the wine of the wrath of God' refer?
10. What is meant by 'the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever'?
11. There are two harvests mentioned in Revelation 14, what are they?
12. What is the vine of the earth?
13. What is the 'winepress' of the wrath of God?
14. What is the approximate length of a furlong?
15. Where is the battle of Armageddon fought?