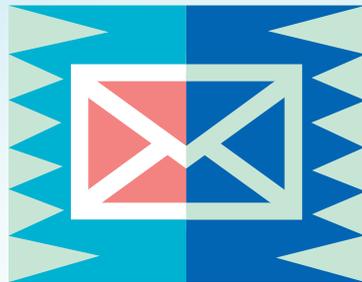


New Testament Survey

Climax of the Ages

Studying the Revelation



For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

12



CBLT

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Climax of the Ages

The Revelation

12

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. The Coming Kingdom
 - A. Exploring Revelation
 - B. Establishing the Historical Perspective
 - 1. Authorship and Audience
 - 2. Date and Geography
 - C. Examining the Text
 - 1. Theme
 - 2. Key Verse
 - 3. Topics and Teachings
 - 4. Revelation: Jesus Christ, Our Triumphant King
- III. Conclusion
- IV. Conclusion of New Testament Survey

Self Test

Appendix. Let's Look At Revelation

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson you should:

1. Have new insight into God's Kingdom as it is described in Revelation.
2. Know the author, audience, basic outline, key verse, and primary themes of Revelation.
3. Be able to place Patmos on a modern day map.
4. Have new insight into the glory of God.
5. Share what you have learned about the Kingdom of God in your preaching or teaching.

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Complete the lesson, checking your answers as you go.
2. Read through the entire book of Revelation at least once during this lesson.

3. Read the appendix, an excerpt from *A Look at the New Testament* by Dr. Henrietta Mears.
4. Complete Practical Assignments 1 and 2.

WORD STUDY

Millennium—a span of 1,000 years; in relation to the Bible—a thousand-year period of Jesus Christ and His followers reigning on the earth

I. Introduction

This is the last lesson in this series and it covers the last book in the Bible: Revelation. This is a book that is dramatically different from all the others. It is not a letter, even though it contains messages for some of the churches. Rather it is a “revelation,” an “unveiling” both from Jesus Christ and about Jesus Christ. It is a powerful book, blazing with magnificence. It is a book of visions, some terrifying, some a creative picture of delights and wonders we can only imagine from a human perspective. It is the only prophetic book in the New Testament.

This book is definitely a challenge to all who read it, but it is best to focus on what you do understand instead of being overwhelmed by what you don't. It is easy to spend time trying to decipher symbolism and speculating on the meaning of everything, meanwhile overlooking the power and the glory of God.

This lesson consist of questions, exercises and projects that will help you to dig into these epistles, opening up your understanding to the context in which they were written, and helping you to interact with God's Word. There are answers in the workbook to help you if you get stuck. In addition there is a self test included so that you can review what you have learned.

You need to have a Bible or New Testament which you will feel free to mark up as you will be required to make many markings. When you read, always keep a pen beside you so that you can mark whenever you find something particularly important to you. You will also need a personal notebook for written assignments. In addition there is a supplement, *New Testament Geography and Chronology*, which you must have to complete some of the exercises. If you did not receive one, please ask your leader.

You can do this study on your own, but it will be much more beneficial if you meet with a group and discuss what you are learning and discovering. We are meant to help and encourage and share with each other. It gives all of us more insights and greater joy. And then there is the issue of accountability. So often we have good intentions, but... Life is full and we easily lay aside a study, and then it gets buried. We need to spur each other on! Knowing that you are going to meet with a group often provides that extra incentive to dig in and learn. And every moment spent in the Word of God will build truth into your life and faith in your heart.

Revelation is truly a book of hope for every Christian. Through the reading and study of Revelation we can have peace that in the end Jesus Christ will be victorious and we will be able to share eternity with Him! Revelation gives us the hope of a future without separation from God. A future that is only good. This is certainly one of the blessings that we receive from reading this book. Praise God, when things look bleak—we know the end of the story. And we are on the winning side!

II. The Coming Kingdom

A. Exploring Revelation

Revelation presents to us the advent of the Kingdom of God in all its fullness. It reveals to us the existing Kingdom here on earth, the body of Christ, and then opens our eyes so that we can see the Kingdom that will be, the perfect Kingdom of heaven.

Here is one possible outline:

Basic Outline of Revelation	
I. Introductory Vision	1:1–20
II. Letters to the Seven Churches	2:1–3:22
III. Vision of God and His Throne	4:1–5:14
IV. Opening of the Seals on Destiny’s Scroll	6:1–17
V. Interlude before the Seventh Seal	7:1–17
VI. The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets	8:1–9:21
VII. Interlude and the Seventh Trumpet	10:1–11:19
VIII. The Cosmic Conflict of Good and Evil	12:1–13:1a
IX. The Beasts, the Believers, and the Judgment of Earth	13:1b–14:20
X. The Seven Last Bowls of the Wrath of God	15:1–16:21
XI. The Fall of “Babylon”	17:1–18:24
XII. The Return of Christ in Glory	19:1–21
XIII. The Thousand Years	20:1–15
XIV. The Eternal New Order	21:1–22:6
XV. Jesus is Coming!	22:7–21

Before you begin to seriously look at the book of Revelation we will spend a bit of time on the structure. This will be very helpful as you begin to come to a deeper understanding of what is written. Only as you become aware of how this book is constructed will you begin to have a full appreciation and understanding of it.



Exercise 1

Underline a key phrase. Underline in your Bible the phrase “in the Spirit” in Revelation 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10. Now look at the outline following and explain what the significance of this phrase might be.

Outline of Revelation Based on Visions	
Introduction	1:1–8
I. Vision 1	1:9 – 3:22
A. Jesus among the Churches	1:9–20
B. Messages to the Seven Churches	2:1 – 3:22
II. Vision 2	4:1 – 16:21
A. God and His Throne	4:1 – 5:14
B. The Seven Seals	6:1 – 8:1
C. The Seven Trumpets	8:2 – 11:19

D.	The Seven "Persons"	12:1 – 14:20
H.	The Seven Bowls	15:1–16:21
III.	Vision 3	17:1 – 21:8
A.	The Fall of "Babylon"	17:1 – 18:24
B.	The Return of Christ in Glory	19:1–21
C.	The Millennium	20:1–15
D.	The New Heaven and Earth	21:1–8
IV.	Vision 4	21:9 – 22:5
A.	The Eternal City	21:9–27
B.	The River of Life	22:1–6
V.	Final Challenge	22:7–21



Exercise 2

Read and mark Revelation. Do not go any further in this lesson until you have read through Revelation in its entirety and marked the following words:

- Blue -- Lamb (as applies to Christ Jesus)
- Orange -- Throne(s)

You will notice as you read Revelation that there are several sets of sevens used. Mears also refers to these as you will see later. Numbers play a significant part in the book of Revelation and as you read through it you will want to make note of these. The number seven is used often in Scripture and has come to indicate the number of completeness or perfection.



Question 1 List the seven churches that Christ spoke to.



Question 2 Now list the seals which were opened. You will see where to find them from the outline.



Question 3 Very briefly state what happened when each of the seven trumpets were sounded.



Question 4 List the seven "persons" or figures talked about in chapters 12–14.

12:1 _____

12:5 _____

12:7 _____

13:1-10 _____

13:11-18 _____

14:1 _____



Question 5 Now make a list of the events of the seven bowls.

Now you have begun to see some of the events that are talked about in the second vision, which covers the largest portion in Revelation.

B. Establishing the Historical Perspective

1. Authorship and Audience



Question 6 According to the text where was John when he received the Revelation?



Question 7 Why was Revelation written?



Question 8 To whom was Revelation written?

2. Date and Geography



Question 9 Why was John on Patmos?

Patmos was a prison island and we can assume from this verse that John had been banished there because of his Christian stand. John was probably around 90 years old at this time!



Exercise 3

*Locate Patmos on Map 3 in the supplement, *New Testament Geography and Chronology*. Turn now to Map 2 and notice where Patmos is located in relation to Ephesus and the six other churches that are addressed in Revelation 1:11. Compare this with Map 3.*

John was sentenced to Patmos during the end of the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian who ruled from A.D. 81-96 and he was released by the emperor Nerva who ruled from A.D. 96-98.¹ Because of this we know that Revelation was written between A.D. 94 and 97. That means that Revelation was the last book of the Bible to be written!

Revelation is full of geographical references, sometimes to cities or places that we are familiar with, but many times it is not clear exactly which city or place John is alluding to because some-

¹ Earl Radmacher, Ron Allen and H. Wayne House, *Compact Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004), 937.

times the names used are symbolic names such as “Babylon” which could refer to Rome, Jerusalem, Babylon or another city. Notice that many of the places that are clearly mentioned are in the Middle East and surround Jerusalem.

C. Examining the Text

Revelation is full of prophetic images and visions making it a challenge to study well in a short time period. But it is also the most exciting book of the whole Bible.

1. Theme

Since the largest portion of Revelation deals with end times it easy to see that the culmination of all that will happen is to publicly and finally proclaim Christ as the ultimate Ruler for all of eternity.

The great revelation of Jesus as the King of kings at the end of the world and the establishment of His Kingdom forever.

2. Key Verse

Revelation 11:15b is a direct statement of the above theme.



Question 10 Write out the text from this verse on the lines below.

3. Topics and Teachings

You will notice in this section that we avoid dealing with end time teachings. The majority of people get overwhelmed with the details of when and how all of this will happen. And many arguments come out of this because we do not have the full picture, as is normal with prophecy. God has given us some glimpses so that we will know what is in the future (Jesus will reign!), but does not give us enough information that we can afford to be dogmatic about details. Rather than spend time in speculation let’s turn to some of the teachings that strengthen our faith and sharpen our focus on the spiritual.

God

This book is full of teaching about God. Much of what we know already about God from the Scriptures is confirmed here, one of the most critical being that He is sovereign and He will bring about everything that He has planned for the universe that He has created. He is all powerful and everlasting (1:8; 4:2). He is the Creator (4:11). He is seated on the throne of the universe indicating His power and authority. He is greater than Satan and all evil (12:10).

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is pictured as the conqueror in all His glory. Anyone who has thought of Jesus as being meek and humble only must look at the picture of Him in 1:12-18.



Question 11 Write in your own words what this picture of Jesus is in 1:12-18.

We also have a picture of Christ as the “Lamb”. In the Gospel of John Jesus was pointed out as the Lamb of God in the first chapter, we identify Him as the Passover lamb because He shed His blood

so we would be covered. And this symbolism is carried on here, but instead of a sacrifice we see a picture of power and strength even though He is identified as the Lamb.

The deity of Christ is also emphasized in Revelation. Read Revelation 1:8 and then 22:13-20.



Question 12 Who declares He is the “Alpha and Omega” in 1:8?



Question 13 Who identifies Himself as the “Alpha and Omega” in chapter 22?

Judgment

Here we see the judgment of the world carried out. God is long suffering and patient with mankind, but there will be an end, and we have a very overpowering picture of that judgment including the certainty of hell for Satan and his angels and those who reject God. Judgment is sure and we develop a holy awe as we see God’s wrath poured out on the earth.



Question 14 In the following verses write who is judging and who is being judged.

a. Revelation 14:6,7 _____

b. Revelation 17:1 _____

c. Revelation 18:10, 20 _____

d. Revelation 20:4 _____

These are only a few verses that actually have the word *judgment* in them.

In chapter 19 we see Jesus riding out leading the armies of heaven to bring the judgment of the wrath of God. A massive massacre follows. This is Jesus final triumph over the powers of this world. How should this affect your daily decision making?

Worship

In Revelation 4 we have a picture through the door of heaven. Reread this chapter and then close your eyes and try to imagine some of the glory and beauty of heaven.



Question 15 What is the activity that is being shown in heaven?

The theme of worship is very compelling in Revelation. We have many instances of worship with various groups worshipping God.



Question 16 Read the following verses and write who was doing the worshipping.

a. Revelation 7:9-10 _____

b. Revelation 7:11-12 _____

- c. Revelation 11:16-18 _____
- d. Revelation 14:1-5 _____
- e. Revelation 15:2-4 _____
- f. Revelation 19:1-8 _____

In a contrast to the worship of the true God we also have worship of the beast in chapter 13. Man was created to worship, and he will worship something or somebody. What a terrible picture of those who choose to worship evil incarnated instead of the Almighty Creator God. In chapter 14 we find God’s judgment falling on these worshipers of evil—the final result of all worship that is not directed to God.

In Revelation we see song, shouting, harps and the physical bowing down before the throne of God, casting of crowns before Him as His people, His church honor Him.



Exercise 4

Worshiping God. This coming week use the following worship passages as you spend time with God. Are your quiet times instilled with excitement and awe? Or is it a ritual that go through without your “first love” of Jesus Christ. If you know your heart has cooled, fall on your face before God and use the words of Scripture to fill your mind with His awesomeness. Speak the words out loud to Him, imagining yourself in chorus with those already in heaven.

- 4:8, 11 15:3-4
- 5:12-14 19:1-5
- 7: 10,12

The Kingdom of God

As we noted earlier one of the prominent themes of Revelation is the Kingdom of God. This brings closure to the overall theme in the New Testament of establishing the Kingdom of God.



Exercise 5

Characterize the Kingdom of God. Throughout *New Testament Survey* we have been looking at the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. Revelation gives us some fresh insight into that Kingdom. In your notebook write at least one good paragraph describing the Kingdom of God in Revelation.

4. Revelation: Jesus Christ, Our Triumphant King

As you read the appendix, fill out the section below. You will notice that there are major headings of the Past, Present and Future, but most of Revelation is under the section on the future. Even though there are not questions for every one of these sub-headings, they are listed so that you again have opportunity to follow the flow of Revelation in another outline form.

Food for Thought

Which of the seven letters to the churches best fits your church? What would Jesus instruct you on or praise you for?

Remember: the church is not a building, each one of us is a part, from the pastor to the person who just received Christ. We are all responsible to keep our local Body pure.



Question 17 What does Revelation tell us about Satan?



Question 18 How many symbols are in this book?



Question 19 How is Jesus portrayed in Revelation?



Question 20 What are the “sevens” in Revelation as listed by Mears?

Past—The Things Which Thou Hast Seen



Question 21 How is Christ presented to the whole world in the beginning of Revelation?

Present—The Things Which Are



Question 22 What does Mears say John’s vision was of?



Exercise 6

Become aware of your attitude towards the 2nd Coming of Jesus. Mears asks, “Have you ever seen the Lord?” and “What would happen to us if we really saw the Lord?”

Take the time to answer these two questions for yourself right now in your notebook. Describe what you think it would be like if you met Jesus face to face right now! What would He say? What would you do? How would it change your life?

Future—The Things Which Shall be Hereafter



Question 23 According to Mears, what is the Throne that we see in Revelation ?

This is a striking picture of what is happening in Revelation, but it is well to remember that in a more general sense of the word *throne* indicates authority and power. You have marked this word so as you read through Revelation, continue to consider all that is revealed to us about God’s power in such a picturesque form.



Question 24 What will God do in the time of the Great Tribulation?

Four Horsemen



Question 25 What do the four horses represent?

White _____

Red _____

Black _____

Pale _____

The Seven Trumpets



Question 26 Does Satan know that his time is short?

Federation of Nations

The Seven Golden Bowls



Question 27 What is the difference between the focus of the trumpets and of the bowls?

The Marriage of the Lamb

Doom of the Antichrist



Question 28 After the Battle of Armageddon what will Christ do?

The Millennium



Question 29 Summarize in one sentence what will happen at the end of the Millennium.

Satan Gets a Life Sentence

A Deadline for the Soul



Question 30 What are the seven new things that are recorded in Revelation 21?

One of the ways that Mears describes heaven is that “fellowship between God and man is restored.” This description of heaven is true. Often we get carried away with describing heaven in physical terms. We think of it as a place, rather than a state of being. We think of mansions, robes and crowns; no tears, no death, no suffering or sorrow; reunion with loved ones. And this *is* all part of heaven according to the Bible. Yet, is this all heaven is? Would you be happy if that was all that your heaven consisted of? I would not. I look forward to a heaven which means perfect relationship with my Lord, my King, my God. If Jesus was excluded from your idea of heaven what differences would it make?



Question 31 What position does Jesus hold in your life? Savior or Judge?

III. Conclusion

Revelation is a large book for the New Testament. It covers a vast expanse of time, present, past and future. It covers the Second Coming of Christ, the fate of the Devil, Heaven, the Tribulation and many other topics. It is a book full of action and excitement! Yet under all of this there is one common thread and that is worship. Although worship is certainly not the primary theme of Revelation it flows throughout the book from the beginning with the letters to the seven churches to the last chapter. This is just how worship should flow through our lives.

Eugene Peterson sums it all up this way:²

John of Patmos, a pastor of the late first century, has worship on his mind. That's all he can think about. The vision, which is the Revelation (the name of this book), comes to him while he is worshiping on a certain Sunday on the Mediterranean island of Patmos. He is responsible for a group of churches on the mainland, whose main task is worship. Worship is our response to a living God. If worship is neglected or tampered with, the church ends up in trouble.

Worship is not a big thing in this day and age. The truth is, worship hasn't been a big thing in any age. The world is hostile to worship. The Devil hates worship. As the Revelation makes clear, worship must take place in the midst of hostility and hate. Some Christians even get killed because they worship.

John's Revelation is not easy reading. Besides being a pastor, John is a poet, so his words become symbolic and difficult, but his passion to bring us into the presence of Jesus comes through loud and clear. What else can we do when we read the Revelation but fall on our knees in adoration? By the time we are done reading, our minds and our imaginations have been given new life, and we cannot help but worship God with passion and joy.

² Eugene Peterson, *The Message* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1993), 514.

IV. Conclusion of New Testament Survey

Congratulations! This is the last lesson in the series and if you have worked through the whole course you have come to the end of our survey of the New Testament. As the culmination of this course we want you to share what you have been learning about the Kingdom of God with others through our final practical assignment. You may also wish to expand the above Bible studies for use in small groups or as the basis for a series of sermons.



Practical Assignment: Preach on the Kingdom of God

Choose one of the New Testament passages listed below and preach a sermon from it. These are passages from the appendix in Lesson 8, so you should have some Bible study notes on them already. Stick to that passage and do not use other passages to develop your sermon. Study the passage by answering these questions: What does the passage say? What does that mean? How can I put that into practice today? Make sure that you keep your sermon practical, so that you aren't just giving people useless information.

If you are taking this course for credit, you will need to show your outline (signed by your pastor or deacon) to your course leader.

- 1. The Character of the King—Psalm 145**
Purpose: To explore how God's character and nature are reflected in His Kingdom.
- 2. The Kingdom's Coming—Mark 1:14-45**
Purpose: To discover the many areas over which Jesus' Kingdom exercises authority.
- 3. An Offer You Can't Ignore—Matthew 13:1-45**
Purpose: To explore the different responses to the Kingdom message of Jesus.
- 4. Mission Statement for a Kingdom—Matthew 20:1-34**
Purpose: To explore the Kingdom values taught and demonstrated by Jesus.
- 5. Kingdom in Words and Deeds—Acts 8:4-40**
Purpose: To investigate the role of the Holy Spirit in proclaiming and uniting the Kingdom of God.
- 6. Kingdoms in Conflict—Revelation 19**
Purpose: To discover how Jesus' Kingdom overcomes all rival kingdoms.
- 7. Waiting for Kingdom Come—Matthew 25:1-30**
Purpose: To consider the ways Jesus expects us to be faithful until the kingdom comes fully.
- 8. Living in Light of the Kingdom—2 Timothy 3:10-4:8**
Purpose: To understand life and ministry in light of Christ's Kingdom and return.
- 9. King of All—Colossians 1:1-20**
Purpose: To understand that Jesus' Kingdom extends over the cosmos because of who he is and what he has accomplished.
- 10. Who Sits on the Throne?—Daniel 4**
Purpose: To learn how God reigns over the nations.

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Mark 1:15

Self Test

Score: ___/100

True and False (3.5 points each, ___/42)

Write True or False for each statement.

1. ___ Revelation was the last New Testament book written.
2. ___ It was written by Paul.
3. ___ Apostasy is a key teaching of Revelation.
4. ___ Revelation presents Jesus as King.
5. ___ John was on Cyprus when the Revelation was given to him.
6. ___ Revelation is the longest book in the New Testament.
7. ___ The key verse for Revelation says, "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.'"
8. ___ The reference of this verse is Revelation 11:15.
9. ___ The key theme of Revelation includes the idea that Jesus is the returning Messiah.
10. ___ One of the key topics of Revelation is forgiveness.
11. ___ Another key topic is the Kingdom of God.
12. ___ Mears gives Jesus in Revelation the title "Our Humble King".

Fill in the Blanks (2 points each answer, ___/58)

1. List three of the churches that are addressed in the first chapters of Revelation:

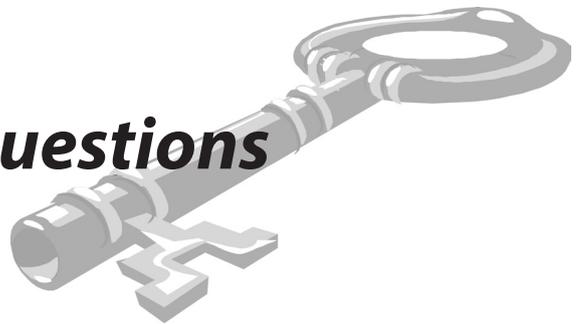
2. List four of the "sevens" in Revelation: _____

3. The _____ is when God will lift His restraining hand from all the world and allow sin to work all its consequences.
4. According to Mears the four horses are red, _____, black, and _____.
5. The horses represent religious _____, _____ war, famine and _____, and _____ and death.
6. List four of the seven "new things" in Revelation: _____

7.

I. (7)_____ Vision	1:1–20
II. Letters to the Seven Churches	2:1–3:22
III. Vision of God and His (8)_____	4:1–5:14
IV. Opening of the Seals on Destiny’s Scrol	6:1–17
IV. Interlude before the (9)_____ Seal	7:1–17
VI. The Seventh Seal and the Seven (10)_____	8:1–9:21
VII. Interlude and the Seventh Trumpet	10:1–11:19
VIII. The Cosmic Conflict of (11)_____ and Evil	12:1–13:1a
IX. The Beasts, the Believers, and the Judgment of (12)_____	13:1b–14:20
X. The Seven Last Bowls of the Wrath of God	15:1–16:21
XI. The Fall of ”(13)_____”	17:1–18:24
XII. The Return of Christ in Glory	19:1–21
XIII. The (14)_____ Years	20:1–15
XIV. The Eternal New Order	21:1–22:6
XV. Jesus is Coming!	22:7–21

Answers to Questions



Question 1

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

Question 2

White horse, red horse, black horse, pale horse, the martyrs under the altar, cataclysm of heavens and earth (earthquake, sun darkened, etc.), silence.

Question 3

1st—hail and fire with 1/3 of the earth burned up; 2nd—1/3 of the sea becomes blood; 3rd—1/3 of the waters made bitter; 4th—1/3 of the day and night darkened; 5th—supernatural locusts for 5 months; 6th—1/3 of mankind killed by three plagues; 7th—worship

Question 4

12:1—Woman

12:5—dragon and man child

12:7—Michael

13:1-10—beast from the sea

13:11-18—beast from the earth

14:1—lamb

Question 5

1—sores; 2—sea of blood; 3—rivers of blood; 4—scorching sun; 5—darkness; 6—Euphrates dried up, and evil spirits released; 7—earthquake and cataclysmic events

Question 6

According to Revelation 1:9 John was on the island of Patmos.

Question 7

Revelation 1:1, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place..”

Question 8

Revelation was written to the bond-servants of God (Revelation 1:1) and more specifically to the seven churches that were in Asia (Revelation 1:4).

Question 9

Revelation 1:9 tells us that John was on the Island of Patmos “because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

Question 10

See Revelation 11:15 in your Bible.

Question 11

Your answer.

Question 12

The Lord God.

Question 13

Jesus.

Follow the progression from the statement in v.12 “I am coming quickly”, v. 13 which is the statement “I am the Alpha and Omega” and v. 20 which says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Followed by, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Question 14

- a. Announcing God’s judgment of every nation, tribe, tongue and people
- b. Unstated that it is God’s judgment—of the great harlot
- c. God judging Babylon
- d. Those who have been faithful to Christ are raised from the dead to reign here on earth, and judge those who are here at that time

Question 15

The elders and the creatures were worshipping God.

Question 16

- a. a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language
- b. all the angels
- c. the 24 elders
- d. the 144,000—redeemed, followers of the Lamb
- e. those victorious over the beast
- f. a great multitude; the 24 elders; the four living creatures

Question 17

Revelation tells us about Satan’s doom.

Question 18

There are 300 symbols in Revelation.

Question 19

Jesus is portrayed as the “Triumphant One”.

Question 20

The sevens in Revelation are:

- Churches
- Seals
- Trumpets
- Signs
- Last Plagues
- Dooms
- New Things

Question 21

Christ is present as Judge.

Question 22

Mears suggests that it was of a future day when men shall appear before Christ to be judged.

Question 23

The Throne is the “throne of judgment”.

Question 24

The Great Tribulation is when God will lift His restraining hand from all the world and allow sin to work all its consequences.

Question 25

According to Mears:

The white horse represents religious witness.

The red horse represents universal war.

The black horse represents famine and scarcity.

The pale horse represents pestilence and death.

Question 26

Yes, he does and it makes him angry!

Question 27

With the trumpets Satan is releasing his power to accomplish his objectives. With the bowls God is releasing His power against Satan. It is God’s response to Satan.

Question 28

After Armageddon Christ will throw the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire and make an end of Satan’s entire system.

Question 29

At the end of the Millennium Satan will be released and will incite the nations to rebel against God in war, but God will vanquish them.

Question 30

2. A new heaven and a new earth
3. A new people
4. A new bride
5. A new home
6. A new temple
7. A new light
8. A new paradise

Question 31

Your answer.

Answers to Exercises



Exercise 1

Be sure you have underlined the phrase and perhaps the part of the sentence which puts the phrase into context. This phrase indicates the beginning of a new vision each time it occurs.

Exercise 2

Lamb as applies to Jesus Christ occurs 31 times.

Throne(s) occurs 46 times.

Exercise 3

No answer necessary. Notice that at the end of his life John was living far from Jerusalem in what is now Turkey!

Exercise 4

Using Scripture in worship and prayer is one of the beautiful ways we grow in our understanding of Who God is and learn to express ourselves to Him. It helps us when our hearts are dry or suffering to see the perspective of eternity.

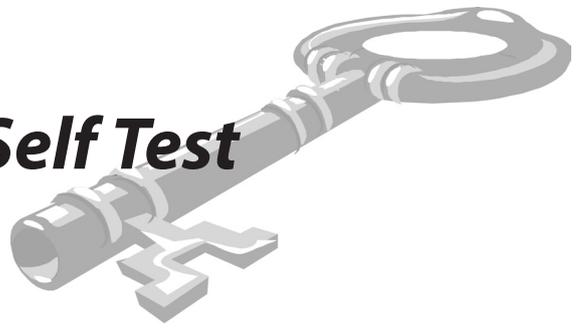
Exercise 5

Your answer. What does this Kingdom look like in Revelation. Remember this is the culmination of all of history bringing the world back under the total reign of God.

Exercise 6

Do you wait in anticipation for the second coming? Or with a feeling of dread? Why?

Answers to Self Test



True and False

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. T
10. F
11. T
12. F

Fill in the Blanks

1. Three of these: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
2. Four of these: churches, seals, trumpets, last plagues, new things, signs, dooms
3. Great Tribulation
4. White, pale
5. Witness, war, scarcity, pestilence
6. Four of these: new heaven and new earth, new people, new bride, new home, new temple, new light, new paradise
7. Introductory
8. Throne
9. Seventh
10. Trumpets
11. Good
12. Earth
13. Babylon
14. Thousand

Let's Look At Revelation

Revelation Portrays Jesus Christ, Our Triumphant King

Chapter 24 from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears³

Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament. It is the only book in the Divine Library that especially promises a blessing to those who read and hear. “Blessed” is a strong word. *Blessed is he that readeth*, is what the book of Revelation says of itself, but after reading the first chapters about the churches, and the last chapters describing heaven, not many of us read much in this book.

Revelation presents a glorious reigning Christ. The Gospels presented Him as a Saviour, One who came to take the curse of sin, but this last book tells us about the reign of Christ on this earth which Satan wants to control. It tells of Christ’s complete and eternal victory over Satan. It describes Satan’s defeat and punishment, first for a thousand years, then eternally. It tells more about Satan’s final doom than any other book. No wonder Satan doesn’t want men to read it! In all sorts of ways he has prevented it. We hear people say, “Oh, I can’t make head or tail of it.” “It doesn’t mean anything to me.” “No one can understand it.”

Does “revelation” mean a riddle? Most people seem to think it does, when speaking of this book. No, it means just the opposite—“unveiling.” It is written in symbols. *It was sent and signified* by the angel to John. The deaf and dumb have a sign language. Each gesture is filled with meaning. So is every sign in Revelation. There are 300 symbols in this book, and each has a definite meaning. Symbols are wonderful and speak great truths. The American flag is a symbol. It is only red, white and blue bunting, but it represents the United States of America to us. The cross is a symbol, but it speaks of our salvation and God’s love. So all the symbols in Revelation have a meaning.

Christ is the theme of this wonderful book. Let us see Him in and through it all. It gives an authentic portrait of the Lord Jesus as the Triumphant One. No less than twenty-six times do we find in

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it Christ's sacrificial title "Lamb" (5:6). In addition we see a vision of the future of the Church and the world in relation to Him.

Revelation is a wonderful way to finish the story which was begun in Genesis. All that was begun in the Book of Beginnings (Genesis) is consummated in Revelation. In Genesis the heaven and earth were created. In Revelation we see a new heaven and a new earth. In Genesis the sun and moon appear; in Revelation we read that they have no need of the sun or moon, for Christ is the light of the new Heaven. In Genesis there is a garden; in Revelation there is a holy city. In Genesis there is the marriage of the first Adam; in Revelation the marriage supper of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. In Genesis we see the beginning of sin; in Revelation sin is done away. So we can follow the appearance of the great adversary, Satan, and sorrow and pain and tears in Genesis, and see their doom in Revelation.

God had determined from the beginning that His Son would be the Ruler of this universe. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isa. 9:6, 7). But we see another desiring the rule of this world—Satan. Man, also, has tried to establish himself and to build a civilization without God. The outcome of all this is found in the last book of the Bible.

Revelation is the greatest drama of all time. The plot is tense throughout; the final scene is glorious, for Christ comes into His own. The Hero is our Lord Himself; the villain is the Devil. The actors are the seven churches. The characters unloosed by the seals of chapters 6 and 7, are introduced by the "four horsemen." Then those summoned by the trumpets in turn leave the center of the scene of action, and we see the Antichrist, the world ruler, stalking across the stage (chap. 13). This incarnation of the Devil himself is determined to set up his own kingdom and be worshiped of men. But Christ brings all to naught. This majestic One, bringing His hosts with Him, comes forth—the long-looked-for King of kings and Lord of lords. He drives His enemies from the stage in utter defeat, and the drama is brought to a close (chap. 19). In one titanic struggle He destroys what man has built up, and pronounces that the end of all things is at hand.

After all the struggle has ended, and the beasts have been destroyed and the Devil bound, and *the former things are passed away*, then we hear these words, full of hope, *Behold, I make all things new.* (Rev. 21:4,5) This book brings to a climax the great story commenced in Genesis, and as all good stories should end, it ends "And they lived happily ever after."

Notice The 7's In This Book

- Seven Churches
- Seven signs
- Seven seals
- Seven last plagues
- Seven trumpets
- Seven dooms
- Seven new things

Past — The Things Which Thou Hast Seen

(Read Revelation 1:1-18)

This first scene presents the Hero, the Lord Jesus Christ, the glorified One. Here is the last picture of Jesus Christ given in the New Testament. Many artists have tried to portray Him, but they have failed. Here is an authentic portrait (1:13-16). He is standing in the midst of the seven golden lampstands, representing the churches (v. 20). Lampstands prove that the Church “is to be a light-bearer. *Ye are the light of the world.* Many churches today seem to exist more for entertainment, bazaars, and to promote money-making schemes, than to be lights to shine in a dark place!

Christ is likened to a “son of man,” but it is clear from the vision that the One whom John saw was more than human. He was the Son of Man. Everything symbolizes majesty and judgment, and this thought of judgment strikes the keynote of the book. Christ is presented to the whole world as judge. Read the description of this wonderful One carefully (1:12-18).

Present — The Things Which Are

(Read Revelation 1:20-3:22)

Suppose you should find in your morning mail a letter from Jesus! You would read that letter as you never read any letter before in your life. You would be very likely to do everything it said, wouldn't you? Well, in the second and third chapters of Revelation we have seen seven letters from Jesus to Christians, and these seven letters are to you and to me!

“If Christ Came to Chicago” was a book that made a great stir some years ago. “If Christ wrote a letter to your church” do you think it would make a stir in your church? What do you think He would be likely to write?

In the second and third chapters we find Christ's love letters to His churches.

These churches named were churches which actually existed in John's day. In dealing with them, He seems to give us a picture of all churches. In every age there have been these same characteristic qualities to be found.

Discover where you find Christ at the end of this Church Age. *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me* (3:20). He is outside, knocking to get in. The church will not let Him in, but He pleads with the individual: *If any man ... open the door, I will come in.* Have you opened your heart's door to Christ? Sing:

“Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.”

John's vision was not of this age in which we are living, but of a future day when men shall appear before Christ to be judged (John 5:27-29). Now, we may have all of God's grace, mercy and forgiveness for the taking. Now, Christ is before us to be judged. We can reject Him if we choose. In Revelation, John is picturing Christ in judgment. The day of mercy is past, when we stand before the Judge of judges, the King of kings, the Lord of lords.

When John saw this glorious One, he fell at His feet as dead, so overpowering was the vision (1:17). But Christ's words were reassuring. He said He was the living One, and though He had

been dead, He was alive forevermore, and held the keys of death and Hades. Then follows the command to write what is found in this book (1:19). We do not have the usual picture of Christ starting in Bethlehem and ending at the Mount of Olives, but here we have His life in heaven, as the crown and culmination of all.

Have you ever seen the Lord? When Moses saw Him his face shone. Job abhorred himself and repented in ashes. Isaiah saw himself unclean. Saul fell down and worshiped Him as Saviour. What would happen to us if we really saw the Lord?

The alarm goes off and wakens us out of a sound sleep. What is the first thought that strikes you? Does some worry seize you and tie you into a knot at once? That problem? That conference at eleven? The exam? Or do you think of Christ in your first waking moment—His love, His plan for you, His power over your trials of the day? Is He first as the day breaks upon you? Then when night comes, do you finish the day with fears of tomorrow or do you lie down to rest in the arms of the Lord, trusting Him completely? Is Jesus first and last to you?

Future — The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter

(Read Revelation 4:1-22:21)

The scene shifts from earth to heaven.

First the throne of God comes into view (4:1-3). Revelation becomes the “Book of the Throne.” This is the great central fact which pervades the book. This throne speaks of judgment. The throne of grace is no longer seen. The scene is a court-room. The Judge of all the earth is on the bench; the twenty-four elders are the jury, representing the twelve patriarchs of the Old Testament and the twelve Apostles of the New (4:4). The seven spirits of God (4:5; 5:6) are the prosecutor, and the four living creatures are court attendants, ready to carry out the will of the Judge.

For 1900 years God has been calling upon the earth to bow the knee to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and they would not. They would not do it through the preaching of the Gospel of the love of God, so now judgment is necessary. John announces what he sees acted before his eyes. Acting as eyes and ears for us, much like an announcer at a great football game or political convention, he describes the moves and presents a clear picture.

The day of tribulation begins with the opening of the seven seals (chap. 6). A swift preliminary glimpse of the course of events here below in judgment days is presented. This is the beginning of the end.

This describes the Great Tribulation period spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 30 as the *time of Israel's sorrow*. Christ also referred to it as a great tribulation, such as has never happened upon the earth (Matt. 24:21). During the Great Tribulation God will allow sin to work out its tragic results. God's hand will be lifted from man and beast. The earth will be filled with war, hunger, famine and pestilence. We cannot paint too dark a picture of this terrible period.

Remember the worst murder that has ever been perpetrated upon this earth was the killing of the innocent Son of God. Some day that crime must be reckoned with. Judgment must come on those who have rejected the Son of God and put Him to an open shame. God will judge every person who has rejected His Son. We as Christians look for Christ, because our Saviour is coming to receive us to Himself and free us from this day of judgment.

Four Horsemen

In the sixth chapter we see the famous “four horsemen” (6:1-8). Restraint is removed as the seals are broken. The forces of evil have been held in check. When the seals are torn away, war and destruction are set loose. The terrible possibilities of a godless society ride forth unchallenged.

We cannot blame God for what man has brought upon himself. Men have been setting themselves up independently of God. They have been heaping up power. They have been building for war, and torture is let loose. They are destroying their makers. Why blame God for this? Man is reaping what he has sown himself. The anguish and horror of the period will be the result of human ambition, hatred, and cruelty. All that God does is to remove restraint.

First, we see the white horse of religious witness, come before the final catastrophe upon the earth. Then comes the red horse, and universal war breaks upon the world, *when peace will be taken from the earth*. This means world war. The black horse of famine and scarcity follows upon universal war. We know that war brings breadlines and soup kitchens. Lastly, the pale horse of pestilence and death comes forth with merciless tread.

The sixth seal (6:12-17) brings social chaos, the complete breaking up of society and a boasted civilization. Darkness, falling stars, heavens rolled up as a scroll, islands moving is the picture presented. Then the most tragic prayer meeting on earth with kings and priests, rich and poor, fleeing from God in a general stampede, praying for death, for *the great day of His wrath is come*. Man fancies himself able to overturn civil government and to establish a millennium of his own, but it results in the worst social chaos the world will ever see. Man has played with war until the very foundations of civilization rock to pieces. Frightened men of all classes flee for shelter from the oncoming cataclysm.

The Seven Trumpets

Silence in heaven for thirty minutes! Orchestras cease! Seraphim and cherubim fold their wings! All is still! It is as though all heaven were waiting in breathless expectation. This is the calm before the storm (chap. 8). War, famine and pestilence have devastated the earth. Millions of people have died. Now all hell is set loose on the earth. Men have chosen sin and Satan, instead of righteousness and a Redeemer. Now His judgments have come upon the earth and Satan, knowing his time is short, is exceedingly wrathful. We find unprecedented activity of demons, 200,000,000 evil spirits sweeping across the earth. Hell is let loose! Sin is allowed its full sway, and death is preferable to life (9:1-21). Satan does his last work upon the earth.

Federation Of Nations

Finally we see Satan incarnating himself in the Antichrist. His portrait is given in Revelation 13. See also Daniel 12:11; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3. This Antichrist will be a world ruler. He demands the honors due to Christ Himself. He will be the political ruler of this world. He is the embodiment of wickedness. He will be shrewd and clever and a real leader of men. The Antichrist will be a Caesar, an Alexander, a Nero and a Hitler all in one. He will be the world's superman. Men can neither *buy nor sell, save he that hath the mark*. Mergers and trusts of great proportion are in the world today. Such mergers and trusts were unheard of at the beginning of this century. The *mark of the beast* is like the brand mark of ownership, or the token of allegiance like the swastika. It will be impossible for man to buy or sell without permission. The number 666 is “the number of a man.” 6 is the number of evil. So three 6's express a trinity of wickedness.

The final doom of the Antichrist will be the lake of fire at Christ's coming (19:20). There will be plagues like those of Egypt—blood, hail, fire, locusts, darkness, famine, sores, earthquakes, war and death. In these plagues is summed up the wrath of God upon a Christ-rejecting world.

The Seven Golden Bowls

In the trumpets, Satan is releasing his power to accomplish his objectives. The bowls are God's power released against Satan. The bowls are God's answer to the Devil. The "bowls" blast the dominion of Satan. Satan has dared to challenge God's power. God is now answering the challenge. Satan is forced into action. His kingdom is shaken to its foundations and he is undone. This event ends in the Battle of Armageddon (16:13-16). This battle is described in chapter 19. This is the closing scene of the war, when Christ takes the leadership of His armies, and brings His foes to their doom. In the "bowls" the power of the Almighty has been unleashed.

The seventh "bowl" announced the "Dooms" which were to follow. Civilization has come to utter collapse. Even though God has revealed its utter evil, nevertheless men blaspheme God and repent not. (16:9, 11) Even today, amid the luxuries of inventions, men are dissatisfied and far from God. Hatred has turned into wars of colossal dimension. God pronounces seven "Dooms" (chapters 17-20). First the doom of great systems—ecclesiastical (chap. 17), commercial (chap. 18), political (19:11-19); then the Beast and the False Prophet (19:20, 21), followed by the nations (20:7-9), and the Devil (20:10), and finally, the doom of the lost is pronounced (20:11-15).

The Marriage Of The Lamb

The "Hallelujah Chorus" announces the coming of the long-promised King, our Lord Jesus Christ, the heir of David's throne to catch away His bride (1 Thess. 4:17). Hell has been let loose on earth. Satan and his cohorts have done their worst, and Christ has finally triumphed. Righteousness, long on the scaffold, is now to mount the throne. The marriage of the Lamb is come (19:7). The marriage supper of Christ will take place in the air. The saints will be rewarded in the air, according to their works. This time of rejoicing will continue until Christ returns to the earth with His bride, to set up His millennial kingdom.

Doom Of The Antichrist

After the Battle of Armageddon (19:17-19), Christ having subdued all His enemies, will take alive Antichrist (19:20) and the False Prophet and cast them with a strong arm into the lake of fire. This is a name for Gehenna, the place where torment never ceases and from which none return. Christ will make an end of Satan's entire system.

The Millennium

This is the time when Christ, the Prince of Peace, will establish His kingdom upon the earth for a thousand years (20:2,3); the saints that Christ brings with Him will reign with Him for a thousand years (20:4,6); the wicked dead will not rise until the end of the thousand years (20:5).

There will be a thousand years of peace and joy upon the earth, when *the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea* (Hab. 2:14). It will be a glorious time to live. No wars, no weeds, no wild animals, no taxes, neither the heartache of death! When this period has come to an end, then the Devil will be released again. He will come to test the nations (20:7-9). We discover their real attitude, and learn that they prefer Satan to Christ. We can hardly believe it, but read 20:7-9: *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

Satan is the author and instigator of war. After a thousand years of peace, Satan gathers them to "the war." Not a few gather, but a countless number, *like the sand of the sea*. But *fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them* (20:9). Men's rebellion against God seems almost unbelievable but *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jer. 17:9)

Satan Gets A Life Sentence

Satan is treated too lightly by the average person. He is mighty! He is *the deceiver of the whole world*. He fell from the highest place, next to God Himself, to the lowest depths—*the lake of fire*. Christ described it as *everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels* (Matt. 25:41). The Devil is given a life sentence (Rev. 20:10).

A Deadline For The Soul

The blazing white throne of the final judgment is set. The One sitting upon it shall judge all men. Read Revelation 20:11-15. He summons the Grand Jury to begin their hearings. The doom of the lost is reserved to the last. The innumerable host assembled for this last solemn assize makes us shudder. The “dead” are brought before Him. The sea gives up its dead. The grave gives up its dead. Hades gives up the dead. The dead are judged according to their works (20:12-13). Final doom is pronounced. The erstwhile Saviour is now the Judge. *Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire* (20:15). Judgment must come before the Golden Age of glory can be ushered in. Someone has called hell the penitentiary of the universe, and the universe cemetery of the spiritually dead.

Seven New Things

A new heaven and earth	21:1
A new people	21:2-8
A new bride	21:9
A new home	21:10-21
A new temple	21:22
A new light.	21:23-27
A new Paradise	22:1-5

God’s story ends “and they lived happily ever after”. Read the triumph of God in Revelation 21 and 22. Satan has not been victorious in his attempt to separate man from fellowship with God by sin, ever since his meeting with the first man and woman in the garden of Eden. He has utterly failed and we will be with Christ forever and ever!

Don’t try to analyze or interpret this great scene. Rather, meditate upon it. This is heaven! How limited words are in explaining its glory! The fellowship between God and man is restored. God *dwells with His people*. Every purpose is realized and every promise is fulfilled. Heaven is the opposite of what we experience here. No tears in heaven—much weeping here. No death in heaven—separation here. No night in heaven! Darkness gathers here.

There is a longing, deep in the heart of humanity, for a better life and a better world than this. Innumerable trials have been made to settle the world’s problems and woes, but all have failed. As long as man has occupied the throne, righteousness has been on the scaffold. But this failure is not the end! Heaven is a real place and some day those who are Christians will live there.

The last words of Christ in His Revelation are *Surely I come* (22:20). Our response should ever be, *Even so, come* (22:20).

Is this your sincere prayer? Are you sure of His blessing? Is He the Alpha and Omega of your life—the end of all for you? Make Him so now. If not, the days ahead will be dark and full of fear for you. You must do something with Christ. He is either your Saviour or your Judge. He will save or condemn.

