

“GOING DEEPER” SESSION 1: *Overview of the Book of Revelation*

I. DAY OF THE LORD: *TWO EXTREMES AT THE END OF THE AGE*

The day of the LORD is Great and very Terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11; Mal. 4:5)

For the Great Day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (Rev. 6:17)

- A. Revelation gives us the most information on the End Times in Scripture.

Revelation emphasizes the Day of the Lord which refers to the unusual positive and negative events related to Jesus' Second Coming. Much information in Revelation is straightforward yet most have been told that it is too difficult to understand because of the seven key symbols, which are clearly interpreted by Scripture.

- B. The first extreme will be a Great Day of the Lord for the responsive. The *greatest revival* in history is yet to come. In other words, the Church's greatest hour is soon coming. We will see the miracles recorded in the *Book of Acts* and the *Book of Exodus* combined and multiplied on a global scale.

- C. The second extreme will be a *very Terrible Day of the Lord for the rebellious* because they will experience trouble from *four sources*.

1. They will experience the most severe *judgments of God* in history. God brings tribulation against the people in the Antichrist's empire by the three numbered judgment series which are three groups of judgments (seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls; Rev. 6; 8-9; 16). They describe 21 judgments on the Antichrist that continue through the final 3½ years.

2. They will experience the *rage of Satan* through the *Antichrist's reign of terror* who will bring tribulation to the saints using his worldwide government (Rev. 13). Satan destroys and perfectly hates his own worshippers and even the demons who serve under him.
3. The actions of *evil people* will bring tribulation on both believers and unbelievers (murder, sorcery, immorality, thefts; Rev. 9:21).
4. *Convulsions in nature* (earthquakes, storms, etc.) will bring tribulation to the nations. The negative part of the Day of the Lord is called the *Great Tribulation*.

II. THE GREAT TRIBULATION (MATT. 24:21; JER. 30:7; DAN. 12:1)

*There will be **Great Tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world...nor ever shall be. 22 Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically spared)... (Matt. 24:21-22)*

- A. Jesus prophesied about the Great Tribulation which emphasizes the negative dimensions seen in the final 3½ years before His return.

It is the most severe time in history and will surpass all other difficult times in history. God sovereignly determined that these days would be shortened to 3½ years to keep all from being physically killed.

The invasion of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. resulted in 1,000,000 people dying in the attack. This gives us a prophetic picture of this future time of trouble. The events of 70 A.D. do not fulfill end-time prophecies.

In World War II, 50 million died which far surpassed the 1,000,000 deaths (in 70 A.D.). Neither of them are the *worst* time in history and neither involved the Abomination of Desolation in the Jerusalem Temple or the mark of the Beast with a image that spoke and breathed (Rev. 13:14-17).

Neither 70 A.D. nor World War II came close to threatening the very existence of the whole human race as the Great Tribulation will (Matt. 24:22).

- B. The purpose of the Great Tribulation is to *purify* God’s people, bring in the *Great Ingathering* of souls (including the salvation of Israel), *vindicate* the saints, *expose* false believers within the Church, *demonstrate* God’s power in protecting the saints (Rom. 9:17), *punish* sin (2 Thess. 1:6-10; Is. 26:21), and *purge* the earth from the defilement of sin (Is. 24:4-6; Zech. 13:2).

- C. *The principle of judgment*: God uses the *least severe* means to reach the *greatest number* of people at the *deepest level* of love without violating anyone’s free will in training the future rulers of the earth.

The Great Tribulation is severe but it is the least severe means to accomplish God’s purposes.

The Goshen Principle will be operative in this hour (Ex. 8:22-23).

- D. *Supernatural protection* (pockets of mercy).

God will *seal* individual saints protecting them from judgments (Rev. 7:2-3; 9:4; Ezek. 9:4-6; Ps. 91:5-7). *The Goshen Principle* (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7): God did not allow the plagues of Egypt to touch the land of Goshen, where His people lived.

Pockets of mercy refers to geographic areas in which God’s people will be protected from His wrath. Prayer makes the difference in various regions (Joel 2:13-14; 3:16).

*Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth...**IT MAY BE** that you will be hidden (protected) in the day of the LORD’s anger (judgments) (Zeph. 2:3).*

III. OUTLINE OF REVELATION – SEVEN PARTS

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John... (Rev. 1:1)

For the testimony of Jesus (the unveiling of His heart) is the spirit of prophecy. (Rev. 19:10)

- A. Rev. 1, John is commissioned to reveal Jesus' majesty and beauty.
 - 1. Revelation is called the *revelation of Jesus* and it reveals His leadership. *This is why the Revelation is not an optional subject* for the Church. The Gospels (89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' miracle power at His first coming to accomplish redemption. The end of the age (with over 100 chapters in Scripture) tells us about Jesus' miracle power in taking leadership over the earth.
 - 2. We understand much more of Jesus' beauty as we see His wisdom and power in His leadership in His dramatic plans for the End Times as He combines human free will, satanic rage and God's sovereignty to produce the Great Ingathering of souls and a victorious Church without violating Divine justice or man's free will. We must never reduce its message to charts and time tables.
- B. Rev. 2-3, The seven letters to churches exhorting them to be overcomers.
- C. Rev. 4-5, The Heavenly court is where the great end-time plan is established and initiated.
- D. Rev. 6-19, The Great Tribulation (a 3½ year period) covers the largest section in Revelation.

This is where God’s three numbered judgments series occur (which are the major negative events in Revelation). God numbered the judgments for our benefit. The praying Church releases these judgments in the way that Moses released the plagues of Egypt.

- E. Rev. 19:11-21, The Second Coming refers to the return of Jesus to Jerusalem to sit on an earthly throne as King over all kings.

One of the greatest and most prominent themes in Scripture is Jesus’ Second Coming to establish God’s Kingdom on earth as He is victorious in the *Armageddon Campaign* by destroying the worldwide empire of the Antichrist and False Prophet along with their armies.

- F. Rev. 20, The Millennium (Jesus’ 1,000 year Kingdom on earth) and the Great White Throne

Jesus establishes God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven as He rules all the governments on earth as King of kings after *He binds Satan* and casts him in prison (Rev. 20:1-6; Is. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Matt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

At this time the Kingdom of God will be established on earth, affecting every sphere of life (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.)

- G. Rev. 21:22, The New Jerusalem comes to earth.

This is the revelation of heaven coming down to earth. Jesus brings the heavenly and earthly realms together. (Eph. 1:9-10). Heaven speaks of the supernatural realm where God’s power and presence are manifest. Earth speaks of the material physical realm as the place where human processes and emotions and physical sensations reach their fullest expression.

IV. THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION: TWO MAIN FEATURES

- A. The five chronological sections (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1-9:21; 11:15-19; 16:1-21; 19:11-21:8) are comprised of the three numbered judgment series consisting of the Seven Seals (Rev. 6), Seven Trumpets (Rev. 8-9) and Seven Bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16) then the Second Coming of Jesus to Jerusalem and then the Millennium (Rev. 20) followed by the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-8). *These sections are given in a straightforward way.*
1. In the five chronological sections the events happen one after the other in chronological order. These sections unfold in a straightforward way without symbolism. The basic truths in the chronological sections are not difficult to understand. The passages say just what they mean.
 2. The storyline of Revelation unfolds in a sequential way as the first Seal leads to the second which in turns leads to the third and so on. After the seven Seals come the Trumpets then the Bowls.
 3. The first chronological section describes the Seven Seals (Rev 6); the second one, the Seven Trumpets (Rev 8-9); the third, the seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:15-19); the fourth, the Seven Bowls of wrath (Rev 15-16); the fifth, the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth to win the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:11-21), the Millennial Kingdom, the Great White Throne judgments and then the time when heaven and earth are fully joined (Rev 21:1-8).
- B. The five parenthetical sections – a parenthetical section is a section that is in parentheses as it follows one of the chronological sections (Rev. 7:1-17; 10:1-11:13; 12:1-14:20; 17:1-19:10; 21:9-22:5). Each of the parenthetical sections follows a chronological section.
1. They are the interpretative sections of Revelation that answer the deep questions that come up because of the severity of God's wrath that are seen in the chronological sections. There are two main questions that are asked. They are the same questions we all ask.

- a. “Why are these judgments so severe?” Or, “How can a God of love find it necessary to release such violence?”
 - b. “What will happen to the Church? Will we be in God’s favor and be anointed and safe in the process? What will happen to the saints during this time? How can I avoid the pitfalls of deception?” The angels give John assurance that things are going to be good for the Church.
2. I think of these sections as the angel talking to John in a pastoral way. For example, after telling him that the seven seals of judgment will be released, John was undoubtedly overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of what he heard. Thus, the angel puts the chronological storyline on pause, as if to say, “John, sit down; let me explain things to you.”
 3. The angel instructs John so that he can comfort the Church. Each of the five parenthetical sections answer these two questions in different ways. After the parenthetical sections, the angel continues to unfold the chronological story line again.
 4. When we understand the relationship between the chronological sections and the parenthetical sections then the book of Revelation is much easier to grasp. The parenthetical sections are the more challenging or difficult sections because of the symbolism. The symbolism in the Book of Revelation is almost entirely in these five parenthetical sections. The parenthetical sections are the most challenging sections. Rev. 17 is the most difficult chapter.
- C. The *seven beatitudes* in Revelation are brief injections (some are parenthetical encouragements) that do not advance the unfolding story line (Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

Editor’s note: In the audio, the speaker refers to two “Roman Numeral Four” sections. In order to make it easier to follow the notes, we have numbered them exactly as he refers to them.

V. SEVEN PRIMARY SYMBOLS IN THE PARENTHETICAL SECTIONS

All the *events* and *numbers* in Revelation are taken in their plain meaning (literal) unless *specifically indicated as symbolic* as in Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9. Daniel used the same symbols. The combination of Revelation with Daniel brings to light the interpretation of most of the symbols. Thus, the majority of commentators who interpret Revelation in a plain or literal sense agree on the symbols. How do we know when a passage is symbolic? When it says it is symbolic, then it is. For example, the angel tells John the seven lamp stands are symbolic of seven churches (Rev. 1:20).

- A. *The Dragon* is always symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)
- B. *The first Beast* is symbolic of the Antichrist. He is called the Beast 36 times in Revelation (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)
- C. *Another Beast* is symbolic of the False Prophet who is only called "another Beast" one time. Every other time he is called the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10)
- D. *The seven heads* are symbolic of the seven world empires through history that persecuted Israel. These are commonly understood by most Bible teachers to be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the revived Roman Empire. (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16)
- E. *The 10 horns* clearly speak of a future 10-nation confederation that will be under the Antichrist's authority. These 10 nations will rule *simultaneously* over their nations as they all come into a partnership *together* with the Antichrist. He will have the power of the unified resources of 10 nations in enthusiastic agreement. The ten horns show up several times in Revelation and Daniel. (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 11:36-45; 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

- F. *The Harlot Babylon* will be established in the literal re-built city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) that will be restored and will be one of the Antichrist’s headquarters. It will function as a center of worldwide religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18; Is. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51). The Harlot Babylon will be filled with evil as it seeks to *seduce* many to follow them and as it *persecutes* the saints. Saddam Hussein set his heart on rebuilding ancient Babylon as ancient Jerusalem was re-established. After 1948, Jerusalem suddenly came out of the ashes and was rebuilt. Babylon (in Iraq) will also be suddenly rebuilt. Babylon will occupy a major role in four ways: geographically, nationally, spiritually, and prophetically. God’s judgment will destroy this city forever (Jer. 50-51 has not happened yet).

- G. *The Woman with the Male-child* (Rev. 12:1-5; 19:7-8) is the faithful remnant of Israel throughout history. The Male-child is Jesus (Rev. 12:4-5). Her offspring, that Satan makes war with, are Gentile believers during the Tribulation (Rev. 12:17).

VI. THE HEAVENLY COURT AND THE SEVEN-SEALED SCROLL (REV. 4-5)

- A. The context of the opening of the seven seals is the heavenly court scene in Rev. 4-5; Dan. 7:9-14. The (scroll) leadership of history is in the hands of the sovereign God (4:1-11).

Jesus takes the scroll from the Father and accepts leadership to judge, cleanse and rule the whole earth (5:1-14).

- B. The scroll represents the *title deed* of the earth and the *action plan* required to judge, cleanse and rule the earth while bringing the Church (in unity with redeemed Israel) to fullness (numbers, unity, purity, power, etc.) so that the Father’s purpose for the earth may come to pass.

There is a quest to find someone worthy to break the seals and open the scroll. Jesus is the only one worthy (deserving and capable) to open (set into motion and oversee) the seven seals of judgment around the scroll (Rev. 5:5-7).

VII. THE THREE NUMBERED JUDGMENT SERIES (SEVEN SEALS, SEVEN TRUMPETS, SEVEN BOWLS)

- A. The three judgment series are God's judgments against unbelievers as He purges the earth.

They are *literal* (actual events not to be explained away symbolically or historically), *future* (their greatest fulfillment is future), *progressive* (they increase in intensity) and *numbered* (released in a sequential order as they follow one after the other in sequence that we might know their order as they unfold on earth).

- B. The seven seals around the scroll *must* be broken to open the scroll.

The seals alert us to something important to come (yet with an element of mystery). The Trumpets warn of something more severe to come that requires extreme, desperate, emergency actions in prayer. The Bowls speak of that which is poured out in *fullness* without delay or hindrance.

- C. Each of the three judgment series (Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls) have seven events which are structured in the same way. Each series is divided into three parts, i.e., the first four belong together, the next two are clearly grouped together and then the final one stands alone.

VIII. FIRST CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION: SIX SEALS OF JUDGMENT (REV. 6:1-17)

- A. The timing of Jesus opening the seven seals is one *interpretive key* to the Book of Revelation.

Is it future or past tense? Rev. 5:8 gives insight into the timing of Rev. 4-5 as when the prayer movement is mature worldwide. In other words, only when the *Bowls of prayer are full* does Jesus open the first seal.

- B. The seven seals are released *by Jesus*, the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:5; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 8:1).

I saw when the Lamb (Jesus) opened one of the seals... (Rev. 6:1)

1. White horse (first seal): Antichrist's political/military aggression (Rev. 6:1-2)
2. Red horse (second seal): bloodshed and world war (Rev. 6:3-4)
3. Black horse (third seal): famine and economic crisis (Rev. 6:5-6)
4. Pale horse (fourth seal): disease and death to one-fourth of the earth (Rev. 6:7-8)
5. Prayer movement (fifth seal): that releases God's judgment on the Antichrist (Rev. 6:9-11)
6. Cosmic disturbances (sixth seal): cosmic crisis (Rev. 6:12-17)

IX. FIRST PARENTHETICAL SECTION: WHO CAN STAND? (REV. 7:1-17)

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (Rev. 6:17)

- A. This interlude answers, "Who can stand?" affirming the security of God's people.

God reveals that *144,000 Jewish believers will be able to stand in victory (7:1-8)*. These saints receive a protective seal before God strikes the earth, sea and trees (Rev. 7:1-4), the areas affected by the first four Trumpets (Rev. 8:7-11). In Exodus, Israel received a protective mark on their doors as a seal that saved their first born from death. Many saints will be protected in judgment (Zeph. 2:3; Mic. 7:14-19; Is. 11:15-16).

- B. God reveals that the *Gentile martyrs stood strong without wavering in persecution (7:9-17)*.

X. SECOND CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION: SIX TRUMPETS (REV. 8:2-9:21)

- A. The Trumpet judgments are the second Judgment Series.

They are *supernatural acts* of God through *nature* (first four Trumpets, Rev. 8:7-12) and *demons* (fifth and sixth Trumpet). They are not merely natural or historical acts portrayed in symbolic language. They are sent in answer to the prayers of the saints on their persecutors. The saints are not the objects of the Trumpet judgments (Rev. 9:4; 7:1-4).

- B. The Trumpet judgments have a three-fold purpose: *judgment on enemies, warning to the lost* and *victory for God's people* in holy war like Joshua.

The Trumpet judgments display the Antichrist’s false gods as inferior in power to Jesus. God will frustrate the Antichrist’s plan by the Trumpet judgments in hindering his economic and military controls and plans.

- C. The ten plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7–12) are *prophetic types* foreshadowing end-time plagues seen in the Trumpets and Bowls of wrath escalating to the whole world instead of just Egypt.

The limitation of the Trumpets to a one-third partial judgment gives opportunity for repentance (one-third is used 14 times in Rev. 8:2–9:21 (Rev. 8:7[2x], 9[3x], 10, 11, 12[5x]; 9:15, 18).

- D. The Seventh seal (Rev. 8:1) releases the commission for seven angels who release the Trumpet judgments and release God’s *incense*, that releases the fullness of His anointing on the end-time prayer movement (Rev. 8:3-4), which causes God’s fire to be cast to earth (Rev. 8:5a).
- E. The first four Trumpets release God’s judgment on nature with indirect judgment on the natural resources and safety of the Antichrist’s worshippers (8:6-12).

Each Trumpet judgment focuses on a different area of life, i.e., food (vegetation, meat, fish), sea trade, water supply and the environment: light and heat (sun, moon, stars). The last two Trumpets touch men in the Antichrist’s kingdom in a direct way using demons to torment and then kill them.

1. *First Trumpet*: burning one-third of the earth’s vegetation (Rev. 8:7)
2. *Second Trumpet*: destroying one-third of the earth’s seas (Rev. 8:8-9)
3. *Third Trumpet*: poisoning one-third of the earth’s fresh water (Rev. 8:10-11)

4. *Fourth Trumpet*: darkening one-third of the earth's light
(Rev. 8:12-13)
5. *Fifth Trumpet*: releasing the demonic plague of locusts
(Rev. 9:1-12)
6. *Sixth Trumpet*: killing one-third of the earth's population
(Rev. 9:13-21)

XI. THE SECOND PARENTHETICAL SECTION: PROPHETIC MESSENGERS (REV. 10:1-11:13)

- A. Rev. 10:1-11:13 is a parenthetical section just before releasing the final Bowl judgments.

The main point in this parenthetical section is God assuring us that He will provide prophetic direction and power to those who call out to Him. God will release an unprecedented outpouring of prophetic revelation in the End Times (Acts 2:17-21) on international, national and regional levels.

- B. God promised to raise up Prophetic Messengers before the Bowls are released so as to not leave the people without prophetic messengers to prepare them.

(Rev. 10 is a key passage for end-time prophetic forerunners). God has purposefully concealed key info about the End Times, yet will reveal it in the generation that the Lord returns.

God will use the "seven thunders prophetic messengers" to contribute to the release of His end-time purpose. John heard and understood the *seven prophetic messages to be released in the End Times* (Dan 11:33-35, 12:10).

My prayer is for 10,000 forerunners to serve in the end-time drama in *local ways*.

- C. There are *Two Witnesses* (prophets) who will preach *with great power* and release God's judgments for 3½ years during the Great Tribulation. They will work miracles like Moses and Elijah (Mal. 4:5). These two prophets will function on a global scale in confronting the Antichrist.

**XII. THIRD CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION (SEVENTH TRUMPET):
SECOND COMING BEGINS (REV. 11:14-19)**

- A. *The Last Trumpet* or the seventh Trumpet initiates the Second Coming procession, thus the Rapture (Rev. 11:15-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-52). The fact of the Rapture is a glorious doctrine. However, the deception today relates to its *timing* as occurring *before* the Tribulation.
- B. The empires of this world will come under Jesus' reign at the last Trumpet when the saints are rewarded and God destroys those who destroy the earth (Rev. 11:15-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-52). I believe that this is when Jesus Raptures the Church and begins the process of the Second Coming events that end in Jerusalem.
- C. The nature of the Second Coming events: It is a three-stage process that includes many events instead of it being only one event that happens one afternoon.

First, Jesus comes across the entire earth in the sky (Rev. 1:7).

Second, He comes across the land (Is. 63:1-6).

Third, Jesus re-enters Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39; Ps. 24:7-10) using the seven bowls to destroy the armies of the Antichrist and thus to win the Armageddon Campaign (Rev. 19:11-21) at the Battle of Jerusalem. Jesus releases the seven bowls of wrath just as Moses released the ten plagues of Egypt.

**XIII. THIRD PARENTHETICAL SECTION: WAR IN THE SPIRIT
(REV. 12:1-14:20)**

- A. The purpose of this parenthetical section is to give us insight into the *certainty of victory* for the saints and *why God's wrath is so severe*.

This parenthetical section occurs just before the announcing of the release of the seven Bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16). In Rev. 12, war will break out in heaven between Satan and Michael, which results in Satan being cast to the earth in the generation the Lord returns. In Rev. 13, to continue his war on the earth, Satan uses his two primary weapons of war, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

- B. In Rev. 13:1-10, the Antichrist is introduced as the *Beast from the sea*.

He is the final world leader who wages war against God and persecutes His people. He has a political, military and economic alliance with a *ten-nation confederation*. He will have the largest army, the most money and power (spiritual/political/military) of any man in history. He will use demonic miracles to deceive (Rev. 13:12-14) and the political process to kill resisters (Rev. 13:15).

- C. In Rev. 13:11-18, the False Prophet is introduced as the *Beast from the earth*.

His goal is to cause *all nations to worship the Antichrist* (Rev. 13:4, 8). His three most effective strategies will be by *giving demonically empowered public speeches* that are confirmed by *great miracles to deceive* (Rev. 13:12-14), along with the *abomination of desolation* (a demonically empowered idol, Rev. 13:14-16) and the *mark of the Beast* (Rev. 13:16-17) which provides a strict way to control finances and the purchases of the necessities of life as well as being a means of daily forcing all to openly declare their loyalty or lack of loyalty, to the Antichrist.

- D. In Rev. 14, God promises reward to His people and judgment to the followers of the Antichrist in three different sections.

God promised consequences for the righteous and unrighteous in this time.

1. *First section:* (Rev. 14:1-5) 144,000 Jewish believers: a model for victory in the midst of persecution. Mt. Zion is earthly Jerusalem.
2. *Second section:* (Rev. 14:6-13) reveals four specific end-time proclamations that the Spirit will anoint. (Rev. 14:6-7) *Earthly Victory:* Gospel preached to all nations (Matt. 24:14). (Rev. 14:8) *Earthly Judgment:* Babylon/Harlot Church with certain defeat. Rev. 14:9-11 *Eternal Judgment:* Certain judgment for Antichrist worshippers so heed the warning and do not take the mark of the Beast (apostasy). (Rev. 14:12-13) *Eternal Reward:* Certain Blessing/reward for perseverance. *Victory:* Prophetic promise of blessing for perseverance.
3. *Third section:* (Rev. 14:14-20) *Harvest* (two-fold) released by prayer (Rev. 5:8; 22:17). (Rev. 14:14-16) *Breakthrough:* release of Great Harvest of believers. (Rev. 14:17-20) *Breakthrough:* release of judgment on the harvest of sin.

- E. *144,000 Jews will be sealed* (Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5). This will result in them being supernaturally protected by God so that they cannot be harmed by the end-time judgments. Other believers (Gentiles) will also be supernaturally protected by God from harm (Rev. 9:4; Ezek. 9:6)

XIV. **FOURTH CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION: SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 15:1-16:21)**

The seven Bowls of wrath are the third Judgment Series. The judgment events recall the plagues in Egypt released by Moses against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12).

1. *First Bowl:* loathsome sores to Antichrist worshippers (Rev. 16:1-2)
2. *Second Bowl:* sea turns to blood and kills all in the sea (Rev. 16:3)
3. *Third Bowl:* all the fresh water turns to blood (Rev. 16:4-7)
4. *Fourth Bowl:* scorching heat and fire from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9)
5. *Fifth Bowl:* darkness on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11)

6. *Sixth Bowl*: demons lure the nations to Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16)
7. *Seventh Bowl*: worst earthquake, 100 pound hail stones (Rev. 16:17-21).

**XV. FOURTH PARENTHETICAL SECTION: THE FALL OF BABYLON
(REV. 17:1-19:10)**

- A. God assures the saints of His complete judgment on Babylon which will be a worldwide economic and religious network that *seduces* many to follow evil and to *persecute* the saints.

The judgment of the Great Harlot (Rev. 17) and the *fall of Babylon* (Rev. 18) will destroy many of the *resources* for the infrastructures of darkness.

- B. *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb* and the rewards for each believer occurs in context to the Second Coming and the Rapture (Rev. 19:7-10).

- C. *God's judgment on the Great Harlot Babylon* (Rev. 17) is a judgment on this worldwide demonic economic and religious network that *seduces* many to follow evil and to *persecute* the saints. God's wrath will come on Babylon in two stages.

The angel proclaimed a double fall of Babylon (Rev. 14:8). Rev. 17-18 describes the two falls of Babylon.

The first phase of the fall of Babylon (Rev. 17) relates to a worldwide religion system of toleration and syncretism. This will fall in the middle of the seven-year period at the hands of the ten kings (Rev. 17:16). The 10 kings burn the Harlot religious system and replace it with the Antichrist's religious system that will be based in part of the city of Babylon. Babylon will be established as one of the Antichrist's headquarters. This second phase of judgment (Rev. 18) will be the collapse of the Antichrist's worldwide economic system at the end of the seven-year period at the hands of God (Rev. 18:8).

XVI. FIFTH CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION: MILLENNIUM, NEW EARTH (REV. 19:11-21:8)

- A. The Fifth Chronological Section describes Jesus coming to earth (specifically to Jerusalem) as the Warrior-King (Rev. 19:11-21) to end the Armageddon Campaign by defeating the Antichrist (Rev. 19:17-21) in order to establish His earthly 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:4-10), when Jesus, as King of kings, takes over all the governments of the earth after the binding of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3).

- B. The *Lord* will gather all the armies of all the nations to Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Joel 3:2; Zeph. 3:8).

God wants no nation to be neutral. Therefore, He will gather all nations to make them declare what is in their hearts toward Jesus. Joel calls this the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). The nations of the earth will attack Israel and lay siege to Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-10; 14:1-2).

The Lord will gather all nations to Jerusalem (Zion) which is named prophetically by Joel, the “Valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2, 12) or the “Valley of Decision” (Joel 3:14). This is the Valley of Berachah, where Jehoshaphat won a great battle against all odds (2 Chr. 20:26, 16).

- C. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4) and base their national governments on His Word (Scripture).

After the Millennium is the Great White Throne Judgment of all unbelievers (Rev. 20:11-15). The Millennium is a literal 1,000 year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in righteousness, prosperity and continual peace (Rev. 20:1-6; Is. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Matt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

XVII. FIFTH PARENTHETICAL SECTION: NEW JERUSALEM & MILLENNIAL EARTH (REV. 21:9-22:5)

The Fifth Parenthetical Section describes the New Jerusalem's relationship to the millennial earth. Rev. 22:6-22:21 is John's final exhortation. The *New Jerusalem descends* to the millennial earth (Rev. 21:10). After the Millennial rebellion, the present heaven and earth is purged with fire to become the New Heaven and Earth with the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-22:5).

XVIII. THE FOUR INTERPRETATIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. *Futurists* view Rev. 1-3 as fulfilled, and Rev. 4-5 as in heaven with Rev. 6-22 as referring to the coming end-time events released at Jesus' Second Coming.
- B. *Preterists* see the events in Revelation as being fulfilled in the past, believing nearly all the prophecies in the Book of Revelation have already been fulfilled, usually in context to the destruction of Jerusalem and the fall of Rome in the first three centuries after Christ. However, Jesus said the Book of Revelation was clearly prophecy and not history.
- C. *Historicists* interpret Revelation as a progressive unfolding of Church history from the Book of Acts until the Second Coming. They usually view the prophecies as partly fulfilled and partly to be fulfilled in the generation that the Lord returns.
- D. *Idealists* do not see historical or prophetic meaning in the Book of Revelation. They interpret it as simply giving us symbolic presentations, applicable to the spiritual conflict of good and evil that is true through all times with good winning in the end.

- E. The events of 70 A.D. do not fulfill the prophecies about the End Times.

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)...21 for then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically killed); but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matt. 24:15, 21-22)

Some see the Great Tribulation as being fulfilled in 70 A.D. when 1,000,000 people died in Rome's attack on Jerusalem. However, in World War II, 50 million died which invalidates the 1,000,000 deaths (in 70 A.D.) as the *worst* time in history.

The events of World War II did *not* involve the abomination of desolation in the Jerusalem Temple, thus, they did not fulfill end-time prophecy. Neither 70 A.D. nor World War II came close to threatening the very existence of the human race as the Great Tribulation will, except it was shortened by God's sovereignty. If God had not shortened it then no flesh would have been spared from death.

The events of 70 A.D. do not fulfill most of the details of many Scriptures about the Great Tribulation. For example, Rev. 13 requires a talking image, the mark of the Beast, a healed head wound, mandatory worship of the Antichrist worldwide and a False Prophet. Jesus said the Great Tribulation would not happen until *after* we see the *abomination of desolation* standing in the holy place which would result in the threat of every human being killed.

Nothing close to this happened in the first Jewish Revolt against Rome (66-73 A.D.) in which Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed in 70 A.D. ending at Masada (73 A.D.). The Second Jewish Revolt against Rome resulted in 500,000 Jews killed with the destruction of 1000 villages (132-135 A.D.). Hadrian renamed Jerusalem Aelia Capatolina and erected a Pagan temple over the site of the Herod's Temple and refused to let Jews live there (136 A.D.). The 50 million babies aborted each year world wide overshadows both 70 A.D. and WWII.

F. Common lies related to end-time prophecy:

It is not *relevant* (it is just for the curious). Revelation is to be *spiritualized* (not taken literally) because is *impossible to understand* (it is only for scholars). Another lie is in thinking that *every generation has believed* they were the final generation. It is true that each generation has had a fraction of 1% who believed this, yet only two generations have had a universal conviction about this (first century and now). *Even if this is not the last generation for the world before Jesus returns, it is surely your last generation!*

All believers can understand the book of Revelation and end-time prophecy.

Going Deeper Session 1 Study Guide Questions

- How can studying the book of Revelation help me gain a great revelation of who Jesus is?
- Why is it vital for me to become familiar with end-time prophecy, and what bearing does it have on my life?