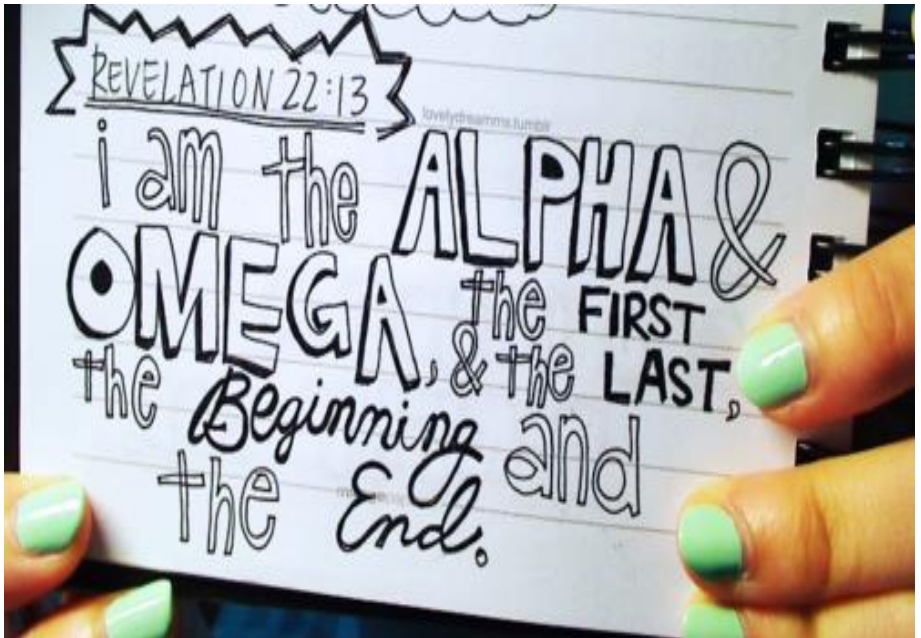


REVELation 12-22

CHRIST is Coming!



January 2024

Day 1

What is the earliest story of a dragon you heard as a child? What was memorable about that story?

My earliest recollection of a dragon was pictures of creatures who spit fire and were chased by men in suits of armor. Dragons were cool because they flew, breathed fire and were hard to beat. Of course, the knight always slew the dragon and saved the maiden or the town. The end. Well in Revelation we are going to get into some interesting stories filled with dragons and other creatures. Ask God to help you make sense of His word as you read and study it today.

Read Revelation 12:1-6

Describe in your own words the following characters from this story:

1. The woman –
2. The Red Dragon –
3. Male child –

How does the male child represent Jesus Christ?

How does the woman represent the church?

The church will be persecuted. How do we see in this story that God takes care of His church? What are ways he takes care of us?

What are ways in which you have been or think you will be persecuted for your faith?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you stand strong and grow in your faith even when people say you are wrong in what you believe as a Christian.

Day 2

When is a time you had someone come after you over and over again? What did they do? What did they say? How did you react to them?

We live in a world where it is easier and easier to bully people. We can put so much information on the internet about people, whether true or a lie. Once it is out there it can't be taken back. This has destroyed friendships, driven people to suicide and is a problem today. If someone does not like you all they have to do is type something about you on Facebook and you are in trouble. Yesterday we were introduced to a red dragon who pursued the woman (church). He wanted to destroy her and her baby. This is a battle that continues today. Ask God to help you put into perspective your own struggles as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 12:7-17

What kinds of things are we told about Satan in this passage of scripture? Write down all that it says.

Why is Satan so active in this world according to verse 12? What does he want to do?

What do we see about the church in this story?

What do we see about God's love and care for his people, his church, in the difficult times that lie ahead of us?

What are ways in which you know Satan is chasing after you? (Think of hard situations and sin struggles.) Write them down here.

PRAYER – Take time for confession of sin, and also giving your situations over to God to work in your life.

Day 3

What is the scariest beast you ever saw, real or made up? Why is or was it so scary?

The scariest beast I saw live was a tarantula in Belize. They have these big fat bodies, with hair all over their legs and these two fangs that drip poison. They are scary things behind glass and even more so in the wild. What if that thing was to jump on my face? I learned tarantulas jump. That made them even scarier to me. Today we look at the first of several beasts John will write about. Ask God to help you see these truths playing out in our world today and how to apply them to your life.

Read Revelation 13:1-10

This beast we are introduced to is horrible. Write all the words and phrases that John uses to describe this beast.

As a Christian, what are your immediate thoughts when thinking about this beast?

God is going to give this beast some kind of power over all of mankind. Why do you think God is going to do this?

What does John hope for followers of Christ in those last days according to verse 10?

How has your faith in God helped you in hard situations you have had to deal with?

PRAYER – Thank God for the gift of faith. Ask for endurance to the end.

Day 4

What are different situations in which people are given a number for identification? Write down 4 or 5 that come to mind.

Two situations come to mind. First, having run races, you are given a number, so they know who you are and what place you came in. It helps to know who wins the race and who does not. The second situation that popped into my head was the Holocaust. Jews were tattooed with numbers. If you find a Holocaust survivor you can still see the faded numbers on their skin. This was given them to identify who they were, what area they were from, what work they would do, or other bad reasons the Nazi's had. Today we look at how the followers of the Beast will have a mark given to them. Ask God to teach you and grow you in your faith.

Read Revelation 13:11-18

Describe in your own words this second beast.

What kinds of powers will this beast have?

According to verse 14, how do we see that God has power over this beast?

How is that comforting to you?

What are we told about those who follow the beast in verses 16 to 18?

Will we all have a mark of the beast or God on us? There are lots of theories about what this will look like. Nobody knows for certain. The fact of the matter is that there will be people who are identified as followers of the enemy. My question for you today is, who are you following, God or Satan the beast? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – For the church as it stands against the beast in the last days.

Day 5

When you get to heaven, what do you think is the first thing you will do?
Why do you think that?

Lots of people speculate what they will do. Some think they are going to play basketball, play a musical instrument, run into the arms of those who died before them, and the list goes on. I hope one thing you have gleaned from reading Revelation is that there is going to be a lot of singing. We will be worshipping the King. That is probably going to be the first thing we will do, and we will continue to do that through all eternity. Ask God to encourage you through His word today.

Read Revelation 14:1-5

What are all the characteristics that John tells us about the 144,000?

Pick 2 traits from this list. What would that trait look like in our everyday lives?

1.

2.

How is the voice from heaven described in verses 2 and 3?

Some people take this 144,000 to mean that only that many will get to the “highest” part of heaven? Should we believe this? Why or why not?

Remember that Revelation is poetic in nature, and we cannot take it literally. It points to truths we need to believe. We need to be careful when we read God’s word and ask for understanding. What characteristics of the 144,000 do you need to ask God to grow you in? Write down 2 and how God can help you in that area.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray about the 2 things you wrote about above.

Day 6

What is something that you could hear today and say, “Now that is good news?” Write down 3 things and next to them why that is good news.

1.

2.

3.

3 things that would be good news. Someone donated a million dollars to a local church who was able to hire multiple staff and minister to a variety of needs in the community. That would be awesome. Terrorism has been eradicated in one swoop through a partnership of many nations. Many people would now be safe throughout the world. All bullies enter a program to learn how to encourage instead of tear down. Now that would be really great. Think of all the good they could do instead. As Christians we have good news to share and that is the hope we can have in Jesus Christ because of his life, death, and resurrection. Through faith in Him we can have eternal life. Ask God to remind you of the Good News you have to share through the study of His word today.

Read Revelation 14:6-13

What message does the first angel proclaim in verse 7?

Who is this message for according to verse 6?

What is the message of the second angel in verse 8?

What does the third angel have to say in verses 9 to 11?

How are these messages to encourage Christians according to verses 12 and 13?

Who are 2 people God has put in your life who you need to share the Good News about Jesus with and the penalty of sin? Write next to their name one thing you can be praying for them about in addition to salvation.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask God for boldness to share the good news and for the 2 people you wrote above.

Day 7

What do you do with fruits or vegetables when they are fully grown?

How is that like life?

It is amazing at how many illustrations in the Bible are from farming. There are so many great pictures that talk about what the Christian life looks like and how we grow in our faith. But there are also good pictures of living a sinful life that is not submissive to God. Today as we look at the book of Revelation we get to see one of those farming pictures. Ask God to teach you as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 14:14-20

Who was the one who sat on the cloud? How is he described?

What message does the angel give to “Jesus” on the cloud?

Then two other angels appear in verses 17 to 19. Describe them, what they do and what they say.

What picture in the course of human history are we being given in this part of the story? Why is this a good picture?

This is judgment day. What kind of things can we tell about judgment day from this story?

A day is coming when all the world will be judged. Not one person will escape that judgment. Are you encouraged or frightened by that day. Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask God to give you hope & courage in facing judgment day.

Day 8

What are 3 great things that God has done in your life?

1.

2.

3.

Where do I even start on a list like this? God has done so many great things in my life. First and foremost, he saved me from my sin through faith in Jesus Christ. He called me into the ministry in which I did not deserve and often feel ill equipped to serve in. The last one I will mention is he gave me a wonderful wife and 4 children, all gifts from God. These are only a few things. My list could go on. As you study the Word today ask God to remind you of all God has done in your life.

Read Revelation 15

How would you describe those at the sea of glass in verse 2?

Summarize in your own words the song that was sung in verses 3 and 4.

Pick 2 things that are sung in that song and write why we should be able to sing those same words today.

1.

2.

After the song is sung, 7 angels make an appearance. How is their appearance described to us?

What will they be doing?

After reading this passage, what are some important things we learn about who God is? Why are they important?

PRAYER – Praise God for who He is using your list above.

Day 9

If you were to ask the average person what the “wrath of God” is what kind of responses do you think you would get?

How would you describe the wrath of God?

Some people look at diseases, plagues, and financial woes as God’s wrath on man. Perhaps some of those are true. I don’t know. Some people would say there is no God so there is no wrath, only what we do as humans. We reap what we sow, so to speak. As Christians we know that the ultimate wrath of God is people spending eternity in hell separated from God because they do not know or follow Jesus. Eternity of torment, pain and suffering is God’s ultimate wrath. That is scary to think about, yet as Christians we have hope. Over the next couple days, we will look at the 7 angels and their bowls of wrath. Ask God to teach and comfort you regarding his second coming as you read.

Read Revelation 16:1-7

Look at verse 2. Describe the bowl of wrath the 1st angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind?

Look at verse 3. Describe the bowl of wrath the 2nd angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind?

Look at verses 4 to 6. Describe the bowl of wrath the 3rd angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind?

All water is now blood. What do people say about God and these judgments in verses 5 to 7?

What are your thoughts and feelings as you read about these judgments?

PRAYER – Pray for comfort and help to understand God's judgments.

Day 10

What would be a way in which it would be really hard for you to live day after day? Why? What would be challenging about living that way?

For me it would be living in total darkness, unable to see anything or anybody. It would be disorienting having to feel your way around to get from place to place. It would be humbling having other people guide you on where to go. To not be able to see your loved ones, watch a movie or see God's creation. Those would be difficult things. Some people live like this because of being born that way or some accident in their life. As we will read in a minute others will live that way as part of God's wrath on the people of this earth. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for the lost and a desire to share God's truth with them as you read today.

Read Revelation 16:8-16

Look at verses 8 to 9. Describe the bowl of wrath the 4th angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind?

Look at verses 10 to 11. Describe the bowl of wrath the 5th angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind?

What are we told about these people at the end of verses 9 and 11?

Look at verse 12. Describe the bowl of wrath the 6th angel poured out on the earth. What impact do you think this will have on mankind? What does this bowl lead to according to verses 13 to 16?

Are you ready for battle? That is the call of verse 15 to Christians. The battle is coming, and we do not know the exact time, but we need to be ready. What are ways in which you are ready? What are ways in which you are not ready?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you be in the word, prayer and sharing His word with others so you can be ready every day to serve Him.

Day 11

Describe the worst storm you have had to deal with in your life. How did it make you feel? What did you do?

When I was in 10th grade, I took a trip with my 4H club to Kansas. We got to stay in host homes, learning about that fine state in the heart of the US. When it was time to go home, we boarded a plane and took off in the midst of a thunderstorm. The thunder was loud, and the plane was bouncing up and down. It was one of those scary moments in your life that felt like a rollercoaster going off the tracks. Our leader was saying we were all going to die. It was up there for my most scary moments. As I look back as a Christian it is an experience that reminds me of the power and control of God. Ask God to encourage you about his power and control as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 16:17-21

We meet the 7th angel and his bowl of wrath. List all the things that will happen when this bowl of wrath is poured out. There are several things.

When you think about these things, which one scares you most? Why?

Read Romans 8:38-39. How do we know we don't have to fear the events that are listed in Revelation?

What do you think the impact of this final bowl of wrath will have on the world that we live in? Think about it and list all that come to mind.

If you are in Christ you have hope. If you live through these kinds of times, what kinds of things will you be praising God for?

PRAYER - Praise God for his control and power over all things.

Day 12

What is the greatest enemy the church of Christ faces today? Describe that enemy? How will that enemy attack the church?

This is a question that can breed quite a long list of people and beings starting with Satan, going to Islamic terrorists and then might bring up some names of political figures in our country. You might even be thinking of that atheist who badgers you in school. Such a long list. I hope that through studying Revelation you will see there is no short list of God's enemies. They are numerous. I also hope you see that as you have read, that God is in control, and they will NOT have victory over God. That is sometimes hard to see when we are dealing with horrible things in our world, but it is the message John wants us to see and hear. We come to another horrible enemy today. Ask God to teach you through your study of the Word of God today.

Read Revelation 17:1-6

How does John describe for us the Great Prostitute? Write down all we are told about her.

How do we know she is a big enemy of the church and of God?

She will be attractive to the world, and many will follow her. What kinds of things in our world will this woman offer that will make people want to follow her? Think about this and make a list.

How would “Christians” be tempted to follow this woman?

We need to be aware of her and know her and how her ways lead to eternal destruction. What are some things you need to do so you can be ready to identify her and not fall into her traps?

PRAYER – Pray about the things you just listed. Ask God to help you follow him and be prepared to resist this woman.

Day 13

Did you ever have a monster that hid under your bed or in your closet or anywhere else? Describe that monster? What did you do when scared? If you don't have one then what would your scary monster look like?

My monster blended into the darkness and all that I saw was his red eyes and a low growly type noise. That is all I can describe him as. These monsters are often scarier because there is nothing to compare them to. In the movie *Signs*, starring Mel Gibson, an alien invasion is happening. The signs are in the fields and all around. But nobody has caught a glimpse of the aliens. You see shadows and hear sounds and it makes the aliens scary. It had me on the edge of my seat. Then at the end of the movie the alien appears, and you see it. The scariness went away very quickly. It was such a letdown. Today we see described the beast we were encountered with yesterday that the woman rode. Ask God to grow you in your faith as you study the Bible today.

Read Revelation 17:7-14

How is the beast and its heads described for us in verse 8 to 11?

How are the beast's horns described in verses 12 to 14?

Look at verse 9, how are we to approach the truths and reality of this beast? What does that mean?

This is quite the enemy. What important truth do Christians need to be reminded about in verse 14? Why?

Do you believe this truth? How do you show it in how you live your life?
How do you not show it?

PRAYER – Use verse 14 to guide your prayer time today.

Day 14

What are things that you believe you control in this world?

What are things you know are out of your control?

We often live our lives as if we are in control. We do what we want when we want and how we want. We choose a college to go to, a major of study and where we want to go work as a job. These are things we think we are in control of in our lives. But ultimately, if we think about it, we are not in control of even these things. God is. Today we see that even the beasts and enemies of God are under his total control. Ask God to help you understand this truth as you study the passage today.

Read Revelation 17:15-18

Describe the following people/beings in this part of the story:

1. Prostitute –
2. Peoples of the earth –
3. Beast –
4. Ten horns -
5. God –

How are the enemies of God unified?

How are they at war with each other?

How do we see that God is the one “responsible” for his own enemies turning on each other? Why is it important to see and remember that?

This blows the mind to think that God is the architect behind this whole end of the world battle. Do you trust God? When you read something like this story, how does this encourage you in trusting God?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you trust Him and His plan.

Day 15

What is a story, real or made up, where someone with great power fell with a mighty crash? How did they fall? Why did they fall?

In the movie *Braveheart* William Wallace took on the king of England. The king had great power. He convinced people to help in fighting Wallace, even bribing people from his own country. He was focused on money, power and making people subject to him. Yet with all that power, the little Scot had victory after his martyr's death. More people rose up and ultimately defeated England and won their freedom. The king fell with a mighty crash. It was all about power and not about heart. We have been looking at the beast and prostitute over the last several days. Today we continue to see God's victory over His enemies. Ask God to instruct your heart in His truths today.

Read Revelation 18:1-8

An angel proclaims the defeat of the woman, "Mighty Babylon". What do we see about her and her defeat in verses 2 and 3?

God gives a warning to his people in verse 4. What does he command them in regards to the woman and her defeat?

Then God tells us more bad things about the woman's fall (Babylon) in verses 5 to 8. What are they?

We are called to not take part in the sins of the "woman" or of "Babylon". What are the sins you are struggling with in your life today? Think about this and write them down.

Pick two sins you listed above. What is something you can do in the next few days to deal with that sin?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray for these two sins you just listed.

Day 16

When a mighty and influential ruler is suddenly removed from power, what kinds of consequences does that have for the people who follow him, other nations, the economy, etc.?

When Hitler was ultimately defeated it sent waves of fear through all those who followed him. Many probably did the same thing he did and killed themselves. A lot of his top officials changed their names and moved to other countries so they would not be tried for their crimes. The country was split into two different countries. The country dealt with an impact on their economy, the ruling structure and the list goes on. When a mighty ruler falls it impacts many different people. Today we look at the woman's (Babylon) fall and the impact it will have on many different people. Ask God to grow you in your faith through this Revelation study.

Read Revelation 18:9-20

Look at verses 9 and 10. What will the reaction of the kings of the earth be to the defeat of the woman? Write down everything we are told about them.

Now look at verses 11 to 17a, what will be the reaction of the merchants of the earth to the defeat of the woman. Write down what we are told.

Lastly, look at the sailors' reaction to the news in verses 17b to 19. What do we see about their reaction?

How does God say his people should react in verse 20? Why?

Many will not be hopeful in the end at the destruction of God's enemy. God's people can be full of hope. How do you show your hope is in God and not people, material possessions or power?

PRAYER – Pray for 3 people you know who do not have hope in Jesus.

Day 17

What is a great civilization that once existed that is not around anymore?
What happened to them?

Rome was once a great power in the earth. It was ruled by the Caesars. They conquered many lands and made their people subject to them. Oh, what power they had over all the earth. But that power eroded away. People squabbled over who should be in charge. The empire was split into different lands, ultimately taking away its power in the world. Today there is no Roman Empire. There are many countries in Europe, with Rome being a part of the state of Italy. It fell with a great and mighty crash. For many it was horrible and then others were filled with rejoicing. That is what we have been studying the last few days in the downfall of the woman (Babylon). Ask God to encourage you in your faith and trust in Him as you study His word.

Read Revelation 18:21-24

What picture are we given about what will happen to Babylon in verse 21?

Why is this a good picture when you think of a millstone crashing into the water?

How does John further describe this crash or defeat in verses 22 and 23?

How do we see this defeat is total and final through the descriptive words we are given in these verses?

As Babylon is sinking what evil that she did is mentioned in verse 24?

Now we have to remember Babylon is already gone. This name is used to symbolize the great enemy of God at the end. How do we see Christians being treated wrongly by “Babylon” today?

PRAYER – Pray for 3 people or groups of people suffering at the hands of Babylon today.

Day 18

What is your favorite hymn or worship song? Why is it your favorite?

One of the classics is *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*. It talks about the battle we are in as Christians and how our armor, the fight, the foe, it is all in the Lord's hands. It is his battle, and He is using us in it. It is a reminder that I don't fight this battle alone. None of us do. Those are truths that are comforting and encouraging. It inspires one to fight on each day knowing God is in our corner and the battle is his. The last several days we have been looking at the battle between the woman and the church and how she would be crushed by God in the end. Today we look at the songs that are on people's lips as a result of her end. Ask God to put a song on your lips as you read His word today.

Read Revelation 19:1-5

In verses 1 to 2 we have the first song that God's people sang after the woman's defeat. What kinds of things do they sing about God in their song? What do they sing about the woman? What encourages you most in this chorus?

The next song is shorter in verse 3. When you think about this one sentence chorus, what are God's people saying?

Then the elders and creatures join in worship. It is a two-word chorus, "Amen. Hallelujah!" After this worship there is a command from the throne. What is the command in verse 5?

When you think about the message of Revelation, what are reasons that the people should praise God?

Think about your life, what are reasons you should praise God?

PRAYER – Take time and praise God using what you wrote to guide you.

Day 19

What do you love most about going to a wedding? Why do you love that?

Most people look forward most to the reception or dinner after the wedding ceremony. Why? Because we all get to participate in that. We get to eat, talk, dance, clink our glasses to get the couple to kiss all together. It is a big party celebrating the married couple, but a celebration that all are involved in together, the couple and their guests. This a celebration we look forward to one day as Christians with our Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming. As you anticipate Christ's second coming may He cement His word into your heart today.

Read Revelation 19:6-10

In your own words describe the song that is sung in verses 6 to 8.

Who is the Lamb and who is his Bride?

The bride (or church) is clothed in fine linen. What does John say about that fine linen? What does that mean about the church?

Does that mean those in the church save themselves through their own good works? What does it mean?

What does verse 9 say about those who are invited to this feast, which is all Christians? What was John's reaction to these words? Why do you think he reacted this way? How does the angel react?

That is a feast you get to be part of as a follower of Jesus Christ. How should that encourage you when it comes to your faith?

PRAYER – Use verse 6 to 8 to guide you in your prayers today.

Day 20

What is the most lopsided victory you have ever seen in a game or in a battle? Why do you think it was lopsided?

When the bombs were dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki you could say that was a pretty lopsided victory. The Japanese did not get a shot off and soon after they surrendered in World War 2. The damage was really done with 2 bombs pressed by a button from 2 pilots. Today we see the final battle ramping up and how Jesus will have the power to defeat his enemies all by himself. Ask God to encourage you in regards to Jesus and his followers' victory as you read Revelation today.

Read Revelation 19:11-21

Write down everything that John tell us about Jesus in verses 11 to 18.

What two things in those verses encourage you the most? Why?

1.

2.

John then gives us a picture of the final battle in verses 17 to 21. What important things does he tell us about this important event? Write them all down.

What important things does this account show us and remind us about the person of Jesus Christ?

PRAYER – Praise god for who Christ is based on this passage.

Day 21

If you could shut up any villain for 1000 years who would it be and why?

I like the Marvel movies. Loki is the bad guy in several of those movies, Thor's adopted brother. He is sneaky and is out to be the most powerful no matter who he hurts along the way, including his own brother whom he tries to kill in the first Avengers movie. If anybody should be locked up for 1000 years it would be him. Our answers to this question will vary from real people to villains in literature. Satan is a pretty powerful figure throughout the Bible. Today we read about Jesus power over Satan. Ask for wisdom and understanding as you read today.

Read Revelation 20:1-6

Describe in your own words what is happening in verses 1 to 3.

What do we see in these verses about God's power? Why is that important to see?

What do we see about Satan's power? Why is this important for us to see?

In verse 4 who else is reigning with Christ in those 1000 years?

What is important about those 1000 years in which Satan is bound?

You need to be reminded that 1000 years should not be taken literally just like in the chapters before you cannot take dragons and beasts as literal. It represents a long period of time of peace and prosperity. How does reading a passage like this give you faith and courage in facing the end times?

PRAYER – Pray for people to stand firm in their faith, to stand against the devil and his schemes and not be subject to them.

Day 22

When is a time when you read a book, saw a show or movie or a real-life story of a team, people or nation that was outnumbered only to find victory? What is it about that story that you love so much?

In the movie *Hoosiers* a little tiny school from Hickory, Indiana. They went to the state championship game against an inner-city team that was bigger and faster than they were. Their Cinderella story of David beating Goliath seemed to be coming to an end especially when they were down at half time. But this little country school came back and won. They had faith in their coach, their team and they worked together. They won the championship. Today we read about the end of the 1000 years when Satan is loosed onto the earth. Ask God to give you hope and courage as you read His word today.

Read Revelation 20:7-10

What does it say is the first thing Satan is going to do when released from his prison? What are ways in which Satan will do this?

How do you see he will be successful in his deception?

They will outnumber God's people in a big way. What do we see about the manner in which God will have victory over Satan and his followers in verse 9?

How is that victory over Satan a total victory according to verse 10?

How would it be easy for God's people to lose hope and throw in the towel when you read what they are up against?

Would you say you are hopeful in the face of an enemy who wants to see you defeated? Explain.

PRAYER – Hope in God's promises and His victory over Satan.

Day 23

Do you like it when people judge you? Why or why not?

Most of us, if not all of us, hate being judged. Even if we know we were in the wrong and we are getting our punishment, we do not like it. It is natural to feel this way because of pride and of course ultimately because of sin. One of the titles of God is that He is Judge. He is righteous and cannot stand for sin. There needs to be a judgment. Today we read about that judgment. Ask God to show you and remind you of your sin but also of His grace in Jesus Christ as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 20:11-15

How does John set the scene for us in verse 11? What does he say?

What were the two different books that were opened according to these verses?

In which book does everybody appear? In which book do only the followers of Jesus Christ appear?

How do we see this judgment will be for everybody who has ever lived, past and present?

The first death is our physical death. What is the Second Death according to these verses?

What do we see about God's total and final judgment in verse 15? What does this show us about how many ways there are to God?

When the books are opened for you, what will they say about you? Is your name in the book of life? Write down your answers.

PRAYER – Take time to confess your sin & thank God for the gift of life.

Day 24

What is the longest and hardest situation you have ever had to deal with in your life? What gave you hope to keep going in that situation?

I went to seminary for close to 15 years. It felt like school was never going to end. And then at the end of seminary I had to study for ordination exams. It was overwhelming and hard studying, writing, and wondering if this process would ever end. My hope in the midst of all the travelling, classes, writing papers, failing oral exams, and retaking them, was that God had called me into the ministry and that He wanted to use me to serve in His church. That kept me going. That was my hope. In Revelation we have been studying about lots of very hard things that are going to happen in the world and to Christians. Yet in the midst of all that struggle, God gives us hope in the last two chapters of Revelation. Ask God to encourage you as you study His word today.

Read Revelation 21:1-8

Look at verses 1 to 5. What are these verses telling us about what we look forward to as Christians?

Pick one of those verses. Which one encourages you most as you look forward to heaven? Why?

In verses 5 to 7, what does God tell us about His people? What does God remind us about himself?

Yet it is easy to overlook verse 8. What important bit of information is John relaying to us in this verse? Why is that important?

One thing to remember here is, as Christians we are going to live forever in the new heaven and new earth. What do you think the new heaven and earth are going to be like?

PRAYER – Pray for God to prepare you for His second coming.

Day 25

What would you do to make your city or town new?

I know I would make a lot of changes. I would tear down the buildings that were abandoned and falling down and put-up new buildings that people would want to move into. I would have the streets and bridges cleaned, repainted, and resurfaced. I would make sure there were many places where flowers and trees were planted and could grow. I would want my city to be beautiful and one where people would want to go and spend time. Today we will take a look at the New Jerusalem that God will give to His people after Christ's second coming. Ask God to help you understand what we look forward to one day.

Read Revelation 21:9-27

Look at verses 9 to 14. What is important about the following people or groups of people in relationship to the New Jerusalem?

1. The Bride –
2. 12 Tribes of Israel –
3. 12 Apostles –
4. Angel -

This New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven. As you reflect on the description given to us, what do we see about God and his love, care, and power?

Write 5 things John tells us about the New Jerusalem in verses 15 to 26.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Do you look forward to heaven when you read this description? Explain your answer.

What important things are we reminded of in verse 27? Why do we need that reminder?

PRAYER – Pray for someone you know who is not in the Book of Life.

Day 26

What is the most impressive river you have seen? Why was it so impressive?

Tropical storm Lee hit Pennsylvania with a vengeance in 2011. It flooded restaurants, businesses, and many homes. Driving near the Swatara creek left me in awe. The water was high, brown, and rushing very fast. It was pretty powerful. Today we come to the last major body of water the Bible mentions and that is the river that flows from the throne of God through the streets of the New Jerusalem. This is something, that as Christians, we will all experience one day. Ask God to give you an excitement about heaven as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 22:1-5

What do these verses tell us about the river?

In your own words how would you describe the tree?

In verses 3 to 5 what do we see about sickness, darkness, and all other hardships when it comes to life for Christians after Christ comes back?

As you think about your life, how does this description encourage you?

What is one of the most important things we will be doing according to verse 3?

As you think about eternal life, worshipping God forever, what are 3 things you want to praise God for today?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Use the 3 things you just wrote above to guide your prayer.

Day 27

What is something that you looked forward to but had to wait for? Describe what you were like while you waited. Was it worth the wait? Explain your answer.

Being married is so wonderful. My wife and I were engaged for 6 months before we were married. I wanted to be married. Those were long 6 months. We had counseling, wedding planning, time apart all in that 6 months. I just wanted to be married but we had to wait. It was so hard. I wanted to get busy working and doing other things to make my mind off the anticipation of our wedding day. That is what comes to mind for me as we come to this last chapter of Revelation. Jesus is coming. It is a fact. It is something we look forward to with great anticipation and yet we do not know the day or the hour. Ask God to fill you with hope and anticipation for that day as you read the Bible today.

Read Revelation 22:6-15

John describes Christians as those who keep the words of the Bible. He goes as far as to say we are blessed. What are your struggles in keeping the words of the Bible? Give a few examples from your life.

What are your victories when it comes to keeping God's Word? Give a few examples.

Look at verses 10 to 15. What does John tell us about those who are not Christians?

What do those same verses say about those who are following Jesus Christ?

Do you trust God's word? Why or why not?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you follow the commands of His word.

Day 28

What are three things about the person of Jesus that encourage you in your faith? Why does that encourage you? Write it next to what you wrote.

1.

2.

3.

I love the picture Hebrews paints us of Jesus. He is our high priest, who has gone through all that we have gone through and yet was without sin. He knows our struggles and pain. He knows what it is like to be tempted to sin. We can look to Him because he has gone through and endured all we go through, and he never sinned. That is encouraging to me as I think about who Jesus is. Ask God to challenge you in your faith as you read His Word today.

Read Revelation 22:16-17

What do you think the following titles given about Jesus mean? Why are they important? Write that next to each one.

1. The root –

2. The descendent of David –

3. The bright morning star –

These titles are not just given here in Revelation but are truths we have been given before. Look up the following verses and write what they are telling us about Jesus and what that meant for the hearers at that time.

1. Isaiah 11:10 –

2. Matthew 12:22-23 –

3. Numbers 24:17 –

This is the Jesus we serve and have the privilege to know. What are your thoughts as you see the connection of Revelation to the rest of scripture? Does this help you trust God's Word? Explain.

PRAYER – Thank God for His word & for the role Christ plays in our lives.

DAY 29

What are situations in which you would want to warn someone of a coming danger? What words would you use to warn them?

“Look Out!” “Car!” “Joseph!”. These are words of warning we would give to someone if something was about to hit them or if we felt they were in imminent danger. Of course, those deal with physical danger. Many of us have family and friends who don’t know Jesus. How do we warn them that if they don’t take serious their sin and their need for Jesus that things are not going to end well for them? Do we share the truths of scripture with them? Do we confront them with their sin? Some of us do because we love them and others of us do not because we say we love them and don’t want to upset them. Do we really love someone though if we never warn them of danger? John ends his book of Revelation with a warning and a promise. Ask God to open your eyes and heart to his truth today.

Read Revelation 22:18-21

What is the first warning given to us in verse 18? What is consequence given if the warning is not heeded?

It is bad to add to God’s Word. What are ways in which people add to God’s Word? Write a couple of examples.

What is the second warning in verse 19? What are the consequences given if this warning is not heeded?

It is bad to take away from God's Word. What are ways in which people take away from God's word. Give a couple of examples.

What does this show us about the importance, power, sufficiency, authority and how seriously God takes His Word?

As you read verse 20, what needs to be our attitude towards the second coming of Jesus Christ? Is this your attitude? Explain. How do you show this attitude in your life?

PRAYER – Thank God for His word and for his second coming.