

**Adult  
Bible Study  
in  
Simplified  
English**  
•  
**Study  
Guide**



# Revelation

*VISIONS THAT ENCOURAGE AND CHALLENGE*

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Cree**

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# **ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH**

## **Study Guide**

### **Revelation: Visions That Encourage and Challenge**

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# Revelation: Visions That Encourage and Challenge

This book of the Bible is a fitting end to God's revelation to man. The writing reminds us of the writings in Ezekiel and Daniel in the Old Testament. The true author of the writings was Jesus Christ. The apostle John simply wrote down His words.

In his last years, John was in exile on the island of Patmos. It was during the rule of Domitian. On one Lord's Day, John wrote of a revelation from God. An angel brought the revelation. John was told to write down the revelation. He was to send it to seven churches in Asia. Christian churches in those times were facing persecution and suffering. Their faith in Christ caused them much trouble. John saw Jesus as the victor over evil. John's book encourages us. It gives us hope for the future.

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*Revelation: Visions That Encourage and Challenge*

# Word List

**Lesson 1**

**emperor:** the head ruler of a country  
**Caesar:** a title given to Roman emperors  
**revelation:** God's telling about Himself and His will to all people  
**quoting:** to repeat words

**Lesson 2**

**superstitious:** fear of what is unknown  
**poverty:** having no money

**Lesson 3**

**surgery:** cutting out a sick part of the body  
**vision:** seeing with the mind  
**dome:** ceiling or roof  
**purity:** freedom from guilt or sin

**Lesson 4**

**earthquake:** movement of part of the earth's surface  
**tremble:** to shake  
**tragedy:** full of sadness

**Lesson 5**

**vision:** the power of seeing  
**knowledge:** knowing facts  
**wisdom:** knowing what is right or wrong

**Lesson 6**

**mystery:** something that cannot be explained  
**idol:** a false god; not the One True God  
**fury:** serious anger

**Lesson 7**

**seminary:** a school where people train to become ministers  
**description:** a picture in words  
**presence:** being with others in a place

**scholar:** one who studies and has much knowledge  
**plagues:** sickness

**Lesson 8**

**zodiac:** an imaginary belt of the heavens. It showed the paths of the sun and moon.  
**pagan:** a person who is not a Christian  
**wilderness:** a forest or desert  
**persecution:** to try to drive away a people because of their religion  
**Satan:** another name for the devil

**Lesson 9**

**eternity:** time without beginning or end  
**tsunami:** a destructive tidal wave

**Lesson 10**

**martyrs:** people who die standing up for their faith in Christ  
**just:** right and good  
**royalty:** kings, queens and other monarchs  
**verdict:** a judgment about one's innocence or guilt

**Lesson 11**

**prostitute:** a woman who uses sex for money  
**influence:** to move a country or person to some action

**Lesson 12**

**battle:** can be a verb or a noun. To battle is to fight. A battle is a fight.  
**salvation:** being saved or protected

**Lesson 13**

**persecution:** being hurt for religious faith  
**destroy:** to put an end to  
**restore:** to bring back

# ◊ Revelation ◊



Adult Bible Study  
in Simplified English

Visions of Christ, Our  
Ruler and Redeemer  
(Revelation 1-5)

## Lesson 1

Christ, Lord of All  
(Revelation 1:1-19)

## Lesson 2

Christ, Lord of the  
Churches  
(Revelation 2:1-11;  
3:14-21)

## Lesson 3

Christ, the Key to Life's  
Meaning  
(Revelation 4:1-3; 5:1-11)

## VISIONS OF CHRIST, OUR RULER AND REDEEMER

**T**he revelation to John has long been hard for Christians to understand. It is something like a mystery. It uses symbols. A symbol is an object that represents something else. In Revelation, some animals represent people. Numbers are also important in this book. They have special meaning.

Revelation tells of big events. It tells about the fight between good and evil. It talks about the end of time. It tells of visions. Angels and demons are very important. This book is called *prophecy*. That means this book is inspired by God.

Sometimes Christians have a hard time understanding Revelation. We should remember the terrible times the early Christians had. This book was meant to help them through those times. It can help us, too. We can see our God as One who lives in each of us. He helps us through hard times. He helped the early Christians. He is always with us.

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*These lessons in Revelation were written by Carolyn Cree of Fort Worth, Texas. Carolyn has been a teacher and director of international programs since 1971. She is the author of the book Beyond the Golden Door: A Layman's Ministry to International Families. She and her husband, Dick, are members of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.*



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### **Bible Text**

Revelation 1:1-19

### **Memory Verse**

“The Lord God says, ‘I am the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of all things. I am the All-powerful One Who was and Who is and Who is to come.’” (Revelation 1:8)

### **Word List**

**emperor:** the head ruler of a country

**Caesar:** a title given to Roman emperors

**revelation:** God’s telling about Himself and His will to all people

**quoting:** to repeat words

# Christ, Lord of All

The writer of Revelation was a man named John. He was in prison on the island of Patmos. He was there because he preached God’s Word. He told others about Jesus Christ. People were often killed for doing what John did.

The **emperor** of the land was a man called Domitian. He was a very bad emperor. He made the people call him “Lord and God.” The early Christians would not call him this. Only Jesus and His Father could be called “Lord and God.” They knew Domitian would be angry. What were the Christians to do?

What hope did they have? They were mostly poor people. They had no important person to stand up for them. The people felt very afraid. They had to choose between **Caesar** and Christ. The Romans forced people to say “Caesar is Lord.” Refusing to say this got Christians into trouble. Many Christians faced harsh punishment. This book was written to encourage them.

### **John, the Prophet (Revelation 1:1)**

John was a prophet. A prophet told about things that would happen in the future. Prophets were chosen by God to speak for Him. Prophets guided the early church. They went from place to place preaching God’s Word. The prophets were very respected. People believed that prophets came from God. John wrote what he saw. What he saw came from God. What John said is true.

**Revelation** is the most difficult book in the Bible to understand. It is important because it shows the faith of the early Christians. Their lives were filled with terrible things. They must

**Things To  
Think About**

1. How do think you think the early Christians felt about being afraid all the time?
2. Do you see how John's message could help the early Christians?
3. Would you be able to stand for Christ if you might die for it?

have been afraid all the time. They thought the end of time would come soon. They knew the power of God would save them. They believed God's glory would come at the end of time.

**God Reveals to Us (1:1-3)**

Revelation comes from God. God is truth. His words are a gift to us. He gave us minds. Often He speaks to us through our minds. Often God sends His truth to those who wait quietly in prayer. Christians must listen for the voice of God.

God gave His revelation to Jesus Christ. It is God's truth that Jesus brought. Jesus' teaching is final. Jesus gave God's truth to John through His angel. Early Christians felt there must be someone between God and man. They believed angels delivered God's messages. John felt the things he revealed would happen very soon. Knowing this helps us understand Revelation better.

John felt he was a servant of God. God's revelation was sent to his servants. Today's Christians are servants, too. The greatest people in the Bible served God. Abraham and the apostles all served God. They were servants of God as we are. All Christians can be used by God. We must be willing to serve Him.

**The Seven Churches (1:4-6)**

John's revelation was a letter written to seven churches. They were in different parts of the Roman Empire. But these seven churches were not the only churches. These seven

churches were in the middle of seven different postal districts. Letters delivered to these churches could easily be sent to others.

Seven was an important number for early Christians. It was the perfect number. John only wrote to seven churches. Maybe he knew all the churches would receive his letters. Maybe he wrote them because he had special feelings for them. John sent a message to those he knew and loved best. Then his message went to every church in every generation.

### **Glory Is Coming (1:7)**

This part of John's message uses words from the Old Testament. He knew the Old Testament very well. He was **quoting** words from the Old Testament.

John was living in a time when being a Christian was dangerous. He had been put in prison. He had to work hard. He probably had to sleep on the ground. Some Christians died in prison.

Even in prison, John believed that Christ would return. Christ would rescue Christians from all their troubles. Christians would be saved from their enemies

someday. One day, the people who crucified Jesus would know Jesus is Lord.

### **Revelation (1:14-19)**

Jesus' hair is as white as snow. He is without sin. He is with us for all time. His eyes are like fire. They remind us of Daniel 10:6. Beaten brass was more valuable than gold or silver. Read Ezekiel 1:7. The description of the sound of many waters is from Ezekiel 43:2. The voice of God can be a still, small voice. It can also be like the thunder of the seas.

John fell on his knees. Jesus put His hand on John's shoulder. Jesus' hand is strong enough to hold up the heavens. It is gentle enough to wipe away our tears. The sword coming from Jesus' mouth was a short sword. It was like a sword for close fighting. Read Isaiah 11:4 and Isaiah 49:2. A face like the sun was one of strength. We must kneel in Christ's presence. He is glorious!

Jesus told his servant to stop being afraid. He is with us at the beginning and the end. He is first and last. He is alive forever. He is with His people at all times.

## Revelation 1:1-19

**1** The things that are written in the Book are made known by Jesus Christ. God gave these things to Christ so He could show them to the servants He owns. These are things which must happen very soon. Christ sent His angel to John who is a servant owned by Him. Christ made these things known to John. **2** John tells that the Word of God is true. He tells of Jesus Christ and all that he saw and heard of Him. **3** The man who reads this Book and listens to it being read and obeys what it says will be happy. For all these things will happen soon.

**4** This is John writing to the seven churches in the country of Asia. May you have loving and peace from God Who was and Who is and Who is to come. May you have loving and peace from the seven Spirits who are before His throne. **5** May you have loving and peace from Jesus Christ Who is faithful in telling the truth. Jesus Christ is the first to be raised from the dead. He is the head over all the kings of the earth. He is the One Who loves us and has set us free from our sins by His blood. **6** Christ has made us a holy nation of religious leaders who can go to His God and Father. He is the One to receive honor and power forever! Let it be so. **7** See! He is coming in the clouds. Every eye will see Him. Even the men who killed Him will see Him. All the people on the earth will cry out in sorrow because of Him. Yes, let it be so.

**8** The Lord God says, 'I am the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of all things. I am the All-powerful One Who was and Who is and Who is to come.'

**9** I, John, am your Christian brother. I have shared with you in suffering because of Jesus Christ. I have also shared with you His holy nation and we have not given up. I was put on the island called Patmos because I preached the Word of God and told about Jesus Christ. **10** I was under the Spirit's power on the Lord's Day when I heard a loud voice behind me like the loud sound of a horn. **11** It said, '(\*I am the First and the Last.) Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches. They are in the cities of Ephesus and Smyrna and Pergamum and Thyatira and Sardis and Philadelphia and Laodicea.'

**12** I turned around to see who was speaking to me. As I turned, I saw seven lights made of gold. **13** Among the lights stood One Who looked like the Son of Man. He had on a long coat that came to His feet. A belt of gold was around His chest. **14** His head and His hair were white like white wool. They were as white as snow. His eyes were like fire. **15** His feet were like shining brass as bright as if it were in a fire. His voice sounded like powerful rushing water. **16** He held seven stars in His right hand. A sharp sword that cuts both ways came out of His mouth. His face was shining as bright as the sun shines at noon. **17** When I saw Him, I fell down at His feet like a dead man. He laid His right hand on me and said, 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the Living One. I was dead, but look, I am alive forever. I have power over death and hell. **19** So write the things you have seen and the things that are and the things that will happen later.'



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Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 2:1-11;  
3:14-21

### **Memory Verse**

“ See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and we will eat together.” (Revelation 3:20 )

### **Word List**

**superstitious:** fear of what is unknown  
**poverty:** having no money

# Christ, Lord of the Churches

When I was a child, our family moved to another town every few years. I was always sorry to move. I did not want to leave my friends. When we moved, I wrote letters to my friends. I wanted to keep in touch with them. Think how much more John wanted to stay in touch with the churches. The people in the churches were his friends. He wanted them to stay faithful to Christ.

Each of John’s letters begins with the same words. “Write this to the angel in the city of...” Greeks and Jews believed every earthly thing had a helper in heaven. Maybe they thought each angel was in charge of a church. In the letters, the angel and the church were the same.

## **The Letter to the Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)**

John’s first letter was written to Ephesus. Ephesus was a very important city. Many roads came to Ephesus. It had a great seaport. Ephesus was the richest city in Asia. People in Ephesus worshiped many false gods. They built many temples to honor false gods. They also built temples for Roman emperors.

The people were **superstitious**. They sold charms to make sick people well. They had charms for all kinds of things. This was a hard place to spread Christianity. But Christianity spread. People listened. They believed. Ephesus proves the power of the Christian faith.

John begins the letter to Ephesus with a description of Christ. Christ holds the seven stars in His hand. This means that

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Do you think these letters have meaning for Christians today?
2. What do these letters say to Christians today?
3. How can God's Word speak to every generation?

Christ has complete control over the church. If we follow Christ, we will never go wrong. This also means He holds the whole church in His hand. It is not just our local church in the hand of Christ. It is the worldwide group of believers in His hand.

The seven golden lights are the churches. Christ is always working in His churches. When people meet together in His name, Jesus is there. Jesus praised their work. He knew that their work was not easy. They worked for Christ. They did not tire. They suffered much. But they kept doing the Lord's work.

Perhaps their first joy was gone. There were evil-doers in the church. Evil people of all kinds tried to trouble the church. The people may have been tired. Something had gone wrong. There was not enough love in the church. Jesus wanted them to remember. These were Christian people. Jesus wanted them to remember who they were.

Jesus wanted the people to repent. To repent means to admit we are wrong. We must be sorry for our sins. Christ wanted the people to be sorry. But He wanted them to get busy. They were to get on with His work.

The Nicolaitans were people who believed in Baal. Baal was a false god. They Nicolaitans tried to worship God and Baal. They said they were making were making Christianity better. In Jewish history Baal was an evil god who led people into sin. The Nicolaitans taught evil living.

**The Letter to the Church in Smyrna (2:8-11)**

John's next letter was written to the church at Smyrna.

Smyrna was one of the loveliest cities in Asia. It was known as the flower of Asia. There were some things that troubled Smyrna. Christians from Smyrna suffered a lot. They were very poor. Large groups would sometimes attack these Christians. Christians could be put in prison. Then, they could be taken out to die.

The church at Smyrna had many problems. There were more problems to come. This letter reminded them that Christ had also suffered greatly. Things were bad in Smyrna. Jesus had suffered even more than the Christians in Smyrna. He asked the Christians to be faithful even unto death.

### **Letter to the Church in Laodicea (3:14-21)**

Jesus had nothing good to say about the church in Laodicea. The city was important because of its location. It was one of the wealthiest cities in the world. Fine clothing was made there. Laodicea was a great medical center. People in Laodicea had a popular cure for eyesight problems.

Many Christians in Laodicea were sinning. Church members were neither hot nor cold. Jesus said He would spit them out

of His mouth. The people were wealthy. They did not realize that they were spiritually poor.

Laodicea was proud of its famous cure for the blind. But it was blind to its spiritual **poverty**. Laodicea did not see itself as it was. Jesus spoke strong words to the people. It was because He loved them. He wanted them to get right with God. He wanted them to see what they were doing wrong.

Read verse 20. It is one of the most famous pictures of Jesus. It warns that the end is near. The coming of Christ is near. Christians must live in love because the judge is at the door. This is an important description of Christ. He loves the souls of men and women.

Christ stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. You can open the door or keep it shut. If you open the door, Jesus Christ will come in. He want to come in and spend time with you.

**Revelation 2:1-11**

**1** Write this to the angel of the church in the city of Ephesus: 'The One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand and the One Who walks among the seven lights made of gold, says this: **2** I know what you have done and how hard you have worked. I know how long you can wait and not give up. I know that you cannot put up with sinful men. I know that you have put men to the test who call themselves missionaries. You have found they are not missionaries but are false. **3** You have waited long and have not given up. You have suffered because of Me. You have kept going on and have not become tired. **4** But I have this one thing against you. You do not love Me as you did at first. **5** Remember how you once loved Me. Be sorry for your sin and love Me again as you did at first. If you do not, I will come to you and take your light out of its place. I will do this unless you are sorry for your sin and turn from it. **6** But you have this: You hate what the Nicolaitans do. I hate what they do also.

**7** You have ears! Then listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the fruit of the tree of life in the garden of God to everyone who has power and wins.'

**8** 'Write this to the angel of the church in the city of Smyrna: 'The One Who is First and Last, the One Who died and came to life again, says this: **9** I know of your troubles. I know you are poor. But still you are rich! I know the bad things spoken against you by those who say they are Jews. But they are not Jews. They belong to the devil. **10** Do not be afraid of what you will suffer. Listen! The

devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will be in trouble for ten days. Be faithful even to death. Then I will give you the crown of life.

**11** You have ears! Then listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The person who has power and wins will not be hurt by the second death!'

**3:14-21**

**14** 'Write this to the angel of the church in the city of Laodicea: 'The One Who says, Let it be so, the One Who is faithful, the One Who tells what is true, the One Who made everything in God's world, says this: **15** I know what you are doing. You are not cold or hot. I wish you were one or the other. **16** But because you are warm, and not hot or cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. **17** You say that you are rich and that you need nothing, but you do not know that you are so troubled in mind and heart. You are poor and blind and without clothes. **18** You should buy gold from Me that has been tested by fire that you may be rich. Buy white clothes to dress yourself so the shame of not wearing clothes will be taken away. Buy medicine to put on your eyes so you can see. **19** I speak strong words to those I love and I punish them. Have a strong desire to please the Lord. Be sorry for your sins and turn from them. **20** See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and we will eat together. **21** I will allow the one who has power and wins to sit with Me on My throne, as I also had power and won and sat down with My Father on His throne.



Lesson  
3  
Adult Bible Study in  
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### Bible Text

Revelation 4:1-3;  
5:1-11

### Memory Verse

“Your blood has bought men for God from every family and from every language and from every kind of people and from every nation.”  
(Revelation 3:20)

### Word List

**surgery:** cutting out a sick part of the body  
**vision:** seeing with the mind  
**dome:** ceiling or roof  
**purity:** freedom from guilt or sin

# Christ, Key to Life's Meaning

A few years ago, I was very sick. I had a very bad kind of cancer. The doctor told me that I had a very small chance of living. I had **surgery**. After the surgery, I took a long time to wake up. I had a long dream. It was a nice dream. There were happy, kind people. I was in a new world. It is hard to explain. I did not want to leave that happy world.

I finally woke up. I did not want to wake. I slept a little longer. I was with the kind, happy people. When I woke again, I could remember the dream. I was not sure whether it had really happened. As time passed, I forgot most of the dream. Now, I only remember a little bit of it. I know that my dream was only a dream.

John's dream was much more than my dream. His was a **vision** sent by God. John's vision had meaning for God's people. They were very afraid. They needed to know that the Lord knew of their troubles. They needed to be told again that the Lord was with them.

### **John Enters the Door of Heaven (Revelation 4:1-3)**

As John went through the door of Heaven. He fell under the Spirit's power. He saw God on the throne. Many writers in the Old Testament describe the same thing. Read 1 Kings 22:19. Then read Psalm 47:8. The throne tells us that God is a God above all others.

John did not try to tell us how God looks. In his vision. John saw God surrounded by flashing lights. The lights flashed

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Do you think the visions and poetry in this book are meant to be taken literally?
2. Do you believe that God gives people choices about what will happen in the future?
3. Can we receive God's message today?

from precious stones. Jasper was a bright rock crystal. It could have been like a diamond. The sardias stone was as red as blood. The emerald was green.

The jasper probably stands for the bright **purity** of God. The blood-red sardian probably stands for God's anger. The gentle green emerald probably stands for God's mercy. His mercy helps us to be pure like His Son. We can rely on His justice.

John saw twenty-four elders around the throne. These probably represent the faithful people of God. The white robes were promised to the faithful. Their crowns were promised to the faithful people who follow Christ to death. Many Christians in those days lost their lives. They knew that death was near. Think how afraid they must have been.

John added more to his picture of heaven. Voices of thunder and lightning tell of God's greatness. John tells of the wonder he felt in God's presence. He heard a voice saying, "Come up here." John says that the door to Heaven was open. In John's time, Jews believed the sky was a great **dome** over the earth. Beyond the dome was heaven. John's left that dome and walked through the door. He entered heaven.

**A Book with Seven Locks (5:1-11)**

John took this picture from the book of Ezekiel (2:9-10). Ezekiel talked about trouble and sorrow. It was much like John's time. In this book, the scripture was more like a scroll. Scrolls were written on sheets of papyrus. Papyrus was made from a plant that grew near the river Nile. It was something like

paper. It cost a lot of money. Pieces of papyrus were glued together. Then they were rolled. The roll in God's hand was written on both sides. It was sealed with seven seals.

The roll may be called God's will. This was His final settlement of the affairs of the world. The seven seals probably stood for great secrets. The roll was so secret that seven locks were on it. It was sealed so that only God's chosen one could open it.

An angel looked for someone to open the seven seals. No one in heaven or on earth was worthy enough to do it. This book was the record of what will happen in the last times. God has a book in which the history of time is already written.

#### **John's Tears (5:4)**

John wept because there was no one to break the seven seals. The voice had promised him that he would see the future. Now it seemed like that would not happen. God's mysteries would not be revealed to the world. How happy John must have been to see Jesus! Jesus had the power to open the seals.

There is a great truth behind this scripture. God cannot always give His message to people. Men and women must be ready and able to receive it. Teachers cannot teach people who will not listen. The world needs people who will listen to God. He has a message for all of us in every generation. We can choose to shut our ears to His message. We can also choose to listen.

#### **The Lion and the Lamb (5:6-11)**

Jesus Christ has won the victory over death. He is able to know God's secrets. He is the Lord of truth.

Jesus is called a lion. The lion is called the king of beasts. It is fitting that Jesus should be called the only true king. Jesus is called a lamb. John gives Jesus this name many times in Revelation. This lamb still has the marks of being crucified. Also, the lamb has seven horns and seven eyes. These stand for power and honor.

This is a great picture of Jesus. His sacrifice was for all people. He is the one who sees all and knows all. He is Lord of the world.

**Revelation 4:1-3**

**1** After this, I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven. The first voice I heard was like the loud sound of a horn. It said, 'Come up here. I will show you what must happen after these things.' **2** At once I was under the Spirit's power. See! The throne was in heaven, and One was sitting on it. **3** The One Who sat there looked as bright as jasper and sardius stones. The colors like those of an emerald stone were all around the throne.

**5:1-11**

**1** I saw a book in the right hand of the One Who sat on the a throne. It had writing on the inside and on the back side. It was locked with seven locks. **2** I saw a powerful angel calling with a loud voice, 'Who is able to open the book and to break its locks?' **3** No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look in it. **4** Then I began to cry with loud cries. I cried because no one was good enough to open the book or to look in it.

**5** One of the leaders said to me, 'Stop crying. See! The Lion from the family group of Judah has power and has won. He can open the book and break its seven locks. He is of the family of David.'

**6** I saw a Lamb standing in front of the twenty leaders. He was before the throne and in front of the four living beings. He looked as if He had been killed. He had

seven horns and seven eyes. These are the seven Spirits of God. They have been sent out into all the world. **7** The Lamb came and took the book from the right hand of the One Who sat on the throne. **8** When the Lamb had taken the book, the four living beings and the twenty-four leaders got down before Him. Each one had a harp. They all had pots made of gold, full of special perfume, which are the prayers of the people who belong to God. **9** They sang a new song, saying, "It is right for You to take the book and break its locks. It is because You were killed. Your blood has bought men for God from every family and from every language and from every kind of people and from every nation. **10** You have made them to be a holy nation of religious leaders to work for our God.

**11** I looked again. I heard the voices of many thousands of angels. They stood around the throne and around the four living beings and the leaders.

# ◊ Revelation ◊



Adult Bible Study  
in Simplified English

Visions of God's  
Purpose—  
Seals and Trumpets  
(Revelation 6-11)

## **Lesson 4**

Opening the Seals of  
God's Scrolls  
(Revelation 6:1-17)

## **Lesson 5**

First Interlude: Security  
for God's People  
(Revelation 7:1-14)

## **Lesson 6**

Trumpets of God's  
Judgment  
(Revelation 8:1-9:6,  
13-15, 20-21)

## **Lesson 7**

Second Interlude:  
Continue to Witness  
Faithfully  
(Revelation 10:1-7;  
11:1-15)

## VISIONS OF GOD'S PURPOSE— SEALS AND TRUMPETS

**M**any important people know that we best understand things we see. We do not remember all of what we hear or read. That is the reason speakers use signs or pictures to help them when they speak to us. Writers cannot use anything like that to help us understand. Writers can depend only on their language to help us understand.

This is why Revelation is a different sort of writing. John used his language. Especially in these chapters of Revelation, he used symbolism and fantasy. This means John used words which you can see and feel. He painted word pictures. The seals and the trumpets are symbols. They tell about the end of time and God's judgment. These chapters tell Christians what will happen before the end of time. These chapters assure Christians that God's power will save them even at the end of time.

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*Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 6:1-17

### **Memory Verse**

“ .... ‘Thanks and honor and shining-greatness and all power are to the One Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb forever.’”

(Revelation 5:13b)

### **Word List**

**earthquake:**

movement of part of the earth's surface

**tremble:** to shake

**tragedy:** full of sadness

# Opening the Seals of God's Scrolls

John knew the Old Testament. Read the verses in Zechariah 6:1-8. You can see that they had an effect on John. Zechariah saw four horses. They stood for the four spirits sent out by God. They stood for four great winds sent to destroy the earth.

John used four horses also. The horses and riders were forces that would destroy the world. Remember that John lived in a dangerous and fearful time. People were being killed because of their faith. John knew how terrible life was for the Christians. He wanted to give them some hope for the future. He used symbols and signs to tell of the destruction that was to come. He wanted Christians to know that God was in charge.

## **The First Lock (Revelation 6:1-2)**

Each of the seven seals was broken. Each time a seal was broken, something terrible happened. The first terror was the white horse and its rider. They stood for victory in war. John used ideas that his readers would understand. The rider had a bow in his hand. The bow was a sign of military power in the Old Testament.

Sometimes we think of war and battle as exciting. But it is not true. War is not a happy or exciting thing. It always ends in sorrow.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Do you think John's revelation was only written for the early church?
2. What can Christians today learn from this book?
3. What does it mean to repent?

**The Second Lock (6:3-4)**

John was writing in a time when there was much fighting. Fighting tore the nation apart. There had been many wars. Many people had been killed. The red horse represented bloody fighting. In the last days of the world, Jewish people expected all human relationships to fall apart. Brother would fight brother. Neighbor would fight neighbor. City would fight city. Nations would fight other nations. The world would be filled with hate.

**The Third Lock (6:5-6)**

The black horse and its rider meant famine. Famine is when there is no food to eat. The famine John talked about was very hard. There would be food. But it would cost much money. A man's pay would buy only his food. There would be nothing left for his wife or his children.

**The Fourth Lock (6:7-8)**

The fourth living being was a light colored horse. Death sat upon the horse. Hell was close behind him. This part of the Revelation is full of death and ruin. This was a terrible time. But it was not the end. All life was not killed.

John was writing in a time when many people were sick. They had little food. Here John showed what God would do to His people. When God's people did not follow Him, He would punish them. No one could escape God's punishment.

### The Fifth Lock (6:9-11)

John thought about all those who had died for their faith. Read Matthew 24:9. The people had been warned. They knew what could happen. They had to be ready.

There was an altar in Heaven. It was like the one built for God on earth. The souls of those who had been killed were under the altar. The blood of those killed was poured out as an offering to God.

When someone dies for their faith, it may seem like a **tragedy**. It may look like the work of evil men. This may be true. Every life laid down for truth is important to God. It is a sacrifice. It is an offering made to God.

### The Sixth Lock (6:12-17)

John used pictures which the Jewish people understood. The Jews thought the earth would someday be destroyed. There would be an **earthquake**. Whoever got out of the war would die in the earthquake. Whoever got out of the earthquake would die in the fire. Whoever got out of the fire would starve.

At the end of time, the earth would be in darkness. To Jews, the falling of stars

would be terrible. God would shake the heavens. Everything people trusted would fall apart.

There would be no place to hide. Even great people would be afraid. They would cry out in fear. Read Joel 2:10. The mountains would **tremble**. The hills would be moved. John saw a time when every thing would be shaken. Every bad thing he could imagine would happen. No one could escape this terrible time. Even the greatest person was still under God's power. A person might be free, but he was still under God's power. No person was so small that he or she could escape God's judgment.

We do not think of the Lamb as being angry. We usually think of the Lamb as standing for gentleness and kindness. In this passage, God's anger is the anger of love. Even in anger, God wants to save us. He wants to redeem the ones he loves.

**Revelation 6:1-17**

**1** I saw the Lamb break open the first of the seven locks. I heard one of the four living beings cry out like the sound of thunder, "Come and see!" **2** I looked and saw a white horse. The one who sat on it had a bow. A crown was given to him. He went out to win and he won.

**3** He broke open the second lock. Then I heard the second living being say, "Come and see!" **4** Another horse came out. This one was red. The one who sat on it was given a long sword. He was given power to take peace from the earth so men would kill each other.

**5** He broke open the third lock. Then I heard the third living being say, "Come and see!" I looked and saw a black horse. The one who sat on it had something in his hand with which to weigh things. **6** I heard a voice from among the four living beings saying, "A small jar of wheat for a day's pay. Three small jars of barley for a day's pay. Do not hurt the olive oil and wine."

**7** He broke open the fourth lock. Then I heard the fourth living being say, "Come and see!" **8** I looked and saw a light colored horse. The one who sat on it had the name of Death. Hell followed close behind him. They were given the right and the power to kill one-fourth part of everything on the earth. They were to kill with the sword and by people having no food and by sickness and by the wild animals of the earth."

**9** He broke open the fifth lock. Then I saw under the altar all the souls of those who had been killed for telling the Word of God. They had also been killed for being faithful in telling about Christ. **10** All those who had been killed cried out with a loud voice saying, "How long will it be yet before You will punish those on the earth for killing us? Lord, You are holy and true." **11** White clothes were given to each one of them. They were told to rest a little longer. They were to wait until all the other servants owned by God and their Christian brothers would be killed as they had been. Then the group would be complete.

**12** I looked as the Lamb broke the sixth lock. The earth shook as if it would break apart. **13** The stars of the sky fell to the earth. They were like figs falling from a tree that is shaken by a strong wind. **14** The sky passed away like paper being rolled up. Every mountain and island moved from its place. **15** The kings and the leaders of the earth hid themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. All the head soldiers and rich men and strong men and men who were free and those who were owned by someone hid themselves also. **16** They called to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us! Hide us from the face of the One Who sits on the throne. Hide us from the anger of the Lamb, **17** because the special day of Their anger has come! Who is able to stand against it?"



*Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 7:1-14

### **Memory Verse**

“For the Lamb Who is in the center of the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to the wells of the water of life. God will take away all tears from their eyes.”  
(Revelation 7:17)

### **Word List**

**vision:** the power of seeing

**knowledge:** knowing facts

**wisdom:** knowing what is right or wrong

# First Interlude: Security for God's People

I have lived a long time. I can think back over my life. I remember many times when bad things happened. I remember when my daughter had a very high fever. I remember when my husband had a serious head injury. I remember the time when our house flooded with water. So many bad things happened. And yet, the Lord was always with me.

He was always there to help me get through bad times. Have you seen bad times? You may have seen more bad things than I have. Trusting in the Lord will give you the strength you needed.

John was writing in a very bad time. Life for Christians was scary and dangerous. Many were being killed. Many people were killed by wild animals, too. They must have been afraid all the time. John wrote to give the people hope.

### **God Marks His Servants (Revelation 7:1-3)**

John was seeing the **vision** of the last days. They would be terrible times. Read Matthew 24:21. Every bad thing that could happen would happen. Every evil power would try to ruin the earth. The winds on the earth were waiting to destroy it.

People did not know about science like we do today. They did not know that the earth is round. They thought the earth was shaped like a square. They believed an angel stood at each corner of the square. The sea was all around it. People believed that

**Things To  
Think About**

1. How would you have felt in John's time?
2. Could you have become a martyr?
3. How can we get closer to God every day?

angels directed the winds of the earth. The angels were going to let the winds destroy the earth. Another angel told them to wait. They must wait until all the faithful people were marked.

Before the end of time, God's people would be marked. The angel had the seal. The mark was the seal of God. The mark was to be put on each forehead. The seal belonged to the living God. The people knew that other gods were made of metal or stone. Those gods could not live. Our God lives. God directs everything on earth. This same God is with us today.

John understood how great it was to know the living God. He knew how great it was to belong to God. The fellowship, the help, the power and presence of the living God are ours today.

**The Faithful (7:4-8)**

144,000 people were marked with God's seal. This number does not include all of God's servants throughout history. These people are those who would face the terrible times ahead. They would be able to get through those terrible times safely. The number 144,000 is important. It is 12 times 12, a perfect square. Then it was multiplied by 1,000. It was a perfect number. It did not mean only a few people would be saved. It meant that the number of people who would be saved would be great.

**The Martyrs (7:9-10)**

A martyr is one who would rather die than give up his or her faith. John knew that there would be many who would

become martyrs. Think how terrible that would be. Could you or I be willing to give up our lives for our faith?

John saw a time of testing. He saw a time of terror like the world had never known. He saw that people could not escape. John saw the awful future. He also saw that God would reward the martyrs. God would provide for those who stood up for His name.

John could not count all the martyrs. There were many of them. He could see that they were from all nations. They spoke many different languages. They were all together as the family of God. The people John saw were not beaten down. They had been through troubles. But they had won the victory.

### **The Angels Praise God (7:11:12)**

The angels praised God for His blessing. All the world must bless the Lord for His goodness and kindness. God is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We must give Him glory.

God gives us all **knowledge** and all **wisdom**. We must look for God. We must wait and listen for His voice. We must

worship God. Sometimes we think of God as one who gives us what we want. We want to use God. But we should bow before Him. God's power never gets smaller.

### **Jesus Died for All of Us (7:13-14)**

The people washed their clothes in the blood of the Lamb. They stood before God in clean, white clothes. Jesus died for each of us. We must understand that. It is up to us to clean ourselves. How do we begin?

First, we must be sorry for our sins. We must try to do better. Second, we must have faith. We know that Jesus lived and died for us. We must live our lives for Him.

Prayer will also keep us close to Him. This does not mean only prayers said in church. This means prayers spoken silently, too. It means words spoken to God every day. It means talking to God about everything. We can rely on God in times of sorrow. We can rely on Him in times of joy. God is with us always.

**Revelation 7:1-14**

**1** After this I saw four angels. They were standing at the four corners of the earth. They were holding back the four winds of the earth so no wind would blow on the earth or the sea or on any tree. **2** I saw another angel coming from the east. He was carrying the mark of the living God. He called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to hurt the earth and sea. **3** The angel from the east said, "Do not hurt the earth or the sea or the trees until we have put the mark of God on the foreheads of the servants He owns."

**4** I heard how many there were who received the mark of God. There were 144,000 people of the twelve family groups of Israel. **5** These received the mark of God: 12,000 from the family group of Judah, 12,000 from the family group of Reuben, 12,000 from the family group of Gad, **6** 12,000 from the family group of Asher, 12,000 from the family group Naphtali, 12,000 from the family group of Manasseh, **7** 12,000 from the family group 12,000 from the family group Simeon, 12,000 from the family group Levi, 12,000 from the family group Issachar, **8** 12,000 from the family group Zebulun, 12,000 from the family group Joseph, and 12,000 from the family group Benjamin.

**9** After this I saw many people. No one could tell how many there were. They

were from every nation and from every family and from every kind of people and from every language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white clothes and they held branches in their hands. **10** And they were crying out with a loud voice, "We are saved from the punishment of sin by our God Who sits on the throne and by the Lamb!" **11** Then all of the angels standing around the throne and around the leaders and the four living beings got down on their faces before God and worshiped Him. **12** They said, "Let it be so! May our God have worship and shining-greatness and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength forever. Let it be so!"

**13** Then one of the twenty-four leaders asked me, "Who are these people dressed in white clothes? Where did they come from?" **14** I answered him, "Sir, you know." Then he said to me, "These are the ones who came out of the time of much trouble. They have washed their clothes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb."



Lesson  
6  
*Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 8:1-9:6,  
13-15, 20-21

### **Memory Verse**

“When the Lamb broke the seventh lock, there was not a sound in heaven for about one-half hour.” (Revelation 8:1)

### **Word List**

**mystery:** something that cannot be explained

**idol:** a false god; not the One True God

**fury:** serious anger

# Trumpets of God's Judgment

I read the newspaper this morning. I read about a terrible thing that happened in the Indian Ocean. There was an earthquake on the floor of the ocean. The earthquake caused huge waves of water. The waves are called a tsunami. The tsunami made great walls of water.

These great walls of water traveled thousands of miles. The water hit the beaches of Asia and Africa. Thousands and thousands of people were killed. Thousands more were missing.

Think of all those people. Some of the people were good people. Some of them may have been bad. Many were children. None of them expected to die. It was a terrible surprise. Many countries are sending help. Food and money are being gathered. Workers are on the way. The world is trying to help.

In John's vision, God was getting ready to destroy much of the world. But there was no one to help the people. They had turned to false gods. They had done every bad thing you might imagine. They would not stop doing bad things. John saw an angry God who was ready to punish the people.

### **No Sound (Revelation 8:1)**

There was no sound for one-half hour. Up until this time, John had seen bright colors. He had heard loud noises. Now there was no sound. It was not the silence of emptiness. It was the silence of **mystery**. It was the silence of waiting. In silence we can see God's authority. Heaven waited for God and His lamb to give the trumpet to the angel. Everything must wait for His move.

### **Prayers of the People (8:3-4)**

There is something beautiful about this silence. The prayers of the saints were about to go up to God. Maybe all heaven was still so those prayers might be heard. This is a wonderful thought. The music of heaven was still. Even the

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Do we do things that make God angry? What?
2. What can we do to get right with God?
3. What can we learn from these writings of John's?

thunder of the revelation was still. This was so that God's ear might catch the whispered prayers of His people.

Do you know you can pray to God anytime? Did you know He always listens? Sometimes it seems our prayers are not heard. We must go on praying. God answers prayer in His own time. We can be sure He will always answer.

**Sound and Fury (8:5-6)**

Much noise came after this silence. Lightning flashed and the earth shook. The seven angels got ready to blow their horns. Read Ezekiel 10:2. John felt the prayers of the saints made God angry. God's fury would punish those who had mistreated His people. The enemies of God's people would be punished.

**Four Horns (8:7-13)**

John saw seven angels standing in the presence of God. These angels had a special honor. They were near God. They were always ready serve Him. Each of the seven angels had a trumpet. Trumpets were often mentioned in the Old Testament. Read Exodus 19:16,19. Each of the angels blew their horns.

The first angel blew his horn. Hail and fire and blood came down on the earth. One-third of the earth was burned. When the second angel blew his horn, the ships at sea sank. The mountains fell into the sea. One-third of the sea life died. The third angel blew his horn. One-third of the water was poisoned. Those who drank the water died. Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet. One-third of the sun grew dark. One-third of the moon grew dark. The sun and moon lost one-third of their lights. Part of the earth was dark.

### Two More Angels (9:1-6,13-15)

The fifth angel blew his trumpet. He held a key to the hole without a bottom. Smoke came out of the hole. Great insects came out of the hole. Locusts flew down to earth. The Old Testament tells terrible stories about locusts. Read Joel 1:7-18. The locusts were told not to kill men. They stung many people. God protected those with His mark on their foreheads. The locusts' stings made people want to die. But they could not die. They had to suffer.

Then the sixth angel blew his horn. He called the four angels bound at the Euphrates River. These angels came from distant lands. They came from mysterious places. They are sometimes called the Angels of Punishment. They came from evil parts of the world. Slavery and other bad things came from these places.

John described a huge army. There were too many to number. The soldiers and their horses were terrible. One-third of all men would be killed.

### Foolish Men (9:20-21)

Even after all these terrible things, the foolish people did not change. They should have changed their evil ways.

Instead, they kept worshiping their **idols**. When they worshiped idols, they worshiped devils and demons. The foolish people did not consider why these terrible things were happening. They did not understand God's **fury**. They kept sinning. God's fury did not stop.

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### Revelation 8:1-9:6, 13-15, 20-21

**1** When the Lamb broke the seventh lock, there was not a sound in heaven for about on-half hour.

**2** Then I saw the seven angels standing before God. They were given seven horns.

**3** Another angel came and stood at the altar. He held a cup made of gold full of special perfume. He was given much perfume so he could mix it with the prayers of those who belonged to God. Their prayers were put on the altar made of gold before the throne. **4** Smoke from burning the special perfume and the prayers of those who belong to God went up before God out of the angel's hand. **5** Then the angel took the cup of gold He filled it with fire from the altar and threw it down on the earth. There was thunder and noise and lightning and the earth shook.

**6** The seven angels that had the seven horns got ready to blow them.

**7** So the first angel blew his horn. Hail and fire mixed with blood came down on the earth. One-third part of the earth was burned up. One-third part of the earth was burned up. One-third part of the trees were burned up.

All the green grass was burned up.

**8** The second angel blew his horn. Something like a large mountain was burning with fire. It was thrown into the sea. One-third part of the sea turned into blood. **9** One-third part of all the ships were destroyed.

**10** The third angel blew his horn. A large star fell from heaven. It was burning with a fire that kept burning like a bright light. It fell on one-third part of the rivers and on the places where water comes out of the earth. **11** The name of the star is Wormwood. One-third part of the water became poison. Many men died from drinking the water because it had become poison.

**12** The fourth angel blew his horn. One-third part of the sun and one-third part of the moon and one-third part of the stars were hurt. One-third part of them was made dark so that one-third part of the day and night had no light.

**13** Then I looked and saw a very large bird flying in the sky. It said with a loud voice, "It is bad! It is bad! It is bad for those who live on the earth when the sound comes from the horns that the other three angels will blow!"

### 9:1-6

**1** The fifth angel blew his horn. I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to earth. The key to the hole without a bottom was given to the angel. **2** He opened the hole and smoke came out like the smoke from a place where there is much fire. The sun and the air became dark because of the smoke from the hole. **3** Locusts came down to the earth out of

the smoke. They were given power to hurt like small animals that sting. **4** They were told not to hurt the grass or any green plant or any tree. They were to hurt only the men who did not have the mark of God on their foreheads. **5** The locusts were not allowed to kill these men. They were to give them much pain for five months like the pain that comes from a small animal that stings. **6** Men will look for ways to die during those days, but they will not find any way. They will want to die, but death will be kept from them.

### 9:13-15

**13** The sixth angel blew his horn. I heard a voice coming from the four corners of the altar made of gold that is before God.

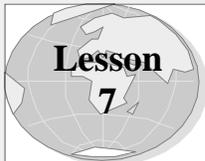
**14** The voice said to the sixth angel who had the horn, "Let the four angels loose that have been chained at the big river Euphrates."

**15** They had been kept ready for that hour and day and month and year. They were let loose so they could kill one-third part of all men that were living.

### 9:20-21

**20** The men that were still living after these troubles were past would not turn away from worshiping demons. They would not turn away from false gods made from gold and silver and brass and stone and wood. None of these false gods can see or hear or walk.

**21** These men were not sorry for their sins and would not turn away from all their killing and their witchcraft. They would not stop their sex sins and their stealing.



Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English

### Bible Text

Revelation 10:1-7;  
11:1-15

### Memory Verse

“The nations of the world have become the holy nation of our Lord and of His Christ. He will be the leader forever.”  
(Revelation 11:15b)

### Word List

**seminary:** a school where people train to become ministers

**description:** a picture in words

**presence:** being with others in a place

**scholar:** one who studies and has much knowledge

**plagues:** sickness

# Second Interlude: Continue to Witness Faithfully

A few years ago, I met a young man from Germany. He was studying at the **seminary**. Rolf became my friend. He went to Russia with a friend. They hid Bibles in their car. They could have gone to prison for doing this. Once, a border guard caught them. He found a Bible. He did not report them to the other guards. He kept the Bible. Rolf and his friend were able to bring many Bibles to Russia. What they were doing was dangerous. But they did it anyway. They were like the people in John's vision. They kept their faith. They told others.

### **The End Is Near (Revelation 10:1)**

The mighty angel in these verses is very important. These verses show the angel came straight from God. The angel was covered in a cloud. God traveled in a cloud. The angel had a rainbow on his head. The rainbow was part of the glory of God (Ezekiel 1:28). The angel's face was like the sun. His voice was like a lion's. We can easily see this was a **description** of God and Jesus. The angel came from God's **presence**.

### **The Strong Angel (10:2-7)**

The strong angel had one foot on the sea. His other foot was on the land. This showed the size and power of the angel. Sea and land stood for the whole world. God's power is as great on the sea as on the land.

The angel had a little book called a scroll. It was not open. The angel was giving John only a little revelation about a small period of time. When the angel spoke, the seven thunders sounded. Read Psalm 29.

John was ready to write. Then he heard the angel's voice.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. How would you feel if your world was destroyed?
2. What did John think would happen very soon?
3. What did John say about the battle between good and evil?

He was not to tell men what the angel said. We cannot know what the angel said. We know that John saw things he could not talk about. Sometimes God tells us more than we can say.

The message was that the hour had come. The Antichrist was about to invade the earth. The Antichrist was the enemy of Christ. The Antichrist was evil. The final fight was about to begin. Good and evil would fight to the finish. Good would win. All our questions would be answered. Problems would be solved. All bad things would be made right. John understood this. Evil may keep on. But God will win in the end.

**The Message of God (10:8-10)**

John was told to take the book. It was not just given to him. He had to take it. God's revelation is never forced on people. God's messengers must be willing. They must be willing to do God's will. They must ask for God's will.

Read Ezekiel 3:1, 3. There was a special way to teach Jewish boys. A mixture of honey and flour was used to write on a slate. If a boy learned a letter, he could lick the letter off the slate. The letters were like honey to his mouth.

John added another idea to this. The book was sweet and bitter to him. A servant of God is happy to get a message from God. It is sweet. To be chosen as a messenger of God is sweet. But the message from God may be a warning. It may tell of something bad which is to come. The message may be a bitter thing. John was glad to learn the secrets of heaven. He was sad to explain about the terrible times that were coming. Sweetness and bitterness are mixed together for the messenger of God.

**The House of God (11:1-2)**

John spoke of the "House of God." But he was not speaking of a real house. The temple in Jerusalem was torn down twenty years before. John was using symbols to tell his

message. His message had another meaning.

Christians are called living stones. They are built into a spiritual house. The church of God is built on a foundation. That foundation was laid by the missionaries and the early preachers. Jesus is the cornerstone. The whole church is growing into a holy temple in the Lord. Read Ephesians 2:20-21.

### **Time of Terror (11:3-12)**

The time of terror would last forty-two months. The witnesses would preach for twelve hundred and sixty days. Their dead bodies would lie in the street for three and one-half days. **Scholars** think the two witnesses are Elijah and Moses. Elijah was thought to be the greatest of the prophets. Moses was the great giver of the laws.

The things said about them fit no one else. These two came to Jesus in Mark 9:4. Moses turned water into blood when he sent plagues on Egypt. Elijah shut up the heavens so that no rain fell on the earth. It seems likely that John was thinking of Elijah and Moses.

### **“Come up here!” (11:12-15)**

The two men spoke God's message. Then God told them to come up to heaven. They had faithfully told God's message. John compared Jerusalem to Sodom and

Egypt. These were sinful place. Jerusalem had killed Jesus. Jerusalem would also rejoice at the death of His witnesses.

After the men went up to heaven, there was an earthquake. It ruined one-tenth of the city. Seven thousand of the people died. Many people who still lived changed their minds. They believed in God. This is like the story of the Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus' victory over death was not a forceful victory. His victory came through suffering and death. People must accept suffering for the name of Christ. They must wait for God's justice.

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### **Revelation 10:1-7; 11:1-15**

**1** Then I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven covered with a cloud. He had many colors around his head. His face was like the sun. His feet were like long flames of fire. **2** He had in his hand a little book that was open. The angel put his right foot on the sea. He put his left foot on the land. **3** He cried with a loud voice like the sound of a lion. The seven thunders sounded. **4** I was ready to write when the seven thunders had spoken. Then I heard the voice from heaven saying, 'Lock up the things which the seven thunders have spoken. Do not write them!'

**5** Then the strong angel that I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted his right hand to heaven. **6** He made a promise in the name of God Who lives forever, Who made the heaven

and the earth and the sea and everything in them. He promised that there will be no more waiting. **7** And when the seventh angel blows his horn, God will put His secret plan into action. It will be done just as He told it to the early preachers, His servants.

### 11:1-15

**1** I was given a stick that is used to see how big things are. Someone said, 'Go up to the house of God and find out how big it is. Find out about the altar also. See how many people are worshipping. **2** Do not find out about the porch of the house of God. It has been given over to the nations who do not know God. They will walk over all the Holy City to wreck it for forty months. **3** I will give power to my two men who tell what they know. They will speak for God for 1,260 days (forty months). They will be dressed in clothes made from the hair of animals.'

**4** These two men who tell what they know are the two olive trees and the two lights that stand before the Lord of the earth. **5** If anyone hates them and tries to hurt them, fire comes out of the mouths of these two men. The fire kills those who try to hurt them. **6** They have power to shut up the sky. During the time they speak for God, there will be no rain. They have power to change all waters into blood. They can send every kind of trouble to the earth whenever they want to.

**7** When they have finished speaking for God, the wild animal will make war with them. It will come up out of the hole without a bottom. This wild animal will have power over them and kill them. **8** Their dead bodies will lie in the street of Jerusalem. It is where their Lord

was nailed to a cross. The city is sometimes called Sodom and Egypt. **9** For three-and-one days those from every people and from every family and from every language and from every nation will look at their dead bodies. People will not allow the dead bodies of these two men to be put in a grave. **10** Those who are living on the earth will be happy because of the death of these two men. They will do things to show they are happy. They will send gifts to each other. They will do this because these two men brought much trouble and suffering to the people of the earth.

**11** After three-and-one days, life from God came into them again. They stood on their feet. Those who saw them were very much afraid.

**12** Then the two men who told what they knew heard a loud voice from heaven. It said, 'Come up here.' And they went up to heaven in a cloud. All those who hated them watched them go. **13** At the same time the earth shook. One-tenth part of the buildings of the city fell down. Seven thousand people were killed. The rest of the people were afraid and gave honor to the God of heaven.

**14** The second time of trouble is past. But look, the third time of trouble is coming soon.

**15** The seventh angel blew his horn. There were loud voices in heaven saying, 'The nations of the world have become the holy nation of our Lord and of His Christ. He will be the Leader forever.'

# ◊ Revelation ◊



Adult Bible Study  
in Simplified English

Scenes of Conflict and  
Judgment  
(Revelation 12-14)

## **Lesson 8**

Fighting the Powers of  
Evil (Revelation 12:1-6;  
13:1-4, 11-18)

## **Lesson 9**

Judgment on the Powers  
of Evil  
(Revelation 14:1-13)

## SCENES OF CONFLICT AND JUDGMENT

**T**hese scriptures seem hard for us to understand. We must remember that John wrote for people who faced many troubles. They were very afraid. Many people wanted to hurt the Christians. John wrote in a sort of code to protect the people from dangerous enemies. He did this so that non-Christians would not understand what he was saying.

Christians knew what John was saying. John wanted them to understand the hard things that were happening to them. He wanted them to be prepared to face the dangerous future. He wanted them to remember that God was with them in the middle of all their trials.

John told the people that God would bring punishment on their enemies. John's writings helped the people to keep their faith strong. It gave them confidence that God would have the final victory.

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*These lessons in Revelation were written by Carolyn Cree of Fort Worth, Texas. Carolyn has been a teacher and director of international programs since 1971. She is the author of the book Beyond the Golden Door: A Layman's Ministry to International Families. She and her husband, Dick, are members of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.*



Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English

### Bible Text

Revelation 12:1-6;  
13:1-4, 11-18

### Memory Verse

“Now is when God’s people must have faith and not give up.”  
(Revelation 13:10b)

### Word List

**zodiac:** an imaginary belt of the heavens. It showed the paths of the sun and moon.

**pagan:** a person who is not a Christian

**wilderness:** a forest or desert

**persecution:** to try to drive away a people because of their religion

**Satan:** another name for the devil

# Fighting the Powers of Evil

## The Woman and the Dragon (Revelation 12:1-2)

John drew his vision from many things. The woman was dressed with the sun. The moon was under her feet. She had a crown on her head. The crown had twelve stars. John got part of his picture from the Old Testament. He took part of his picture from the Greek culture. They thought their goddesses wore crowns. Their crowns had the twelve signs of the **zodiac**. He combined all the images of beauty he understood. He used them to describe the woman in this passage. Who was this woman? Who was this child? The child was probably Jesus. The woman was probably his mother, Mary.

Jesus Christ came to earth in Israel. The people John was talking to were God’s people in Israel. They were the chosen ones after Christ’s death on earth. Perhaps the woman stood for the chosen people of God. That group of people went through much suffering. The world was against them. There are people today who suffer because they believe in Jesus.

There are forces of evil active in our lives today. There are those who would destroy God’s church. Many are against God’s people. But God’s people will win in the end.

## The Dragon (12:3-4)

Is there a worse picture than this dragon? This was a great red animal. It had seven heads and ten horns. In the country of Babylon there was a **pagan** religion. Pagans told stories of a great dragon. This dragon fought the God of light and order. John

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What reasons do Christians have to hope in God?
2. Do you know someone who has been faithful in spite of persecution? Who?
3. Would John's message give you strength to carry on in the face of many troubles?

got his picture from old **pagan** stories. The people knew about these religions and their stories. The Old Testament talks about dragons many times.

The dragon had seven crowns and ten horns. This showed its mighty power. It had power against the kingdom of God. Read Daniel 8:10. The picture of the dragon waiting to eat the child comes from Jeremiah 51:34.

**Saving the Child (12:5)**

Read Psalm 2:9. People have always believed this verse tells of the coming Messiah. When the child was born, He was taken up to heaven. As John told it, Jesus went from his birth straight up to heaven. There was no talk of His life on earth.

John was interested in the fact that Jesus Christ was saved. The people who crucified Him could not kill Him. He was saved by the action and power of God. John was not interested in telling of Jesus' life on earth. He wanted to tell about the living Christ. He wanted to tell about the Christ who rose from death. Christ could save His people in that terrible time.

**The Mother Is Saved (12:6)**

By the help of God, the mother was saved from the dragon. She escaped to a place where she had food. She was cared for. She stayed there for three and one-half years.

John recalled times that Christians fled into the desert. They fled into the **wilderness** to escape **persecution**. Jesus told His disciples to flee to the mountains when they saw the worst persecution coming. That is what they did.

We can see that the dragon was really the devil. The dragon could not kill the woman. He tried to find the rest of the Christians. The devil wanted to fight those who obeyed the Lord. He wanted to fight those who obeyed the teachings of Jesus.

### **The Two Beasts (13:1-18)**

**Satan** came to earth. When he came, he was full of rage. He knew his time on earth was short. He wanted to do as much damage as he could. So he gave power to the two beasts in this chapter. Satan used these two beasts to hurt God's people.

The first beast from the sea stands for the Roman Empire. John thought the Roman Empire was full of evil. The Roman Empire was savage and cruel. This is why John called it a beast.

The beast is described in Daniel 7:3-7. Jewish people remembered these descriptions. It was a picture of another empire like Satan's. John's description has only one beast. He thought the Roman Empire was terrible enough to be only one beast.

The Romans believed that their rulers were gods. They wanted everyone to

worship the rulers. Of course, the Christians could not do this.

The second beast was from the land. It was in charge of Caesar worship. Every person was forced to say, "Caesar is Lord." Christians knew no other Lord but God. They could not do as the Romans wanted. This caused persecution and death to every loyal Christian.

Two savage beasts---the might of Rome and Caesar worship---attacked the Christians. What hope did they have? They were poor outlaws. They had no hope against the power of Rome.

Those who worshiped Caesar were marked on their right hands and foreheads. Devout Jews had similar marks. They wore little boxes on their heads and hands. The boxes held scriptures. To Christians, the mark of the beast was a terrible thing. It made fun of the old Jewish custom.

The number 666 has a meaning. Remember that John's message was in code. Most scholars think this number stands for the emperor Nero. He was evil through and through. John saw Nero returning to this world.

**Revelation 12:1-6**

**1** Something very special was seen in heaven. A woman was there dressed with the sun. The moon was under her feet. A crown with twelve stars in it was on her head. **2** She was about to become a mother. She cried out with pain waiting for the child to be born. **3** Something else special was seen in heaven. A large snake-like animal was there. It was red and had seven heads and ten horns. There was a crown on each head. **4** With his tail he pulled one part of the stars out of heaven. He threw them down to the earth. This snake animal stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth to her child. He was waiting to eat her child as soon as it was born. **5** Then the woman gave birth to a son. He is to be the leader of the world using a piece of iron. But this child was taken away to God and His throne. **6** The woman ran away into the desert. God had made the place ready for her. He will care for her there 1,260 days.

**13:1-4**

**1** I stood on the sand by the sea-shore. There I saw a wild animal coming up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns with a crown on each horn. There were names on each head that spoke bad words against God. **2** The wild animal I saw was covered with spots. It had feet like those of a bear. It had a mouth like that of a lion. The snake-like animal gave this wild animal his own power and his own throne as king. The wild animal was given much power. **3** One of the heads of the wild animal looked as if it had been killed. But the bad cut given to kill him was healed. The whole world was surprised and wondered about this, and they followed after the wild animal. **4** They worshiped the snake-like

animal for giving this wild animal such power. And they worshiped this wild animal. They said, "Who is like this wild animal? Who can fight against it?"

**13:11-18**

**11** Then I saw another wild animal coming out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb. His voice was like that of the snake-like animal. **12** He used the power of the first wild animal who was there with him. He made all the people on earth worship the first wild animal who had received the bad cut to kill him but was healed. **13** The second wild animal did great powerful works. It spoke and made those who did not worship the first wild animal to be killed. **14** He fooled the men of the earth by doing powerful works. He did these things in front of the first wild animal. He told those who live on the earth to make a god that looks like the first wild animal. The first wild animal was the one that was cut by the sword but lived. **15** The second wild animal was given power to give life to the false god. This false god was the one that was made to look like the first wild animal. It was given power to talk. All those who did not worship it would die. **16** The second wild animal made every person have a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. It was given to important men and to those not important, to rich men and poor men, to those who are free and to those who are servants. **17** No one could buy or sell anything unless he had the mark on him. This mark was the name of the first wild animal or another way to write his name. **18** This is wisdom. Let the person who has good understanding learn the meaning of the other way to write the name of the first wild animal. This name is a man's name. It is 666.



*Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 14:1-13

### **Memory Verse**

“Then I saw another angel flying in the Heavens. He was carrying the Good News that lasts forever. He was preaching to every nation and to every family group and to the people of every language and to all the people of the earth.”  
(Revelation 14:6)

### **Word List**

**eternity:** time without beginning or end  
**tsunami:** a destructive tidal wave

# Judgment on the Powers of Evil

When my daughters were young, I wanted them to obey. I tried to make it easier for them to obey. If I made a hard rule, I gave them a reward for obeying. For instance, I said, “You must not leave the yard.” Then I said, “If you obey, I will take you to the park later.”

John knew it was hard for the early Christians to obey God. They faced many troubles. After telling about the hard times they would face, John focused on the reward of obedience. The hard things were like a bad storm. John wanted the Christians to know the storm would pass. After the storm, Christians would face the bright morning of **eternity**. In these chapters, John tells Christians what happens after Christ defeats Satan. John’s writings gave the Christians hope.

### **Jesus on Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1)**

John saw 144,000 people standing near Jesus on the mountain. The number was a symbol of the many people who believed in Jesus. It meant all the people God had saved. It meant all those who had been faithful through their trials and testing.

The people were marked with the names of God and Jesus on their foreheads. In those days a mark on the forehead could mean several things. It could stand for ownership. Often slaves were branded with their owner’s name. These people belonged to God. The mark could stand for loyalty. These people had proved their loyalty to God. The mark could stand for security. God’s

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Why did Christians think about punishment for their enemies?
2. How can knowing God's promises help us today?
3. What reward do Christians have for following God faithfully?

people were secure in life and death. The mark could also stand for dependence. The people who were God's people depended on Him. They were dependent on God's love and grace.

The mark, or brand, is a very old custom. Those who belong to God still wear His brand. We do not have physical marks on our foreheads. But we are marked by God's work in our lives. He owns us. Do other people know that you belong to God? Can they tell by the way you talk? By the way you treat others? By the way you live your life?

**God's Voice (14:2-3)**

John said three things about the voice of God. First, it was like the sound of rushing waters. Think of the **tsunami**. It is a powerful wave. Nothing built by men can withstand it. Second, God's voice was like great thunder. Thunder was one sound that must be heard. We cannot close our ears against thunder. Third, God's voice was like music. Music calms the troubled heart. It calms the troubled hearts of God's faithful people.

The people of God were singing a new song. They had learned this song because they had to suffer. They had been loyal. They were growing closer and closer to God.

**Three Angels (14:9-12)**

The first angel came to tell people to worship God. Before the end of time, the gospel will be preached to all nations. Read Matthew 24:14. The earth will have a final chance to accept God.

The second angel said that Rome would fall. In John's revelation, Rome was called Babylon. Read Jeremiah 51:7. A

nation that forgets moral laws must fall. A nation that accepts sin will fall. It cannot escape God's anger.

The third angel came with the worst warning of all. God's church could not exist if Christians failed to hold to the faith. For the church to live, Christians must be ready to die. They must face suffering. They must be ready to die for their faith.

It seems strange to us today to think about the terrible punishments of non-Christians. It may not seem right. But we have not lived in the terrible times those Christians lived in. We cannot know just how the early Christians felt.

The faithfulness of the early Christians was important. If a Christian gave up his faith, it was a terrible thing. It was necessary that a Christian be willing to die first. We should not wonder that they thought about God's terrible judgment. God's judgment would fall on those who were God's enemies.

Today, we do not even think about dying for our faith. In our times, we need to think of living for our faith. Every day, in every way, we must live for Jesus.

### **Rest for the Weary (14:13)**

After John told about the terrible things to come, he spoke of a gracious promise. Now, Christians would have a very hard time. Later, they would have their reward. Those who stayed with Christ would be His faithful, loving people. They would not be separated from the Savior they loved. They would be His forever.

God's promise was one of rest. The faithful would rest after all their troubles. Rest is wonderful when it has been earned. There is no doubt that rest is sweet when one has been through great trials.

Think of the joy of being with Jesus. Today, we should try to live as Jesus would want us to live. We will come to the end of life. If we live for Jesus, we can rest in Him.

**Revelation 14:1-13**

**1** Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. There were 144,000 people with Him. These people had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** I heard a voice coming from heaven. It was like the sound of rushing water and of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like people playing music on their harps. **3** This large group sang a new song. They sang before the throne and in front of the four living beings and the twenty-four leaders. Only the 144,000 could learn this song. They had been bought by the blood of Christ and made free from the earth. **4** These are men who have kept themselves pure by not being married. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been bought by the blood of Christ and have been made free from among men. They are the first ones to be given to God and to the Lamb. **5** No lie has come from their mouths. They are without blame.

**6** Then I saw another angel flying in the heavens. He was carrying the Good News that lasts forever. He was preaching to every nation and to every family group and to the people of every language and to all the people of the earth. **7** He said with a loud voice, 'Honor God with love and fear. The time has come for Him to judge all men. Worship Him Who made heaven and earth and the sea and the places where water

comes out of the earth.'

**8** A second angel followed, saying, 'Babylon has fallen! The great city Babylon has fallen! She made all the nations drink of the wine of her sinful sex life.'

**9** A third angel followed, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the wild animal and his false god and receives a mark on his forehead or hand, **10** he will drink of the wine of the anger of God. It is mixed in full strength in the cup of God's anger. They will be punished with fire and burning sulphur in front of the holy angels and before the Lamb. **11** The smoke of those who are being punished will go up forever. They have no rest day or night. It is because they have worshiped the wild animal and his false god and have received the mark of his name. **12** This is why God's people need to keep true to God's Word and stay faithful to Jesus.

**13** Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write these words: 'From now on those who are dead who died belonging to the Lord will be happy.'" 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will have rest from all their work. All the good things they have done will follow them.'

# ◊ Revelation ◊

## Unit 4

Adult Bible Study  
in Simplified English

Revealing the Victory  
(Revelation 15-22)

### Lesson 10

The Bowls—Vindication  
of God’s Way  
(Revelation 15:1-8;  
16:12-21)

### Lesson 11

“Fallen Is Babylon the  
Great”  
(Revelation 17:1-6a;  
18:1-8)

### Lesson 12

King of Kings and Lord  
of Lords  
(Revelation 19:11-20:10)

### Lesson 13

All Things New  
(Revelation 21:1-8;  
22:1-7, 16-17)

## REVEALING THE VICTORY

**I**n this world all things are not right. We see evil every day. John’s revelation is an important reminder to us. God’s people can rejoice knowing that God’s way is the right way.

Many things can distract us from God’s way. Wealth and power often take God’s place in our lives. Those who worship wealth and power will be judged. Our worship belongs to God.

Christians must always remember that Christ has conquered death and sin. He will conquer Satan, too. Christians must always worship Christ. Christ will have the final victory. Through Him, God will make everything new. For Christians, all things will be good again. We must live according to God’s right ways.

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Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English

### Bible Text

Revelation 15:1-8;  
16:12-21

### Memory Verse

“Who will not honor you, Lord, with love and fear? Who will not tell of the greatness of your name? For You are the One Who is holy. All nations will come and worship before You. Everyone sees that You do the right things.”  
(Revelation 15:4)

### Word List

**martyrs:** people who die standing up for their faith in Christ

**just:** right and good

**royalty:** kings, queens and other monarchs

**verdict:** a judgment about one’s innocence or guilt

# The Bowls—Vindication of God’s Way

Vindication is a big word. It means to justify. It means to prove that something is right. In this case, it means to prove God’s way is right. The early Christians had to go through terrible times. John’s vision proved their suffering was for God’s way. His vision showed that Christians would win the victory over death.

### **John’s Vision (Revelation 15:1-2)**

John saw another sign of things to come. He saw seven angels. They would bring seven punishments to non-believers. These would be God’s final acts toward the unbelievers.

For a moment, John looked again at the many people who would die for Jesus. He saw a sea that looked like glass. There was fire mixed with the glass. It was a scene of worship. It was a picture of God’s majesty and glory. It was God’s glory in a rainbow of color. The Christians had harps to help them worship.

The people on the sea were **martyrs**. They had died for their faith. They had won over the beasts. This happened because of their faithful testimony to Christ.

### **The Song of Moses (15:3-4)**

The martyrs sang a song to God and Jesus. It was much like the song Moses sang in Exodus 15. Read these verses. Moses’ song was about the time God saved the Jews from Egypt. They were slaves, but God freed them. This history became, for Jews, a sign of God’s **just** rule over the world.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Why do you suppose the people were so stubborn?
2. Would you have changed your mind about God after all these troubles?
3. How do you think the Christians felt after they read John’s writings?

These verses tell more about God’s judgment. The last part of the song repeats the Old Testament. The prophets talked about the end of time. They said that all the nations would accept God as Lord.

John also talked about God’s anger. God was angry about what the Romans were doing to the Christians. God’s anger is shown as the seven angels got out their seven jars of trouble.

**Five Jars (15:5-8; 16:1-11))**

John saw seven angels coming out of God’s holy place. This was the place where the Law of God rested. The angels were coming out to show that God’s Law must be obeyed. The angels were dressed in shining white robes. They had gold belts. They were dressed like the high priests. Kings wore white robes and gold belts. These angels represented God’s **royalty**. God is the only true king. God’s angels had come to deliver God’s **verdict** on the people who did not follow Him.

A gold jar was given to each angel. Each angel poured out his jar. The first jar gave bad sores to anyone who had worshiped the false god. The second jar poured out blood on the sea. Everything in the sea died. Rivers turned to blood when the third jar was emptied.

The fourth angel poured out God’s anger from the sun. The heat burned many men. These men still did not turn to God. They were not sorry for their sins. Darkness was in the fifth’s angel’s jar. Darkness was over all Rome. The people were angry with God. They still did not repent. They were not sorry for their sins.

### **The Sixth Jar (16:12-16)**

The sixth angel dried up the Euphrates River. Then John saw three demons. Demons went over the land. The demons were to bring the kings of the earth together. They would be ready to fight God.

In the Old Testament, waters dried up many times. Read Exodus 14:21. Then read Jeremiah 51:36. In this case, God would dry up the waters of the Euphrates. Great numbers of people from the east could cross over. They could enter Israel because the river was dry.

John used a picture all people of his day could understand. The Parthians were Rome's greatest enemy. They lived beyond the Euphrates River. They had the best fighting men in the world. Just thinking of the Parthians would make everyone afraid. John described something that everyone would understand. They believed that the Parthians would come. They could come because the river dried up. They would destroy everything. It would be the final battle between the forces of good and evil.

### **The Seventh Jar (16:17-21)**

The earth shook as the seventh angel

poured out his jar. There was lightning and thunder. Rome split into three parts. Other cities were destroyed. Islands went into the sea. No mountains could be found. Pieces of hail fell. The hail was the size of a large child.

Nature was at war with mankind. What John described was an earthquake. Read Exodus 9:24. Many times in the Old Testament God sent an earthquake. It was a terrible warning. The last jar set all of nature against man. John's picture shows what happens when people sin.

The angels emptied their seven jars. God's anger poured out on the earth. The people who suffered these things were stubborn. They did not respond to the love of God. They were not moved by His anger. The saddest thing on earth is when people reject God. He has left the decision up to us. We can turn our hearts against Him. Or, we can follow Him gladly.

### Revelation 15:1-8

**1** Then I saw something else special in heaven that was great and made me wonder. There were seven angels with the seven last kinds of trouble. With these, God's anger is finished.

**2** Then I saw something that looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. I saw many standing on the sea of glass. They were those who had won their fight with the wild animal and his false god and with his mark. All of them were holding harps that God had given to them. **3** They were singing the song of Moses, who was a servant owned by God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'The things You do are great and powerful. You are the All Lord God. You are always right and true in everything You do. You are King of all nations. **4** Who will not honor You, Lord, with love and fear? Who will not tell of the greatness of Your name? For You are the only One Who is holy. All nations will come and worship before You. Everyone sees that You do the right things.'

**5** After this I looked and saw that the Holiest Place of All in the house of God was opened. **6** The seven angels who had the seven last kinds of trouble came out of the house of God. They were wearing clothes made of clean white linen. They were wearing belts made of gold around their chests. **7** Then one of the four living beings gave to each of the seven angels a jar made of gold. These jars were filled with the anger of God Who lives forever. **8** The house of God was filled with smoke from the shining-greatness and power of God. No one was able to go into the house of God until the seven angels had

completed the seven kinds of trouble.

### 16:12-21

**12** The sixth angel poured out his jar of God's anger onto the great Euphrates River. The water dried up. In this way, the kings of the countries of the east could cross over.

**13** Then I saw three demons that looked like frogs. They came out of the mouths of the snake animal and the second wild animal and the false preacher. **14** These are demons that do powerful works. These demons go to all the kings of all the earth. They bring them together for the war of the great day of the All God.

**15** (See! I will come like a robber. The man is happy who stays awake and keeps his clothes ready. He will not be walking around without clothes and be ashamed.) **16** Then the demons brought the kings together in the place called Armageddon in the Hebrew language.

**17** The seventh angel poured out his jar of God's anger into the air. A loud voice came from the throne in the house of God, saying, 'It is all done!' **18** Then there were voices and lightning and thunder and the earth shook. The earth shook much more than it had ever shaken before. **19** The big and strong city of Babylon was split in three parts. The cities of other nations fell to the ground. Then God remembered the strong city of Babylon. He made her drink the wine from His cup of much anger.

**20** Every island went down into the sea. No mountain could be found. **21** Large pieces of hail fell from heaven on men. These pieces were about as heavy as an older child. But men called God bad names because of so much trouble from the hail.



*Adult Bible Study in  
Simplified English*

### **Bible Text**

Revelation 17:1-6a;  
18:1-8

### **Memory Verse**

“ These kings will fight and make war with the Lamb. But the Lamb will win the war because He is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. His people are the called and chosen and faithful ones.”  
(Revelation 17:14)

### **Word List**

**prostitute:** a woman who uses sex for money

**influence:** to move a country or person to some action

# “Fallen Is Babylon the Great”

In our last lesson we studied about seven angels and seven jars. This lesson has to do with the jar of the seventh angel. It is more about the same subject. There are two main parts---the woman and the beast.

Remember, John’s revelation was written in code. Christians were under attack. They could not have writings that the Romans understood. John used words that Christians understood. For instance, he wrote about Babylon. Babylon meant Rome. He wrote about a woman. This meant Rome, too.

## **Babylon and Rome (Revelation 17:1-2)**

An angel invited John to watch God’s judgment on the Babylon. Babylon was sitting on the many waters of the world. The waters were the many peoples and nations Rome ruled. This represented Rome and her great empire. In ancient times, Rome was great. It is still great today. It will be great in the future.

John described the kings of the earth. The kings of the earth had sexual experience with the **prostitute**. John meant the people of the world had become sinful. They were filled with the things of this world. They were filled with power and pride and violence and false worship.

Read Jeremiah 51:7. John was remembering cities of the Old Testament. A bad woman was often used as the symbol of Israel in these passages. She represented foreign people who believed in idols. The woman forgot God’s love. She chose idols instead of God.

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. Why did John write in code?
2. Should we still “come out” today?
3. How do you show people that you are a Christian?

**The Woman and the Red Beast (17:3-6a)**

The Spirit took John to a desert. There he saw the woman seated on a beast. The beast was red. This meant the beast was full of sins. In John’s writings, faithful, true believers were always dressed in white.

The beast was an animal with seven heads and ten horns. He was the same beast found in chapters twelve and thirteen. Remember, John was still talking about Rome.

The woman had beautiful clothes. She was rich but not pure. The beauty of her gold and jewels made her look beautiful. Her beauty led men to do bad things.

The woman held a golden cup. The cup was full of sinful things. Notice how a thing of beauty held a cup of sin. Rome was a city of beauty. It led much of the world into sin.

The woman had a name on her forehead. This was a Roman custom. A prostitute wore a sign on her head that told her name. This was a sign given to all Roman prostitutes. John was building up a picture of Rome. Rome was corrupting all nations.

This mother prostitute shed the blood of Jesus’ followers. This was the same prostitute who killed God’s saints through history. Early Christian readers would understand that the mother prostitute was Rome.

The Christians were facing the power of Rome. Rome had caused horror and death for many Christians. Rome had enjoyed Christians’ horrible and bloody deaths. The end was coming. God was about to judge and destroy Rome.

### **The Fall of Rome (18:1-3)**

An angel came down in John’s vision. The angel was full of power. His voice could be heard all over the world. He said that Babylon was destroyed. The ancient city of Babylon was a wicked city. That city had fallen. This new Babylon, Rome, would also fall.

Evil spirits watched over fallen Babylon like night birds waiting for food. They built their nests in broken buildings in the ashes of the city. The city had become a wasted land.

Babylon fell because of its bad **influence** on other nations. Babylon led nations, kings and businessmen into sin. The people of Babylon wanted more and more. There was much wealth. This caused pride. The people were sunk in sinful ways.

### **Come Out! (18:4-5)**

Christians were told to come out of Rome before the city was destroyed. If they stayed in Rome, they would share in her doom. If they shared her sins, they would share her ruin.

God calls out to us to stop our sinning. He wants us to come out. He

wants us to stand with Him. In Genesis 12:1 God told Abraham to come out of his country. The Lord told Lot to leave Sodom and Gomorrah before they were destroyed. Read Genesis 19:12-14.

“Come out!” This cry explained a Christian’s life. The Christian was not like other people. He or she was different. A Christian was a person who chose to serve the Lord. He or she lived differently from the people of the world. God still calls on Christians to come out of the world. We are to live for Jesus.

### **Rome is Guilty (18:6-8)**

These next scriptures talk about the punishment of Rome. They did not mean Christians should rise up against Rome. These verses told the angel what to do. The angel was to do God’s justice. People must not take the law into their own hands. In Jewish justice, people had to repay wrongs twice. Read Jeremiah 50:29. It is true that punishment follows sin. It is also true that people still choose to sin. Sometimes, a person’s sin causes bad consequences.

Rome’s great sin was pride. Pride always goes before a fall.

### Revelation 17:1-6

**1** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. **2** With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

**3** Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. **5** This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. **6** I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

### 18:1-8

**1** Then I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had much power. The earth was made bright with his shining-

greatness. **2** He cried out with a loud voice, 'The big and powerful city of Babylon is destroyed. Demons and every kind of unclean spirit live there. Unclean birds that are hated are there. **3** For she gave her wine to the nations of the world. It was the wine of her desire for sex sins. The kings of the earth have done these sex sins with her. The men of the earth who buy and sell have become rich from the riches she received while living in sin.'

**4** I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out from her, my people. Do not be a part of her sins so you will not share her troubles. **5** For her sins are as high as heaven. God is ready to punish her for her sins. **6** Pay her back for what she has paid you. Give back to her twice as much for what she has done. In her own cup give her twice as much as she gave. **7** Give her as much trouble and suffering as the fun and the rich living she chose for herself. In her heart she says, 'I sit here like a queen. I am not a woman whose husband has died. I will never have sorrow.' **8** Because of this, troubles of death and sorrow and no food will come to her in one day. She will be burned with fire. For the Lord God is powerful. He is the One Who says she is guilty.



*Adult Bible Study in  
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### Bible Text

Revelation 19:11-  
20:10

### Memory Verse

“ On His coat and on His leg are written, ‘King of Kings and Lord of Lords.’”  
(Revelation 19:16)

### Word List

**battle:** can be a verb or a noun. To battle is to fight. A battle is a fight.

**salvation:** being saved or protected

# King of Kings and Lord of Lords

## **The Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11)**

These chapters describe the final fight between the Lord and the powers of darkness. Revelation looks forward to this fight. John saw the heavens opening. John saw Christ seated on a white horse. Jesus had come to do **battle** with the beast. He was to battle the false prophet.

The white horse of Christ was the symbol of victory. Read Revelation 6:2. The Jews had dreams of a fighting Messiah. He would beat God’s enemies. Roman generals always rode on a white horse when they won a battle. This was the sign of a victory.

This is a different description of Christ. We should notice that Christ was not meek and lowly. The Jewish Christians looked for one who would fight for them. They needed God’s help to save them from their enemies.

Jesus’ name was “Faithful and True.” Faithful means to be trusted. It meant that His word could always be trusted. Jesus never said a false word. He always spoke the truth. He always told the honest truth about real life.

Christ was to judge those who hurt His people. Jews knew about false judges. There were many who were not honest. Wars were fought because some rulers were greedy. But the judgments of Christ would be just. His powers would be honest.

## **Description of Christ (19:12-16)**

Read Revelation 1:14 and 2:28. Jesus had eyes of flaming fire. That fire stood for the power of Christ. On His head He had many crowns. This seems strange to us. It was not unusual for that time. A king might wear more than one crown. It showed

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What does it mean to know that Christ will have the final victory?
2. What part of John's writings are most encouraging to you?
3. What should we do when we feel attacked or persecuted?

that he was king of more than one country. The many crowns on Jesus' head showed that He was Lord of every country.

We do not know what His unknown name was. We know His love. We have His **salvation**. We can ask for His help. But we can never understand everything about Him. We do not need to know everything about Him. We can only worship Him.

Jesus' robe was dipped in blood. This was not the blood of the crucified Christ. It was the blood of His enemies. Read Isaiah 63:1-3. This gave the picture of the warrior. Christ would kill His enemies. Again, this was the picture the Jews expected. This picture is different than the one we often think about.

John said that Jesus' name was "The Word of God." This meant that all action was the power of God's Word. God created the world with words. He gave the word of judgment. He gave the word of promise. All God's words were in Christ. In Jesus, all the words of God came true.

John saw more about the warrior Christ. He had with Him the armies of heaven. Read Matthew 26:53. When Jesus was arrested, He said He could call many angels to fight for Him. The armies of heaven were great numbers of angels. They were ready to fight for God.

A sharp sword came out of Jesus' mouth. Remember that this prophecy was built on Jewish beliefs. Much of it came from the Old Testament. Read Isaiah 11:4. Then read Psalm 1:9. John used the terrible things of the Old Testament in his writing. He saw those things in the warrior Christ. John describes of the winepress where Jesus is stamping on the grapes. Jesus produced the wine of God's anger. His enemies would drink the wine and die.

We are not sure where Jesus' title was written. It probably was written on His robe. It could be seen as He rode His white horse. The name called Him the greatest of all lords. It called Him the greatest of all rulers. He is the only true King.

### **The Terrible End (19:17-21)**

John again used a terrible image. The vultures and other birds were invited to come from every direction. They were to eat the flesh of those killed. Read Ezekiel 39:17-20. Here again this terrible picture comes from the Old Testament scriptures. It is not like our picture of Jesus in the gospel.

The beast was Nero come back to life again. The false prophet stood for those who encouraged Caesar worship. The people with the mark of the beast worshiped Caesar. They were waiting for Caesar to lead them to fight the world.

All the enemies of God were ready to fight. But Christ would win the battle. The beast would be thrown into the lake of fire. All his armies would be killed.

### **A Thousand Years (20:1-10)**

Satan was sealed in the pit. He would be there for 1,000 years. He could not lie to the nations anymore. This was all in God's plan. John did not say that Satan could not lie at all. He could not lie to nations. But he could still lie to people.

After 1,000 years, many people would fight for Satan. When the 1,000 years were over, Satan would be released. He would gather his friends. He would fight the Lord. But he could not win.

Living for Christ was a costly thing. Those who had been faithful deserved a

reward. Death had no power over them. Dying for Jesus was not a thing to be feared. Christians were given everlasting life. They would be near God. They had the privilege of bringing others to God. They received these gifts from Jesus Christ. They were His own.

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### **Revelation 19:11-21**

**11** Then I saw heaven opened. A white horse was standing there. The One Who was sitting on the horse is called Faithful and True. He is the One Who punishes in the right way. He makes war. **12** His eyes are a flame of fire. He has many crowns on His head. His name is written on Him but He is the only One Who knows what it says. **13** The coat He wears has been put in blood. His name is The Word of God. **14** The armies in heaven were dressed in clean, white, fine linen. They were following Him on white horses. **15** Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword to punish the nations. He will be the Leader over them using a piece of iron. He walks on the grapes where wine is made, pressing out the anger of God, the All One. **16** On His coat and on His leg is the name written, 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.'

**17** Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried out with a loud voice to all the birds flying in the sky, 'Come and gather together for the great supper of God!

**18** Come and eat the flesh of kings and of

captains of soldiers and of strong men and of the flesh of horses and of those sitting on them. Come and eat the flesh of all men, small and great. Some are free and some are not free.'

**19** Then I saw the wild animal and the kings of the earth and their armies gather together. They were ready to fight against the One Who is sitting on the white horse and against His army. **20** The wild animal was taken. The false preacher was taken with it. It was the false preacher who had done powerful works in front of the wild animal. In this way, he fooled those who had received the mark of the wild animal and those who worshiped his false god. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. **21** The rest were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the One Who sat on the horse. All the birds were filled by eating the flesh of these who were killed.

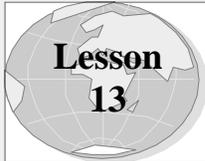
### 20:1-10

**1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had in his hand a key to the hole without a bottom. He also had a strong chain. **2** He took hold of the snake-like animal, that old snake, who is the Devil, or Satan, and chained him for 1,000 years. **3** The angel threw the devil into the hole without a bottom. He shut it and locked him in it. He could not fool the nations anymore until the 1,000 years were completed. After this he must be free for awhile.

**4** Then I saw thrones. Those who were sitting there were given the power to judge. I saw the souls of those who had been killed because they told about Jesus and preached the Word of God. They had not worshiped the wild animal or his false god. They had not received his mark on their foreheads or hands. They lived again and were leaders along with Christ for 1,000 years. **5** The rest of the dead did not come to life again until the 1,000 years were finished. This is the first time many people are raised from the dead at the same time. **6** Those who are raised from the dead during this first time are happy and holy. The second death has no power over them. They will be religious leaders of God and of Christ. They will be leaders with Him for 1,000 years.

**7** When the 1,000 years are finished, Satan will be free to leave his prison. **8** He will go out and fool the nations who are over all the world. They are Gog and Magog. He will gather them all together for war. There will be as many as the sand along the sea-shore.

**9** They will spread out over the earth and all around the place where God's people are and around the city that is loved. Fire will come down from God out of heaven and destroy them. **10** Then the devil who fooled them will be thrown into the lake of fire burning with sulphur. The wild animal and the false preacher are already there. They will all be punished day and night forever.



*Adult Bible Study in  
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### **Bible Text**

Revelation 21:1-8;  
22:1-7, 16-17

### **Memory Verse**

“ I heard a voice coming from heaven. It said, ‘See! God’s home is with men. He will live with them. They will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will be their God.’”  
(Revelation 21:3)

### **Word List**

**persecution:** being hurt for religious faith  
**destroy:** to put an end to  
**restore:** to bring back

# All Things New

My husband and I were driving down the street the other day. I saw a large sign in front of a building. The sign read: GOD IS STILL SPEAKING! I have been thinking about the sign. That is true today just like it was in John’s time. God speaks to us every day if we listen for His voice.

We have read John’s Revelation. It was written many, many years ago. It is still true today. Most Christians do not face **persecution**. Most of us will not die for our faith. Most of us live in a free world. We can worship as we please. But there are still places where it is hard to be a Christian. There are still places in our world where Satan works. This is why missionaries go all over the world. They tell about Jesus Christ.

## **All Things New (Revelation 21:1)**

John showed a picture of a new heaven and a new earth. God had made the earth a happy place for people to live. But sin and death had come into the world. Satan had made the earth full of evil.

God decided to make a new place. Sin and death would be gone. The Jewish people dreamed of this. The first heaven would pass away. A new heaven would come. The light of heaven would be brighter. The new creation would last forever. Sorrow would be forgotten. Sin would be gone forever. Darkness would be no more. God would renew His creation. And there would be no more sea.

The people in John’s time were afraid of the sea. They

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What do we learn about God from John's vision?
2. How do you feel when you know that God is still with us?
3. How can we remember God's promises every day?

thought of the sea as a place of storms and danger. The sea was an enemy. They did not know how to sail out of sight of land. They thought there were terrible beasts in the sea.

John was cut off from his friends by the sea. Remember, he was on the island of Patmos. The vision of no more sea must have been comforting to him. No more sea meant that nothing would trouble God's new heaven and earth.

**God's Home With Man (21:2-4)**

John saw a new city of Jerusalem coming down from heaven. This was an old dream. Ezekiel had a dream like this. Jerusalem was rebuilt in this dream. Read Ezekiel 40-48 in the Old Testament. The New Jerusalem would be full of precious stones. It would have open gates. The sun and moon would not be needed. The light of God would be enough light. All nations would come. They would bring gifts.

This dream shows the faith God's people had. Even when Jerusalem was **destroyed**, they were hopeful. The Jews never lost their faith that God would **restore** Jerusalem. The people knew there would be great happiness for God's faithful people.

Christians have the promise of fellowship with God. He promised to make Israel His people. This was the highest promise of all. We have a fellowship with God. Death will be gone. The prophets of long ago also dreamed this. Read Isaiah 25:8.

This was a promise for the future. We have not reached the age where there is no more sorrow. We have not reached the age when there are no more tears. We still know death. But there is victory for those who know Christ.

We have the fellowship of Jesus' suffering. We know the power of His Resurrection.

### **God Speaks (21:5-8)**

This is the first time in Revelation that God speaks. God is the one who makes all things new. Here John thought back to the old prophets. Read Isaiah 43:18-19. God is the God who can change people's lives. He can re-make a life. God will make a new world for all believers.

It was God who said He was the First and the Last. His words must be written down and remembered. They are true words. We can rely on them. Read Isaiah 44:6. God is where all things begin. He is also at the end of all things.

All this happiness is not for everyone. It is for God's faithful people. It is for those who stay pure when everything is against them. There is no greater honor. God gives this honor to those who are true to Him.

Some are condemned. They are the ones who love comfort more than Christ. They say they believe in Christ, but their actions do not show it. They are not loyal to

God. They worship false gods. They are immoral. God condemns them for these things. They will go into the lake of fire.

### **The New Jerusalem (22:1-7)**

The angel showed John a beautiful river. It was very clear. It came from the heavenly throne. There are many places in the Old Testament where waters flow. These waters show the blessings from God to all His people.

Read Genesis 3. Adam and Eve lost the Garden of Eden. Their children could not enjoy it. Here, God gives it back. The tree of life gives fruit every month. Its leaves heal. The healing leaves show that the effects of sin were gone. The tree gives life to the faithful.

John ended his vision by quoting Jesus. Jesus said, "Come!" He was talking to the Christians of John's time. They badly needed this comforting word.

Today we need to follow Christ's words, too. We need His promises as much as those early Christians. We still have troubles. Sin is still here. If we are faithful, we can rely on God's promise. He is with us always.

### Revelation 21:1-8

**1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away. There was no more sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. It was made ready like a bride is made ready for her husband. **3** I heard a loud voice coming from heaven. It said, 'See! God's home is with men. He will live with them. They will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will be their God. **4** God will take away all their tears. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All the old things have passed away.' **5** Then the One sitting on the throne said, 'See! I am making all things new. Write, for these words are true and faithful.' **6** Then He said to me, 'These things have happened! I am the First and the Last. I am the beginning and the end. To anyone who is thirsty, I will give the water of life. It is a free gift. **7** He who has power and wins will receive these things. I will be his God and he will be My son. **8** But those who are afraid and those who do not have faith and the sinful people and those who kill other people and those who do sex sins and those who follow witchcraft and those who worship false gods and all those who tell lies will be put into the lake of fire and sulphur. This is the second death.'

### 22:1-7

**1** Then the angel showed me the river

of the water of life. It was as clear as glass and came from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** It runs down the center of the street in the city. On each side of the river was the tree of life. It gives twelve different kinds of fruit. It gives this fruit twelve times a year, new fruit each month. Its leaves are used to heal the nations.

**3** There will be nothing in the city that is sinful. The place where God and the Lamb sit will be there. The servants He owns will serve Him. **4** They will see His face and His name will be written on their foreheads. **5** There will be no night there. There will be no need for a light or for the sun because the Lord God will be their light. They will be leaders forever.

**6** Then the angel said to me, 'These words are faithful and true. The Lord God of the early preachers has sent His angel to show the servants He owns what must happen soon. **7** See! I am coming soon. The one who obeys what is written in this Book is happy!'

### 22:16-17

**16** "I am Jesus. I have sent My angel to you with these words to the churches. I am the beginning of David and of his family. I am the bright Morning Star.:

**17** The Holy Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty, come. Let the one who wants to drink of the water of life, drink it. It is a free gift.