

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:10

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ
to John the Apostle**

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LESSON ONE

Author of the Book:

John (1:1,4,9,22:8)

Conclude that it was the Apostle John

Date:

@ 95 AD

Purpose of the Book:

* *To comfort* the church militant in its struggle against Satan and the forces of evil. It assures believers that they shall triumph because of God's love and care for them.

* Romans 8:37-39

Immediate purpose: to comfort the persecuted believers of Asia Minor.

Long range purpose: to comfort the believers of all time and all places.

* *To warn* all Christians against falling away from Christ and allying ourselves with the forces of Satan.

* NOTE: The purpose of Revelation is *not* to set up a time schedule which allows us to calculate the date of judgment day.

Outline of the Book:

Theme: Christ is Victorious

Introduction: Ch. 1

Part I Chapters 1-11 The struggle between the church and the world

Vision I: The Seven Letters (Ch. 2 & 3)
Vision II: The Seven Seals (Ch. 4-7)
Vision III: The Seven Trumpets (Ch. 8-11)

Part II Chapters 12-22 The struggle between Christ and Satan

Vision IV: Satan and His Agents (Ch. 12-14)
Vision V: The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (Ch. 15-16)
Vision VI: Christ's Victory over Satan's Allies (Ch. 17-19)
Vision VII: Christ's Victory over Satan (Ch. 20-22)

Conclusion: 22:8-21

Understanding the numbers in Revelation

3 = God's number

4 = The number of the Earth

7 = God's dealing with humanity

666 = Satan's attempt to be like God. A three time loser.

10 = Completeness

12, 24, 12,000, 144,000 = the Church

42 months = the NT Era

3 ½ years = the NT era

1260 days = the NT Era

Time, times and half a time = the NT era

3 ½ days = a short period at the end of the NT era

Christian Zionism

- The belief among some Christians that the return of the Jews to the Holy Land and the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 were in accordance with Bible prophecy. They look to Revelation 7:5-8 as evidence.
- Its roots can be traced back to seventeenth century England and is very popular among the protestant evangelical movement in the US.
- Why this is not correct:
 - The second return of Christ rests in human hands.
 - No where does the Bible teach this.
 - It also means Christ was "unable" to return until 1948, which is contrary to Scripture.

Interpretation of the Book

- + The book is a general outline of the struggle between Christ and the church against Satan and the world.
- + Each vision is not a consecutive episode, but the rather the entire history of the NT Church.
- + Each vision offers the same battle from a different perspective, focusing in on various other aspects.
- + The book of Revelation is written in a special form of prophecy called *apocalyptic* (Daniel, Ezekiel).
- + We interpret Revelation "literally" when we interpret the author's figurative speech figuratively, as the author himself intended it.
- + The Book of Revelation is similar in content to parables--learn what the main point is and then interpret details with reference to the main point.
- + Let Scripture interpret Scripture:
 - a. the immediate context -- the surrounding verses
 - b. the parallel sections of Revelation. Since each vision is a different view of the same battle, one vision will often clarify points which are not as plain in one of the other visions.
 - c. the parallel sections of the New Testament. Any interpretation of a passage of Revelation which contradicts the clear, direct statements of Jesus and the Apostles is obviously unacceptable.
 - d. similar Old Testament prophecies. Revelation has roots in the message and language of the prophets, especially Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah.

In this Bible Study, we will want to remember:

1. Revelation contains prophetic visions which contain many symbols that are to be taken symbolically. For example, the seven candlesticks symbolize the seven churches.
2. No passage of Scripture should be interpreted in a manner which contradicts another clear passage of Scripture.
3. Common sense and restraint are more valuable than a wild imagination.

Chapter One -- Introduction

Read vv. 1-3 Title

- * "revelation of Jesus Christ"
- * "what must soon take place"

Read vv. 4-8 Greetings to the Churches and Dedication of the Book

- * a recurring element in the book
 - a beautiful blessing for all believers (v 4)
 - a majestic description of the Almighty Savior (v 5,8)
 - a beautiful doxology of praise to Christ (v 5,6)

* "seven Spirits" (Isaiah 11:2)

1. of the Lord, 2. of wisdom, 3. of understanding, 4. of counsel, 5. of power,
6. of knowledge, 7. of the Fear of the Lord.

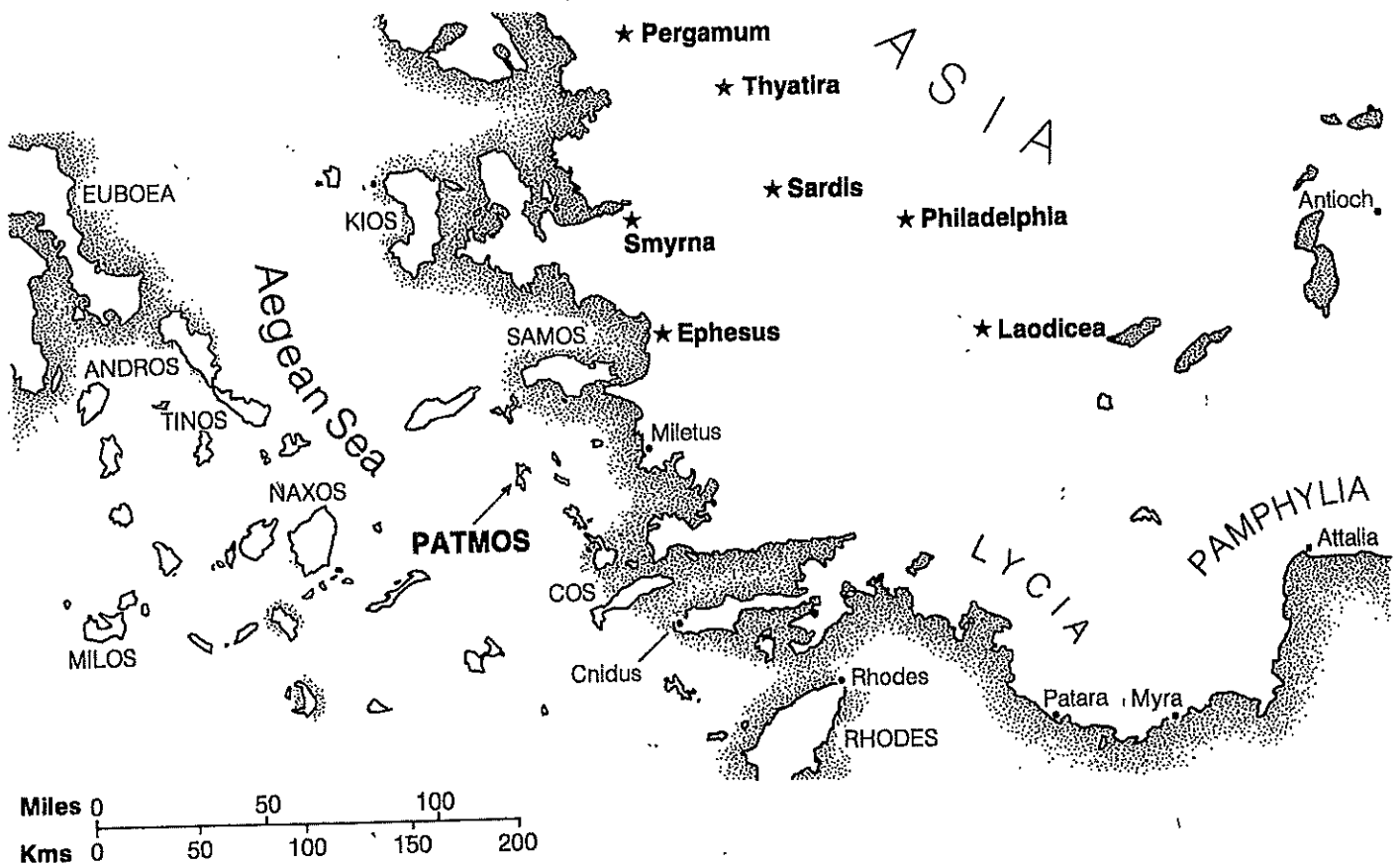
* Alpha and Omega -- first and last letters of Greek alphabet

A Ω

Read vv. 9-11 John's Commission to Write

* @ 95 AD

* John was on the island of Patmos



Read vv. 12-20 Christ Appears to the Churches

* Description of Christ

- White hair and eyes of fire
- Feet of glowing bronze
- Voice like rushing waters
- Two-edged sword
- Lampstands as symbols of the churches
- The angels of the churches

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson One.
2. Complete Lesson One worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Two by reading Chapters Two and Three.

Worksheet of Lesson One

1. The book is authored by John. Which John is this? _____
2. From what island did John through inspiration pen Revelation? _____
3. What is the two-fold purpose of Revelation? _____

4. In Revelation there are seven visions. What portion of history does each vision cover?

5. Define "apocalyptic." _____
6. In 1:3, John states that the time is near. To what time is John referring? _____

7. In 1:1, John describes the sequence from which he receives his revelation. What is this sequence? _____

8. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. What is the significance of Jesus referring to himself with this name? _____
9. In 1:12-16 John describes one "like a 'son of man'". In John's description, what is the significance of:
white hair _____
eyes of fire _____
voice like rushing waters _____
two edged sword from his mouth _____

LESSON TWO

Review

Lesson One

Outline of Book page 2

Vision I The Seven Letters--Chapters 2-3

- + Seven actual letters written to seven historical churches (see Lesson One map)
- + Seven letters represent the the whole Christian church at all times.
- + Messages are meant for us today.
- + Each letter usually contains seven points (Smyrna, Philadelphia, Laodicea only six).
 1. a greeting
 2. a description of Christ
 3. praise for congregation's good points
 4. condemnation of congregation's bad points
 5. a warning to repent
 6. an exhortation to heed the message
 7. a promise to the faithful

Read 2:1-7 The Message to Ephesus--A Church Beginning to Decline

The Church at Ephesus was a strong church, strong in judging false doctrine and exercising church discipline against false teachers. But it was beginning to lose its love for Christ. It was being warned that its doctrinal soundness was not based on love for Christ and therefore could soon be lost. This is a warning to all backsliding Christians of every age.

The City of Ephesus

- * v 4 first love
- * v 5 I will come and remove your lampstand
- * v 6 Nicolaitans

Summary: Jesus wants a church in which all actions are based on love for Christ.

Read 2:8-11 The Message to Smyrna--A Church Strong in Tribulation

This church was small and poor in the eyes of the world, but it was spiritually rich, because it was faithful to Christ in spite of economic discrimination and persecution against it from unbelieving Jews of the city.

- * v 22 bed of suffering
- * v 24 Satan's so-called deep secrets...
- * v 28 morning star

Summary: Jesus wants a church which has both love and doctrinal soundness.

Read 3:1-6 The Message to Sardis--A Church About to Die

This church was active outwardly but dead inwardly. It had lost its enthusiasm for church work and was just going through the motions.

The city of Sardis

- * v 4 a few who have not soiled their clothes

Summary: Jesus wants a church which actively and eagerly works for him to accomplish the purpose for which he has established the church--to preach the Gospel.

Read 3:7-13 The Message to Philadelphia--The Church with an Open Door

This church was small, but it was faithfully confessing God's Word. Jesus therefore promised this church an open door to the spiritual blessings of God's storehouse.

The City of Philadelphia

- * v 7 keys of David
- * v 9 synagogue of Satan
- * v 9 I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you
- * v 10 I will keep you from the hour of trial

Summary: Jesus wants a church which faithfully proclaims his word.

Read 3:14-22 The Message to Laodicea--The Church that was Sickening to Jesus.

This church was complacent and satisfied with itself. It was satisfied with its own strength and wealth. It was blind to its faults and its great need for Christ. Its indifferent and lackadaisical attitude was sickening to Jesus.

The City of Laodicea

- * v 14 deeds neither hot nor cold
- * v 14 spit you out of my mouth

- * v 18 The Laodiceans took great pride in their industries, which were;
1. money. The city was a banking center
 2. wool. The city was a center for a thriving wool industry.
 3. eye salve. This eye salve was invented in Laodicea and was prescribed by physicians all over the known world.

Summary: Jesus wants a church which realizes it is weak and needs him.

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Two.
2. Complete Lesson Two worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Three by reading Chapters Four - Seven

Worksheet of Lesson Two

1. In Revelation there are seven visions. What did we note about each vision? _____

2. What is the "first love" that the Ephesian congregation lost? _____

3. From the church at Ephesus we can learn that _____

4. In 2:10, the reference is made to "10 days". What does this signify? _____

5. From the church at Smyrna we can learn that _____

6. Why was Jesus displeased with the church at Pergamus? _____

7. From the church at Pergamus we can learn that _____

8. What had the church of Thyatira allowed in her midst? _____

9. From the church at Thyatira we can learn that _____

10. In 3:4, what does Jesus mean when he says that there are “a few who have not soiled their clothes?” _____

11. From the church of Sardis, we can learn that _____

12. To each of the seven churches, Jesus addresses seven points. To the church of Philadelphia what does he omit? _____

13. In 3:7, Jesus to the church of Philadelphia mentions the “keys of David”. This means that _____

14. From the church at Philadelphia we can learn that _____

15. Why is Jesus upset with the church at Laodicea? _____

16. To each of the seven churches, Jesus addresses seven points. To the church of Laodicea what does he omit? _____

17. From the church at Laodicea, what stern warning may we learn? _____

18. Jesus starts every address to each of the seven churches by saying, “I know”. What comfort is contained in those words? _____

19. What warning is contained in those words? _____

20. Review the locations the seven churches on the map of page 4.

LESSON THREE

Review

Lesson Two

Outline of Book page two

Vision II The Seven Seals (Chapters 4-7)

Overview of Chapters 4-5

In these chapters we see that the world is safely under the control of God the Creator and Christ the Redeemer. Before God reveals the battle and tribulation which the church faces in the world, he reveals the power that guarantees it victory.

Read Chapter 4

* v 1 must take place

* v 3 jasper
carnelian
emerald

* v 4 twenty-four elders on twenty-four thrones

* v 6 four living creatures (Ezekiel 1:4-28; 10:20)

four great divisions of life on earth--God's government and control over all aspects:

-eagle = bird life

-lion = wild beasts

-ox = domestic animals

-man = mankind (a class by itself)

Read Chapter 5

* v 1 ffseals that no one could open except the Lion, of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David

* v 6 the Lamb
with seven horns
with seven eyes

* v 9 from every tribe and language and people and nation

-Illustrates the universality of the Church. This phrase or something similar occurs seven times 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6; 17:15

The Rapture

Revelation 4:1 “Come up here”

1. What is the rapture?

Christ will come once before his final coming and “rapture” those who are believers into eternity.
2. When did this doctrine first appear?

It first appeared in 1830 and was developed by John Darby. It caught steam in American evangelical movement in the 1970s. Hal Lindsey, “The Late Great Planet Earth.” This further gained acceptance in the “Left Behind” series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins in the late 1990’s.
3. What passages are used to develop this doctrine?
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** - Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
 - b. **Luke 17:34-37** - I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
 - c. **Revelation 20** – the 1000 year reign of Christ.
 - d. **Revelation 4:1** Come up here ...
4. What happens after the rapture?
 - a. There are many different facets to this teaching:
 - i. Some believe that there will mass conversion of all those left on earth.
 - ii. Some believe there will be no conversion of those left.
 - iii. There will be horrible bloodshed and trials on earth.
 - iv. Some believers may be left behind to convert the unbelievers
 - b. After 1000 years Christ will come a third time.
5. Who believes in the rapture?
 - a. Relatively few denominations believe in the rapture. No mainline protestant denominations (Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Episcopalian, Southern Baptist Convention, Evangelical Free) adhere to this doctrine; Lutherans reject this teaching as do the Roman Catholics.
 - b. It is taught by small independent congregations not associated with others.
 - c. Because of the success of the book series and subsequent movies, it is more widely viewed and talked about than accepted.

Read Chapter 6 The Seven Seals (Matthew 24)

Overview of Chapter Six

Continued destruction of the earth is illustrated. Despite this destruction, the banner of Christ, the Gospel message, boldly goes forward and onward.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

* v 1,2 Seal One - The White Horse

- the rule of Christ and the Gospel throughout time (Matthew 24:14)

* v 3,4 Seal Two - The Red Horse

- war

* v 5,6 Seal Three - The Black Horse

- famine

- inflated prices of food

* v 7,8 Seal Four - The Pale Horse

- death

- a fourth of the earth

* v 9-11 Seal Five - The Martyrs of Christianity

- the persecuted cry out, "how long?" (their prayer is answered in 8:3)

* v 12-17 Seal Six - The Day of Judgment

- 12-14 terrifying signs in nature (Mt. 24:19)

- 15-17 The unbelievers experience great fear (Mt. 24:30)

Chapter Seven

Overview of Chapter Seven

A joyful interlude that separates the second vision. The purpose of chapter seven is to picture the security of God's people among all the tribulation in the world and in the Day of Judgment.

Read Chapter 7

* v 1-8 The elect of God are sealed (The seal identifies and protects)

- 144,000 (12 = number of the church, 10 = number of completeness)

not a specific number but rather all the believers--see also Romans 2:28,29; 4:12,16; 9:6-8; 11:17-27; Galatians 3:7, 28,29; John 10:16; Ephesians 2:12-19

* v 9-17 The happiness of the saints in heaven

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Three
2. Complete Lesson Three worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Four by reading Chapters 8-11.

Worksheet of Lesson Three

1. The 24 elders mentioned in 4:4 (as well as numerous other places) can be seen to indicate _____
2. In 5:6 who is the lamb and why was he slain? _____
3. What theme is illustrated to us in chapter 6? _____
4. What theme is illustrated to us in chapter 7? _____
5. Read Matthew 24--which is Christ's description of the End Times. Note the great similarities between this section and what we just covered. Match the following phrases from Matthew 24 to their corresponding phrases in Revelation 6.

Matthew 24

Revelation 6

wars and rumors of wars v 6

famines v 7

pestilence v 7

persecution v 9

apostasy v 10

false prophets v 11

love growing cold v 12

the worldwide spread of the gospel v 14

LESSON FOUR

Review

Lesson Three

Outline of Book page two

Vision III The Seven Trumpets (Chapters 8-11)

Overview of Chapters 8-11

In chapters 8-11 we have a section which is parallel to the seven seals of chapters 4-7. In the opening of the first six seals, we were brought to the end of time--Judgment Day. We noted the tribulation which will be part of the NT era. In chapter seven we saw the safety of God's people and also the fulfillment of their faith in heaven. Now the seventh seal dissolves into the vision of the Seven Trumpets, and we have another view of the same period that was covered by the first six seals.

Read Chapter 8

- * v 1 silence in heaven for about a half hour
- * v 3 angel with the golden censor
- * v 5 the censor was hurled to earth

As Judgment Day approaches the earth itself comes under God's wrath as a sign to the faithful that he will come.

Overview of first four trumpets

The first four trumpets indicate natural disaster upon the land, on the seas, upon the inland waters, upon the heavenly bodies. With this section note the shift of emphasis from the four horsemen in 6:1-7 when the catastrophes were caused by human sinfulness. Here the emphasis shifts. Great disasters which cause tremendous loss of life are viewed as special tokens of God's wrath against an unrepentant world.

The First Four Trumpets of Vision III

- * v 7 first trumpet; hail and fire mixed with blood--judgment on the earth
- * v 8 second trumpet; a blazing mountain--judgment on the sea
- * v 10 third trumpet; a star called Wormwood or "bitterness"--judgment on the inland waters
- * v 12 fourth trumpet; sun, moon and stars darkened--judgment on the heavenly bodies
- * v 13 the soaring eagle cries out, "Woe..."
- * v 13 to the inhabitants of the earth

Read Chapter 9

The Fifth Trumpet--The Locusts out of Hell

- *v 1 star
- *v 2 smoke
- *v 4 not to harm the earth, nor the elect
- *v 7 like crowns of gold
- *v 8 woman's hair, but teeth like lion's
- *v 10 five months--the normal life cycle of locust--false doctrine comes, leaves and then reappears
- *v 11 Abaddon Apollyon- Destroyer

The Sixth Trumpet--The Army from the Euphrates

This vision is different from the other in chapter nine. In the first we see Satan himself sending up from hell the false delusions that blind men's hearts; here we see pagans by themselves unleashing false doctrine and ideas that they come up with to lead men astray. The students have now become teachers.

- *v 14 Release the four angels (same thought in verse 15--released for this day)
- *v 16 two hundred million
- *v 17 fire and sulfur (always a reference to hell in Revelation--14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8)
heads resembled those of a lion
- *v 18 a third of mankind was killed
- *v 20 the rest

Read Chapter 10

Overview of Chapter 10

In chapter 10 we have an interlude of comfort parallel to chapter 7. Here we see the church secure in the midst of dangers which surround it in the world.

- *v 1 Another angel
- *v 4 seal up
- *v 7 In the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his judgment
- *v 9-11 the scroll was sweet and bitter
 - being a Christian has its "sweetness" about it--
 - being a Christian has its "bitterness" about it-- persecution, trials, tribulations

Read Chapter 11

Overview of Chapter 11

Chapter 11 is a continuation of the interlude begun in chapter 10. The thought expressed in chapter 11 is similar in content to 7:1-8. There God's elect are set aside by sealing, here they are set aside by "measuring." In both cases the effect is the same--the church is kept secure.

Key points in this chapter:

The temple is all believers.

The outer court signifies the apostate church, which is Christian only in name.

The two witnesses are the confessing church with its faithful use of the word

Note the sequence of events the true church goes through:

1. They will testify to God's Word through the whole NT era --v 3,4 (Matthew 24:14)
2. The word they preach brings judgment to those who despise it --v 5,6 (Jeremiah 5:14)
3. For a short time it will seem as if Satan has triumphed and the testimony of Christ will be silenced --v 7,10 (Matthew 24:22,24; Luke 18:8)
4. Judgment day will come. The believers will be taken to the Lord and the world will be judged --v 11-14

Periods of time--

-42 months

-1260 days

*v 3-6 The two witnesses

-clothed in sackcloth--humility

-olive trees--The Holy Spirit

-lampstands--they are a light to the world

-the two witnesses have great power -- their power comes from the Gospel.

*v 7 Now when they have finished their testimony

*v 9 Three and a half days

*v 13 Then they heard a loud voice

The seventh trumpet--judgment day and the joys of heaven (v 15-19)

For Next Time

1. Review notes of Lesson Four
2. Complete Lesson Four worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for lesson five by reading chapters 12-14.

Worksheet of Lesson Four

1. Many times, in the book of Revelation, John interjects a “Joyful Interlude” as seen in chapters 7, 10 and 11. What is the purpose of these sections?
2. The first four trumpets of Vision III illustrate God’s judgment on what area?
3. In 8:13 who are the inhabitants of the “earth?”
4. In 9:1-12, what are the Locusts of Hell?
5. Who is the source of this? See 9:13-27
6. In 9:14 the command is given to release the four angels. What is the significance of this?
7. John measures the temple in chapter 11. What is John illustrating with this?
8. Define these terms:
 - a. The temple
 - b. The outer court
 - c. 42 months
 - d. 1260 days
 - e. 3 ½ days

9. John in Vision III portrays the destructive powers of Satan. Look up the following passages to see how he accomplishes this.
- a. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

 - b. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

 - c. Romans 1:18-32

LESSON FIVE

Review

Lesson Four

Outline of Book page two

Vision IV Satan and His Agents Chapters 12-14

Overview of Chapter 12

Chapter 12 takes us into another main division of Revelation. In these next chapters we see an intensified, close-up view of the Church's struggle in the world. It is similar to an instant replay, or a "close-up shot" on TV. In chapters 1-11 we saw general pictures of the enemies of the Church and God's judgment against them. Now we are given a more detailed view of Satan's hate for Christ, the Church of Christ, and all Christians. Vision Four contains in itself seven other visions or signs.

Read Chapter 12

Sign I Scene 1

- v 1-6 The woman and the dragon
- * The woman is
- * The dragon is
- * The child is
- * The dragon tries to devour the Child through
- * The child is taken up to heaven when
- * The desert is
- * The 1260 days are

Sign I Scene 2

- v 7-12 The war in the sky
- * John now recounts the same material that he covered previously
- * John refers to the coming of Christ
- * Satan is thrown out of heaven because he can no longer accuse mankind before God in heaven
- * This section is not referring to the fall of Satan

Sign I Scene 3

- v 13-17 The dragon persecutes the woman
- * v 13 Since Satan can not have Christ, he now pursues the church
- * v 14 time, times, and half a time
- * v 16 the earth helps
- * v 17 Then the dragon made war against the rest of her offspring
Satan's three-prong attack

1. Christ
2. the Church
3. individual Christians

Read Chapter 13

Overview of Chapter 13

Chapter 13 presents for us the next two signs of Vision IV in the form of two beasts. Both beasts are seen as being strong and mighty and flowing from the power of Satan as mentioned in Chapter 12. Despite the power of these beasts, chapter 14 will assure us that the church of Christ will remain safe.

Sign II The beast from the sea (13:1-10)-- anti-Christian power

- * v 1 ten horns, seven heads, ten crowns
- * v 2 leopard, bear, lion
- * v 3 a fatal wound--a severe blow in which anti-Christian government was defeated, but then whose power resurged.

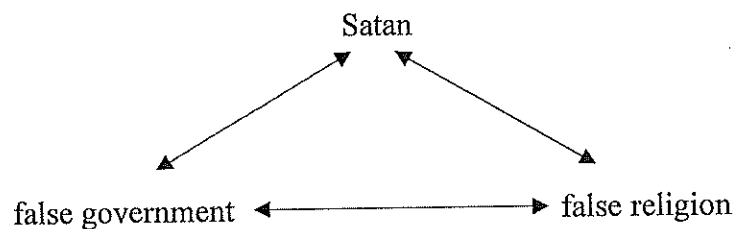
- * v 5 42 months
- * v 8 all inhabitants

Sign III The Beast of the Earth (13:11-18)-- anti-Christian propaganda

Anti-Christian propaganda as put forth under the guise of true religion.

- * v 13 like a lamb, like a dragon
- * v 13 he exercised all authority on behalf of the first beast

The unholy alliance of forces opposed to God



- * v 16 a mark on his right hand or forehead
 - This mark is symbolic, to contrast with the way the believers are marked (11:1-6; 7:1-8)
 - This should not be taken as a reference to our Social Security numbers.
- * v 18 his number 666
 - This number stands for the sum total of those who are opposed to God.
 - Seven stands for God's dealings with us his people, this beast always falls short.
 - It will not be a specific way by which we may identify this beast.

Read Chapter 14

Overview of Chapter 14

Chapter 14 presents for us the next three signs of Vision IV. The first shows the church, 144,000, still safe in God's protective care. In the next signs we see God's judgment and the fall of his enemies. Sign 6 shows us the final judgment of the world in the picture of a harvest of crops. The firstfruits, the believers, have been set aside, now what follows is the harvest of that which remains.

Sign IV--The 144,000 with the Lamb (14:1-5)

- * v 1 144,000
- * v 2,3 the song of the 144,000
 - a powerful song
 - a sweet song
 - an exclusive song
- * v 4,5 those who did not defile themselves...

Sign V--The three angels (14:6-13)

- * v 6-7 The first angel flying in mid-heaven

* v 8 The Second Angel--Babylon, symbolizing all who oppose the church, shall fall.

* v 9-13 The Third Angel--A promise of damnation to those who follow Satan and a promise of salvation to those who follow Christ and remain true

Sign VI--The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20)

Summary of Section

The final judgment of the earth is pictured as a harvest of crops. The firstfruits have already been set aside for God (14:1-5); the rest of the harvest now follows. The harvest is placed outside the city--outside the church--and the blood runs for 1600 stadia.

* 1600 stadia (a unit of measurement)

- 4 = number of the earth

- 10 = number of completeness ($4 \times 4 \times 10 \times 10 = 1600$)

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Five
2. Complete Lesson Five Worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Six by reading chapters 15-16

Worksheet of Lesson Five

1. Chapters 12 - 14, presents for us what part of history? _____

2. Explain the following terms or phrases as John uses them in chapter 12.
The woman _____
The dragon _____
The child _____
The desert _____
1260 days _____

3. In 12:5, we noted that the Dragon (Satan) attempts to devour the child who is Christ. List examples from the earthy ministry of Jesus where Satan attempted to destroy Jesus.

4. What is Satan's "three prong attack?" _____

5. Who or what is the beast from the sea in 13:1-10? _____

6. Who or what is the beast of the earth in 13:11-15? _____

7. Who are the 144,000 mentioned in chapter 14? _____

8. Why is it a misuse of Scripture to take the figure of 144,000 to mean only 144,000 will be in heaven? _____

9. As we study the book of Revelation, we seem to be confronted with two different views--at times we see the church "riding high," at other times we seem to see the church suffering great defeat by Satan or his agents. Both are true. It depends on whether we look at the outward physical signs or rather at the scenes that we can not see. Compare the experience of Elisha at Dothan in II Kings 6.

What was happening at this time in the history of the children of Israel? _____

Why was Elisha's servant afraid? _____

How did God strengthen the faith of Elisha's servant? _____

10. How may we apply these same situations to our faith? _____

LESSON SIX

Review

Lesson Five

Outline of Book page two

Vision V The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (Chapters 15,16)

Overview of Chapters 15-16

The fifth vision of the book of Revelation--the Seven Bowls of God's Wrath--is parallel to the previous visions. This vision like the others covers the entire NT Era until judgment day. Here we see God giving his judgment upon an evil world in the form of Seven Bowls that are hurled to earth and afflict those who belong to Satan. You will see that Vision V increases in intensity from the previous four.

Read Chapter 15

Overview of Chapter 15

Chapter 15 begins with the 7th sign of Vision IV. The 7th sign is a lead-in to Vision V, The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath. (John did this once before in chapter 8:1-6 where the 7th seal of Vision II introduced us to Vision III). Chapter 15 includes for us a picture of the joy of God's saints. These saints sing a song of rejoicing since they have been delivered from their enemies who now stand judged. The Lord delivered his people once before when Moses and the Israelites safely crossed The Red Sea (Exodus 15).

- * v 2 sea of glass mixed with fire
- * v 2 beast and his image
- * v 6 seven angels with the seven plagues

Read Chapter 16

Overview of Chapter 16

Throughout history when the wicked despise God's warnings, they harden their hearts and reject God. When the wicked continue to reject God's warnings they die unbelievers and face the judgment of God. This scene Chapter 16, Vision V, paints for us.

Overview of first four bowls

The first four bowls turn the earth, the sea, the rivers and fountains of water, and the sun into areas of disaster. The seventh bowl is poured on the air. The elements mentioned here are the basic building blocks of creation. Originally they were the basic source of all the blessings God wanted man to enjoy in this world.

On the spiritual level we may therefore see the earth, the sea, the waters, the sun and the air as symbols of spiritual blessings for men.

One more thing should be said as background for the understanding of this chapter. The Bible in many places speaks of God's Word, of the entrance of heresies and heathenish ideas, and of spiritual blindness and moral decay as punishments that are poured out on men as a reward for their stubborn unbelief and rejection of that word. (Revelation, Siegbert Becker; NPH 1984).

- * v 1 a loud voice
- * v 2 the first angel and his bowl
- * v 3 the second angel and his bowl
- * v 4 the third angel and his bowl
- * v 7 the altar responds
- * v 8,9 the fourth angel and his bowl
- * v 10-11 the fifth angel and his bowl
 - similar to the spiritual darkness caused by false doctrine mentioned in 9:1-11
 - the beast - the beast out of the sea (anti-Christian govt.13:1-10)
 - mankind still does not turn back to God

- * v 12-16 the sixth angel--this plague describes how in the final days the forces of Satan shall assemble a great assault on the church (see also 11:9; 20:3; Matthew 24:22-24)
 - Euphrates (see also 9:14)
 - kings from the east
 - mouth of the dragon
 - mouth of the beast
 - mouth of the false prophet
 - Armageddon
 - Comes from Hebrew "Har" meaning mountain; "Megiddo" a city
 - Near the city of Megiddo was Mt. Carmel, a small mountain range
 - At this sight in the OT, the forces of evil outnumbered the forces of God by 400 to 1, yet the forces of God prevailed (see I Kings 18:16-40).

- * v 17-21 the seventh angel and his bowl--Judgment Day
 - no earthquake like it has ever occurred
 - great city/Babylon
 - and they cursed God

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Six
2. Complete Lesson Six worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Seven by reading chapters 17-19.

Worksheet of Lesson Six

1. With the first five angels and their bowls of wrath, what is the response of mankind? _____

2. When the third angel pours out his bowl of wrath, an angel cries out that God is just in his judgments. Why is God just in this judgment? _____
3. In the final days of this world, the forces of Satan will assemble to make one final assault on the church. What type of battle will this be? _____
4. What do the seventh angel and his bowl depict? _____

8. For a clearer picture of Armageddon, look up the following passages and record what they tell us concerning this event.

Revelation 11:7-13 _____

Revelation 19:11-21 _____

Revelation 20:7-10 _____

Matthew 24:21-27, 29-31, 36-44 _____

9. In I Kings 18:16-45 we read of another account where the forces of God here greatly outnumbered, but they overcame. Read this account of Elijah and discover three truths that we may learn from this lesson.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

LESSON SEVEN

Review

Lesson Six

Outline of Book page two

Vision VI Christ's Victory over Satan's Allies--Chapters 17-19

Overview of Chapter 17

In Chapter 17 judgment comes upon the anti-Christian kingdom which is described as a harlot and as a great city called Babylon. Here we see the power which this anti-Christian kingdom possesses, and the ferocious might with which it yields its power.

Read Chapter 17

The Woman = The Apostate Church

The Beast = The Beast of the Sea (13:4-10) anti-Christian government

- * v 1 many waters
- * v 3 a scarlet beast
- * v 4 the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet
- * v 5 Babylon
- * v 8 once was, now is not, yet will come
- * v 9 seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits (The city of seven hills was a common title of Rome).
- * v 10 seven kings
 - five have fallen--Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greek (Alexander the Great)
 - one is--Rome
 - one is to come--the many anti-Christian governments to come
- * v 11 the beast who belongs to the eighth
- * v 12-14 ten horns...ten kings...kingdoms
- * v 14 make war against the Lamb
- * v 15-18 a falling out between the prostitute and the beast

Read Chapter 18

Overview of Chapter 18

The Apostate Church is overthrown and the end of all pleasures care and riches which Satan used to lead people astray are also destroyed. It is a dramatic and vivid portrayal of the fall of the enemies of Christ.

- * v 2-3 Fallen is Babylon
- * v 4,5 Come out of her my people

- * v 6-8 give back to her . .
- * v 20 Rejoice over her, O Heaven!
- * v 21 millstone into the sea
- * v 23,24 The sins of Babylon
 1. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again (never lead people astray again).
 2. In her was found the blood of the prophets (persecution of the saints)

Read Chapter 19

Overview of Chapter 19

God's people praise him. They rejoice because Christ the Bridegroom is coming to take the bride to himself and to deliver her from those who have persecuted her. We see Christ coming in judgment as the righteous, almighty Judge. The enemies of his bride are utterly defeated and condemned eternally.

- * v 1-10 The wedding supper of the Lamb
- * v 11-21 final destruction of the two beasts
- * The rider on the white horse
 - Faithful and True (Revelation 1:5; 6:10)
 - with justice he judges and makes war
 - eyes are like blazing fire
 - on his head are many crowns
 - sharp sword
 - a name written on him that no one knows (I Timothy 3:16)
 - dipped in blood (Isaiah 63:1-6)
- * v 17 so that you may eat the flesh of
 - kings
 - generals
 - mighty men
 - horses
 - riders
 - all
 - free
 - slaves
 - small
 - great
- * v 20, 21 The two of them were thrown alive...the rest of them were killed with the sword.

The enemies of Christ and her Church have been destroyed in reverse order in which they were introduced to us. There is but one more enemy of Christ, Satan. His defeat is described next.

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Seven
2. Complete Lesson Seven worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Eight by reading chapters 20-22.

Worksheet of Lesson Seven

1. In 17:10 John speaks of the "one" who "is to come." We take this to refer to what?

2. Who is the Rider on the White Horse of chapter 19? _____
3. What is the significance of his name-- "Faithful and True?" _____
4. What is the significance of his other name-- "King of kings and Lord of lords? Who is he King and Lord over? _____

5. As the armies of Satan assemble to make war against this Rider, John notes that the beasts and the prophet were captured. What truth does one see in this thought? _____

6. How would you respond to the question, "Why doesn't God just kill Satan off right now?" _____

7. In what way is Revelation 19 a wonderful chapter of comfort and hope? At what time in your life might you want to read and study this chapter of the Bible? _____

LESSON EIGHT

Review

Lesson Seven

Outline of Book page two

Vision VII --Christ's Victory over Satan--Chapters 20-22

Overview of Chapter 20

To understand chapter 20 of Revelation it is very important that we keep the structure of the book in mind. The events described in Revelation 20 do not occur after those described in Revelation 19. Chapter 20 begins the final vision of this seven-vision book. It offers for us a close-up view of the activities of Satan and his defeat by Christ. In chapters 12-17 we were introduced to the enemies of Christ in this order--Satan the Dragon, the two beasts, and the prostitute Babylon. In Chapters 17-19 we saw their downfall in reverse order. Now in chapter 20 the cycle is completed with the downfall of Satan. The judgment of these allies and Satan, which are described successively in Revelation will occur simultaneously on the Last Day.

In chapter 20 there are several key thoughts and terms to remember.

The 1000 years Symbolical, figurative, describing a complete period. (10 x 10 x 10 = 1000.) A number describing Christ's spiritual reign over the church in the New Testament era.

Binding of Satan Christ's victory over the devil. After his Baptism and sealed in his crucifixion and resurrection. The devil is powerful and dangerous, like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). We dare not play around with him, but Jesus has conquered him.

Throne of Judgment The Bible speaks of two judgments:

1. Here on earth, when believers testify to the truth, and unbelievers stand judged.
2. Final judgment on the Last Day, when Jesus will judge all people.

Souls of Martyrs Many believers of the early church died for their faith, sealing their testimony with their own blood.

Reign of Christ and His Saints (Believers) As believers we reign with him, but not visibly, rather spiritually. Jesus reigns (I Corinthians 15:25) and his saints reign with him (Revelation 5:10).

The First Resurrection This resurrection is spiritual, not physical. It is when someone is raised from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ. This first resurrection is limited to those who are brought to faith in Jesus. In verses 28 and 29, Jesus speaks of the SECOND RESURRECTION. This is a physical resurrection from the dead on Judgment Day, when all the physically dead will be raised. The believers will go to heaven, and the unbelievers will go to hell, as verse 29 plainly states. Those raised in the first resurrection will go to heaven, and the unbelievers will go to hell. Those raised in the First Resurrection are, in Revelation 20, described as: 1. Blessed. 2. Holy. 3. Free from the second death (Hell). 4. Priests of God and Christ. 5. Reigning with Christ 1000 years, a number that designates a complete period of time.

A Little Season The days preceding Judgment Day. Days when the time is shortened for the sake of the believers, as Jesus states in Matthew 24:22. Then the end will come.

Gog and Magog A designation of the forces of evil.

The End Eternal life in heaven for believers. Endless damnation for all unbelievers.

Read 20:1-3

- * v 1 an angel
- * v 2 the Abyss
- * v 2 bound him for a thousand years
Revelation 11:3; 12:13-17
John 12:31,32
Luke 10:18
Hebrews 2:14
I Peter 3:18,19
Colossians 2:15
John 3:8
- * v 3 after that he must be set free for a short time
Matthew 24:21-25
Revelation 11:1-2

Read 20:4-6

- * v 4 They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years--(spiritual life all believers come to life in conversion--this is the first resurrection)
 - Romans 6:1-11
 - Ephesians 2:4-6; 5:14
 - Colossians 3:1
- * v 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended
- * v 6 second death

Read 20:7-15

- * v 7 when the thousand years are over
- * v 8 Gog and Magog...gather them for battle
 - Ezekiel 38,39
 - same scene in the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16
- * v 11-15 the final resurrection--all are summoned before the throne of God. The believers are taken into heaven, unbelievers into everlasting judgment.

Revelation 21-22

Overview of 21-22

In these two chapters we have a vision of heaven--the eternal home of all believers, (21:1-22:5) and the concluding admonitions of the book (22:6-21).

Read 21:1-4

Two characteristics of heaven

- God will be with the believers (v 3)
- All sorrows and hardships will be removed (v 4)

Read 21:5-8

The joy of the believers contrasted with the pain of the unbelievers

Read 21:9-22:5

- * v 9 The bride
- * v 10 the Holy City, Jerusalem
 - a figurative look at heaven. This description contains elements from the Garden of Eden, the city of Jerusalem, the tabernacle, and the temple.
- * v 12 the twelve tribes of Israel

Read 22:6-21

Summary of 22:6-21

The book closes with assurances of its reliability and the promise that the things here revealed will be fulfilled. We are alerted against despising the warnings and rejecting the promises of this book.

* v 17 Whoever is thirsty, let him come

* v 20 Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

FOR NEXT TIME

1. Review notes of Lesson Eight.
2. Complete Lesson Eight worksheet which builds upon the truths of this lesson.
3. Prepare for Lesson Nine by reading Revelation in one sitting (about 45 minutes). With your notes in hand, note the progression and intensification of the book. Jot down any comments or questions you may wish to cover during our final meeting.

Worksheet of Lesson Eight

1. Chapters 20-22 is the final vision of Revelation. What period of time does this Revelation cover? _____

2. Define the following terms:

1000 year reign _____

Binding of Satan _____

Thrones of Judgment _____

Souls of Martyrs _____

Reign of Christ and his Saints _____

The First Resurrection _____

The Second Resurrection _____

A Little Season _____

3. In 22:18-20 what words of promise and judgment are given to us? _____

LESSON NINE

The Revelation of Jesus Christ to Saint John

Theme: Christ is Victorious

Introduction 1:1-20

Part I Chapters 2-11 The Struggle Between the Church and the World

The First Vision: The Seven Letters 2:1-3:22

The Letter to Ephesus 2:1-7

The Letter Smyrna 2:8-11

The Letter to Pergamus 2:12-17

The Letter to Thyatira 2:18-29

The Letter to Sardis 3:1-6

The Letter to Philadelphia 3:7-13

The Letter to Laodicea 3:14-22

The Second Vision: The Seven Seals 4:1-7:17

John's Vision of God 4:1-11

The Book with Seven Seals 5:1-5

The Lamb before the Throne 5:6-8

The New Song in Praise of the Lamb 5:9-14

The Vision of the Seven Seals 6:1-8:5

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse 6:1-9

The First Seal: The White Horse

The Second Seal: The Red Horse

The Third Seal: The Black Horse

The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse

The Fifth Seal: The Souls under the Altar 6:9-11

The Sixth Seal: The Last Judgment 6:12-17

The 144,000: The Church on Earth 7:1-8

The Great White Host: The Church in Heaven 7:9-17

The Fifth Vision: The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath 15-16

Introduction: The Song of Moses and the Seven Angels with Seven Plagues 15

First Bowl: Ugly and Painful Sores 16:1-2

Second Bowl: Sea Turns to Blood 16:3

Third Bowl: Rivers and Springs of Water Become Blood 16:4-7

Fourth Bowl: Sun Scorches People With Fire 16:8-9

Fifth Bowl: Darkness 16:10-11

Sixth Bowl: Euphrates River Dries Up 16:12-16

Seventh Bowl: Tremendous Earthquake 16:17-21

The Sixth Vision: Christ's Victory Over Satan's Allies 17-19

Babylon Described 17

The Fall of Babylon 18

Praise for Babylon's Fall 19:1-5

Praise for the Wedding of the Lamb 19:6-10

The Return of Christ 19:11-21

The Seventh Vision: The Final Victory – Christ Defeats all Enemies 20-22

The Thousand Years 20:1-6

Satan's Doom 20:7-10

The Great White Throne of Judgment 20:11-15

The New Heaven and the New Earth 21:1-22:5

Conclusion 22:6-21

Questions to ask next class . . .

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer Key

Lesson One

1. John the Apostle
2. Patmos
3. To comfort the church militant and set before them the end times.
4. The NT period
5. Writing through visions or dreams
6. Judgment day
7. God the Father to Jesus Christ to an angel to John
8. Earth and time began with Christ and it will end with Him
9. Describing Christ
 - a. power, dignity, purity
 - b. penetrating
 - c. power
 - d. divine judgment

Lesson Two

1. Each vision covers the same period – the NT Era. The visions are not consecutive but repetitive
2. Love for God
3. All actions are based and flow from our love for Christ.
4. A short time and a defined time
5. We must be willing to suffer for the Gospel
6. They tolerated false teachers
7. We must recognize false teaching
8. A false teacher, Jezebel, who was leading people away from Christ.
9. We are to abound in love and faithfulness to God and his Word.
10. There remained some who were faithful to God
11. Christ wants a church that does and follows his will
12. He omits a word of condemnation
13. Jesus will open to them the blessings of heaven – eternal life and joy in his presence.
14. We are exhorted to proclaim God's Word faithfully
15. Their actions are neither hot nor cold
16. He omits words of encouragement
17. We are to look to God in our own weaknesses and despair.
18. He knows all things
19. God knows the desires of our heart

Lesson Three

1. The Church Triumphant – 12 tribes of Israel, 12 Apostles
2. Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary
3. The destruction of the earth
4. The elect of God are safe in Christ
5. Comparing Revelation and Matthew
 - a. wars and rumors of war – the red horse

- b. famines – the black horse
- c. pestilence – the black horse
- d. persecution – souls under the altar (6:9-11)
- e. apostasy, false prophets, love growing cold – not seen in chapter 6, but we will see these themes later in the book
- f. world-wide spread of the gospel – the white horse

Lesson Four

- 1. To comfort God's people in the Church
- 2. The earth
- 3. The inhabitants of the earth are unbelievers.
- 4. False religion
- 5. Satan
- 6. God is the one who remains in charge
- 7. God's saints are secure
- 8. Terms
 - a. The Church
 - b. False religion
 - c. NT period
 - d. NT period
 - e. A short period of time prior to Christ's second coming
- 9. Passages
 - a. The minds are blinded of the unbelievers
 - b. Satan himself sends a powerful delusion
 - c. The truth of God is suppressed

Lesson Five

- 1. The NT Era
- 2. Terms
 - a. The Church
 - b. Satan
 - c. Christ
 - d. The world
 - e. The NT era
- 3. Herod kills the children, temptation of Christ, in the Garden, Judas
- 4. Destroy Christ, destroy the Church, destroy the Christian
- 5. Antichristian government
- 6. False religion, antichristian propaganda
- 7. All believers
- 8. Nowhere does Scripture indicate that it is exclusive. In fact, it is just the opposite. God's grace is for all who believe.
- 9. Elisha
 - a. Israel was a war with Aram. Aramean king was trying to capture Elisha
 - b. They were outnumbered

- c. He could see the invisible forces of God
- d. God is always with us and he remains in charge

Lesson Six

1. The world refuses to repent and in turn blames God and curses him.
2. Because he is God. Humanity is not accountable to him.
3. A spiritual battle
4. Judgment day
8. Describe the passages
 - a. For a short while it will appear as if the Church has been defeated
 - b. God's will is done
 - c. Satan will deceive many – he in turn will be judged.
 - d. False teachers and false Christ's will arise and bring forth a day like no other.
10. 1 Kings 18:6-45
 - a. God remains in charge no matter what humanity things
 - b. God is supreme – no one is his equal
 - c. God uses the lowly to accomplish his purpose

Lesson Seven

1. Pointing ahead to Christ's return
2. Christ
3. Christ is Faithful to his calling and the measure of all that is true
4. We will be like kings and lords in eternity and there is one who rules over all
5. No battle. No war. Just captured. All time remains in God's hands.
6. This is not part of God's plan. In time he will come, and we yield to him.
7. When we worry about the future, when we are distressed about all the "sin" in the world. When it looks like the Church and the Gospel are losing.

Lesson Eight

1. The NT Era
2. Terms
 - a. NT Era
 - b. Satan is bound on earth – there are limits to his power.
 - c. God's saints, redeemed by Christ, affirm God's actions
 - d. Saints who have gone on to their eternal reward
 - e. On earth now through the Church and on into Eternity
 - f. Coming to faith
 - g. Death defeated
 - h. A short period of time before Christ comes again that will a time of trials for believers and the Church.
3. Be faithful. God has got this. You can too!