

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS
REVELATION



Building Foundations Revelation

Study Guide

Acknowledgments

The lesson outlines and notes in this booklet are based on New Tribes Mission's method of chronologically teaching scripture and were prepared by Tim McManigle and Scott McManigle, of FBC Missions. Special thanks to Lisa Grams and Lane Martin for editing.

Table of Contents

Progression Toward Maturity, Page 2

REVELATION *Building Foundations*

Lesson	Page
1	6
2	13
3	17
4	21
5	24
6	27
7	31
8	34
9	38
10	42

6/24/26
Revision 4

Progression Toward Maturity

Phase 1: *Relationship with God* (Revelation 4:11; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

- The Call of God Is First to Himself.
- Foundation for Salvation (“Creation to Christ”)

Phase 2: *Position with Christ* (1 Corinthians 1:30a)

- We Become a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Foundation for Salvation (“Positioned in Christ” and “New Birth Explained”)

Phase 3: *Dependence upon the Spirit* (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13-14)
- Church Is the Pillar and Foundation of Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Acts/Building Foundations

Phase 4: *Practical Sanctification–Identification with Christ, Co-crucified with Christ, Conformed to Image of Christ* (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:28-29)

- Romans to Revelation/Building Foundations
- Principles of Spiritual Growth
- God’s Masterpiece–The Cross
- Looking unto Jesus Lessons

Conclusion: *Recommended Order of Study*

Detailed Explanation of Each Phase

Phase 1: Foundation for Salvation (“Creation to Christ”)

The Christian life is a relationship; therefore, our desire is to lead our readers into a deep and intimate relationship with God. In order to grow into that level of relationship with God, there are foundational truths that must be clearly taught and understood. These foundational truths include the following:

- The attributes of God – His love, power, grace, omniscience, omnipotence, justice, immutability, hatred of sin, faithfulness.
- The sinfulness of man, his helplessness to save himself, and his need for a Savior.
- Only God can provide a way of salvation.
- The Gospel

Phase 2: Foundation for Sanctification (“Positioned in Christ” and “The New Birth Explained”)

The moment someone is born again, there is an immediate change of position that takes place in his or her life. At that very moment, one becomes a child of God, and is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. All that Christ is and all that Christ has become ours. Therefore, before service to God is considered, one must be grounded in an understanding of who we are in Christ. Some important foundational truths that should be emphasized in Phase 2 teaching include the following:

- Placed into Christ
- Justified (declared righteous) and accepted in Christ
- Child of God
- Restored to oneness with God
- Eternally secure in Christ
- His Divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through His finished work on the cross.
- Our part is to believe.

Phase 3: Dependence upon the Spirit and Introduction of the Church (“Acts/Building Foundations”)

The position change that takes place in every believer's life at salvation is immediate and complete. The daily “living out” of that position, on the other hand, is a growth process. It is the progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is working all believers through in His process of conforming us to the image of Christ.

In order for believers to move on to maturity, we must learn to walk and depend upon the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our purpose in Phase 3 teaching is to reveal the Holy Spirit's ministry and His faithfulness to lead, guide, feed, and protect God's children, as well as to introduce the church. Some of the important foundational truths that should be emphasized include the following:

- The Holy Spirit's ministry to lead, guide, feed, protect, and establish us in truth
- To emphasize the FAITHFULNESS of the Spirit to fulfill all that Jesus promised
- To reveal the early church's dependence upon the Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is as faithful in our lives today, as He was to the early church in the book of Acts.
- Introduction of the church and her role

Phase 4: Practical Sanctification–Identification with Christ; Conformed to the image of Christ (“Romans to Revelation/Building Foundations”), “Principles of Spiritual Growth,” God’s Masterpiece the Cross of Christ,” and “Looking Unto Jesus” lessons)

The Holy Spirit is teaching us to walk less in the flesh and more in the Spirit, with Christ becoming more and more the object of our hearts.

In Phase 4, we will study through the epistles with the purpose of learning to rest in our identification with Christ and His finished work. As we, by faith, begin to appropriate identification truths, our co-crucifixion with Christ, our lives will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

Some of the important truths that will be emphasized in Phase 4 includes the following:

- The believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (crucified with Him and raised to newness of life)

- Sanctification is the process of walking less and less in the flesh and more and more in the Spirit.
- Our part in the process is faith in the finished work of Christ and our identification with it.
- What it means to truly walk in the Spirit
- Putting off the old and putting on the new
- Manifesting the life of Christ/fruit of the Spirit

Conclusion: Recommended Order of Study

Because there truly is a progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is taking all believers through, our Bible lessons have been developed and arranged to line up with that work of the Spirit in our lives. Each set of lessons contains the foundational truths that must be in place in a person's heart in order to facilitate their growth onto the next stage of spiritual growth. Therefore, we believe that it is important to teach the lessons in the following order:

- ***God's Eternal Plan***
- ***Building Foundations Order of Study:***

Acts	2 Corinthians
Romans	Philippians
Ephesians	Philemon
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy
1 Timothy	1 and 2 Peter
Titus	1, 2 and 3 John
1 and 2 Thessalonians	Hebrews
Revelation	James
Galatians	Jude
Colossians	
- ***Knowing God*** before the ***Digging Deeper*** studies
- ***Digging Deeper*** studies in any order

REVELATION

LESSON 1

A. Introduction

Read Revelation 1:1.

- This book is called the Revelation, for in it God reveals future events.
- God had not revealed to any other person what John wrote in the book of Revelation.
- If God had not revealed these things to John, then no one could have known them. God desires that His children know what will take place in the future (**Ephesians 1:9**).
- Notice John writes in verse 1 that these things were revealed so that God's children can know what will "*shortly take place*."
- From the time these things were revealed to John until now, it has been approximately two thousand years. That does not seem like a short time to us.
- But the Bible states that to God one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day (**2 Peter 3:8**).
- God is able to look at history as a whole: past, present, and future. Everything that has in the past happened. What is presently happening and will happen in the future God sees all at once.
- We only know what is presently happening as well as a short past history. We don't see the big picture as God does. Therefore, our knowledge is limited by time.
- From the time Jesus came, died, and ascended to heaven, we have been in the final days that are leading up to His return for His Church.
- We should realize that at any moment the Lord Jesus could come and take us to be with Him forever.

- Once He comes back, much of what is written in the book of Revelation will begin to take place.

Read Revelation 1:9.

- John states, “*I [am] both your brother and companion in the tribulation.*” Obviously, he was writing to believers who were enduring persecution.
- In those days, Christians were hated and persecuted; John himself was enduring persecution. Because of his belief and preaching of the gospel, he was sent to live on a small, isolated island called Patmos.
- In **Acts 4:18**, Peter and John were commanded to stop preaching the gospel; in verses 19 and 20, they responded that they could not stop speaking the things they had seen and heard.
- The authorities probably thought that if they sent John to a small island, he wouldn’t be able to continue preaching the gospel.
- But they did not know the power and sovereignty of God; when God wants to use someone for His purposes, nothing or no one can stop Him.
- Even though the authorities isolated John, that did not thwart God’s plan. God is sovereign and will use anyone, anywhere, to do anything He wants them to do.

Read Revelation 1:10.

- John writes that he was in the Spirit, or we could say his soul (mind, will, emotions) was under the control of the Spirit.
- It was very important for John to reveal to his readers he was under the influence and control of the Spirit so they would know all that he was writing had been revealed by the Spirit and, therefore, was truth.

- John was making it clear he was under the control of the Spirit. While under the Spirit's control, the Spirit gave John a vision of what was to come. In this vision, it was the "***Lord's day***"—the day that Jesus had come back for His Church.
- Then John wrote, "***I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet.***"

Read Revelation 1:11.

- The voice which trumpeted out the words, "***I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,***" was the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. No other person could say that about himself.
- Jesus was making the statement that all things begin with Him, and it will be He who brings all things to their final end. He has always and will always be in control of all things.
- As God, He never had a beginning, will never have an ending, and will never change. He knows all things, is everywhere, and is all powerful. None is greater than He (**Colossians 1:16-17**).
- Jesus, who is the beginning and the end of all things, told John to write down everything he saw and to send it to the seven churches that were in Asia.

B. A Vision

Read Revelation 1:12-16.

- John writes that he turned to see who had spoken to him and saw Jesus standing in the midst of seven lampstands.
- This vision was so great, bright, and glorious, that it may have been difficult for John to communicate what he had actually seen.

- Therefore, he likened Jesus' appearance to those things which people could understand.
- This description may sound frightening to some, but remember, this vision was portraying Jesus as the Almighty Judge who will be returning to judge all those who refuse to believe the gospel.
- For those of us who are God's children, Jesus is not our judge, but rather our brother, Savior, and friend. For us, His appearance will generate thoughts, desires and emotions of love and praise for Him, rather than fear.
- Let's look again at John's description of Jesus' appearing to the unbelieving world.
- John began by saying that Jesus' head and hair were as white as wool or snow.
- In the Bible, white often refers to holiness. Because the Lord Jesus is perfectly holy, He has the right to judge the world.
- Next, John wrote that Jesus' eyes were like a flame of fire (ponder **1 Corinthians 3:13-15**).
- When Jesus, the Almighty Judge, returns to judge unbelievers, just as fire consumes everything in its path, so there won't be anything left in anyone's life that will go unjudged. He sees all things at all times.
- John also wrote that Jesus' feet were like glowing hot brass that was being heated in a furnace.
- The brazen altar inside the tabernacle entrance was covered with brass and was where the Israelites made their sin offerings. This was a constant reminder to the Israelites that God is Judge and that He requires death for the payment of sin.
- Jesus' feet looking like glowing brass is a physical picture of the spiritual truth that He is mankind's payment for sin. To reject Him is to reject His payment, leaving man judged as guilty and having to pay the penalty of death himself.

- The One who would have been our Savior has now become the Judge.
- Next, John said Jesus' voice was like the sound of many rushing waters.
- Rushing water is loud and very powerful. It destroys and washes away whatever is in its path.
- When the Lord Jesus' voice sounds forth in judgment, unbelievers will be washed away into eternal punishment by the power of His words.
- Now John writes that out of His mouth came a two-edged sword.
- Good communicators are fast thinkers; their words are often sharp, and it is difficult to respond to them.
- There are many examples of this in the gospels when the Pharisees attempted to trap Jesus. He often asked them questions they could not answer.
- John is telling us that when Jesus speaks judgment against the unbelieving world, His words will be as sharp as a two-edged sword; no one will be able to answer and justify themselves.
- Lastly, John said that His countenance was as the sun when it shines in its strength.
- Have you ever tried looking into the sun? It is not possible because it is too bright. If we force ourselves to look at it, we could go blind.
- This is what Paul meant in **2 Thessalonians 2:8** when he said the radiance of Christ's coming will be so bright that it will destroy the antichrist.
- Just as the brilliance of Jesus' glory knocked Paul to the ground on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-4**), when Jesus comes as the Almighty Judge, there won't be anyone left standing.

Read Revelation 1:17.

- John was overwhelmed by Jesus' appearance as Judge and he fell at His feet. When Jesus returns as the

Almighty Judge, the unbelieving world will respond in a similar way.

- But Jesus, in love and gentleness, put His hand on John and told him not to fear.
- As children of God, we are Jesus' brothers, sisters, and friends. His response to us will be one of acceptance, love, and mercy, not judgment and punishment.

Read Revelation 1:18.

- Because Jesus died for our sins and rose again, He now has been given all authority in heaven and on earth and under the earth. He holds the keys to Hades and death.
- In all of our teaching until now, we have said that all unbelievers go to hell. This is true, for after Jesus comes back to judge the world, all will be sent to hell forever.
- However, in **Luke 16:19-31**, we read of a place called Hades. This is a story of the rich man and Lazarus. In this scripture, Abraham could look across and see the rich man in Hades but could not go to him.
- Hades is divided into two sections. One section is a place of fire and torment much like hell and is where all unbelievers who have died go.
- The other section is paradise and is like heaven. Before Jesus came, died, and rose again, it was where all believers went.
- But when Jesus ascended to heaven after being raised from the dead, all of those who were in paradise as well as all believers who have died after Christ's ascension go to heaven to be with Him.
- When Jesus told John that He had the key to Hades, He meant He has authority over all unbelievers in Hades. When He returns as Judge, they will be let out

to be judged and then sent to everlasting punishment in hell.

- Jesus also said he has the key to death.
- When the time is right, all bodies of those who have died will be resurrected.
- Those who have died being unbelievers will be raised, judged, and sent to everlasting punishment in hell.
- The believing dead will be raised and re-united with their soul and spirit and will live forever in heaven with Jesus.

C. Three Things

Read Revelation 1:19.

- Jesus told John to write down three things: what he had seen (**Revelation 1:10-18**), present circumstances, which are messages to each of the seven churches active during that time in Asia (**Revelation 2-3**), and what shall happen in the future (**Revelation 4-22**).

Read Revelation 1:20.

- Jesus spoke to John regarding the meaning of the seven stars as well as the seven candlesticks.
- The seven stars are angels and the seven candlesticks are the seven churches in Asia.
- This picture of Jesus standing in the middle of the churches reminds us that all believers are united in Christ and make up the church. It also reminds us that Jesus is always with us, watching over and protecting His church. Angels are servants of God and they are under Jesus' authority and He uses them to minister to His children as he sees fit (**Psalms 103:20**).

REVELATION

LESSON 2

A. The Future

Read Revelation 4:1-2.

- Jesus now speaks to John saying He will show him what will take place in the future after the rapture of the Church.
- The first thing John saw was a throne in heaven with God sitting on it. A throne is a special place where kings sit.
- God, who sits on the throne in heaven, has authority over heaven and earth; there is none greater than He.
- All other earthly kings are under His authority, and we are children of the King of kings.
- We may go through some very difficult times in this life, but we must never forget our Heavenly Father is sitting on the throne and we are under His care.

Read Revelation 5:1.

- John saw a scroll in God's right hand that had seven seals on it.
- If we were to send a letter to someone, we would put it in an envelope and seal it. Then we would address it and send it off.
- No one else has the authority to open that letter except the one to whom it is sent.

B. The Scroll

Read Revelation 5:2.

- The angel asked, "***Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals?***"

- Here we are not told what is written in this scroll, but later we will see that it is a scroll containing the terrible judgments God will bring upon the earth.

Read Revelation 5:3-5.

- Jesus is the only one in heaven or on earth who has the authority to open the seven seals and bring God's judgment on those who have rejected Christ.
- It was Christ who died, took our punishment, and overcame death, hell, and the grave, making it possible for us to be saved.
- Because it is He who has made a way for us to be saved from judgment, it is He who has the authority to judge those who have rejected His provision.
- To reject Christ as Savior is to make Him judge.
- At first it looked to John as if there was no one who could open the scroll, so he began to weep.
- To John, having no one worthy to open the scroll and bring God's judgment on the unbelieving meant two things: We don't have a Savior yet, and sin would continue on unjudged. This deeply grieved John.
- As we walk in the Spirit, we will hate sin and long for Christ's return.
- But in the flesh, we will be much more tolerant and even enjoy the passing pleasure of sin (**Hebrews 11:25**).

Read Revelation 5:6.

- John saw four beasts as well as some elders, and in their midst, one like a lamb that had been slain.
- John the Baptist said this of Jesus when he saw Him walking by the Jordan River: ***“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”*** (**John 1:29**).

- In John's first vision of Jesus in **Revelation 1**, he saw Jesus as Judge.
- But here the picture is much different; the vision is Jesus as Savior.
- This description of Jesus being a lamb with seven horns and seven eyes is a picture to help understand more about Jesus.
- John said he saw Jesus as a lamb that had been slain, which would clearly indicate He was still bearing the marks of death.
- John mentioned that Jesus had seven horns.
- In the Bible, numbers have meaning and seven means perfect or complete. Animal horns stand for authority or power.
- Thus, we may conclude that Jesus has complete power and authority over all things.
- John also saw Jesus had seven eyes, which the Lord revealed to him are seven spirits that Jesus sent throughout the earth.
- Again, seven means perfect and complete, and it is in reference to the perfect and complete knowledge that Jesus has of all things in our lives, thereby making Him capable of passing perfect and complete judgment on all people.

Read Revelation 5:7-10.

- When Jesus came forth and took the scroll out of God's hand, the four beasts and twenty-four elders began to sing a new song.
- They were praising Jesus because He had been slain, because He has redeemed all believers, and because He alone is worthy to take the book, open it, and bring forth the judgments therein.
- This is a time to which all of heaven is greatly looking forward—the time that all sin and sinners will be

judged and Christ will take over as the rightful Ruler of the world.

- When Jesus finally comes forth, takes the scroll, and begins to open its seals, all of heaven will break forth in praise and worship.
- John also wrote that the elders were carrying bowls that were full of the prayers of the saints.
- From the Day of Pentecost until the rapture of the church, all of God's children have been greatly anticipating Jesus' return for His children and judgment of all sin.
- We live in a fallen world in cursed bodies, and for most of us, life is hard here on earth. We often find ourselves looking to God in dependent prayer, trusting in our only hope Jesus Christ. John describes those prayers as "***gold bowls filled with incense.***" In **Psalm 141:1**, David asks that his prayers be as "***incense offered to [God].***"
- John goes on to say that the four beasts and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb and sang, "***You are worthy [...] and Your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.***"

Read Revelation 5:11-14.

- It's worth noting in verse 13 that when Jesus comes forth to take the scroll, every single creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea will break forth in praise and acknowledgment that God the Father and Jesus the Lamb deserve all praise and worship.
- All those who mock, ridicule, and persecute Christians, whether they are Satan, demons, or any and all creatures, will acknowledge the glory and power of God.

REVELATION

LESSON 3

A. The First Seal Is Opened

- In our last lesson John wrote that there is One Who is worthy to take the scroll from God, open it, and cause God's judgments to come forth upon all unbelievers.
- That One is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Now in **Revelation 6** John reveals what will take place on earth after Jesus returns to receive the Church.

Read Revelation 6:1.

- John wrote that when Jesus took the scroll and opened the first seal, he heard one of the beasts give a powerful shout to come and see.
- This is the beginning of God's judgment on the unbelieving world, after which time Christ's rule will be established on earth. This is a time that all of heaven has looked forward to.

Read Revelation 6:2.

- When Jesus begins to open the seals to bring about God's judgments on the earth, this will be the start of a new period of time.
- No longer will we be in the dispensation of grace; judgment will now prevail.
- This illustration symbolizes that man's rule and authority on earth is being taken away and it will be given over to Christ.

B. The Second Seal Is Opened

Read Revelation 6:3-4.

- John now reveals what will happen when Jesus opens the second seal. Peace will be taken from the earth and men will kill one another.
- To say peace is going to be taken away means that it is still present.
- With all the fighting and killing that is taking place with peace still present, how bad will it be once peace is taken away? This is a very sobering thought to ponder.
- This also clearly communicates that we are presently enjoying some level of peace and order in the world only because God continues to maintain it (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7).

C. The Third Seal Is Opened

- Once peace is gone, life on earth will become worse than anyone has ever seen.

Read Revelation 6:5-6.

- The next seal Jesus opens will bring forth great famine. The famine will be so severe that one day's meal will cost a whole day's wage.
- At that rate, a man won't be able to provide enough food for his family. The result will be mass starvation.

D. The Fourth Seal Is Opened

Read Revelation 6:7-8.

- Jesus opens the fourth seal which brings forth the next judgment; this judgment will kill one-fourth of all people who are left on the earth.
- They will be killed by the sword (fighting, murder, etc.), starvation, disease, and wild animals.
- More deaths will take place at this time than the world has ever known.

E. The Fifth Seal Is Opened

Read Revelation 6:9-11.

- It often appears like those who persecute Christians for their faith get away with it and justice is not served (**Psalms 73:1, 12**); however, God clearly states this is not true. Once all those who will be martyred have been killed, God will bring about judgment and revenge upon those who have persecuted His children.
- It also appears from this scripture that there will be some who will be saved during the tribulation.
- By the grace of God, these folks are given an opportunity during the tribulation period to hear and believe the gospel and be saved.

F. The Sixth Seal Is Opened

Read Revelation 6:12-14.

- Now John writes that when Jesus opens the sixth seal, a great earthquake will shake the universe. The sun will turn black, stars will fall to the earth, the sky will disappear, and islands and mountains will be moved out of their places.
- What effect will this have on man?

Read Revelation 6:15-17.

- John tells us that all of the kings, leaders, and rich and great men of the earth will be running to the mountains to hide under rocks and in caves and will be wishing that it would just cave in on them so they might hide from the wrath of God.
- The hardships and difficulties of this time will be so great and terrible that men will be gripped with fear.
- It will be apparent to them that the end of the world has come and God's wrath and judgment are at hand. They will cry out, "***The great day of [God's and the Lamb's] wrath has come, and who is able to survive?***"
- The answer—no one will be able to stand. All will be judged and condemned. No one will escape.
- Had it not been for the grace of God, we all would be in the same predicament of living in fear of God's wrath.
- But what a totally different situation for us believers. We look forward to God's love, grace, mercy, acceptance, and forgiveness when we know we are unworthy.
- We are His children. He is our Heavenly Father.

REVELATION LESSON 4

A. Believers During the Tribulation

- In studying **Revelation 6**, we learned of six terrible judgments God will bring on the world during the great tribulation. In this lesson, we will discover more about those who will put their faith and trust in Christ as Savior during the tribulation.

Read Revelation 7:1-4.

- John writes there will be four angels turned loose to “harm” the earth and given authority to disrupt the laws of nature.
- As the laws of nature are disrupted, there will be chaos and hardship on the earth.
- But before the angels are turned loose, another angel will come and tell them to wait and do nothing until the “servants of God” have been sealed in their foreheads.
- These “servants” are 144,000 Israelites who will accept Christ as their Savior.
- This is another testimony of God’s grace.
- Just as God did not bring on the flood until Noah had a refuge, neither will God bring on the great tribulation until His church is safe in heaven. Therefore, the four angels who have authority to harm the earth are commanded to wait until God’s chosen 144,000 Israelites are sealed and protected from the coming tribulation.
- We saw a similar situation in the Old Testament when the Israelites were in Egypt. God brought the plagues only on the Egyptians; the Israelites were protected.

- In **Romans 11**, Paul writes that one day God will set aside the Gentiles and once again turn to the Israelites to be His special witnesses here on earth.

B. 144,000 Israelites

- After writing about the Israelites who will be saved, John went on to mention another group he saw in heaven.

Read Revelation 7:9-12.

- After seeing the 144,000 Israelites, John then writes that he saw a great multitude of people which no man could number.
- He explains this multitude was comprised of people from all nations (political groups), kindreds (tribal groups), peoples (ethnic groups), and tongues (language groups).
- John wrote that this multitude was clothed in white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- The white robes indicate their sins have been washed away and they have been made righteous and holy in God's sight.
- The palm branches symbolize victory and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- The fact that this multitude will be carrying palm branches implies they have been made victorious over sin and judgment and have been delivered from the great tribulation and are now finding themselves in the presence of Jesus and God.
- When this day finally arrives, it will give cause for great praising and worship of God.

Read Revelation 7:13-14.

- John tells us who these people are—they are those who were saved during the great tribulation.
- This brings to mind an interesting question. Many churches today, as well as mission organizations, have made it their goal to reach all peoples with the gospel. Is this a biblical goal?
- John writes that it is during the great tribulation when all nations, kindreds, peoples, and tongues will be reached; notice that it is after the Church has been removed.
- This would imply that it is the 144,000 who will evangelize all nations, peoples, kindreds, and tongues.
- Obviously, God desires for the church to preach and teach the gospel, but we must be careful that we don't set goals that aren't biblical.
- In the flesh, we often predetermine what God's will is for us and then set out to make it happen.
- On the outside it looks spiritual and of the Lord, but on the inside, it is being fueled by the desires of the flesh.

Read Revelation 7:15-17.

- This multitude who will be saved during the great tribulation, have endured the hardships of God's judgments as well as severe persecution from the antichrist and his followers.
- While still on earth, John implies they were without food, water, and shelter, and their lives were so difficult that they wept.
- However, John goes on to say that upon entering heaven, they will no longer hunger, thirst, be without shelter, or weep because the Lamb, our gracious Savior, will feed them, lead them to living fountains of waters, and wipe away all tears.

REVELATION

LESSON 5

A. The Seventh Seal

- In **Revelation 6**, we studied about the scroll with the seven seals. As Jesus opened each of the first six seals, a terrible calamity was released upon the world. Now John reveals that the seventh seal brings on more hardship than the others.

Read Revelation 8:1.

- Picture this scene in heaven: around the throne where God the Father is sitting is the Lamb, the twenty-four elders, the four beasts, an innumerable number of angels, and the church.
- All are praising and worshipping God for the salvation of souls from every kindred, people, tongue, and nation.
- Then Jesus opens the seventh seal, and all of heaven becomes silent for about half an hour.
- With the opening of the seventh seal, God is moving from mercy to judgment. It will be a very solemn time.

Read Revelation 8:2, 6.

- After Jesus broke the seventh seal, John saw seven angels each receive a trumpet. The angels then prepared themselves to sound the trumpets. As each trumpet sounded, it brought on a new judgment.

Read Revelation 8:7-13.

- It's interesting to note that these first four judgments destroy one-third of all things God created: sun, moon, stars, and all that is on the earth except for man.
- In the beginning, God created all of these things out of His love and care for man.
- But because man turned away from God and has chosen to worship the things created more than the Creator and to take all of the wonderful things that God created for granted, God's first four judgments will take away one-third of all God had originally created for man.
- After these four judgments, John writes that an angel will fly over telling the world that the worst is yet to come.

Read Revelation 9:1.

- John is not talking of a real star here, but rather an angelic being. Some say it is Satan, for he used to be called the "morning star" and he did fall from heaven. Others believe it could be one of his fallen angels.
- Regardless who it is, this being is given the authority to open the bottomless pit and bring about more calamities.
- The bottomless pit would appear to be part of Hades.

Read Revelation 9:2-12.

- The first four judgments affected God's creation, but the fifth was one that directly affected man.
- John makes it clear these locusts will only sting those who don't have God's seal on their foreheads.
- Once again, this is similar to the way God orchestrated events in Egypt when God's plagues only came upon the Egyptians.
- By His grace, God will spare His children from this judgment.

- John wrote that the torment from these locusts will be so severe that men will want to die, but God will not permit it.

Read Revelation 9:13-19.

- After being tormented by locusts for five months, the sixth angel will then sound forth his trumpet.
- John now writes that four angels, which were bound in the Euphrates River, will be loosed and given the authority to kill a third of all mankind.

Read Revelation 9:20-21.

- It is amazing that man's heart could become so hardened; after seeing a third of the earth destroyed, being tormented by stinging locusts for five months, and then seeing a third of all mankind killed, those who are left still will not repent of their sin and turn to God for mercy!

REVELATION LESSON 6

A. The Nation of Israel

- In Revelation 12, John makes it clear Satan will persecute and attempt to destroy the nation of Israel during the great tribulation.

Read Revelation 12:1-6.

- John does not specifically tell us who the woman is; however, she appears to represent the nation of Israel.
- It was through the nation of Israel that Jesus came.
- The great red dragon would appear to be Satan.
- From the time that God promised in the Garden of Eden to send a Deliverer until He actually came, lived, died, and ascended to heaven, Satan continually tried to destroy Him.
- Satan hates God and hates the One who will one day end Satan's reign here on earth.
- As we studied through the life of Christ, we saw over and over how Satan desired to kill Jesus so He could not deliver mankind.
- Satan will never destroy Jesus, but he will try to persecute and destroy those whom God loves and desires to use as His ambassadors. During the tribulation this will be Israel.
- Israel will suffer greatly.
- Keep in mind that Satan can only do what God permits. God will let Satan persecute Israel, but it will be for the purpose of turning them back to God.
- We have seen God do this numerous times throughout the Old Testament. Whenever Israel turned away from God, He would use hardship to turn them back again (**Hosea 5:15-6:1**).

B. The Antichrist

Read Revelation 13:1.

- This beast that John mentions is the antichrist. In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** we read: *“Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet Him. Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”* The antichrist will rise to power and will set himself up as God, sitting in the temple where people will come and worship him.
- However, as we read on in **2 Thessalonians 2**, when Jesus returns again, Satan’s plans and the antichrist’s reign will all come to an end.

Read Revelation 13:5-8.

- John writes what Paul also wrote in **2 Thessalonians**. The antichrist will say many blasphemous things about God and His followers, and he will set himself up to be worshipped.
- John said that power will be given to the antichrist for 42 months or 3.5 years—half of the seven year tribulation period.

- This power to reign may have come through Satan, but keep in mind that Satan is not free to work at will and accomplish all that he desires.
- All that he does is under the sovereign control of God and in accordance with God's plan and will for this world.
- John also wrote that the antichrist will be permitted to fight against and kill many Christians.
- This may sound cruel that God would permit this; however, when the antichrist kills a Christian, he will ultimately be helping to deliver that Christian from the great tribulation and send him on to eternal life and peace in heaven.
- John also said that all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be deceived by the antichrist and will follow and worship him.
- Those who are believers will not be deceived; however, they will be persecuted.

C. The Second Beast

Read Revelation 13:11-18.

- This second beast that John saw is later referred to as the false prophet.
- This man will have power to do many miracles, which in turn will deceive people into following the antichrist.
- Those who follow and worship the antichrist will be branded on the right hand or forehead with the number "666." This number will mark them as followers of the antichrist, and only those who have the number will be permitted to buy or sell.
- The false prophet will kill those who refuse the mark of the beast and refuse to worship the antichrist.

- We must always keep in mind that the antichrist and the false prophet will get their supernatural powers from Satan but only as our sovereign God permits.
- While the unbelieving world is reaping the suffering and hardship that their rejection of God has brought upon them, Christians will be enjoying the very presence of the Lord God Almighty and our merciful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as all the grace, love, mercy, and glory that His presence brings.

REVELATION

LESSON 7

A. The Last Judgments

- As we begin **Revelation 15**, John said he saw another great sign in heaven.

Read Revelation 15:1.

- Notice John said these seven judgments will be the last.
- After these plagues come to pass, the Lord Jesus will return to judge the world and to begin His rule on the earth (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**).
- While these last judgments are taking place, the church of Jesus Christ will be with Him in heaven.
- Then after the judgments, Jesus will return to the earth and we, the church, will return with Him.

Read Revelation 15:2.

- John now speaks of those who, during the tribulation, have come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- These new believers had refused to worship the antichrist or his image and had also rejected his mark, and therefore were murdered during the tribulation because of their faith.
- When believers are martyred during this time, the antichrist and his followers will most likely think they have won a great victory.
- It's interesting to notice how John refers to these martyrs. He speaks of them as having won the victory over the beast.
- Their lives on earth during the tribulation will be more miserable than anyone can imagine, but they will win the most important victory. They receive Christ as

- Savior and are set free from all sin, sorrow, sickness and persecution.
- Similarly, when Jesus was arrested and crucified, Satan and his demons surely thought they had won the victory.
 - But little did they know that through His crucifixion He would become the Deliverer.

B. The Songs

Read Revelation 15:3-4.

- These believers who had been killed by the antichrist and his followers were singing praises and worshipping God.
- John writes that they were singing two songs. The first was called the *Song of Moses*. It may have been the song that Moses sang after being delivered through the Red Sea (**Exodus 15:1-4**).
- The next song is called the *Song of the Lamb*. This could possibly be the song that was sung in **Revelation 5:9-14**.
- Now we read in Chapter 16 the rest of the judgments God will bring on the world before Jesus returns.

Read Revelation 16:1-21.

- It's amazing that people would be blaspheming God rather than crying out for mercy.
- But fleshly, self-righteous, hard-hearted unbelievers view God as being unfair and see themselves as undeserving of such judgments.

Read Revelation 19:6-7.

- This great multitude is praising and worshipping God because the time has finally arrived that everyone has been waiting for.
- It is time for Jesus to return to the earth to judge the antichrist, the false prophet, and all their followers and establish His reign. It will be a great time of praise and worship.
- John writes that everyone will be praising God, for the marriage of the Lamb will now take place.

Read Ephesians 5:25-27.

- Jesus is the Lamb and we, the church, are His bride.
- This will be that time in heaven when Jesus will present His bride, holy and without blemish, because of her standing in Him.

Read Revelation 19:8.

- And so we, the bride of Christ, are clothed in pure, clean, white linen which is the righteousness of Christ; it is Jesus' righteousness that gives us our perfect standing before God.
- In **1 Corinthians 1:30**, Paul writes that Christ is our righteousness. As the Holy Spirit reproduces the life of Christ in us, we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ; we put on the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 13:14**).
- This will be yet another testimony to the grace of God, for it is only through what He has done on our behalf that it is possible for us to stand before Him in white linen.

REVELATION

LESSON 8

A. Jesus, the Judge

- We have been studying what will happen during the great tribulation after the rapture of the church. Now in Chapter 19, John reveals what will take place after the great tribulation when Jesus returns to judge all nations.

Read Revelation 19:11-13.

- This is the way Jesus will appear when He returns as Judge after the tribulation.
- His appearing at this coming will be different from the first time that He came.
- When Jesus came the first time, He came as the servant of all and to give His life as the payment for sin (**John 3:16-17**).
- Mary, a poor carpenter's wife was chosen to be His mother, and He was born in a stable.
- And when He was living on the earth, He had no home of His own.
- But when He comes again, He will come as the mighty Son of God who will judge all who refused to repent and trust in Him as Savior.
- John writes that Jesus is called "***Faithful and True***" for He came to earth and completely fulfilled His Father's will. He left nothing undone that His Father gave Him to do.
- John also wrote, "***in righteousness He judges and makes war.***"
- It was Jesus who first came as our humble Savior, but now He is coming to judge all those who will not accept Him as Savior. His judgment will be just and right.

- John also tells us, “***His eyes were like a flame of fire.***”
- This description points to the fact that Jesus is an Omniscient (all-knowing) Judge, and therefore His judgment is just.
- John also mentions, “***on His head were many crowns.***”
- When John wrote about the antichrist coming, he said he will have ten crowns on his head; however, he also wrote that Jesus will have many crowns.
- This is referring to the fact that when Jesus returns as Judge and to rule on earth, His rule will be total and complete over all nations.
- Next, John said He had “***a name written that no one knew except Himself.***”
- As we study through the Word, we see that Jesus has many names. Each name reveals something about Him.
- Having a name written that no one knew clearly communicates that He is so great that, humanly speaking, we will never be able to fully know and understand Him. He is just too magnificent.
- However, John does mention another well-known name of Jesus: “***The Word of God.***”
- The Bible is the “written” Word of God and Jesus is the “living” Word of God (**John 1:1, 14**).
- Jesus is given this name because all that the Bible teaches about God He came to live and reveal to us through His life. He is the exact image of God (**Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3**).

B. The Armies

Read Revelation 19:14-15.

- When Jesus returns, He will not be returning alone, for the armies of heaven will accompany Him.

- This may be referring to myriads of angels as well as His church.
- The sharp sword coming out of His mouth is referring to His words, His voice (**Psalm 29:3-4**).
- Jesus is God, and as God He is omnipotent (all powerful). With His voice, He spoke all of creation into being and with His voice, He will judge and smite the nations.
- John also said, “***He Himself will rule them with the rod of iron.***”
- His rule over all nations will be absolute; all nations must completely submit to His authority.

Read Revelation 19:16.

- This clearly states His absolute authority and supremacy over all. He is the Head and Ruler; there is none greater than He.

Read Revelation 19:19.

- The antichrist’s response to the heavenly host will be to rally together all the leaders of the earth and their armies for the purpose of waging war against Jesus and all who are with Him.
- Once again, we see the incurable insanity of sin; in spite of defeat after defeat, they continue to fight against God rather than submit to Him.

Read Revelation 19:20-21.

- Today, Christians talk a lot about Satan and consider him to be a formidable foe.
- In this scripture, John clearly reveals how well his power measures up to the power of God.
- It is interesting to note that there isn’t even a battle! Upon Jesus’ arrival, the antichrist and false prophet

are immediately taken and cast alive into the lake of fire.

- With His “sword” (the Word of God), all unbelieving humanity is instantly slain.
- When it’s time for God’s will to be done, it will be done. Satan may appear to be a capable foe, but this is only because it’s not yet time for him to be cast into the lake of fire.
- Jesus will be coming as Judge, but before judgment, God first offers grace. When man rejects God’s grace, he condemns himself.

REVELATION LESSON 9

A. Satan Is Bound

- When Jesus returns as Judge and Ruler over all the earth, the antichrist and false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire and then all of their followers will be slain by Jesus' words.

Read Revelation 20:1-3.

- Have you ever heard anything that had more of a ring of relief to it than these verses? Since the Garden of Eden, there has never been a time in the history of man that Satan wasn't free to deceive the nations; it's hard to imagine what it will be like.
- Notice that Satan will be thrown into the place that was opened and out came the stinging locusts to afflict man.
- Please note that it is God's angel that binds Satan and throws him into the bottomless pit.
- This clearly reveals that Satan is not equal in power to God.
- It only takes one of God's angels to defeat him; and apparently there will be no struggle.

Read Revelation 20:4-6.

- The thrones John saw are thrones that believers will sit upon. We will be given the privilege to judge and rule with Christ during the 1000 years that Satan is bound up in the bottomless pit.
- Exactly what we will be judging and ruling over is not clear, but what is clear is that He will give us the awesome privilege of ruling with Him.

- This may be referring to all believers—Old Testament saints, church-age believers, as well as those who are saved during the tribulation.
- But all unbelievers who have physically died will remain in Hades for the duration of the 1000 years awaiting their final judgment.
- At the end of the 1000 year reign, their bodies will be resurrected and reunited with their souls in order to be judged.
- This resurrection of the unbelievers is the second resurrection, the first being the resurrection of believers.
- Those who are a part of the first resurrection are extremely blessed, for we will not experience the second death—eternal separation from the presence of God).
- Believers experience two births—physical and spiritual—but one death—physical.
- Unbelievers experience one physical birth but two deaths—physical and spiritual.

Read Revelation 20:7-8.

- Notice that as soon as Satan is released from the bottomless pit, the first thing he does is to rush back out and begin deceiving the nations again.
- Releasing Satan does two things: (1) it shows that Satan is incurably wicked, and (2) unless man is born again, he will always be deceived.

Read Revelation 20:9.

- During the 1000 year reign, Israel will return to God, accept Christ as Savior, and once again become the nation through which God works to make Himself known to the rest of the world.

- Because Israel will become God's people once again, they will become Satan's target and he will lead the nations to surround Israel and seek to destroy Jerusalem.
- The outcome is always the same for Satan; there won't even be a battle, for fire will rain from Heaven and devour them all.

Read Revelation 20:10.

- This is God's final judgment on Satan.
- Once he is cast into the lake of fire, he will never be set free again to deceive the nations; he will be tormented night and day forever.

Read Revelation 20:11.

- Now the time has come for all unbelievers to be judged.
- It's interesting to note that since the earth has been cursed because of sin, after the great white throne judgment is over, God will destroy the heavens and the earth and create it anew for Himself and all of His children.

Read Revelation 20:12-15.

- Once Satan is cast into the lake of fire forever and the heavens and earth are destroyed, all unbelieving physically dead will be raised back to life in order to receive their final judgment.
- John wrote that some books will be opened, which appears to be the 66 books of the Bible as well as the book of life that will contain the names of all believers.
- Notice that John tells us the unbelieving dead (spiritually dead) will be "*judged according to their*

works, by the things which were written in the books (66 books of the Bible).” At the great white throne judgment, unbelievers will be judged according to their works to show that their punishment is deserved.

- Ultimately, they will all be cast into the lake of fire for having rejected Christ, and therefore their name is not found in the book of life.
- However, at the great white throne judgment, as the 66 books of the Bible are opened and man’s works are compared to God’s will for man, every mouth will be shut and all will stand guilty before God (**Romans 3:18**).

REVELATION

LESSON 10

A. New Heaven and New Earth

- In this lesson we will briefly touch on the last two chapters of Revelation.

Read Genesis 1:1.

- We know that in the beginning, God prepared the earth for man and then created Adam and Eve. God told Adam to take control and watch over all things.

Read Genesis 1:27-28.

- However, through sin, Adam lost this position and Satan became the god of this world.
- Because sin had entered into the world, God cursed the earth and it became a place of trouble, sickness, death, and sorrow and has remained so since that time.
- However, we did discover in **Revelation 20** it won't always be this way.

Read Revelation 20:11.

- After the unbelieving world is finally judged, God will destroy the heaven and the earth.

Read Revelation 21:1.

- After God destroys the heaven and the earth, He will create a new heaven and a new earth; everything will begin anew.
- In the new heaven and new earth, God's plan for revealing His grace and mercy will be completed;

therefore, the new heaven and new earth will never become spoiled through man's disobedience.

- After John saw the new heaven and new earth, he was then shown a new city.

Read Revelation 21:2.

- This city was not built by men but will be created by God in heaven and will then be brought to earth for all His children to enjoy.
- In **John 14**, when Jesus promised to go and prepare a place for us, He may have been referring to a mansion in the New Jerusalem (**John 14:1-3**).
- When God destroys the heaven and the earth, He will be destroying everything that was polluted because of sin.

Read Revelation 21:3.

- After God creates a new heaven and new earth and sends the New Jerusalem to the earth, He Himself will then come to live with His children forever.
- Never again will man be separated from God because of sin.
- Because we have received the life of Christ, we have been made pure and perfect like Jesus; therefore, God will never leave us or put us out of His presence.
- Man has never fully experienced the closeness and fellowship that Adam enjoyed with God before the fall, but it will be restored.

Read Revelation 21:1.

- Because the penalty for sin has been fully paid by the blood of the Lord Jesus and because we have been given His life, there no longer will be death, sorrow, crying, or pain. All of these things will pass away with the old heaven and earth.

Read Revelation 21:22.

- In the Old Testament, the temple and the need to bring sacrifices was a constant testimony to the fact of man's sin and separation from God.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be no need for a temple and sacrifices because there will be no sin. God will be present, as well as Jesus, the Lamb, who made it possible for us to be delivered from the penalty, power, and now the presence of sin.

Read Revelation 21:23.

- Ever since God created man, He provided him with the sun to light the day and the moon to light the night.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be no sun or moon but the very glory of God and Jesus will shine and become the source of light (**Mark 9:1-3**).

Read Revelation 21:24-26.

- Since Adam and Eve sinned, there has been fleshly disagreement, anger, bitterness, and hatred, but in the New Jerusalem, there will be true harmony and peace among all peoples for the first time since the fall.
- One thing our bodies need in order to live is rest. That is why God gave us the nighttime. It's the time that we rest our bodies and gain strength for the next day.
- But John writes that in the New Jerusalem there will be no night; the source of light will be God Himself and not the sun. It will always be light.

Read Revelation 21:27.

- It's interesting to consider that bad keeps our name out of the Book of Life, but good does not get us in. Only faith in Jesus Christ puts our name in the Lamb's Book of Life (**Matthew 7:22-23; Deuteronomy 9:4**).

Read Revelation 22:1.

- The water in this river that John saw did not come from rainwater but flowed from the Throne of God. All living things will receive life from this river.
- This will be a constant reminder that God is the source of all life as well as the giver of eternal life that we will enjoy forever.
- Just as it was God who provided water for the Israelites in the wilderness, so it will be God who provides living water and life for all in the New Jerusalem.

Read Revelation 22:2.

- Because of sin, man was never able to eat from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.
- But in the New Jerusalem, there will be a new tree of life. Because there will be no sin, we will all be free to eat of its fruit and live forever.

Read Revelation 22:3.

- All things that are presently on the earth because of sin's curse will be done away with in the new earth. This includes weeds, thorns, hurricanes, tornadoes, sickness, and death.
- In the New Jerusalem, we will have the awesome privilege to serve the Lord forever and ever.

Read Revelation 22:4.

- Before Adam sinned, God was his friend and would come to the garden and talk with him each day.
- But when Adam sinned, he was put out of the garden away from the presence of God.
- However, through Jesus, all who believe have been reconciled to God. When Jesus returns for us, we will receive a new resurrected body.
- Therefore, in the new earth, all of God's children will be close to Him and see Him face to face.
- John writes that all of God's children will have His name written on their foreheads.
- During the great tribulation, all those who follow the antichrist will receive his mark, 666. This will be the sign that they belong to him and are following him.
- But by the unmerited grace of God, it won't be 666 that will be put on our foreheads—it the name of God Himself.
- What an honor it will be to have God's brand put on us which will prove we belong to Him.

Read Revelation 22:5.

- In our present fallen world, sin reigns; however, in the new earth we will be reigning with Christ.
- With Him, we will rule and reign over all things forever.
- In this life we must endure many hard and unpleasant circumstances, but the day is coming when we will be reigning with the Lord Jesus.

Read Revelation 22:6-7; 18-21.

- John states all that has been written in Revelation is faithful and true, for it is from God Himself.

- In verse 7, he comments that all those who believe what is written will be blessed.
- To the degree that we know and believe the truth, we will experience all that God has for us.
- This book of **Revelation**, as well as the entire Bible, was made known by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and Prophets in words which God chose (**Ephesians 2:9-13**).
- The Bible is God's complete message to all people everywhere.
- John ends **Revelation** as Paul ended his epistles by emphasizing God's grace: "*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*"



FELLOWSHIP
GLOBAL MISSIONS